

Chacruna Institute for  
Psychedelic Plant Medicines  
**2023 End-of-Year Report**

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# Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines **2023 End-of-Year Report**

Dear Chacruna community,

In an effort to better measure our impact, we compiled a 2023 report of our milestones and main achievements. We ended 2023 with a considerable team expansion to support and sustain the new scope of our projects and exponential increase of our outreach in the psychedelic landscape and the communities and institutions that rely on our support. We hope you can keep trusting our efforts and supporting our mission and vision for 2024.

**I. Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas (IRI)**

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**III. Chacruna Book Publications**

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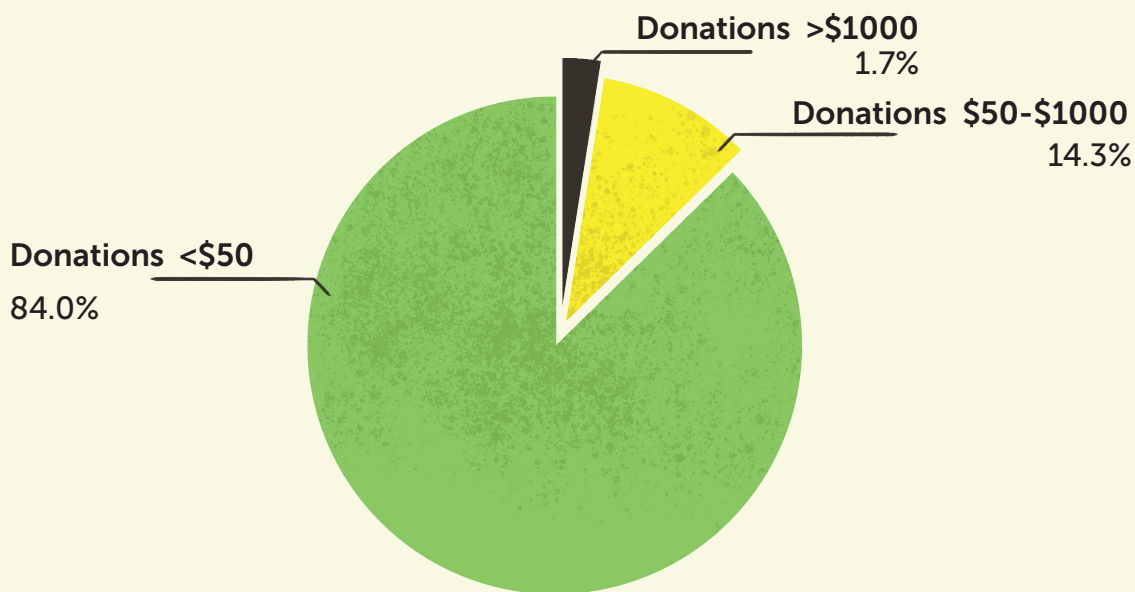
**XX. Chacruna Merchandise**



# I Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas (IRI)

Since IRI launched in April of 2021, the program has raised \$165,000 to support community-led, grassroots projects designed and implemented by local peoples fighting for land, water, food, medicine and cultural sovereignty. These funds are equally-distributed to our network of local partners representing over 30 Indigenous groups who all have full control over the use and management of their resources. IRI recognizes that without material necessities, there can't be traditional knowledge, and that the struggle for autonomy and sovereignty is the basis for all plant medicines.

- ▶ IRI supported a community association gathering in the Sierra Mazateca for the recovery and conservation of the Mazatec language, bringing together Mazatec artists, writers, composers, singers, artisans, scholars, and healers, as well as the general public.
- ▶ IRI supported the planting of over 100,000 trees in Kichwa, Shuar, Secoya, Kofan, and Kaingang territories.
- ▶ IRI raised over \$35,000 in direct funding for our Indigenous and local partners, distributing \$2,000 grants to each community organization in the IRI Program.
- ▶ We shared messages from our Mazatec and Wixarika partners at over 27 different conferences and events.



- ▶ You can see more specific statistics, impacts and goals that were achieved in 2023, thanks to your support, in IRI's end-of-year report.

## II Chacruna Chronicles



Chacruna Chronicles, one of the main content outlets of Chacruna, published **49 high-quality original new articles** from experts and researchers across the field, offered for free on our website and distributed widely across our social media and newsletters. In 2023, the main topics explored in these publications were **culture, policy, sex & power, queer issues, inclusion & diversity, music, integration, science, spirituality, news and academic research.**



We are proud to announce that our Chacruna Chronicles articles have gathered 195k reads from audiences across 200 countries, with our top 3 most read articles being:

- **Conspirituality: The Hidden Face of the Psychedelic Revolution**  
2,362 views
- **Five Things Mushrooms & Non-Binary People Have in Common**  
2,096 views
- **This is How Ayahuasca is Brewed at a Santo Daime Church in Brazil**  
1,810 views

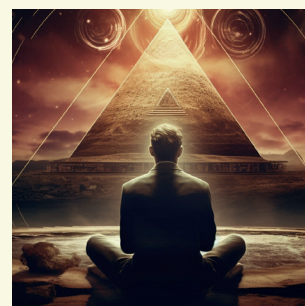


We created a new section on our site called Indigenous Voices in the Psychedelic Renaissance. This is an extensive list of resources that includes dialogues with Indigenous people on various important topics pertaining to their communities, cultures, and livelihoods. These resources draw from the conferences we have held, in-person community dialogues, the virtual community forums we have put together, and articles that we have published in the Chacruna Chronicles.

- This was a major achievement as this topic is strongly linked to Chacruna's mission, and emphasizes the importance of raising marginalized voices and giving prominence to the ancestral guardians of sacred medicines. We consider it a crucial step to decolonizing psychedelics.


**This is How Ayahuasca  
is Brewed at a  
Santo Daime Church  
in Brazil**


Marcelo Leite, Ph.D



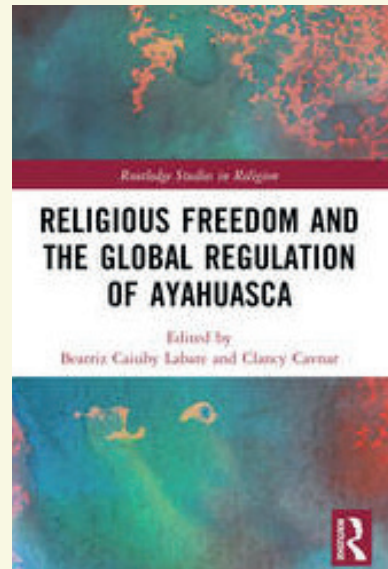
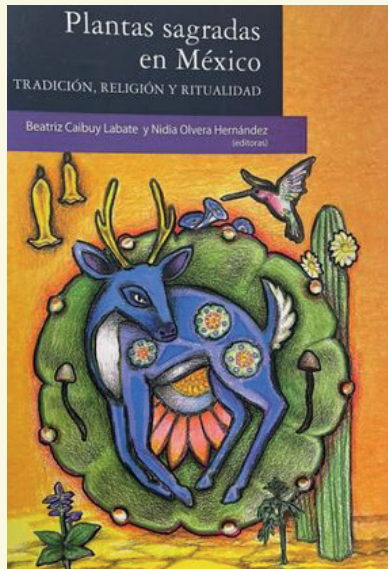
### III Chacruna Book Publications

Chacruna is one of the few organizations consistently releasing entire books on the subject of psychedelics, even more so from a decolonial perspective, focusing on historically silenced voices. This year, Chacruna has been working on various book projects and in 2023 published:

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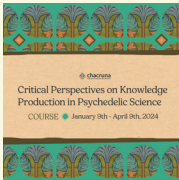
Religious Freedom and the Global Regulation of Ayahuasca edited by Beatriz Caiuby Labate and Clancy Cavnar. This book offers a comprehensive view of the legal, political, and ethical challenges related to the global regulation of ayahuasca, bringing together an international and interdisciplinary group of scholars. It is the first edited volume dedicated exclusively to the legal framework of ayahuasca on a global level, providing the most complete and up-to-date legal landscape for policymakers, scholars, and the general public. Publisher: Routledge.
  
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Labate, B. C., & Olvera Hernandez, N. (Eds.). (2022). *Plantas sagradas en México: Tradición, religión y ritualidad* [Sacred plants in Mexico: Tradition, religion and ritual]. El Colegio de San Luis/ Chacruna Institute.



## IV Chacruna Courses

This year, Chacruna expanded its academic program titled Chacruna Trainings, which offered high-quality virtual courses and workshops exploring critical, contemporary issues in the psychedelics and plant medicine worlds. As with our Chronicles and events, our trainings highlighted critical conversations around controversial and marginalized topics in the psychedelic ecosystem, and also promoted diverse voices from women, Indigenous people, people of color and LGBTQIA+ speakers. This year, we held 6 multi-class courses and 4 workshops with 50+ highly-qualified teachers, awarded over 588 scholarships, and had a total of 358 students enrolled. We had an incredibly diverse cohort of students of different ethnicities, locations around the globe, professions, and ages. All of the students came from a variety of professional backgrounds, including therapists, psychologists, academics, artists, and more:



### Critical Perspectives on Knowledge Production in Psychedelic Science

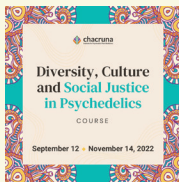
(Jan 24th - May 9th)

We had a total of 33 students

Of those students, 26 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- This was a new course that we created for the 2023 year, the first of its kind offered.
- There were 6 papers by students at the end of the course



### Diversity, Culture and Social Justice in Psychedelics

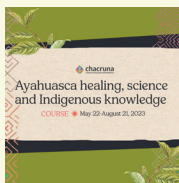
(Feb 6th - April 10th)

We had a total of 27 students

Of those students, 22 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- We awarded CE credits to 1 therapist
- There were 6 papers and 1 art projects submitted by students at the end of the course



### Ayahuasca Healing, Science and Indigenous Knowledge

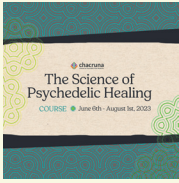
(May 22nd - Aug 21st)

We had a total of 33 students

Of those students, 19 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- This was a new course that we created for the 2023 year, the first of its kind offered.
- There were 6 papers and 1 podcast submitted by students at the end of the course



## The Science of Psychedelic Healing

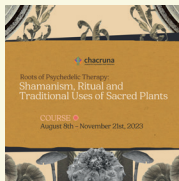
(June 6th - Aug 1st)

We had a total of 22 students

Of those students, 20 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- There were 5 papers and 1 podcast submitted by students at the end of the course



## Roots of Psychedelic Therapy: Shamanism, Ritual and Traditional Uses of Sacred Plants

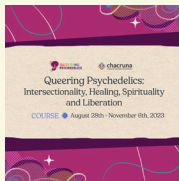
(Aug 8th - Nov 21st)

We had a total of 57 students

Of those students, 49 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- We awarded CE credits to 1 therapist
- There were 15 final projects submitted by students at the end of the course
- For this course, we implemented a new format for the classes for the purpose of accessibility, in which we provided the recordings of the lectures to students a week before the class so that they could access and watch them on their own time before having the respective online Zoom discussion session with the professor.



## Queering Psychedelics: Intersectionality, Healing, Spirituality and Liberation

(Aug 28th - Nov 6th)

We had a total of 23 students

Of those students, 14 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- This was a new course that we created for the 2023 year, the first of its kind offered.
- We awarded CE credits to 1 therapist
- There were 7 papers, 1 video lecture, and 1 art projects submitted by students at the end of the course
- For this course, we implemented a new format for the classes for the purpose of accessibility, in which we provided the recordings of the lectures to students a week before the class so that they could access and watch them on their own time before having the respective online Zoom discussion session with the professor.





### Workshop: How Can You Protect Your Psychedelic Plant Medicine Church, Community and Clients?

(June, in-person at Psychedelic Science 2023 conference, Denver)

We had a total of 27 attendees



### Workshop: How Can You Protect Your Psychedelic Plant Medicine Church, Community and Clients?

(September 20th)

We had a total of 39 students

Of those students, 8 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- We awarded CE credits to 1 therapist



### Workshop: Decolonizing Ceremony, Relationship Building & Indigenous Reciprocity

(September 21st)

We had a total of 24 students

Of those students, 11 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- We awarded CE credits to 1 therapist



### Workshop: How Can You Protect Your Psychedelic Plant Medicine Church, Community and Clients?

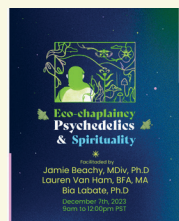
(December 6th)

We had a total of 36 students

Of those students, 7 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- We awarded CE credits to 4 therapists
- We awarded certificates of completion to those who attended the workshop



### Workshop: Eco-chaplaincy, Psychedelics, and Spirituality

(December 12th)

We had a total of 64 students

Of those students, 34 registered with scholarships

Highlights of the course:

- We awarded CE credits to 6 therapists
- We awarded certificates of completion to those who attended the workshop





# V Community Forums

Community forums fulfill a very important mission, which is to promote high-quality public education about psychedelics. In an increasingly challenging market full of superficialities, Chacruna offers knowledge, information and an in-depth educational process to people, which is quite rare and unique. In 2023, we were able to organize and host **31 online** community forums with top experts and specialists of the field, covering relevant topics such as diversity, inclusion, sex & gender, culture, identity, social justice, law, policy, Indigenous knowledge, religion, philosophy, intersectionality, environmental justice, and much more. We had a total of **75 speakers** participate in these virtual panels, with our **top 5 forums** being:

- ▶ Church of the Eagle and the Condor Legal Trial Set for 2024
- ▶ Sacred Mushrooms and Psychedelic Capitalism
- ▶ Myths, Best Practices and the Road to Religious Freedom for Psychedelics Churches in the US
- ▶ Psychedelic Healing for Ethnoracial Trauma in the Asian Community
- ▶ Navigating Touch in Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy



## VI Participation and Tabling at Conferences and Events

As psychedelic conferences become increasingly mainstream and corporate, we find it crucial to provide perspectives which educate the public on the roots of psychedelic plant medicines, Indigenous reciprocity, right relationship, and many other topics which strive to decolonize psychedelics. We have found in many instances that we are one of the very few organizations at these large conferences providing this lens, which so many people have expressed their gratitude for. This year, we were able to table and speak at 13 conferences and events around the globe:



### Psychedelics as Medicine (Iceland)

- 7 core team members attended the conference and tabled for the entire duration of the conference.
- Chacruna hosted 1 panel on Queer Considerations on Psychedelics featuring speakers Bia Labate, Clancy Cavnar, Glauber Loures de Assis and Justin Natoli.



### Cannadelic Miami (Miami, FL)

- 2 core team members attended the conference and tabled for the entire duration of the conference.
- Joseph Mays participated in 1 panel.



### SXSW (Austin, TX)

- Joseph Mays attended the conference and tabled for the entire duration of the conference.
- Joseph Mays spoke on one panel on Right Relationship and Plant Medicine.



### Benzinga (Hollywood, FL)

- 2 core team members attended the conference and tabled for the entire duration of the conference.
- Joseph Mays spoke on one panel on Right Relationship and Plant Medicine.



### Tipper & Friends (Suwannee, FL)

- Hena Malik Başak attended the festival and tabled for the entire duration of the festival.



### Discovery Sessions Bicycle Day

- Dr. Bia Labate spoke on one panel.



### Psychedelic Healing Summit (Virtual)

- Dr. Bia Labate spoke in an interview with Joe Tafur on the topic Understanding Indigenous Cultures: A Crucial Step in Establishing Connections with Sacred Medicines.



### Psychedelic Science 2023 (Denver, CO)

- **Chacruna's Ceremony Tent in the Deep Space: Sacred Plants, Decolonial Dialogues & Music:**

- We served about 230 individual doses of rapé snuff;
- 195 people signed the waiver and made contributions;
- Approximately 35 people received the rapé snuff as a courtesy for their friendship and partnership with Chacruna.
- Dozens of the people served had contact with this sacred medicine for the first time.
- The tent proved to be a vital space for profound healing, a sanctuary for those overwhelmed by the conference or seeking solace from their busy schedules, an educational space for genuine learning and engagement with leaders from Indigenous communities and the Global South, a place for ceremony and a safe container for community and therapeutic support, and a sharing space for informal talks and dialogue with researchers from many diverse areas of psychedelic science.



- **Chacruna's Track on the Plant Medicine Stage & the Chacruna Booth in the Exhibit Hall:**

- Chacruna marked a strong Global South presence at the Conference. Chacruna's presentations brought Indigenous leadership from the Amazon rainforest as well as academics from Brazil and Mexico, contributing to the diversity of perspectives at the event and raising the agenda of decoloniality in the psychedelic renaissance.



## VI Participation and Tabling at Conferences and Events

- Lectures by academics and Indigenous leaders were given, on topics including: plant medicine reciprocity, Mazatec mushrooms, Indigenous perspectives and challenges, peyote history and politics, and queering psychedelics.
- Feedback about the Chacruna stage was really positive, and many people expressed how they thought these were some of the most important conversations in the conference and deserved more prominence.
- At all of the programs, we had:
  - 13 speakers
  - 35 total sessions over 3 days
  - Over 300 attendees in the tent



### XIV RAM - Reunião de Antropologia do Mercosul [Anthropology of Mercosul Meeting]

- Dr. Bia Labate co-organized this conference.



### Miami Wonderland (Miami, FL)

- 4 Core team members attended
- These core team members attended the conference and tabled for the entire duration of the conference.
- Bia Labate, Clancy Cavnar, Joseph Mays and Hena Malik Başak spoke at panels at this conference.



### ReMind (Las Vegas, NV)

- Lorien Chavez was offered a scholarship to attend, table and represent Chacruna.



### Indigenous Plant Medicine Movements conference at the Esalen Institute

- 4 core team members attended.
- Bia Labate, Clancy Cavnar, Joseph Mays and Glauber Loures de Assis spoke at panels at this conference.
- Chacruna hosted a rapé circle and a talk at this conference.





### Horizons Northwest (Portland, OR)

- 3 core team members attended.
- Bia Labate spoke at a panel here.
- Clancy Cavnar, Lorien Chavez and Sean Carr also attended and helped with tabling.



Some of our core team members were invited to speak at a number of different events, such as podcasts, forums, panels, conferences, interviews, etc. We had a total of **119 speaking engagements** participated in by these core team members:

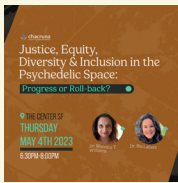
- **Nicholas Spiers** participated in 7 speaking engagements
- **Joseph Mays** participated in 27 speaking engagements
- **Glauber Loures de Assis** participated in 12 speaking engagements
- **Bia Labate** participated in 36 speaking engagements
- **Ligia Duque Platero** participated in 6 speaking engagements
- **Ibrah Gabriell** participated in 5 speaking engagements
- **Clancy Cavnar** participated in 7 speaking engagements
- **Lorien Chavez** participated in 5 speaking engagements
- **Alejandra Barajas** participated in 6 speaking engagements
- **Hena Malik Başak** participated in 4 speaking engagements
- **Henrique Fernandes Antunes** participated in 4 speaking engagements



# VII

## Chacruna In-Person Community Dialogues

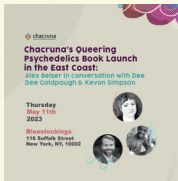
This year, Chacruna held 5 In-Person Community Dialogues which consisted of intermittent panels, film screenings, and rapé circles around the U.S. While our virtual forums are able to reach global audiences, these in-person events provide a crucial space for networking, bonding, learning and forming in-person relationships in communities where psychedelic research is most prominent:



### Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in the Psychedelic Space: Progress or Roll-back?

(May 4th - San Francisco, CA)

- This pivotal event encompassed reflection on much that has been happening in the last five years within the psychedelic space. This was a partnership between Chacruna and University of Ottawa, School of Psychology.
- 25 people attended



### Chacruna's Queering Psychedelics Book Launch in the East Coast: Alex Belser in conversation with Dee Dee Goldpaugh & Kevon Simpson

(May 11th - NYC)

- Completely full house.
- 40+ people attended



### Eskawata Kayawai: Exclusive film screening on Huni Kuin people with the presence of the director

(July 7th - NYC)

- This non released documentary took 6 years of work and tells the story of the cultural and spiritual renaissance of the Huni Kuin people from the Brazilian Amazon forest through ayahuasca.
- This event was hosted by Bem-te-vi, Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative, Brooklyn Psychedelic Society and Tibet House US.
- ~40 people attended



### Eskawata Kayawai: Exclusive film screening on Huni Kuin people with the presence of the director

(July 10th - New Haven, CT)

- This was an event hosted by Bem-te-vi, Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative, Elm City Psychedelic Society and Centered.
- ~40 people attended





### Eskawata Kayawai: Exclusive film screening on Huni Kuin people with the presence of the director (July 23rd - Berkeley, CA)

- This event was hosted by Bem-te-vi, Chacruna Institute, San Francisco Psychedelic Society and Portal Community.
- ~40 people attended

## VIII Fundraising Events

This year, we held our first ever major fundraising event, which featured speakers Dr. Rick Doblin and Dr. Bia Labate. This hybrid online/in-person event was a private and candid conversation on cutting edge things currently happening in the psychedelic field.



### Brunch with Bia and Rick (September 30th - virtual/in-person, CA)

- Hybrid online/in-person fundraising event featuring a private and candid conversation on cutting edge things currently happening in the psychedelic field.
- We had 26 in-person (non-chacruna team attendees)  
We raised a total of \$29,646.76



## VII Rapé Circles and Talks

Chacruna took the lead in the Psychedelic Renaissance by combining lectures on sacred plants, blessings from Indigenous elders and offering a first-hand experience with sacred plants from the Global South, calling people to become aware of how psychedelics go far beyond being just substances to be researched and consumed, involving culture, ancestry, indigenous knowledge and the promotion of reciprocal relationships with the animal and plant kingdoms. This was a chance to make direct contact with the world of visionary plants, and to sit with teachers who carry these medicines with the blessing and permission of their partners in the Amazon. These events were held by Dr. Glauber Loures de Assis and others from the Chacruna network around the globe.

- **Rapé Circle and talk**  
(October 10th - Esalen)  
40 people attended
- **Rapé Circle and talk**  
(October 14th - NY)  
25 people attended
- **Rapé Circle and talk**  
(October 16th & 17th - Brooklyn, NY)  
25 people attended at each event
- **Rapé Circle and talk**  
(October 18th - Berkeley, CA)  
40 people attended




**Rapé Circle** and talk

18th October } 6 to 9 pm  
PST

with Glauber Loures de Assis  
& Kevon Simpson  
Berkeley, CA






# X Annual Conference

## Chacruna's Queering Psychedelics II Conference

The second of its kind, this conference highlighted the voices of queer visionaries within the psychedelic community as well as examined the history of psychedelics from queer and non-binary perspectives.

- 350+ attendees
- 50 speakers
- 30 Panels/Interactive Breakout Rooms
- 31 sponsors
- 2 Media Partners
- 9 Community Partners
- 22 Volunteers



**QUEERING PSYCHEDELICS II**  
\* April 22 and 23, 2023 \*

**Brava Theater Center**  
2781 24th St.  
San Francisco, CA

**Register here**

chacruna.net

 **chacruna**  
Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines

We also made the recordings from this conference available to stream on Vimeo, where they will be available to rent for the duration of a year. Chacruna members and in-person conference attendees were given free access.

# X Chacruna Latinoamérica (CLA)



Chacruna Latinoamérica published 29 articles in Portuguese, these included some of the texts that appeared before on the Spanish book version of *Women and Psychedelics*. Our most viewed Portuguese articles this year have been:

- **Racha interno da UDV mostra que religião e política não podem ser separadas** (UDV Internal Rift Shows that Religion and Politics Cannot be Separated)/ Glauber Loures De Assis (BR) & Bia Labate (BR)/ 2016 views
- **Declaração sobre a Ayahuasca: informações e preocupações** (Statement on Ayahuasca: Information and Concerns) / Bia Labate (BR) / 913 views
- **Conspiritorialidade: A face oculta da revolução psicodélica** (Conspiritoriality: The Hidden Face of the Psychedelic Revolution) / Glauber Loures De Assis (BR) / 843 views



Chacruna Latinoamérica published 80 articles in Spanish, including the whole selection of texts from the book *Women and Psychedelics*. Our most viewed Spanish articles this year have been:

- **Quando Jesús conoce la ayahuasca: textos de muestra de Cristo vuelve de la selva** (When Jesus Meets Ayahuasca: Sample Texts from Christ Returns From the Jungle)/ Marc Blainey (US) / 1386 views
- **¿Cómo interactúan los medicamentos psiquiátricos con MDMA o psilocibina?** (How Do Psychiatric Medications Interact with MDMA or Psilocybin?)/ Kelan Thomas y Benjamin Malcolm (US) / 1347 views
- **La “historia olvidada” de la investigación de la psilocibina: Gastón Guzmán y su aporte científico** (The “Unsung History” of Psilocybin Research: Gastón Guzmán and His Scientific Contribution) / Anya Ermakova (RU) / 1334 views





This year, CLA organized 11 online events. They can be found on Chacruna Institute YouTube Channel and Chacruna Latinoamérica Facebook page. This is almost twice the number of events compared to last year. The topics included: psychedelic research in South/Central America, cultural traditions, re-Indigenization, female empowerment, and more.



This year Chacruna Latinoamerica released 5 newsletters, both in Portuguese and Spanish, and is preparing an End of the Year Newsletter, with a retrospective of the most important achievements from Chacruna Latinoamérica in 2023. Our current audience reached 8,053 contacts, of which there were **56 subscribers**.



Social media goals achieved:

- Glauber Loures de Assis (Associate Director, Chacruna Latinoamerica - Brazil)
  - A Call for Public Support Against the Current Demonization of Ayahuasca Practices in Spain. (Coauthorship with Bia Labate, Henrique Antunes, and Clancy Cavnar. Published at MAPS Bulletin: Volume XXXIII Number 1 • 2023).
- Ibrahim Gabriell (Communications Associate, Chacruna Latinoamerica - Mexico)
  - Indigenous Psilocybin Mushroom Practices: An Annotated Bibliography. (Co-authorship with Nicholas Spiers; Beatriz Caiuby Labate, Anna O. Ermakova, Patrick Farrell, Osiris Sinuhé González Romero, and Nidia Olvera Hernandez. Article accepted for publication in the Journal of Psychedelic Studies – December 2023).



# XII

## Council for the Protection of Sacred Plants

In 2023, the Council for the Protection of Sacred Plants (CPSP) continued its process of inquiry, consultation and activism. There was a big focus on the initiatives taking place in Oregon and Colorado, and issues around the country concerning religious freedom. Chacruna was able to accomplish:



**4 Forums** discussing law and policy, legal practices and informed consent in the expanding psychedelic ecosystem:

- Myths, Best Practices and the Road to Religious Freedom for Psychedelics Churches in the US
- Unpacking the Implementation of Prop 122 in Colorado
- Church of the Eagle and the Condor Legal Trial Set for 2024
- Psychedelic Churches and Taxes: Supporting Religious Rights with the DEA and IRS



**9 court case consultations** involving arrests, court cases, seizures, and organization structure to enhance health, safety, ethics, and legal defense.



We continued to support the development of the Sacred Plant Alliance (SPA), in the following ways:

- After updating and improving its new member evaluation process, SPA has admitted new member churches whose leaders are already integrating well into the larger SPA community.
- SPA collaborated with Chacruna and expert attorneys in the controlled substances field to support the crafting and submission of an Amicus Curiae brief in the Church of Iowa court case.
- Participated as US representative in the first worldwide meeting of organizations dedicated to safe and ethical sacrament uses, UNAYA, as organized by ICEERS.
- Improvement of internal documents:
  - Membership policies and agreements
  - Adverse event and ethical concern reporting form for members' congregants
  - Health and safety guidance





## The Church of the Eagle and the Condor (CEC)

- CPSP members are representing CEC in their effort to obtain recognition as a legal ayahuasca church.



## SB519

- Chacruna continued to participate in conversations surrounding this bill.



## Amicus Curiae

- In October, the Chacruna Institute and Sacred Plant Alliance filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiff-appellant church in the case of *Lowaska Church of Healing v. United States* before the Federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. That case involves an ayahuasca church's federally protected right to free exercise of religion under the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act ("RFRA"), and to obtain IRS recognition of its 501(c)(3) nonprofit status as a church. Chacruna, through the efforts of the Council for the Protection of Sacred Plants, is honored to have supported the rights of psychedelic churches in this important case. The Chacruna Institute and Sacred Plant Alliance are represented in this matter by Matthew C. Zorn and David J. Gutierrez of Yetter Coleman LLP, Rebecca Lee Whiting of Epigram Legal PC, and Allison Hoots of Hoots Law Practice PLLC.



**Council for  
the Protection  
of Sacred Plants**

# XIII

## Racial Equity and Access (REA) Committee

This committee is a branch of the Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines that endeavors to ensure that traditionally marginalized racial, ethnic, and Indigenous communities have access to these healing medicines and are actively included in the field of psychedelic studies at all levels. We find it imperative to produce resources that actively support and inform those within and outside of these communities, practicing our activism within the space to ensure an equitable and just psychedelic future.

- ◆ In 2023, we were delighted to add Dr. Joseph McCowan to this committee.
- ◆ We added 5 new people to People of Color Making a Difference in Psychedelic Healing:
  - Tony Moss
  - Amber Senter
  - Christine Diindiisi McCleave
  - Candace Oglesby
  - 1Drea Pennington Wasio
- ◆ Various members of this committee joined us as professors in our courses this year, including Dr. NiCole T. Buchanan, Dr. Sonya Faber,
- ◆ Joseph McCowan spoke on a panel at our Queering Psychedelics II conference this spring.
- ◆ We created an interview series which spoke with members of the REA committee, two of which we were able to publish this year:
  - On Racial Trauma, Social Justice, Mentorship, and Psychedelic Healing for People of Color with Dr. Sonya Faber
  - On Equity-First Models for Psychedelic Healing with Dr. NiCole T. Buchanan
- ◆ We held 1 in-person event with Dr. Monnica T. Williams titled Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in the Psychedelic Space: Progress or Roll-back?
  - On Racial Trauma, Social Justice, Mentorship, and Psychedelic Healing for People of Color with Dr. Sonya Faber
  - On Equity-First Models for Psychedelic Healing with Dr. NiCole T. Buchanan





We hosted 2 community forums which discussed BIPOC issues in

- Preparation and Integration of Psychedelic Experiences for BIPOC folks
- Psychedelic Healing for Ethnoracial Trauma in the Asian Community



We hosted 2 community forums which discussed BIPOC issues in psychedelics:

- Preparation and Integration of Psychedelic Experiences for BIPOC folks
- Psychedelic Healing for Ethnoracial Trauma in the Asian Community



Frontiers Research Topics Special Edition: Power, Discrimination, and Privilege in Individuals and Institutions

- This special edition journal was put together by members Dr. Sonya Faber, Dr. Monica Williams and Dr. Bia Labate. This Research Topic explores forms of covert or unexamined institutional power structures, systems, and their psychological effects and consequences. Themes addressed include policy weaponization, bias and discrimination as it relates to covert power and power systems, and the psychology of power. This edition is comprised of original research, reviews, theoretical articles, meta-analysis, commentary and opinion.



# XIII

## Women, Gender Diversity, and Sexual Minorities Working Group

The Women, Gender Diversity, and Sexual Minorities Working Group is an initiative of the Chacruna Institute, dedicated to fostering accessibility and diversity in psychedelic science, practice, and discourses, addressing and dismantling sexist, heteronormative, transphobic and homophobic forms of oppression, and allying with other under-represented communities to combat oppressive practices in psychedelic communities and science. This working group collaborated on a number of projects and events in 2023, some already mentioned in other sections of this report, including:

- Chacruna's Queering Psychedelics II conference
- Chacruna's Course: Queering Psychedelics: Intersectionality, Healing, Spirituality and Liberation
- Chacruna's Queering Psychedelics Book Launch in the East Coast
- We published 2 new articles to our Women in the History of Psychedelic Plant Medicines series
- We published 6 new articles to the Queer section of our Chacruna Chronicles
- We held 11 Queer Psychedelic Integration Circles hosted by Justin Natoli
- We had a Queering Psychedelics panel at Psychedelic Science 2023 which included speakers Alex Belser, Justin Natoli, Clancy Cavnar and moderator Bia Labate
- Alex Belser participated on Outward: Slate's LGBTQ Podcast and spoke on the topic Are Throuples All That Different From Couples?
- We were honored to add 2 new members to this group:
  - Behike Sensei Kevon Simpson
  - Alejandra Barajas





# XV

## Ayahuasca Community Committee

The Ayahuasca Community Committee is a program of the Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines formed by researchers and activists with deep field experience. It aims to serve and support the ayahuasca community as ayahuasca goes global. We promote communication across diverse cultural settings and create community safeguarding, healing and dialogue. Our goal is to raise awareness and encourage positive action through collaborative research and community engagement cross-culturally. In 2023, we continued to produce important research and provide in-depth dialogues:

- ◆ We published **11 articles** relating to ayahuasca in different aspects, such as law and policy, culture, conferences/events, science, research, and much more.
- ◆ There were **2 journals** published on the topic of epistemic injustices which included authors from this committee:
  - Smith M, Labate BC, Antunes H, Assis G, Gomes B, Cavnar C. Access and benefit-sharing legislation: An ethnobiological approach to overcoming epistemic injustices through intercultural dialogue. *Transcultural Psychiatry*. 2022;59(5):711-713. doi:10.1177/13634615221123609
  - Labate BC, Antunes H, de Assis GL, Gomes B, Smith M, Cavnar C. On epistemic injustices, biomedical research with Indigenous people, and the legal regulation of ayahuasca in Brazil: The production of new injustices? *Transcultural Psychiatry*. 2022;59(5):705-710. doi:10.1177/13634615221120869
- ◆ We hosted **5 live forums**, in English, Spanish and Portuguese, on Crowdcast and YouTube, relating to ayahuasca in different aspects.
- ◆ We published the book "Religious Freedom and the Global Regulation of Ayahuasca" (Labate & Cavnar 2023)
- ◆ We continued to work on our Ayahuasca Community Guidelines for the Awareness of Sexual Abuse - the results of which were published in January 2023.



# XIII

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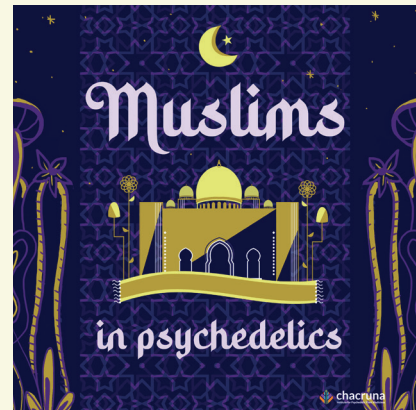
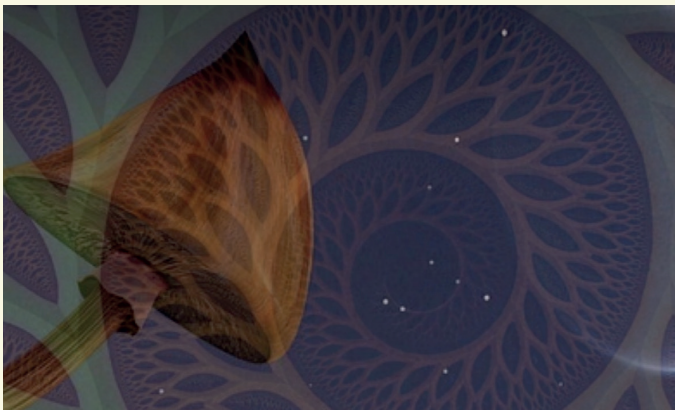
- Chacruna's Queering Psychedelics II conference
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- We were honored to add 2 new members to this group:
  - Behike Sensei Kevon Simpson
  - Alejandra Barajas



# XVI

## Chacruna Media

- We published 10 press releases.
- We have created **90 newsletters** for an audience of **16,898 contacts**, 13,150 of which are subscribers.
- We had a total of **32 event sponsorships**.
- We have built and maintained community partnerships with **84 organizations**, non-profits, foundations, businesses, and institutions.
- We uploaded **16 videos** on our YouTube page, including our new Instagram live series called Muslims in Psychedelics and other Chacruna-exclusive panels.
- In the past year, we have grown our social media presence to **49k Instagram followers** (13.99% increase), **7.13k Youtube subscribers** (16.5% increase), **50k Facebook followers**, **46k Facebook likes**, **12.1k Twitter followers**, (6.14% increase), and **24,951 newsletter contacts** (16,898 Chacruna, 8,053 Chacruna Latinoamérica).
- We created a TikTok account for Chacruna this year, and we were able to gather **374 followers** and **1400 likes**, and uploaded **52 videos** on TikTok.
- We had **80 media appearances**, including in publications from Lucid News, Bloomberg Law, DoubleBlind, Dr. Bronners, and many more.



## XVII Fiscal Sponsorships

We created a page on our site for fiscal sponsorships we have hosted. These were the fiscal sponsorships we have hosted throughout the years:

- The Church of the Eagle and the Condor (CEC)
- The One Acre Project
- Sacred Plant Alliance, Inc. (SPA)
- Sequoia Center

## XVIII Organizational achievements

We ended 2023 with:

- 498 patrons
- 9 board members, including 2 new members:
  - Jamie Beachy
  - Coltrane Lord
- 18 core staff members
- We continued to expand our Speaker's Bureau consisting of 60 speaking proposals from different people within our network
- We completely refined our Media and Donor Rolodex
- We created a new institutional system to file documents
- We translated our Team Agreement form to Spanish and Portuguese for those living in South and Central America
- We created a Sexual Harassment Policy
- We created a Discrimination Policy
- Refined our speaker's agreements for events and conferences
- Created waiver for the rapé circles mentioned above
- Improved letters of acknowledgement
- All employees submitted CVs
- We opened a venmo account for donations and sales
- We created document to report in kind donations
- We created 3 fundraising decks
- We worked on partnerships and collaborations with many universities throughout the year, including Harvard University, Stanford University, Naropa University, UCSF and others.
- We updated our Frequently Asked Questions page on our site for the courses, and established policies on several topics, including filming, recommended readings, required readings, the syllabus, final papers, etc.

- We hosted 3 recurring virtual circles for our members:
  - Chacruna's Queer Psychedelic Integration Circle
  - Chacruna's Psychedelic Mindfulness Sangha
  - Kuara Circle
- We hosted 3 recurring virtual circles for our members:
  - Chacruna's Queer Psychedelic Integration Circle
  - Chacruna's Psychedelic Mindfulness Sangha
  - Kuara Circle
- We supported the maintenance of 2 google listservs.
- We created a new organizational structure of department tracking in order to effectively monitor goals, action items, and metrics for all of our programs.
- We hired grant writers Leslie Davis and Gray Davis, and with their help created a new grant writing system within the organization as an emergency and long term fundraising strategy. With the help and work of various team members, we submitted 30 grant applications this year.
- We created new agreements with board members in an effort to improve board cohesion, finances and fundraising.
- We had the honor of adding 14 new staff members, board members, contractors and volunteers to our team:
  - **Glauber Loures de Assis** (Associate Director of Chacruna Latinoamerica in Brazil)
  - **Jesse Gould** (Advisory Board)
  - **Karina Medrano** (Media Content Producer)
  - **Henrique Fernandes Antunes** (Ayahuasca Community Committee Coordinator)
  - **Lia Bennett** (Expanded Learning Program Assistant)
  - **Swati Sharma** (Volunteer)
  - **Nidia A. Olvera Hernandez** (Research Associate at Chacruna Latinoamerica in Mexico)
  - **Jessica DeWitt** (Managing Editor)
  - **Behike Sensei Kevon Simpson** (Women, Gender Diversity, and Sexual Minorities Working Group)
  - **Leslie Davis** (Regenerative Growth Officer)
  - **Gray Davis** (Grant Writer)
  - **Rebecca Lee Whiting** (Council for the Protection of Sacred Plants)
  - **Jamie Beachy** (Board Member)
  - **Coltrane Lorde** (Board Member)
  - **Guillaume Caron** (Volunteer)

# XIX

## Career Training and Development

- We now have a Retirement Savings Plan (401k) for all US-based employees.
- Scholarships to Chacruna team members for various academic institutions and event for trainings in the field:
  - Nick Spiers and Glauber Loures de Assis got scholarships for the Fluence training.
  - Ibrah Gabriell and Lorien Chavez got scholarships for the Vital training.
  - Alejandra Barajas got a scholarship for Naropa University's Psychedelic-Assisted Therapies Program.
- Some team members completed continuing education retreats in Peru, Costa Rica and Jamaica, as part of fieldwork.
- Internal series of 'inspirational talks' to the Chacruna team from successful leaders in the space to strengthen relationships and help in Chacruna's own development.
- We have obtained speaking opportunities for many of our team members in events around the globe, so that they can grow and become better speakers and educate folks on Chacruna and topics of psychedelic justice.
- Various people on our team wrote and published articles in journals and books:
  - Omágua-Kambebe, A., Labate, B.C. & Ribeiro, S. Psychedelic science and Indigenous shamanism: an urgent dialogue. *Nat. Mental Health* (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s44220-023-00150-9>
  - Urrutia J, Anderson BT, Belouin SJ, Berger A, Griffiths RR, Grob CS, Henningfield JE, Labate BC, Maier LJ, Maternowska MC, Weichold F, Yaden DB, Magar V. Psychedelic Science, Contemplative Practices, and Indigenous and Other Traditional Knowledge Systems: Towards Integrative Community-Based Approaches in Global Health. *J Psychoactive Drugs*. 2023 Sep 25:1-16. doi: 10.1080/02791072.2023.2258367. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37747281.
  - Labate, B., Ermakova, A. O., Slosower, J., Galvão-Coelho, N., Palhano-Fontes, F., Antunes, H. F., Assis, G. L. de, Cavnar, C., Araújo, D. de, & Ribeiro, S. (2023, June 9). The DEA report on ayahuasca risks: "science" in service of prohibition? *Journal of Psychedelic Studies*. <https://akjournals.com/view/journals/2054/aop/article-10.1556-2054.2023.00279/article-10.1556-2054.2023.00279.xml?body=fullhtml-26185>

- Labate, B. C., & Rodrigues, T. (2023). The impacts of the drug war on Indigenous Peoples in Latin America: An overview, *Journal of Psychedelic Studies* (published online ahead of print 2023). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1556/2054.2023.00239>
  - Labate, B. C., Cavnar, C., & Atunes, H. F. (2023). Introduction: The Regulation of Ayahuasca and Its Challenges: From the Global to the Local. Religious freedom and the global regulation of ayahuasca. Routledge.
  - Labate, B. C., & Assis, G. L. (2023). A Genealogy of the Ayahuasca Cultural Heritage Registration Process in Brazil. Religious freedom and the global regulation of ayahuasca. Routledge.
  - Labate, B. C., Atunes, H. F., & Atunes, I. F. (2023). "Authorization? That's Outrageous:" Ayahuasca Environmental Legislation and Indigenous Populations in Brazil. Religious freedom and the global regulation of ayahuasca. Routledge.
  - Labate, B. C., Cavnar, C., Atunes, H. F., Atunes, I. F., Assis, G. L., & Cavnar, C. (2023). Afterword: A Call for Public Support against the Current Demonization of Ayahuasca Practices in Spain. Religious freedom and the global regulation of ayahuasca. Routledge.
  - Antunes, H. F., Caicedo Fernández, A., Iamarino Caravita, R., & Negrín, D. (2023). Introducción - Religiones, espiritualidades y psicoactivos: la expansión y pluralización del uso de sustancias y sus controversias. *Ciencias Sociales Y Religión*, 25(00), e023014. <https://doi.org/10.20396/csr.v25i00.8675314>
  - Antunes, H. F. (2023). ¿Libertad, igualdad y fraternidad? la prohibición de la ayahuasca en Francia . *Ciencias Sociales Y Religión*, 25(00), e023016. <https://doi.org/10.20396/csr.v25i00.8672735>
  - Antunes, H. F. (2023). "It Is Not Solved Just by Writing It Down on Paper": Patrimonialization Policies and the Religious Use of Ayahuasca as a Brazilian Intangible Cultural Heritage. In: Montero, P., Nicácio, C., Fernandes Antunes, H. (eds) *Religious Pluralism and Law in Contemporary Brazil. Law and Religion in a Global Context*, vol 4. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41981-2\\_6](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-41981-2_6)
- 
- We helped our team members in Mexico and Brazil to get visas to travel to the U.S. for team building and participating in events.
  - Various core team members went on a retreat in Minas Gerais, Brazil, held by an independent institution called Jornadas de Kura retreat.

# XX

## Chacruna Merchandise

In 2023, Chacruna launched 7 new t-shirt designs with the help of our incredible volunteer designers, including:



### El Futuro es Ancestral Future is Ancestral

This shirt was officially authorized by one of South America's greatest Indigenous leaders, Ailton Krenak, with a long history of fighting for the rights of Indigenous peoples in Brazil. He personally gave his blessings for Chacruna to spread the message that the future is ancestral, that is, that building a better world needs to be inspired by the ways of life of Indigenous and traditional peoples and their Bien Vivir relationship with nature.



### Ceremony

The creation of this shirt was a collective creative process that intersects the visions of various members of the Chacruna Institute. The name "Ceremony" strives to represent the spiritual dimensions of psychedelics. One side contains the art of Joseph Mays, musician, ethnobotanist and illustrator who set the tone for the overall style of the design (free and organic linework). The center design was made by Glauber Loures de Assis, who has worked with ayahuasca for over 15 years, capturing the elements that compose an ayahuasca ceremony, such as music, nature and tobacco. The joining of these two styles was done by Karina Alvarez M, Media Content Producer of Chacruna, simplifying both concepts in a harmonic and functional composition.



### Queering Psychedelics II

This shirt was created for our annual conference, Queering Psychedelics II, which was the second of its kind and harked back to the first offering of this conference. This conference and shirt promote the intersection between psychedelics and queer experience, depicting and inviting community and solidarity in these spaces.







### Make Your Own Rabbit Whole

Created by our team, Chacruna's mission is reflected in the design of each shirt, which has a unique graphic promoting the protection of sacred plants. This one suggests one pursue the psychedelic journey with intention, finding healing in one's own trip down the rabbit hole. At the same time, the meditative bunny is making a parody of the wellness industry and its obsession with the self and consumerism.



### Psychedelic Dad Psychedelic Mom

Psychedelics have often and continue to be stigmatized in the lens of the general public due to drug prohibition and the war on drugs. However, in many different cultures which have worked with psychedelic plant medicines for millenia, the topic of psychedelic plant medicines are normalized and integrated as part of the communities' upbringing from a very young age. The Psychedelic Mom and Psychedelic Dad shirts invite folks to destigmatize views of psychedelics and take pride in the many benefits that psychedelics can bring in different ways, promoting open conversations on the topic.



- ▶ We created high quality banners, flyers, stickers, QR codes, and many other materials to help educate the public on our work and provide resources to support when tabling at conferences and events.
- ▶ Another goal centered on the creation of redirection materials to guide individuals towards Chacruna Latinoamérica resources during tabling events. Our accomplished designer, Karina Álvarez, spearheaded the creation of these materials. They were effectively employed at various events in the United States, such as Psychedelic Science, as well as events in Mexico (refer to Conferences 2023 – Spanish section). The content of these materials was thoughtfully crafted in both English and Spanish, ensuring accessibility to a diverse audience.





None of this would have been possible without your support and all the people who believe in our mission and help in a myriad of different ways. In the past three years, we have matured as an organization, growing out from a collective of mostly volunteers to a consolidated core of a tight-knit team of employees who keep the organization running for our members and our larger community.

If you believe in our mission, feel inspired by the impact we've had so far, and want to support the strong expansion we are planning for 2024, please consider becoming a member of the Chacruna Alliance on Patreon from as little as \$5 per month, and get access to our community and its exclusive and unique benefits.

If you are already a Chacruna patron, and you have the economic means, please consider switching to an upper membership tier. If you are unable to do so at the moment, it would mean a lot for us if you talked to a friend or family member about becoming a member of the Chacruna Alliance! We grow mostly through word of mouth, expanding our community of like-minded individuals, just like mycelium!

We are thankful beyond words, committed entirely to this mission, and thrilled that you are sharing the journey with us.

Beatriz Labate, Ph.D  
Executive Director

