



COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



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LA SALVACION DEL PLANETA ESTA EN LA SABIDURIA
ANCESTRAL DE LOS PUEBLOS INDIGENAS
www.coica.org.ec



What is COICA?



The Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), we are an international indigenous organization that coordinates the efforts, dreams and ideals of the nationalities, indigenous peoples and organizations of the Amazon basin to promote, defend and enforce the rights of the life as an integral part of the nature and the universe of the Amazon.

We are an instance of convergence of efforts for the promotion, protection and security of our territories, our lifestyles, principles and spiritual, social, cultural, political and economic values.





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Vision

We are an international Amazonian indigenous organization that coordinates the efforts, dreams and ideals of the nationalities, indigenous peoples and organizations of the Amazon basin to promote, defend and enforce the rights of life as an integral part of nature and the universe.





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Mission

Generate policies, proposals and actions at local, national and international level of peoples, nationalities and Amazonian indigenous organizations through coordination, dialogue, consulting and strategic alliances with public, private and international cooperation agents for an equitable and differentiated development of the Amazon.

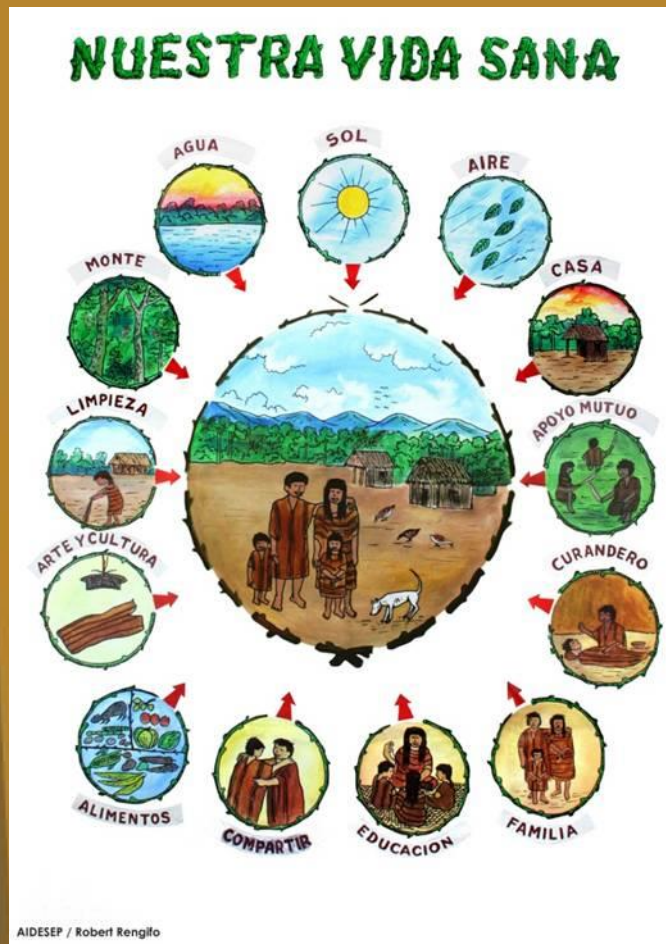


Areas of action of COICA



The thematic areas of action of COICA are defined by the REDD+ RIA, and these were the following:

1. Sustaining Life.
2. Territories and Natural Resources.
3. Own legal systems and Constitutional Rights.
4. Organizational strengthening and ancestral wisdom.
5. Academic, Scientific and Cultural Education.
6. Development with Identity and Economy.
7. Systems of Technologies of Information, Communication and Health
8. Women and Family





CIONES
ONICA

**With how indigenous women are using
their particular tradicional
agricultural/fishing/forest knowledge and
skills to fulfill their roles in
family/community care and nurture.**



- Reflect on the organizational situation of women, leadership, participation, advocacy and priority issues in the Amazon region.
- Building a common agenda of women articulated Amazon Amazon Indigenous Agenda (AIA) and the Operational Plan COICA.



CASE STUDY OF THE COICA OF WOMEN IN RELATION WITH REDD+, RIA CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

- Indigenous Peoples come from the land and have been given our life through the land.
- That the land is our mother cannot be denied. In this respect we as Indigenous Peoples have responsibilities to honor and nurture our Mother Earth to ensure that she can continue to give us life.
- Our role and responsibilities is to protect our Mother Earth from destruction and abusive treatment, just as we would defend our Human Mother. In carrying out this responsibility over a period of thousands of years, we have become a component of the Biodiversity of the Earth.



OUR CONCERNS LIKE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



- That the Indigenous Communities are already suffering from the impacts of climate change including, floods, droughts, changes in seasons and changes in flora and fauna. That Particularly Gold Mining, Timber Companies, Oil Companies etc. with the use of mercury has led to negative impacts on the health of the Indigenous Peoples in various regions.
- That the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are not fully respected particularly in the areas of the land rights and the right of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- That there is very little information available on topics that will have serious negative impacts on the Indigenous Peoples, including the issues of REDD, REDD+, CLIMATE CHANGE, CBD, FCPF etc.



CONSIDERATION



- We must undertake more research in relation to climate change and its impacts, and the result of such research must be accessible for Indigenous Peoples.
- The information must be in their own languages and understandable for them.
- Among our experiences on related topics, we should highlight COICA's influence on the adaption of new politics and policy on Conservation and Indigenous Peoples as well as, our role in establishing the basis for a new policy on Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories with the International Cooperation.
- The Indigenous women, we have to been able to influence to a certain extent, the adoption of protective measure for our rights like Indigenous Peoples. The point of interest is the creation of an open Work Group that deals with Traditional Knowledge, whose composition will be decide by the international conferences.



BASIC COICA's WOMEN POLICY



- The Regional Indigenous Women Meeting on Indigenous Peoples and the questions on related issues on the negative effect from all above called on climate change REDD etc. without a doubt, the event that established the basis of the organization with regards to the subject.
- For the members of the Indigenous Peoples, the knowledge and determination of resource use is collective and inter-generational.
- No Indigenous population, be it individual or community nor the government can sell or transfer resource property that belongs to the people.
- Each generation has the obligation to save and protect for the next. The collective rights of Indigenous Peoples are part of a customary rights that has its own ideological and philosophical principles. There is the need to establish sui generis protection systems and recognition of these types of practices.





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- Outline capacity building needs.
- Formalize a future space of exchange and meeting between Amazonian indigenous women, and joint strategies with indigenous women and several of the region.



how women are empowering the various issues currently

- Amazon Market was founded in 2003 to empower women in the Amazon basin. In the future it wants to promote the existing market, expanding and using all possible resources, culture, music, education, and crafts, etc.
- The strengthening of cultures and traditions of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin.



how women are empowering the various issues currently



- We have worked on capacity building for women's leadership. Also ability to speak in public.
- The strengthening of indigenous women in education, health, economy and political participation.
- Promotion and enhancement of medicinal plants, recovery of shamans and midwives.
- The strengthening of cultures and traditions of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon basin.



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how women are empowering the various issues currently

- Workshops and training on rights
We have worked on capacity building for women's leadership. Also ability to speak in public.
- Productive projects related to crafts and traditional medicine.
- Work and production of the Chagres seed recovery and strengthening the use and mapping chagra.
- Visualize the participation of indigenous women within organizations and institutions.



how women are empowering the various issues currently



- The rights of indigenous women.
- Local meetings.
- Defense Planning and Environment.
- Training on the rights of women.
- The importance of mainstreaming the issue of indigenous women.
- Support for women to fill job as a community representative



how women are empowering the various issues currently



- Participation in the leadership of organizations and political aspect.
- The indigenous and women organizations.
- Articles in the Constitution pro-active and effective participation.
- Need to defend territory and identity.
- Family support for being active in the community.
- Share information for effective participation.



Priority areas for Amazonian women



- Workshops and training.
- Workshop to raise awareness in government institutions on mainstreaming the issue of indigenous women.
- Empowerment.
- Draft a plan and programs with and for indigenous women.
- Promote and encourage the importance of the issue of indigenous women.



Priority areas for Amazonian women



- Better position of indigenous women in the field of negotiations.
- Protection of family unit.
- Equality in health services.
- Equality in education services.
- Protection of cultural heritage.
- Access to information.



Priority areas for Amazonian women



- Land use planning and environmental.
- Strengthening cultural identity (life plans).
- Rights of indigenous women and collective rights.
- Strengthening the practice of traditional medicine.
- Guidance for Women on reproduction and life plan.
- Workshops on project development or qualified women leaders.



how women are empowering the various issues currently



- Education: training of indigenous women, intercultural education.
- Health: Strengthening and restoration of traditional medicinal plants and indigenous women.
- Economy: Production and improving the quality of handicrafts of indigenous women.
- Production: reforestation or planting native plants in order to craft.
- Environment: To inform and sensitize women on issue of global warming and climate change



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1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Rights and Participation.

- 50 % Participation of women in all the arenas of decision-making power, also in areas such as meetings, events, workshops and assemblies at local, national, and international levels.
- In the governing councils of the indigenous organizations and in all the structure of COICA, 50% participation of female leaders is necessary.



1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Rights and Participation.



- COICA directive must have 50% female participation, non-position specific, and also must witness an alternating of positions.

1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Politics

- The Coordination of COICA must include the proposals of the national Amazon organizations before taking part in any international meeting, including the proposals from female representatives, and must socialize proposals to member organizations.



1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Politics



- Congresses held by COICA must invite national, regional, and district organizations, including the participation of the women's organizations from each country.
- Promoting the participation of indigenous women in governmental institutions in every country, must also be included in the formulation of public policies

1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Politics

- Implementing follow-up mechanisms of laws and public policies towards women, so that they are applied and obeyed.
- Promoting the creation of Secretaries in the countries with public policies specifically designed for indigenous women, with the participation of indigenous female technical staff.



1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Actions for capacity strengthening.



- Workshops for the sensitization of families in the organizations to allow the active participation of both indigenous men and women.
- Training workshops for economic, social, and cultural strengthening at the communal, association, local, regional, and national organizational levels.

1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Actions for capacity strengthening.

- Leadership school for women in: economic strengthening, leadership, project writing, environmental topics (climate change, environmental services, biodiversity, and REDD), rights (women's rights, nature rights-CBD, human rights, indigenous peoples' rights), administrative and financial management, communication technologies, public policies, languages, conflict resolution, planning and technical proposals, business management, communications)



1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

Communication and coordination among women's organizations



- To create a data base of women's organizations.
- To include in COICA's web site a specific section on organizations and processes of indigenous women from the Amazon basin.
- To negotiate access to internet for women's organizations and their members (joint work between organizations and COICA)

1. ORGANIZATIONAL STRENGTHENING

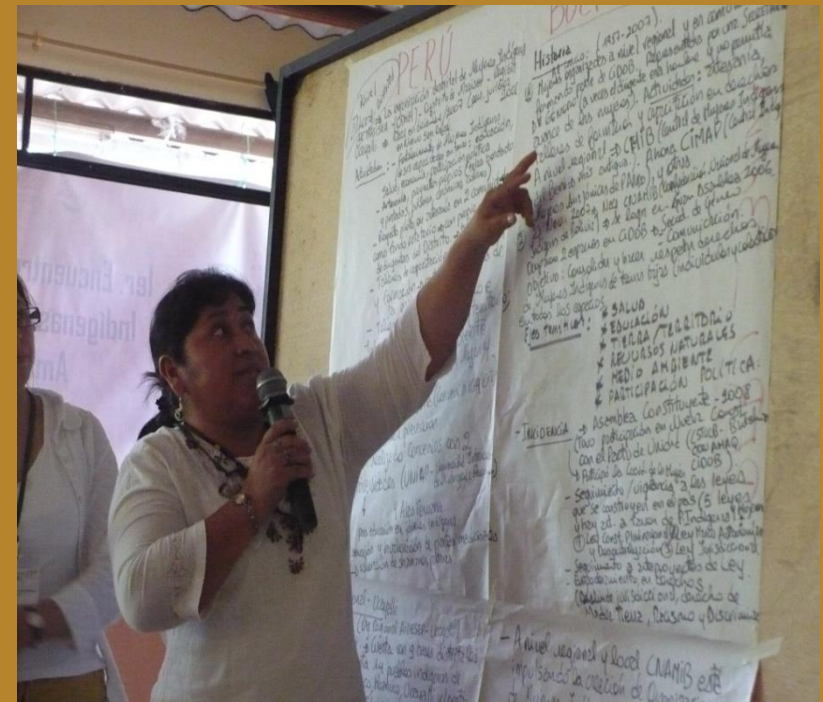
Communication and coordination among women's organizations



- To support women's organizations in having their own web sites in order to publicize their processes, projects, handicrafts, etc.
- To ensure access to information and communication technologies for indigenous women: preparation, training.

2. TERRITORY

- Including in the RIA that earth is a mother, and thus, it is identified as female, and must be loved and respected. It is not negotiable.
- Respecting women's decisions regarding threats that produce environmental, social, and cultural damage.



2. TERRITORY

- Indigenous women must be informed on strategic issues (use and management of natural resources, transnational extractive projects).
- Ensuring the right of free, previous, and informed consent in the face of threats posed by extractive industries (oil, mining, biopiracy, hydroelectric dams, timber industry) and infrastructure (hydroways, highways-IIRSA).



2. TERRITORY

- Providing information for women about the impacts that extractive and infrastructure industries could generate.
- Fostering the exchange of experiences among women on the issue of extractivism and its impacts and on the actions taken to face them.



2. TERRITORY

- Legalization of the territories with the co-responsibility of women (delimitation, demarcation, land titling, increase, expansion, reorganization, and restitution).
- Ensuring the participation of women in the management and control of the territory and renewable natural resources according to ancestral knowledge.



2. TERRITORY

- Ensuring the participation of women in the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Life Plans in indigenous people's territories.
- Ensuring the active participation of women in the mapping and planning processes made by indigenous peoples in their ancestral territories, sacred places, and management areas.



2. TERRITORY



- Influencing the State and local governments so that territorial planning ensures the participation of indigenous peoples, ensuring the participation of women.
- Protected areas that overlap with indigenous territories must be jointly managed by indigenous peoples, because they encompass sacred places.
- No more natural parks in indigenous ancestral territories.

3. ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

- Boosting and recuperating the ancestral management of chacras (small farms) promoting the role of female elders as the transmitters of knowledge (ecological calendar and chacra).
- Authorities from the organizations shall practice the conservation of ancestral knowledge by using and managing their chacras in order to guarantee their families' food sovereignty.



3. ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

- Sensitizing at the community level on the empowerment of ancestral knowledge for the new generations and for their own identity.
- Preserving women's traditional knowledge and its transmission.



3. ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE



- Strengthening and recuperating medicinal plants that have been traditionally used by women.
- Protection of women's collective intellectual property (own seeds, body painting, plant blessing, dye for handicrafts (generating community regulations)).

3. ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE



- Establishing regulations by Amazonian organizations and monitoring collective intellectual property.
- Re-appreciation of the importance of women as transmitters of ancestral knowledge, myths.
- Promoting Encounters of Amazon Indigenous Women for the Exchange of traditional knowledge.

3. ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

- Promoting processes of local and regional research with the training of local indigenous female researchers.
- Identifying productive initiatives with medicinal plants in order to strengthen their management by women (home gardens, botanical gardens).



3. ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE

- Training in the communities on the mechanisms of regulation and protection of ancestral knowledge, in coordination with the Amazon organizations and COICA
- Guaranteeing the protection of traditional health practitioners (male and female shamans) so that they are recognized as ancestral doctors, and their knowledge and lives are protected.



3. ANCESTRAL KNOWLEDGE



- Promoting the recognition of women who are indigenous midwives.
- Guaranteeing and promoting the recognition of traditional medicine of shamans and midwives in the health public policies, recognizing their millennial practices.
- Promoting the training of the youth in ancestral medicine, under principles and codes established by the elders



4. USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY ECONOMY.

- Prohibiting introduction of transgenic seeds, in order to secure organic food sovereignty.
- Maintaining and recuperating ancestral seeds for the existence of agrobiodiversity.



4. USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY ECONOMY.

- Making visible women's role in obtaining a fair market.
- Promoting an indigenous economy for production and marketing.
- Promoting ancestral knowledge for conservation and care of natural resources.



4. USE AND MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY ECONOMY



- Influencing specific laws at national and regional level for the conservation of forests and rivers' sources, in order to guarantee access to water and to regulate concessions for extractive industries (mining, oil companies, timber companies, and bottling plants).
- Ensuring existing rivers' sources and springs in indigenous peoples' territories, so that they are managed under their uses and customs, and protected by the indigenous peoples themselves.



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**COORDINADORA DE AREA DE
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COICA**

