

Foundation

Indigenous Carbon Exchange

MAY 2024



Purpose

Exchange Design

Participants

Insights

What's next

Appendix



A group of people, some wearing traditional headbands and necklaces, are gathered in a forested area. In the background, there are large, forested mountains under a clear blue sky. A small drone is flying in the air above the trees. The scene is bright and sunny.

"There is still a lot to be done, our actions need a long-term vision"

Exchange Purpose:

1.

To exchange ideas on community approaches to the design and governance of Indigenous carbon projects.

2.

Touch, feel and experience the Tajimat Pujut project in the Alto Mayo forest of Peru, to understand the opportunities and issues faced by Awajun leaders.

3.

Co-create stories and insights to share with participant's communities, organisations and the ecosystem of stakeholders working on nature and climate solutions.



⇒ *“How do community organisations achieve long-term sustainability while trying to meet the basic livelihood needs of individual members, communicate, engage and consult with community, create good governance processes and make strong decisions while delivering high integrity products that meet the needs of the market?”*

Exchange Design:

We brought together Indigenous leaders and experts leading best practice in the field, community leaders at the beginning of their carbon journey, and technical experts in carbon project design.

Our goal was to create an environment where these experts, alongside technical specialists and local hosts, could engage in cross-pollination of ideas and facilitate a dynamic exchange of insights, as documented in this report.

The program was designed to provide participants with tangible, firsthand experiences of different operational environments. The four-day program included field trips to Awajun project sites and linguistic support from translators (in English and Spanish) to ensure seamless communication and engagement throughout the workshop.



Participants:

Participants in the workshop included:

- Indigenous participants from the Awajun community of Peru, the Rupununi region of Guyana, the Metis community of Canada, and desert rangers from Australia. This included representatives from three Environmental Resilience Program partners – the Alto Mayo Awajun Communities Landscape Project, Forest Conservation in Manitoba’s Boreal, and the 10 Deserts Project.
- Representatives from representative Indigenous organisations including FERIAAM, CODEPISAM and AIDSESP (Peru) and the Indigenous Desert Alliance (Australia).
- An Indigenous CEO from an Australian Land Council with extensive experience in carbon project development and carbon rights.
- Supporting organisations including Conservation International (Peru, Colombia and Guyana), Landesa, BHP Foundation and Pollination Foundation.



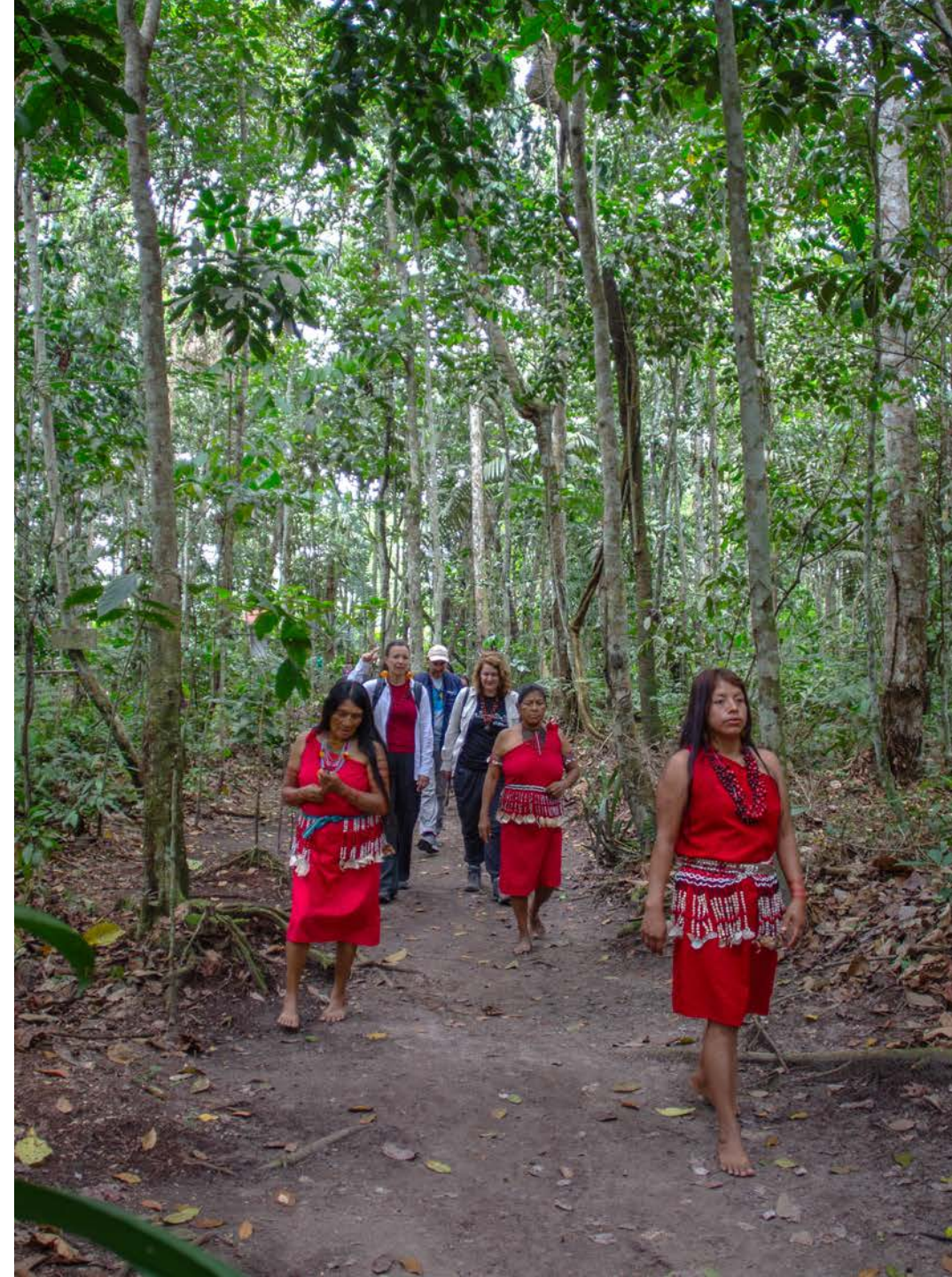


*“We want a process, it’s a partnership
not just a transaction”.*



Culture First Principles:

- Indigenous-led solutions have much to contribute to combating climate change and biodiversity loss, drawing on deep-rooted sustainable land management practices that have been honed over generations.
- It's important to design a stewardship approach with practices that support the health of the environment and the community.
- Carbon is not the goal, it is a tool, one of multiple alternative economic approaches to achieve a 'good life', i.e. taking care of nature and people.
- We want the process of developing and implementing a carbon project to work to achieve indigenous values - not replicate the colonial model.



Insight #1

Start with community values

'The fire projects [in Australia] were never about money, they were about getting people on country.'

- It is important to identify at the outset what Indigenous peoples want to achieve their vision and priorities to address community values, needs and priorities.
- This means starting where the communities are at when designing projects - ground them in the local context, local concepts and values, and put "culture first" - carbon and technical details come later.
- Be holistic in project design and establish structures that can be transferable to different types of market opportunities - the discussion was on carbon markets but could equally apply to biodiversity credits or other enterprise activities, i.e. empower communities to make good decisions, and focus on solutions that with community values, nature and economic aspirations.



Insight #2

Rights, Tenure and Governance

'Our legislation needs healing'

- Land tenure and clearly identified rights to carbon are essential for communities making long-term, sometimes inter-generational commitments.
- Along with rights, strong governance - organized, reliable, representative and inclusively structured - is needed for projects to succeed.



Insight #3

Womens Voices

'Communication is so important – who is giving the information and how is it being received?'

- Women's voices need to be heard strongly in decision-making processes, particularly in how finances are spent.
- Women leaders bring unique perspectives, innovative approaches and drive social change.
- Targeted support, promotion and advocacy of women in leadership roles is essential to success.



Insight #4

Partnerships and exchange of ideas

'We're adapting to a new world with a new economy. It's why we need allies. Everyone has different perspectives which helps us to see the bigger picture.'

- Just like any community or organisation, Indigenous communities cannot be experts in everything. Projects are best implemented within a strong framework of trusted allies; corporate, government, technical experts, philanthropy, and community.
- There is enormous value in honest exchange of experiences, and in seeing how the theory works in practice - this helps identify what opportunities are available for projects, such as different carbon methodologies, benefit-sharing models, legal options and recourse, and other ideas for project implementation.



Insight #5

Communication and Engagement

'Communities need to know what they're choosing but often there are not even words in their language to describe the technical aspects of carbon projects.'

- Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is not just a one-off tick box process.
- Communication and stakeholder engagement are processes that need to be responsive and run throughout the whole project.
- This includes reaching communities in a way that they can understand technical details, and plan for the time it takes to make informed and inclusive decisions.



Insight #6

Resilience and sustainability

"We could look to create a regional Indigenous standard and take it worldwide."

- Projects must build resilience into the landscape and community e.g. ensuring there's a mechanism to manage shocks, disruptions and changes throughout the life of the project.
- Carbon projects have a short timeline in the context of the planet. So, they need to include an element that considers long-term sustainability, i.e. thinking about how to generate income for new initiatives when the carbon project ends.



Ideas for what comes next:

- Encourage corporate and donor partners to resource the essential but often overlooked elements needed to de-risk a project from both community and investor perspectives. These include governance, engagement, time for authentic consultation, and support for leaders, especially supporting and strengthening women's leadership.
- Identify values-aligned allies to walk together on this journey, i.e. institutions with trusted relationships who will come together, and bring humility, respect, and a collaborative approach to make these projects a reality.
- Identify and/or create communications resources that are accessible to communities, grounded in their own context, making sense in their local language.
- Promote iESG (Indigenous, Environment, Social and Governance) to socially conscious investors - incorporating Indigenous Peoples' values and interests into the ESG framework.
- Develop resources that showcase to the private sector how they can engage, invest, commit and take action to scale community nature and climate solutions.





○ *Appendix*

What participants hoped to experience:

During an introductory session we asked participants what they hoped to experience and the stories they'd like to take home

- Learn more about others carbon projects, particularly the Australian context where Indigenous groups have been participating in carbon markets for over 10 years.
- Understand the different methodologies and technical aspects of creating a carbon project.
- Learn about how projects are communicating the concept of carbon and carbon markets with Indigenous communities so they can make an informed decision.
- Understand how free, prior and informed consent is approached and achieved.
- Learn about how communities make decisions and identify project co-benefits, such as improved social and economic outcomes for communities.
- Experience what communications, FPIC, and community decision-making look like in the Alto Mayo project.
- Take the knowledge shared back home to community, so they can understand how other Indigenous groups are thinking about carbon markets.

Reflections on consultation and consent practices

Following a presentation from Landesa on their Community-Smart Consultation and Consent (CSCC) Project, participant reflections clustered around the following themes:

- **Trust.** Trust is key to understanding initiatives. Building trust requires participation of all members of the community, especially ensuring the participation of women and stakeholders who might have an opposite point of view to the project objectives. This requires skilled facilitation to ensure maximum engagement from different stakeholders, and adequate amount of time to bring communities together with an aligned vision and understanding of the details of a market like carbon.
- **Gender.** There is much work that still needs to be done to ensure women have a say in budgets, and how much money should be allocated directly to women in the community. For example, some of the new initiatives within the Tajimat Pujut Project include the governance school, where younger women are training and growing their leadership to take on governing roles.
- **Tools.** Tools such as the conservation agreements used by Conservation International, can contribute to building trust so long as the community perceives them to be fair by their own standards – e.g. agreeing to stop logging in exchange for assistance, capacity building, alternative sources of income, etc. Community members can also recognise and value the potential of their lands through, for example, participatory mapping of ecosystem services.
- **Mitigating challenges.** There can be challenges in ensuring that people abide by the agreements in carbon projects. These can be mitigated by ensuring that prior to the project there is a solid pre-feasibility exploration including a map of the power, wealth and knowledge structures; an adequate risk/benefit assessment; a safeguards analysis; and allowing enough time for consultation and engagement to reach remote communities. Establishing a project management structure that is able to constantly re-evaluate, be organic, and adapt strategies to new circumstances is also key.

Exchange Participants



DANIELA AMICO
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL PERU

Daniela graduated in Social Anthropology with Development at the University of Sussex, England with specializations in Corporate Communications and joined Conservation International in 2017 to lead the communications of the Peru Program.

She grew up in three different countries, and meeting people from different backgrounds has always been her passion as is learning about and sharing stories of the work that Conservation International does across nations and geographies.

Daniela has always had a strong connection to the ocean and loves spending time at the beach with her husband and three children.

You can learn more about Dani on her [LinkedIn profile](#).



BRAULIO ANDRADE
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL PERU

Braulio has been leading the Alto Mayo REDD+ Project, one of the strongest field case models about Protected Area co-management since 2008. He is in charge of developing participatory mechanisms to include local communities in conservation activities, to implement green economies and to strengthen Government capacities to guarantee long-term processes. He has over 19 years of experience developing projects related to nature conservancy and human well-being improvement among Peruvian Amazon, mainly in Protected Areas, Indigenous Territory and Forest Concessions. Braulio is a Forest Engineer from Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina in Lima, with a Masters degree in Strategic Business Administration at CENTRUM – Graduate Business Scholl from Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru in Lima and an International Masters Degree in Leadership at EADA – Business School in Barcelona, Spain.



VITUS ANTONE
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL GUYANA

Vitus Antone is a Wapishana Indigenous man from Guyana South America. Born in Shea in the Deep South Rupununi, he grew up in Lethem, Central Rupununi and is now living with his family in Surama, North Rupununi.

Vitus is a trained and certified ranger with the Iwokrama International Centre for Rainforest Conservation and Development. He specialised in community resource management before joining Conservation International as a Resource Use Advisor. Vitus's experience also includes time with WWF where he led the development of the Community Monitoring Reporting Verification project and now, back with CI as the Biodiversity Management Coordinator based in the Field office of Lethem. He enjoys fishing and picnics with family.



NICHOLAS CYRIL
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL GUYANA

Nicholas is a Wapichan Indigenous man from Katoonarib Village, South Central Rupununi, Guyana. Nicholas is a vibrant community activist and is involved in a number of community development initiatives. He is a senior ranger with South Rupununi Conservation Society (SRCS) and as part of this position he has been involved in conservation and research focused on an endangered bird, the Red Siskin. He has also been on the executive of the South Rupununi District Council (SRDC), a community representative group, and has worked as a monitor for the SRDC. In both the SRCS and the SRDC, Nicholas has always been involved in making decisions about environmental conservation on community titled lands. He has held the position of Toshao of village and led community development planning initiatives. He has also been involved in tourism and conservation development, being a tour guide himself, he has worked to show how conservation and tourism can work for the benefit of communities.



DIEGO DOUROJEANNI
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL PERU

Diego is a Peruvian anthropologist with more than 20 years of work experience with various institutions related to development and conservation.

Diego joined Conservation International in 2019, where he has been managing the project funded by BHP Foundation with the Awajun communities of the Alto Mayo. He has been fortunate to work and live both in the Peruvian Andes and in the Amazon, as well as in Lima.

Diego has a great passion for photography within the natural environment.

You can learn more about Diego on his [LinkedIn profile](#).



LUIS ESPINEL
CONSERVATION
INTERNATIONAL PERU

Luis has over 30 years of experience leading multidisciplinary teams focused on conservation projects and programs. He started at CI in 1999 as a technical assistant, and since 2008, he has served as Executive Director and Vice President for CI in Peru. During this time, he has worked in sustainable development and natural resources management within and outside natural protected areas, synergizing with indigenous communities and federations, governments, civil society, and the private sector.

Luis graduated with a specialty in Management of Forests and Conservation from Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM), where he worked as a teacher for five years. He is a member of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas and the Board of the Peruvian National Protected Areas Service (SERANAP).

Exchange Participants



ESTEBAN FRANCISCO MORALES CAMA
AIDSESEP PERU

Born in the city of Lima, with a degree in Anthropology from the UNMSM, Esteban has 14 years of experience in research and work with indigenous peoples, strengthening their representative organisations, contexts of natural protected areas, involvement in climate projects such as the Forest Investment Programme - FIP, DCI, UN REDD and promotion of the proposal of Redd+ Amazon Indigenous Redd+.

He has supported AIDSESEP in climate events such as the FCPF in 2017, the COP UNFCCC climate conferences from 2014 to the present.



KIRSTY GALLOWAY MCLEAN
POLLINATION FOUNDATION

Kirsty is leading the delivery of Ampliseed as Executive Director at the Pollination Foundation.

Kirsty is passionate about making policies practical, information accessible, and the power of people-led nature conservation.

Kirsty formerly spent 15 years with the UN working on sustainable development, information sharing, climate change and Indigenous Peoples, as well as running a management and consulting firm, and working in government and academia.

You can learn more about Kirsty on her [LinkedIn profile](#).



TYRONNE GARSTONE
KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL AUSTRALIA

Tyronne is a Bardi man, born in Broome, Western Australia. He has spent the majority of his working life within the Indigenous sector in areas of training and employment solutions, social and economic development, native title, Indigenous leadership and capability building.

Tyronne is a strong advocate for Indigenous rights and advancement, regularly speaking out on issues of importance to the first nations of Aboriginal people across the Kimberley and Western Australia.

He is also committed to fostering genuine relationships and partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples through mutual understanding, knowledge sharing and respect.

You can learn more about Tyronne on his [LinkedIn profile](#).



ARIADNE GORRINGTON
POLLINATION FOUNDATION

Ariadne is the Co-Chief Executive Officer of the Pollination Foundation.

Prior to this, Ariadne worked for the Kimberley Land Council for over 20 years spending time on country with cultural leaders designing large scale initiatives.

Ariadne is passionate about placed based economies and Indigenous led conservation.

You can learn more about Ariadne on her [LinkedIn profile](#).



LESLIE HANNAY
LANDESA USA

Leslie Hannay has experience in community rights, land and natural resources governance, and women's rights. Leslie's work focuses on legal and policy analysis, field and desk research, and designing and implementing approaches for strengthening women's land tenure security under custom. She has worked on issues of community rights and land and natural resources in Ghana, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda. Leslie holds a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, and a B.A. in Geography from the University of Texas at Austin..

You can learn more about Leslie thoughts on her [LinkedIn profile](#).



OSWALDO JUEP DANDUCHO
CODEPISAM PERU

Oswaldo is a member of the Awajún community and has a background as an Environmental Engineer. His remarkable commitment to indigenous peoples spans 15 years of experience and includes a deep knowledge of the environment.

He has held leadership roles in indigenous organizations as well as in governmental and non-governmental institutions and he currently serves as Coordinator of Forest Carbon in Indigenous Peoples in Conservation International.

His track record reflects a commitment to the protection and conservation of forests, the strengthening of indigenous communities and the sustainable development of indigenous territories.

Exchange Participants



AMANDA KARST
NATURE UNITED CANADA

Amanda has been at Nature United since 2016, and is the Manitoba Program Director.

Amanda is focused on long-term relationship building with communities and working together on mutual goals such as indigenous-led land-use planning, indigenous engagement in forest management and moose monitoring and management initiatives.

You can learn more about Amanda on the [Nature United website](#).



MELINDA MACLEOD
BHP FOUNDATION

Melinda has been supporting partners to do their amazing work since the BHP Foundation started in 2016, when she joined as the Program Director for the Environmental Resilience Program.

Aiming to change the way conservation at a large scale is achieved, partners are supported to empower Indigenous peoples and local communities to be strong in culture and leadership.

Melinda has a background in corporate leadership roles as well as in government policy development and implementation.

She lives in the sunny coastal area of Boorloo (Perth) and is mum to two grownup kids.



EDDY NIESTEN
ECOADVISORS

Eddy's work and research concentrates on comparing the effectiveness of different conservation approaches, with a particular interest in direct incentives and sustainable finance. Trained as an economist, Eddy leads financial planning, cost modelling, business planning and benefits sharing at EcoAdvisors.

You can learn more about Eddy on EcoAdvisor's [website](#).



NELSITH SANGAMA SANGAMA
AIDSESEP PERU

Nelsith is from the District of San Roque de Cumbaza, Province of Lamas.

Nelsith has a degree in Tourism Administration and 20 years of experience working with indigenous people of the Amazon; as well as experience working in public and private areas and various courses, diplomas in Intercultural Governance, workshops, etc. She is an active person with the ability to relate to people from different social backgrounds.



CLAUDIO SCHNEIDER
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PERU

Dr. Schneider has a Forest Engineering degree from Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina in Lima, a Master's degree in Tropical Silviculture from Georg-August University in Göttingen, and a Ph.D. in Forest Science with emphasis in remote sensing and geographic information systems from Colorado State University.

Since 2009, Dr. Schneider has led the technical supervision of all the programs being implemented by CI in Peru, including the development of the forest conservation, land stewardship and local economic development in Awajún indigenous communities of the Alto Mayo landscape, the development of the Alto Mayo REDD project, the Amazon Business Alliance, and the provision of technical advice for REDD readiness and REDD+ negotiations at the UNFCCC to the Ministry of Environment.



PERCY SUMMERS
CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL PERU

Percy is the Senior Director of Science and Development for Conservation International (CI) - Peru based in Lima. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Design and Planning from Virginia Tech and a MSc. in Tropical Forestry from the University of Amazonas/National Institute of Amazonian Research in Manaus, Brazil.

Percy joined CI in 2009 as CI's Ecosystem Services Coordinator and then transitioned into the role of Director of the Sustainable Landscapes Partnership in Peru. He has also had the honor of participating in one of six Professors of Practice programs between ASU and CI and continues to be part of ASU as a Senior Sustainability Fellow. Percy leads an interdisciplinary team of professionals that support the implementation of projects with a holistic and integrated approach for sustainable development models at scale.

exchange participants



BRAEDAN (BAYO) TAYLOR
INDIGENOUS DESERT
ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA

Braedan (bayo) Taylor is a Karajarri men/traditional owner who has been living and working in Bidyadanga community in the Northwest of Western Australia for the past 8 years, working in conservation and land management. He worked as a Ranger for 5 years, then had an opportunity to step into the role as the Karajarri Men’s Ranger Coordinator.

He’s been leading the Karajarri Ranger team for the past 3 years, in the Kimberley region of Western Australia.



KEVIN TROMP
INDIGENOUS DESERT
ALLIANCE AUSTRALIA

Kevin has been living and working in Indigenous communities in the Northwest of Western Australia for the last 15 years. Working across community development and Indigenous land management, he has worked as a Ranger Coordinator, in a training and mentoring role with the Kimberley Land Council for 4 years, and prior to his current role as a Reginal Support Officer for the Indigenous Desert Alliance, managed the Ngurrara Ranger Program overseeing a team of 13 fulltime rangers and staff to deliver culturally referenced land management outcomes.

Kevin’s role within the IDA’s reginal support role see’s him work with Indigenous Protected Area Managers and Ranger Coordinators from desert Ranger Programs in the Northwest of Western Australia.

