

Rainforest Fund

MISSION STATEMENT

The Rainforest Fund is a charitable foundation dedicated to the support of Indigenous Peoples and traditional populations in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfill their rights.

We are convinced that the accepted environmental and human rights principles embody the right of everyone to a secure, healthy and ecologically sound environment, and that environmental degradation leads to human rights violations such as the right to life, health, and culture.

The Rainforest Fund bears in mind the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of all human rights, and carries out its mission by:

Funding programs and projects aimed at supporting Indigenous Peoples and traditional populations of the rainforests to assert their rights, to promote a sustainable development of their communities and to challenge governmental practices that have a damaging effect on their environment.



Indigenous Rights Defenders of the Ceibo Alliance in Ecuador.

History

The Rainforest Fund was co-founded by Sting, Trudie Styler, and Dr. Franca Sciuto in 1989. The very first action was a promise made by Sting to the Indigenous leader Raoni, of the Kayapó tribe in Brazil. Sting pledged support to help the Kayapó obtain legal rights to their traditional land. His promise was fulfilled in 1992. Over the past 30 years, the Rainforest Fund has contributed to the emergence of a strong Indigenous leadership to interface with the modern world, ensuring external support and solidarity.

What we do

Since its establishment, the Rainforest Fund has funded approximately 300 projects. Past and current projects support the mobilization of Indigenous Peoples on land rights issues, land registration, land mapping, environmental monitoring, clean water systems, the training of Indigenous Rights Defenders, and court cases against human rights abuses.

Where we work

The Rainforest Fund began its programming in Brazil, and has continued working in the country with tribes such as the Tembe, Wai Wai, and Quilombolas. Although, decades later, we have expanded to over twenty countries in Africa, Asia, South America, and Central America. The Fund is supporting sixteen projects in 2019: one in Brazil, one in the Central African Republic, one in Costa Rica, two in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one in Ecuador, one in Guyana, three in Indonesia, one in Kenya, one in Myanmar, one in Panama, one in Peru, one in the Philippines, and one in Uganda.

Our partners

Today, the Rainforest Fund provides grants to three autonomous sister organizations: Rainforest Foundation United States, Rainforest Foundation Norway, and Rainforest Foundation United Kingdom. However, the Fund primarily works with mostly Indigenous-led organizations that follow our mission. In recent years, much of our focus has been on the protection of Indigenous lands against extractive industries.

Our involvement

For 30 years, the Fund has collaborated with other non-profits to influence national and international policies affecting Indigenous Peoples. We have also worked with government and intergovernmental bodies including national and local governments, the World Bank, United Nations, and European Union. The Rainforest Fund currently holds consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Our funding

The Rainforest Fund is supported by a bi-annual concert and gala located at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and by generous individual and corporate donors. In 2018, we granted almost \$1.2 million USD to projects around the world.