This report is dedicated to the indigenous communities of the world rainforests who have been protecting alone, their forests for centuries, against the intensifying threats of big oil, mining, industrial agriculture, cattle-ranching and climate threats.
2ª Capacitação em Direito

Participantes: E., Jaquires, Diego

Inicio: 8h

Intervalo (10h-11h)

Intervalo (12h-13h)
Rainforest Fund has been supporting the Secoya people in their efforts to gain legal title over their ancestral homeland along the Peru/Ecuador border. In 2019 the Secoya organized a trip for dozens of youth and elders to row together to the blackwater lagoons of Lagartococha – a sacred area for the Secoya people.

Opposite: ECAM, Brazil – learning about their rights.
The 2019/2020 assessment of the work of the Rainforest Fund comes at a time when public opinion has become painfully aware, thanks also to the young generation, of the catastrophic effects of climate change. In the past two years we have witnessed increased frequency and severity of hurricanes, storms, floods, droughts, water shortages, melting of the polar ice caps, rising of the oceans and more than ever the burning of tropical rainforests, in particular the AMAZON FIRES.

This catastrophic picture tells us that we have to change our ideas, we have to change our pattern of behavior if we want to reconnect with the family of life, and leave to future generations a living planet. The past and the future are intimately connected through our actions in the present and we must remember our ancestors while thinking ahead to all future generations.

We hope that the governments of the world will seriously address the challenge of climate change, with all its implications not only on the international scene but at home, as there is always a big gap between declarations made in the international forum by the governments of the world, and actions undertaken in their own country. Governments will continue their talks and meetings on climate change in Spain before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the indigenous communities in the Brazilian, Bolivian, Paraguayan Amazon, but also in Africa are facing a lifetime struggle against the damages caused by the blazes which destroy the lungs of the planet and the lives of so many species.

Experts say that with ten billions of trees already gone, the Amazon region is warming fast. Droughts and floods are increasing and the dry season has become longer because trees play a crucial role in storing water and putting it back into the atmosphere, therefore less trees means less rainfall and higher temperatures. They believe that deforestation, the fires lit by ranchers that spread hundred of meters through the forest and the impact of global temperature rises might soon push the rainforest past its tipping point. It is a dangerous trend for the whole world.
The Rainforest Fund has been working for 30 years directly with the indigenous communities in Asia, Africa and the Americas, giving them the tools to advocate for their rights, protect their lands, their culture and their languages and acquire the necessary expertise to counteract harmful practices such as illegal logging, mining, forest fires, land invasion or violations of their human rights, but they cannot be left alone in front of what happens today.

Today their call is a call for survival as they face the most devastating agents, the wildfires and their governments policies regarding their future. It has never been more important to support on-the-ground indigenous led efforts to protect their rainforest homelands and advance their rights. They need to maintain a constant vigilance of their territory because even with the end of the burning season it does not mean that land grabbers, loggers and prospectors will stop invading and destroying their territory.

But I would like to end this brief explanation of the daunting work ahead for so many indigenous communities with some piece of good news for all our supporters. In Ecuador, the indigenous communities you all supported, namely the Waorani of Pastaza have won an historic victory in Ecuadorian courts protecting half a million acres of primary rainforest from oil drilling. Now they are poised to take their victory to the next level, and with the support of so many friends we will continue to back their struggle.

Meanwhile from success to despair, the Brazilian Amazon tribes despair as land raids surge under Bolsonaro anti-indigenous rhetoric. The Uru eu wau wau in the Southwest of Rondonia have seen their forest partly destroyed by illegal loggers who clearly stated that they will not be stopped.

We will stop them, it is our next goal. With your help we will protect the remaining forest and their habitat.

We thank you for all your generosity during these dark times for our friends and for the whole world.

Dr. Franca Sciuto  ED/Chair of the board
Our Mission

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 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.
The projects that Rainforest Fund is funding in Africa, Asia, the Americas in 2020 are a clear demonstration of the needs of the indigenous communities of the world rainforests as we race towards a global ecological crisis not of their making.

From the quest for justice to the right to their ancestral lands, the empowerment of local communities, the respect of their basic rights, the protection of the indigenous leaders who are the voices of their communities and are being assassinated with impunity, the intensifying threats of big oil, mining, industrial agriculture, cattle-ranching and the climate crisis, it has never been more important to support on-the-ground indigenous led efforts to protect their forests and raise critical-global awareness. This is the aim of our work through the projects presented below.

ANAPAC, Democratic Republic of Congo.
Democratic Republic of Congo

Pygmy Project

Alliance Nationale d’Appui et de Promotion des Aires du Patrimoine Autochtone (ANAPAC)

To Support The Pygmy Indigenous Peoples In Their Quest For The Respect Of Their Land And Their Rights To It.

1396 Pygmy are the owners of the forest territory where they live in the Matenda area east of the DRC a territory of mining concessions in the Province of Walikale, North Kivu.

Since the start of the project the Pygmy have come a long way to get out of the margin of society. In 2019 they have learnt that they could advocate for the right to a community forest and the titling of it and started learning their rights through training sessions and learning about inventory and cartography.

IN 2020 they will start preparing a management plan, a chart of their territory and submit the request of a “concession title” to be presented to the local administration.

It is important to note that the Pygmy community speaks its own language and need assistance all along the process.

The funding for 2020 is USD 44,000
Central African Republic

Community Forests

Project promoted by Rainforest Foundation UK

The project aims at working with forest communities to implement key actions such as sustainable livelihoods activities. This will require strengthening community governing bodies so they can ensure the land and resources rules are respected.

Work at community level will also require support from civil society organizations in Bangui as there are several threats to community forestry that need to be addressed at higher levels of political decision-making. In CAR industrial logging concessions and protected areas cover the only tropical forest in the country almost entirely, leaving legally no space for community forests. Constant pressure is needed to maintain the hard-earned gains that have been secured.

The funding for 2020 is USD 80,238
Kenya

Securing Chepkitale Ogiek Community Ancestral Lands

Chepkitale Indigenous Peoples Development project (CIPDP)

In 2019 the Ogiek Community of Mt Elgon has been actively engaged in two initiated government processes, the implementation of the Community Land Act, and presenting recommendations to the government about the implementation of a court decision issued at the African Court of Human Rights and Peoples’ Rights aimed at supporting the conservation of Mt Elgon forest. Furthermore, they continue to strengthen their work with children and women thanks to a new software that is able to edit the educational materials in their mother tongue.

In 2020 the work on the implementation of the Land Act will engage the community in public forums to ensure its application by the National Land Commission.

They will follow up with the development of the Community Forest Bungoma County Legislation that actualizes the intention of communities owning and managing the forest according to the Kenya Constitution 2010.

They will pursue the legal redress against the attempted forceful evictions of communities from their ancestral land and help the communities in documenting human rights violations and dispossession of their ancestral land through court cases.

The training of early childhood teachers will continue, providing teaching material in their own language, as the improvement of women participation, and supporting existing community institutions.

The funding for 2020 is USD 80,000
United Organization for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU)

To Support The Batwa Youth To Advocate For Batwa Culture And Human Rights At The Local And National Stage

This project is new and worth supporting with Forest Peoples Programme’s monitoring as it aims especially at providing a space in which the Batwa youth and elders can come together at the village, local and national levels and set up an inter-generational platform to ensure that the histories, language and experiences of the elders be shared by the youth as today the Batwa experience ongoing erosion of their culture, spiritual and social traditions along with widespread social, political and economic marginalization is the major challenge, and risk being lost if the youth do not take up this challenge.

The funding for 2020 is USD 49,921
Guyana

Support Patamona/Macushi Territorial Land Claim

North Pakaraimes District Council

In 2019 the support of Rainforest Fund has been instrumental in gathering and developing evidence of the Patamona/Macushi customary land, strengthening leadership structures, mapping the whole area.

In 2020, the mapping of 3% of the territory which could not be concluded because of heavy rains and the impossibility to reach the area through huge mountains and no roads will be completed and a comprehensive map and data-base prepared in order to move forward and advocate for the right to their lands in meetings with regional and national authorities. Training sessions to improve the ability of the leadership structures of the North Pakaraimes Council on effective advocacy, and strategic decision making will be held, and meetings between the elders and the young generation will continue to take place as the youth are eager to participate and learn more about their past and their territory, and act against mining and forestry concessions interests.

The funding for 2020 is USD 64,680
Brazil
State of Rondonia

Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau Strengthening Proposal
Kaninde (Environmental Defense Association)

Rondonia has been at the center of the Amazon fires and the pressure on the remaining forest areas under indigenous control has been relentless. The Terra Indigena Uru-eu-wau-wau, which includes also 3 uncontacted tribes, has been for long time under siege from the agri-business, mining and logging activities.

In 2019 deforestation due to the fires reaches about 300 hectares in the territory.

Faced with the current serious situation it is urgently needed to protect the territory and the lives of the community and of the uncontacted tribes.

This 2020 project is being funded by a generous donor UNIFOR Canada and the 2020 funding is USD 74,020

State of Para

Indigenous Rights Defenders
ECAM – (Equipe de Conservacao da Amazona)

In 2019 Rainforest Fund has been supporting the legal training of 15 indigenous rights defenders from different communities, the Tembe, the Wai Wai. The Surui and Cinta Larga community, including their neighbouring traditional community partners, the Afro-descendant community, the Quilimbolas from the Southwestern Amazon to engage directly on the issues most important to them.
As indigenous and traditional communities’ rights to land tenure and equal representation in the Brazilian Amazon are currently under increased threats, it is important to continue the support of our partners.

In 2020 responding to the current context in Brazil where an indigenous leader has been murdered in defending his land against illegal loggers, Rainforest Fund will increase his support in order to give the indigenous rights defenders the necessary legal and technical skills to promote and defend the rights of the communities.

The 2020 funding is USD 77,148

**Peru**

**Loreto – Collectively Strengthening the Capacity of Regional Federations in Loreto**

FECOTYBA – (la Federacion de Comunidades Nativas Ticunas y Aguas de Bajo)

This Project which will be monitored by Rainforest Foundation US.

In 2020 intends to strengthen the institutional capacities of the indigenous communities of 2 Federations Kichua, Mijuna, Ticunas and Yaguas in order to form an alliance and builds common strategies to support their claims for State’s support.

The 2020 funding is USD 75,748
Ecuador

The CEIBO ALIANZA

In 2017, Rainforest Fund pioneering support made possible the creation of CEIBO ALIANZA and its vision of building and indigenous-led movement for clean water, cultural survival and rainforest protection in Ecuador’s northern Amazon.

In 2019, the creation of the Indigenous Rights Defenders program, the environmental monitoring, the territorial mapping, covered the whole area and the CEIBO ALIANZA expanded its work outside Ecuador to support cross-border communities and creating new groups of Indigenous Rights Defenders in Colombia and Peru.

In 2020, they laid out a pathway forward for indigenous territorial defense and a model that has the power to inspire indigenous movements the world over and wake people up to the urgent need for climate action.

They will work to protect lives land and culture of indigenous Environmental defenders, to remove barriers to indigenous land titling in Ecuador and Peru, to strengthen Land defense and gain legal title for Kofan ancestral territory in Sinangoe, they will work hard to block invasions, poaching and oil industry in Siona ancestral land of Cuyabeno, and will continue their program on indigenous rights defenders by supporting some of them to become the first indigenous lawyers.

The 2020 funding is USD 101,334

To this amount and help the Alianza to conclude its work we have received a donation from the Firmenich Company, leader in the business world for its sustainability program for an amount of: USD 55,000 making the total granted to USD 156,334

Opposite: The Waorani people won a historic legal victory in 2019, protecting 500,000 acres of their ancestral rainforest home from an oil auction and setting landmark legal precedent for indigenous rights in Ecuador.
la selva es nuestra vida
NO MAS PETROLEO
The Bribri Of Saltire And The Defense Of Their Ancestral Land

In 2019 the Bribri communities of the Saltire Territory and the Broran indigenous people of Terraba with the support of Rainforest Fund and FPP lawyer, presented well over 50 domestic and international legal actions and complaints against the Government for the violations of their land rights, as more than half of the areas of their territory are occupied by non-indigenous settlers with no action taken by the State.

Rainforest Fund increased its support after the impunity surrounding the violence and attacks perpetrated against the communities and the brutal assassination of the renowned Bribri leader Sergio Rojas.

In 2020, community leaders continue to be under attack and the murderers of Sergio Rojas have not yet been identified while the community struggle to reorganize after the death of their leader. Their most urgent needs are many and first the need to hire a national lawyer to defend the BriBri people and put an end to the threats against their communities as well as bring the murderers to justice, and an international lawyer to bring their quest for justice to the international fora.

The funding for 2020 is USD 39,435
Indonesia

Territorial Security and Access to Justice for the Indigenous People Bahau Dayak of the Upper Mahakam

PNP (Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan) – with FPP monitoring

This indigenous women organization acts to promote the rights of women and the welfare of the indigenous peoples The Dayak, along the Mahakam River in East Kalimantan.

In 2019, they worked with the community of Long Isun where they faced a long struggle at the village level where repeated discrimination and intimidation occurred by the security forces employed by the timber company PT which suppressed the community basic rights. After a long struggle they managed to kick the company out of the village and concentrate on education and capacity building of the indigenous women while continue their struggle for the recognition of the Dayak Customary Law and with this the recognition of communities as the rightful owners of their ancestral land.

In 2020, although a lot of progress has been made in Long Isun, the community cannot simply be abandoned and PNP will continue to assist them in their case until they are completely released from the chokehold of investors, especially PT.KBT which has still a concession area.

They will continue to assist the women in their program of traditional livelihoods, developing local products for the regional market, and building the capacity of female farming co-operatives.

The funding for 2020 is USD 42,759
Borneo

Defending the Customary Rights of The Dayak Bekati in West Kalimantan

YMKL (Yayasan Masyarakat Kehutanana Lestari) Jakarta – monitored by FPP

The Dayak have been at the forefront of the Indigenous Rights movement in Indonesia, but now the big challenge they face is recovering their lands from an imposed transmigration scheme which will take over some 80% of their lands without any previous consultation or consent.

In 2019 they all mobilized against these schemes and they have appealed to local indigenous peoples’ organizations and NGOs to help them recover their land from the imposed transmigration scheme. They held meetings at the local, and national level and explained to the government the problems they have encountered and find redress, and also push for more careful implementation of the Ministry’s “clean and clear” policy.

In 2020 building from the work undertaken the communities are well equipped to assert their wider claims for restitution of lands and forests from the palm oil concessions while raising awareness among civil society of the problems associated with imposed projects and push for more careful implementation of the “clean and clear” policy. This will be done by preparing policy briefs for land restitution, meetings with government authorities, village meetings and press conferences at all levels.

The funding for 2020 is USD 46,054
The Philippines

Securing Land And Nurturing Sustainable Livelihood On Palawan Indigenous Ancestral Domains

CALG (group Coalition against Land grabbing) - monitored by FPP

In 2019, the organization was able to reach out a significant number of indigenous communities, especially in those locations where pressure on their ancestral domain was heavily felt. It was important to strengthen indigenous communities’ capacities on conflict resolution due to the presence in those areas of the Maoist guerilla of the New peoples’ Army which obliged some indigenous communities to abandon their upland farms. CALG has promoted meetings between militaries authorities and local government units in order to clarify the position of those indigenous peoples being wrongly accused to be militias sympathizers, and successfully return to their upland farms.

In 2020, the objective is two-fold. First they must continue to secure the forestland of threatened indigenous people and offer paralegal assistance to them, and to the Environmental and Human Rights Defenders especially when themselves and their families are under threat.

Upon general request by the communities they intend to strengthen and give more emphasis to the livelihood component.

The funding for 2020 is USD 57,680
Papua New Guinea

Preventing Large Areas Of Rainforests In Collingwood Bay From Being Logged

PWM (Partners with Melasians) Monitored by RF Norway

This new project intends to seek permanent protection over large areas of pristine forests while organizing communities in a way and by means which help them protect and utilize local forest resources in a sustainable way.

The goal is to have Collingwood Bay declared as a Conservation Area through a legal mechanism called a CONSERVATION DEED. The overall and main objective of the proposed conservation area is to ensure that the indigenous communities do not fall victims of illegal logging and lose control over their rightful resources.

The funding for 2020 is USD 60,000
Rapid Response Mechanism

The Rainforest Fund is cooperating with FOREST PEOPLE PROGRAMME on an issue of great importance and urgency which relates to the urgent situations facing indigenous communities in their daily struggle for the defense of their rights and their lives.

The RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM builds the strengths of the two organizations in meeting urgent needs and give quick response in an agile manner when indigenous communities face sudden threats and need urgent and strategic support.

Often these moments of threat can be opportunities to set a precedent and achieve a wider change for the communities, provided we follow through in our efforts and give the communities the support they need on the ground, even on the long-term.

By working in partnership with FPP the Rainforest Fund increases its impact and can rely upon the expertise of FPP’s staff in the different regions of the world.

Our formal response mechanism would be – in cooperation with FPP – to foresee a reserve fund which could provide rapid grants of up to USD 20,000 per year to go to urgent strategic needs of the communities under threat.

This mechanism will have faster decision-making process (maximum 3 weeks) based on careful evaluation of the request by Rainforest Fund in coordination with FPP who can provide complementary strategic advice in the final decision making.

By building the strengths of our partners in the field we also build the strengths of Rainforest Fund.
30 Years

We would like to acknowledge all people known and unknown who by donating to the Rainforest Fund, showed their care for the indigenous communities of the world rainforests and who understand the immense work ahead to defend their land, their human rights, their environment. Altogether their contribution was instrumental in recognizing the value of Indigenous peoples and facilitating indigenous groups ‘engagement at every stage of their lives, as their reality in many countries is still dispossession of land and resources, forced removal or relocation, denial of land rights and accompanying violence.

A special Thank you to UNIFOR – CANADA – who through their donation gave us the opportunity to fund the Uru-eu-wau-wau and three uncontacted tribes whose land had been devastated by the fires in the State of Rondonia – Brazil. Without their funding this project could not have been taken up by Rainforest Fund.

Finally a real great thank to THE FIRMENICH FOUNDATION whose goal to make a positive contribution to the sustainability of our environment has always been a priority, and has been translated into the support of two Rainforest Fund projects in the Ecuadorian Amazon: Strengthening land defense and gaining legal title for Kofan ancestral territory in Sinangoe and the Indigenous Rights Defenders Scholarship Program which aims at training young Rights defenders to become the first lawyers of the Siona, Kofan and Waorani nations.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Thank you to all the ARTISTS who during 30 years have given their time and their talent to make this world a better place by allowing RAINFOREST FUND to support Indigenous communities in AFRICA, ASIA, THE AMERICAS, through the proceeds of STING AND FRIENDS concerts, and all the generous individual and corporate donors.
Acknowledgements from our partners

Asia

CALG Palawan – Philippines

From the board:

“For us Rainforest Fund is not simply a “donor” but rather an ideal and long-term partner in our struggle for indigenous peoples’ self-determination and land rights. We perceive RFUND and ourselves to be part and parcel of the same evolving and growing experience of building a better world, and a viable future for our people and the forest. Over the years our own efforts and the objectives of the Fund have resonated with each other, and crosschecked each other. It felt like to be part of the same family.”

Americas

ECAM – Brazil

“Rainforest Fund’s on the ground approach is crucial in supporting the next generation of indigenous rights defenders who now more than ever are being called upon to ensure the protection of the Amazon forest and their traditional way of life. Combining Rainforest Fund’s mission to strengthen the autonomy of indigenous communities with the innovative indigenous rights defenders’ program, pioneered through RF’s support in Ecuador, could not have come at a more propitious time for our work in the Brazilian Amazon. Our indigenous partners and us are very grateful to be part of the strong network support provided by the Rainforest Fund.

It is the history of dedication and strong determined focus on the issue of indigenous rights and autonomy that sets Rainforest Fund apart and makes it one of the most invaluable partners to this cause.”
Rainforest Fund has been a committed supporter of both organizations from the very beginning. Their seed funding in 2011 allowed us to ask four indigenous nations affected by oil contamination in the Ecuadorian Amazon a big question “What project would be most important to you?” and to receive a direction-setting answer: “Building access to clean water and developing the capacity to lead this process ourselves” Rainforest Fund’s support allowed us to dream big and grow a movement for clean water into a broader movement for rainforest protection and indigenous cultural survival in the Amazon. Their trust and patience and respectful movement building, the importance they place on empowering indigenous-led process has allowed us to scale a unique partnership model and achieve major results: from building more than 1,000 family-used rainwater catchment system to supporting the indigenous Rights defenders program to winning major legal cases protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of indigenous territory from industrial threats. We are grateful to have a partner like Rainforest Fund by our side.

Above & opposite: Ceibo Alliance’s indigenous Storytellers traveled to Bolivia to document first hand the devastation from last years Amazonian fires.
“Rainforest Fund has given us enough confidence to run our organization through our program. I would like to say that Rainforest Fund has really served the work at a global level through national and local NGOs to promote human rights and to protect forest indigenous peoples. This was an issue that sometimes needs to combine our heart and our cognitive aspect to answer the question of law to bridge the issue of humanity and administrative matters. I would honestly say that Rainforest Fund has provided understanding and kindness to protect and promote human rights.”

Salam
Emil
I would like to conclude the description of our work, our strategies and future plans by stating once again that without the continued support, and open mind of Sting and Trudie we could not achieve all what we have done in these 30 years.

As an organization which has been on the scene for 30 years we continue to believe that our support is crucial to indigenous peoples and tribal communities’ survival.

The character of an organization is shaped by its origin; its strength and endurance are often determined by the ability to remember those origins and to stay in touch with the experience from which it was born. Dreams quickly disappear and movements die if they lose the power of their original inspiration. Our organization did not emerge out of an abstract concern or theory about the environment or the indigenous peoples. It began because an indigenous leader asked for help.

After 30 years, our organization still bears the clear marks of its birth: the primal connection to a particular place and people, the link between the rights of indigenous peoples and the need to defend and conserve their homeland has kept us rooted in reality.

From the pages of this report one can measure what has been achieved to try to counteract the bad practices and decisions made by businesses and governments.

But whatever success we achieve is in large measure the success of those who are at the forefront of the struggle to protect their land, their environment and their lives, the indigenous peoples and tribal populations of the world to whom we renew our commitment, because by fighting for their survival, their environment they are fighting for ours as well.

To some it might seem that we have achieved little in the face of the immense environmental problems that our friends and the whole world encounter every day.
Others who are aware of the complexity and the depth of these problems may view these achievements as a necessary contribution toward the protection of the forests and its inhabitants. To all we say thank you for the support you give us.

We need your continued assistance at a time when so many critical issues are emerging and will require more and more the involvement of concerned people to bring about real changes.

We rely on you all and thank you.

Dr. Franca Sciuto
The Board

Sting – Founder
Trudie Styler – Co-founder, Deputy Chairperson
Franca Sciuto – Chairperson, Co-founder
Mickey Sumner
JP Davidson
Lilu – Treasurer

Staff

Franca Sciuto – Executive and Program Director (volunteer)
Athos Gontijo – Financial Director
Ryder Gering – Administrative Assistant

Please refer to our website for a copy of our full audited financial statements and 990s.

Editor: Franca Sciuto
Design: Joanna Deans
Printing: die Keure, Bruges, Belgium

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Rainforest Fund
420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 1710
New York, NY 10170
rffund@rainforestfund.org
www.rainforestfund.org
www.facebook.com/RFUND
www.rainforestfund.org/blog

Front Cover: The Siona people have mobilized indigenous land patrols who are using technology to monitor illegal poaching and logging in real time, as well as using legal channels to protect the biodiverse reserve of Cuyabeno.


Opposite: Democratic Republic of Congo, ANAPAC charting and defending their territory.