



Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative

OF THE AMERICAS

Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas Program

2024 End-of-Year Report <◆

Fighting for land, water, food, medicine, and culture.

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Established in 2021, [Chacruna's Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas \(IRI\)](#) is committed to promoting Indigenous biocultural empowerment across the Americas. Since its inception, IRI has cultivated a decolonial network of Indigenous and grassroots organizations championing causes such as plant medicine, land rights, ecological wellbeing, food security, and economic resilience.

In 2025, we are proud to continue this crucial work through a pooled fund supported by generous donations. These funds are distributed with integrity, allowing our partners to pursue their self-determined priorities and initiatives. This approach fosters autonomy and lasting impact, guided by a commitment to the ethical and responsible use of funds.

In 2024, we focused our efforts on three key priorities: securing funding to support grassroots organizations, amplifying awareness of the challenges faced by Indigenous peoples across the Americas, and actively participating in conferences and forums within the psychedelic ecosystem. These initiatives were designed to educate, nurture relationships, forge alliances, and strengthen the foundation of the Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative, ensuring its sustained growth and lasting impact.

We are profoundly grateful for the unprecedented support we received throughout 2024, which has made our work possible. The unwavering support of our donors has been instrumental in advancing our mission.

Who IRI supported in 2024

In 2024 [The IRI Program](#) supported 15 grassroots organizations across Indigenous territories and communities in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States.

◆ Brazil

[RAIN \(Reforestation Agroforestry Impact Network\)](#) - Guarani, Tupiniquim, Quilombo Kalunga, Kaingang, Terena, Noke Koi/Katuquina; [Yawanawa Sociocultural Association](#) Yawanawa; [Federation of the Huni Kuin People of the State of Acre \(FEPHAC\)](#) Huni Kuin

◆ Colombia

[The Land of Origins Project](#) - Kamëntšá / [Organization for Indigenous Outreach & Conservation \(OIOC\)](#) - Kamëntšá

◆ **Ecuador**

[Sacha Warmi Foundation](#) - Kichwa; [Yakum](#) - Shuar, Kichwa, Cofan, Siekopai; [Amazon Frontlines](#) - Siona, Secoya, Kofan, Waorani

◆ **Peru**

[Alianza Arkana](#) - Shipibo-Konibo; [Xapiri Ground](#) - Matsigenka, Iskonawa, Matsés, Awajún, Yine, Shipibo-Konibo, Wampis

◆ **Costa Rica**

[Stibrawpa Association](#) - Bribri

◆ **Mexico**

[Hablemos de Hikuri](#) - Wixáritaari/Huichol; [Wixárika Research Center \(WRC\)](#) – Wixarika; [El Consejo indígena pro-rescate del patrimonio cultural mazateco \(CIPREPACMA\)](#) Mazatec A.C.

◆ **United States**

[Buffalo Field Campaign](#) Lakota, Sioux, Nez Perce/Nimiipuu

You can directly support both current and all former IRI partners by donating to their organizations. To learn more about these remarkable partners and discover how you can contribute, visit our website at chacruna-iri.org/regions



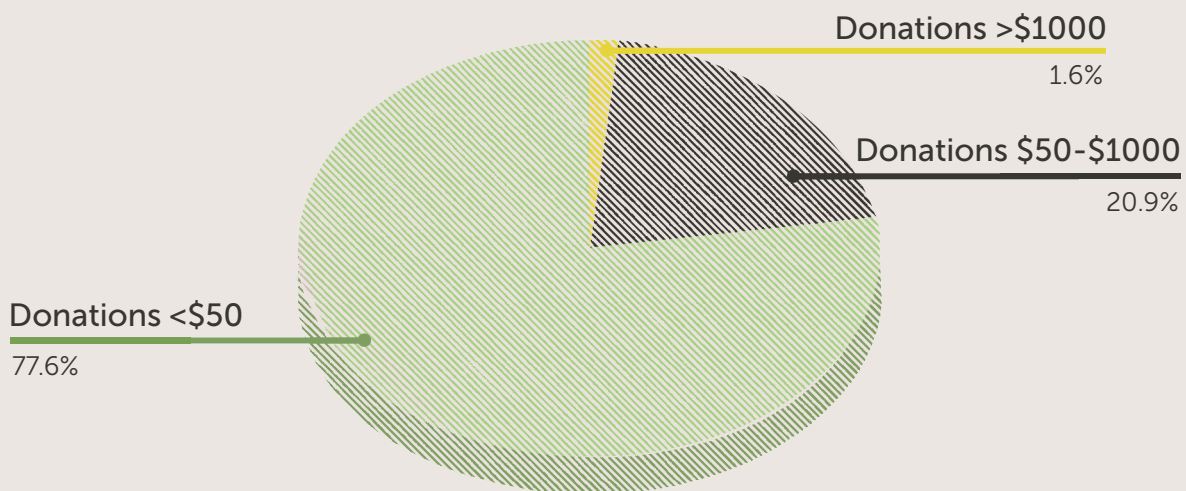
2024 Outcomes

Since its inception, IRI has raised over \$288,000 to support community-led, grassroots Indigenous projects. These funds enable local communities to direct resources toward their self-determined priorities, reinforcing their autonomy in addressing cultural and educational needs while advancing the biocultural conservation of their lands. Through this work, IRI seeks to cultivate a spirit of reciprocity between the Global North's psychedelic ecosystem and the Indigenous communities whose traditions and practices safeguard the knowledge, use, and sustainability of plant medicines.

In 2024, the psychedelic sector faced significant challenges, marked by the FDA's rejection of MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD. A host of other factors, compounded by broader economic trends, has resulted in reduced funding for psychedelic research and development. Together, these regulatory hurdles and financial constraints made 2024 an especially difficult year for the field of psychedelics.

Despite these challenges, IRI successfully raised an unprecedented \$118,838 in donations in 2024. This total includes a very generous contribution of \$100,000, which has been earmarked for distribution in 2025. All other donations were distributed equally among our 15 partner organizations, after accounting for a 7.5% processing fee. Notably, the majority of these donations (77.6%) were contributions of less than \$50, showcasing IRI's strong community engagement and resilience. Additionally, we maintained multiple recurring donors throughout the year.

IRI's donor network is diverse, including individuals, therapists, clients, practitioners, small businesses, and non-profit organizations. What unites this community is a shared dedication to Indigenous justice and building collaborative relationships between Indigenous traditions and psychedelic science. As we look to 2025, we anticipate continued growth in this vibrant network, building even stronger alliances to support our mission.





Images of the event “Mitote en el gran tunal” organized by our partners Hablemos de Hikuri, in San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Leadership Updates

After five years of dedicated work building and strengthening cultural reciprocity in the psychedelic space, **Joseph Mays** stepped down as IRI Program Director to focus on a PhD program at the University of Saskatchewan. We are deeply grateful for his significant contributions to the Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative and are honored by the impact he has had on the project.



IRI is proud to welcome Osiris García Cerqueda, PhD, as the new Program Coordinator. Osiris is an Indigenous Mazatec historian and sociologist from Huautla de Jiménez, Oaxaca, Mexico. His lifelong dedication to studying the history and traditions of his community, particularly the ancestral ritual use of psilocybin mushrooms, has shaped his career and advocacy.

In recent years, Osiris has focused on fostering reciprocity and restorative justice through community needs assessments and initiatives aimed at strengthening Mazatec bioculture. He is the author of *Huautla: Tierra de magia, de hongos y hippies* (2014) and the founder of the independent magazine *Mirador Mazateco* (2010–2015). His work also highlights the impact of the Global North on the Mazatec people, especially in the context of the ongoing psychedelic renaissance, where he strives to amplify Indigenous voices and perspectives.



Nurturing New Talent: Introducing the IRI Internship Program

This year, we introduced an internship position on the IRI team and were thrilled by the overwhelming interest it received. The enthusiasm and engagement from applicants were truly encouraging. We have since welcomed an intern who is now actively supporting the team in various capacities. Learn more about the position [here](#).



IRI partner Sacha Warmi supports a project empowering Pastaza women to preserve their ceramic artistry and share their ancestral knowledge

Strengthening Compliance and Program Structure

We have strengthened our financial and legal oversight by appointing a Chacruna team member as a bookkeeper and bringing on a nonprofit attorney to ensure compliance. Additionally, we have enhanced the program's structure and refined its parameters to align with IRS regulations.



2024 IRI partner highlights

Every donation received by IRI plays a crucial role in supporting the development of projects and initiatives led by grassroots organizations within Indigenous territories. Below are just a few examples of the successes achieved in 2024.

- **OIOC (Organization for Indigenous Outreach & Conservation)** became a new IRI grantee in 2024 and launched the Kamënsá language class program, aimed at revitalizing their mother tongue (the Kamënsá language) and preserving their cultural traditions.
- In northern Mexico, **Hablemos de Hikuri** hosted the “Mitote en el gran tunal” ritual event in collaboration with Wixáritari authorities (Huichol people) and the authorities of the Ejido Yoliatl, Villa de Ramos, San Luis Potosí. Over 200 participants gathered to defend the cultural heritage of Wirikuta, the sacred pilgrimage site of the Wixáritari.



Tamaatsi Páritsika autonomous school

- The **Wixárika Research Center (WRC)** continued its support of the Tamaatsi Páritsika autonomous school with the installation of an internet system, enhancing educational opportunities for Wixáritari students. This initiative has been a cornerstone project for WRC since its inception.
- In Amazonian Ecuador, **Sacha Warmi** hosted **Chagramanda Shimina**, a cultural revival festival dedicated to exploring the strengths, challenges, and future of their culture within their villages. The event sparked powerful dialogues around heritage and identity, and a video about the festival captures the vibrant discussions and celebrations. Click [here](#) to watch.
- The **Yawanawa Sociocultural Association** organized the annual Marirí event, where representatives from the Yawanawa people gathered for a festival celebrating cultural revitalization through sacred medicines, music, dance, dialogue, and healing.

- In the Mazatec territory (Oaxaca, Mexico), CIPREPACMA (The Indigenous Council for the Rescue of Mazatec Cultural Heritage) continued its research into Mazatec culture, focusing on the revitalization of sacred places and the preservation of their native language and traditions.
- Xapiri Ground advanced the creation of a **mural** in the Matsigenka community of Shipetiari, Manu, Peru, inspired by an ancestral story that explores the relationship between the human world and the sacred entities inhabiting nature.
- Amazon Frontlines made significant progress with its **Territorial Defense Network program**, providing logistics and consulting to train and support defenders and guards from six Indigenous nations in Ecuador, Peru, and Colombia. The program, launched in 2023, focuses on monitoring, mapping, and legal strategies to protect over 1 million hectares of Amazon rainforest.
- **Buffalo Field Campaign (BFC)** partners completed a white paper summarizing the findings from their 2023 Summit, which focused on community outreach to Native and non-Native communities affected by conflicts with the last wild bison herds. In December 2024, delegates from the Northern Arapahoe and Wind River reservations, along with the BFC board vice chair, shared tribal knowledge and stories with BFC coordinators, volunteers, and grantees. BFC is now preparing for the **Buffalo Tribal Summit 2025**.



Image of the **Chagramanda Shimina** event organized by our Ecuadorian partners **Sacha Warmi**

IRI in the spotlight: Conferences & Events

In addition to fundraising, IRI is committed to advancing education and raising awareness about the history, traditions, and social processes of Indigenous peoples, promoting deeper understanding and support for the complexities and diversity of their contemporary realities.

At the Chacruna Institute's [Psychedelic Culture 2024 \(PCU2024\)](#) (PCU2024), the IRI team coordinated the panel: "Who benefits from the Psychedelic Renaissance? Indigenous Reciprocity, Decolonization and Plant Medicine Conservation". Three Indigenous representatives participated in this panel: Leopardo Yawanawa (Huni Kuin), Osiris Garcia (Mazatec) and Christine Diindiisi (Citizen of Turtle Mountain Ojibwe Nation). The panel delved into the meaning of "reciprocity" in the context of colonial structures in globalized plant medicine spaces, highlighting disparities between the Global North and South. It proposed a grassroots, community-driven model for decolonizing the psychedelic ecosystem, advocating for autonomy and a more equitable approach to access and benefit-sharing.



As part of the [Reciprocity Dialogues](#) series, we hosted nine community forums addressing key topics such as the construction of reciprocity in the psychedelic space, Indigenous and psychedelic rights, the Nagoya Protocol, and the inclusion of Indigenous peoples in academic research.

The Reciprocity Dialogues featured:

- ◆ [Creating culturally tailored healthcare with the Urban Indigenous Collective](#)
- ◆ [First Nations and American Indian perspectives on Indigenous Reciprocity](#)
- ◆ [Navigating Reciprocity: Bridging Indigenous Rights, Access and Benefit Sharing, and Social Responsibility in Psychedelics](#)
- ◆ [Creating relations with plant medicines beyond psychedelics](#)
- ◆ [Traditions in Dialogue: Indigenous Wisdom and Psychedelic Research](#)
- ◆ [Psychedelics, Nagoya Protocol & Indigenous and Local Communities Rights: A Brazilian Perspective](#)
- ◆ [From Reciprocity to Sovereignty: Sacred Plants Conservation and Community](#)
- ◆ [How can we integrate Indigenous people into academic research on psychedelics?](#)
- ◆ [Gabon and the Ethics of the Globalization of Iboga and Ibogaine](#)



IRI Program Coordinator Osiris García participated in over nine major psychedelic events, including Chacruna Institute’s PCU24, [Arctic Visions](#) (the first psychedelic conference in Alaska), and the [Spirit Plant Medicine Conference](#) in Vancouver. Additionally, IRI engaged in online events such as the [Psilocybin Conference in San Francisco](#) and the [Simposio Internacional de Hongos Sagrados y Psilocibina](#) [International Symposium on Sacred Fungi and Psilocybin].



Building Community Online

Through our Instagram platform [@Indigenous.Reciprocity](#), we have shared highlights of our partners' projects and activities in 2024, along with reflections on Indigenous reciprocity, colonialism, cultural celebrations and events, and Indigenous deities. Engagement highlights include our reel for [International Day of Indigenous Women](#), which garnered 316K views, 17K likes, 3.5K shares, and 3.6K saves, making it one of our most impactful pieces of content ever. Additionally, our post [Honoring María Sabina's Legacy](#) became another of the most viewed posts of the year, with 42K views, 1.7K likes, 536 shares, and 300 saves. This growth in engagement reflects an increasing interest in and support for IRI's mission.

IRI's Theory of Change

IRI recognizes that a 100% ground-up structure emphasizing local agency that challenges conventional philanthropic models is the most meaningful way to support Indigenous and local community autonomy, and the most impactful way to support biocultural diversity. IRI serves as a platform for reciprocity, education and collaboration:

- 1** | **Raising unconditional funding:** We accept donations in strict accordance with the terms set by IRI partners, ensuring that funds are distributed equitably and used solely for charitable purposes. This funding supports the immediate and evolving needs of projects that serve historically underfunded and marginalized communities.
- 2** | **Providing a platform for education:** Presenting at conferences & universities, co-producing publications exploring reciprocity, biocultural conservation, plant medicine, and Indigenous rights.

At IRI, we see 2024 as a year of growth and transformation for the program. The journey is long, and we continue to move forward "one step at a time," learning from and adapting to the challenges we encounter. We are deeply grateful to the Indigenous, grassroots organizations that trust us to support their work, as well as to everyone who supports IRI through their generous donations. As we look toward 2025, we do so with optimism and determination, steadfast in our commitment to advancing our mission with integrity and excellence.



Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative OF THE AMERICAS

Join Us in Strengthening Indigenous Reciprocity in 2025!
Your support fuels the vital work of our Indigenous partners. If you believe in the mission of the Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative, make a difference by [donating today](#).



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