

Protecting Sacred Plants, Advancing Psychedelic Justice



Chacruna Impact STORY

June 2025

Chacruna Institute



Mission

We promote reciprocity in the psychedelic community, and support the protection of sacred plants and cultural traditions. We advance psychedelic justice through curating critical conversations and uplifting the voices of women, queer people, Indigenous peoples, people of color, and the Global South in the field of psychedelic science.

Vision

We aim to co-create a world where plant medicines and other psychedelics are understood, protected, honored, and valued as part of our cultural identity, and integrated into our social, legal and health care systems in ways that are equitable and just.

What we do

The Chacruna Institute for Psychedelic Plant Medicines, an organization founded by Brazilian anthropologist Dr. Bia Labate and American psychologist Dr. Clancy Cavnar, produces high-quality research on plant medicines and psychedelics, and helps propagate academic knowledge in more accessible formats. We educate the public and create cultural understanding and legitimacy regarding these substances so that they may cease to be stigmatized and outlawed. Chacruna also promotes a bridge between the world of plant medicines and the emergent field of psychedelic science, between "traditional ceremonial use" and clinical and therapeutic settings, bringing the knowledge and perspectives of the social sciences to health care professionals and practitioners of psychedelic-assisted therapy. Finally, we foster cultural and political reflections on the field of psychedelic science and facilitate conversations about controversial topics that have been simmering on the sidelines as psychedelics go mainstream.

Education

Producing original academic research, providing public education and making academic knowledge more accessible.

Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative

Supporting biocultural conservation and the autonomy of Indigenous communities. Chacruna promotes projects and initiatives that strengthen Indigenous biocultures based on their own self-determination.

Psychedelic Justice

Promoting the voices of women, queer people, indigenous peoples, people of color, and the global South in the field of psychedelic science.

Protection of Sacred Plants & Cultural Traditions

Raising awareness about problems of globalization, creating cultural understanding and legitimacy, and engaging in advocacy for the protection of sacred plants.

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Who We Are



Bia Labate Ph.D

Co-founder, social anthropologist, queer Brazilian woman, publisher of 28 books, with 29 years of personal ayahuasca ceremonial experience. Bia is a dedicated anthropologist, educator, author, speaker, activist, mentor, and leader committed to the protection of sacred plants and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities in the psychedelic science field.

Co-founder, clinical psychologist, researcher, and artist, has published 13 books, with 27 years of personal ayahuasca ceremonial experience. Clancy has combined clinical work with diverse populations and deep first-hand experience with sacred plants to commit her life's work to the inclusion of queer populations in the field of psychedelic science and to inspiring personal and collective transformation through the use of plant medicines.



Clancy Cavnar Psy.D

A small but mighty grassroots team of scholars, researchers, practitioners, and advisors catalyzing a global community of **70+ people** working on behalf of Chacruna's mission. Over 90 community partners; resources accessed in 193 countries.

Our Impact

EDUCATION

Producing original academic research, providing public education, and making academic knowledge accessible.



IMPACT

- ◆ Developed collaboration, research, and curriculum for leading universities including UC Berkeley, Harvard, Stanford, UCLA, Naropa, University of Ottawa, Pacifica, UCSF, CIESAS, Kent, and the University of Saskatchewan.
- ◆ Hosted 13 conferences with a cumulative attendance of 11,180. Created 7 courses, 8 workshops and a certificate program.
- ◆ Awarded over 2,340 scholarships.
- ◆ Published over 1,075 articles in English, Spanish & Portuguese with over 1.7 million readers.
- ◆ Created more than 160 community forums with over 4,000 attendees.
- ◆ Created our own website with over 30,000 monthly views and an Instagram with over 55,000 followers.

RECIPROCITY

Supporting biocultural conservation and the autonomy of Indigenous communities. Chacruna promotes projects and initiatives that strengthen Indigenous biocultures based on their own self-determination.

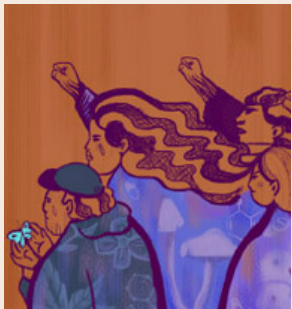


IMPACT

- ◆ Catalyzed the spread of concepts elevating Indigenous reciprocity in the field; advocated and educated through dozens of speaking engagements, publications, and events.
- ◆ Created the Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative of the Americas: \$288k+ given back to Indigenous communities.
- ◆ Launched Chacruna Latinoamérica, a bridge between psychedelic developments in the Global North and the Global South, where many psychedelic medicines and traditions originate.

JUSTICE

Promoting the voices of women, queer people, Indigenous peoples, people of color, and the Global South in the field of psychedelic science.

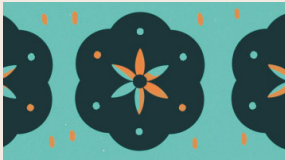


IMPACT

- ◆ Published 4 books: Psychedelic Justice, Women and Psychedelics, Queering Psychedelics, and Ayahuasca Religions (all with Synergetic Press), and 2 special journal editions: Diversity, Equity, and Access in Psychedelic Medicine (Journal of Psychedelic Studies), and Power, Discrimination, and Privilege in Individuals and Institutions (Frontiers). Both focused on elevating minority voices to balance the field toward their representation.
- ◆ Created events, community forums, conferences, publications, books, videos, social media series, and other materials around race and gender in psychedelics.
- ◆ Represented 70+ Indigenous speakers through educational forums.

PROTECTION

Raising awareness about problems of globalization, creating cultural understanding and legitimacy, and engaging in advocacy for the protection of sacred plants.



IMPACT

- ◆ Published the guide to Religious Freedom and Best Practices for Psychedelic Plant Medicine Churches and the Ayahuasca Community Guide for the Awareness of Sexual Abuse In Ayahuasca Settings.
- ◆ Supported the Church of the Eagle and the Condor reaching a settlement with the U.S. Government to legally import and distribute ayahuasca.
- ◆ Filed an amicus brief in connection with a case involving a psychedelic church, impacting the IRS' regulation of churches engaged in sacramental ceremonies and the DEA's religion-based exemption petition guidelines.
- ◆ Consulted with 60+ people who had law enforcement issues related to plant medicines including arrests, seizures and other legal matters.
- ◆ Incubated the Sacred Plant Alliance, which is now its own 501(c)(3).

We
Need Help

The field of psychedelics is rapidly expanding, and **ethics, reciprocity, justice, and protection** are more crucial than ever. We face the real risk that these critically important healing tools are steamrolled during the race for profits and quick fixes. It is imperative that **Chacruna has the resources to scale up** its proven and impactful activities as a standard-bearer for integrity in the psychedelic space.

How
to Help

We are raising **1 million dollars** to ensure we have the resources to invest in expanding our work and keeping pace with the field. If you feel called to join our mission to create a more just and equitable psychedelic future for all, please consider **investing in Chacruna's groundbreaking programs today.**

