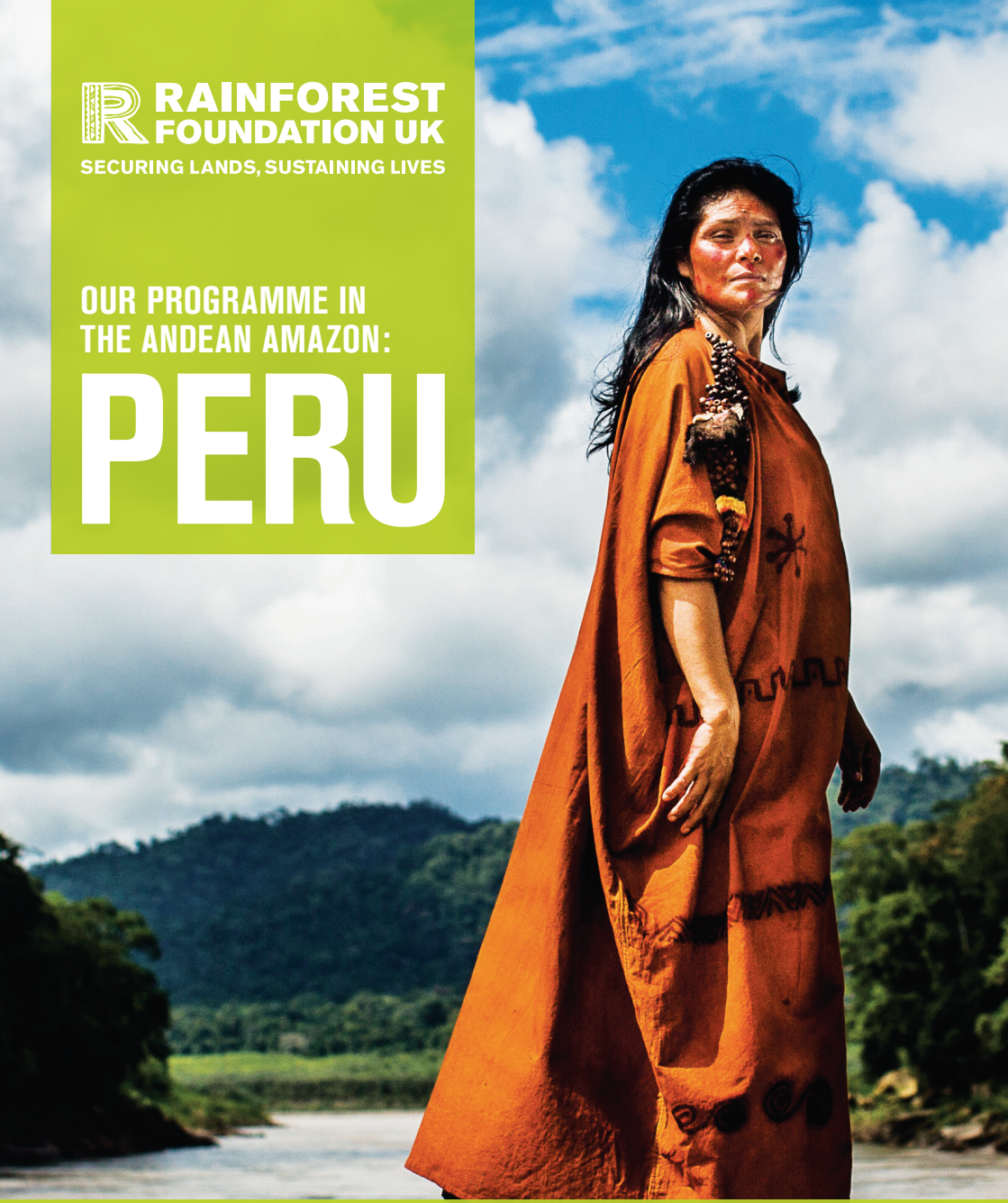
RAINFOREST FOUNDATION UK

SECURING LANDS, SUSTAINING LIVES

OUR PROGRAMME IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON:

PERU



PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON



Cover image: Goldman Environmental Prize

OUR MISSION

The Rainforest Foundation UK, (RFUK), supports indigenous and traditional forest peoples to protect their environment and fulfil their rights to land, life and livelihood in the world's rainforests. In the Andean Amazon region, our efforts are focussed in Peru and Ecuador which sit in approximately 86 million hectares of Amazon rainforest.

OUR WORK IN PERU IS BASED ON:

- A rights-based approach
- Recognition of the fundamental right of indigenous peoples to Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Empowering communities and building their capacities
- Understanding that indigenous peoples are an integral part of complex social and ecological systems
- Raising awareness at national and international levels to promote positive changes



Kate Eshelby

OUR WORK IN PERU

RFUK has worked in Peru since 1998, supporting the indigenous peoples of the central Amazon forest region and the Vilcabamba mountain range to defend their lands and their right to lead a life in accordance with their culture and wishes. These mountain and forest regions are some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in the world.

Our work has supported communities in obtaining legal titles to their lands and protecting thousands of hectares of community forest. We have promoted the recognition and management of protected areas with proper participation by indigenous peoples, developed viable agriculture models to improve livelihoods in harmony with the forest, empowered indigenous organisations to realise their rights, and influenced national policy processes relating to indigenous rights and governance of traditional territories.

In the Andean Amazon, our main partners are indigenous peoples' representative organisations. We focus on empowering these local organisations and mobilising this local knowledge to provide strategic support to national indigenous organisations during policy processes.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?



PERU

24 MILLION ACRES OF RAINFOREST

Ene River Basin

ASHÁNINKA FAMILY



Raffaele Giordano

8 GOOD LIFE PRINCIPLES OF THE ASHÁNINKA PEOPLE

Our main partners and beneficiaries are the Asháninka people, the largest single lowland indigenous group in Peru, most of whom retain their traditional way of life. Around 10,000 Asháninka live in the Ene River Basin area and form several communities.

These communities call their holistic vision of a so-called good life 'Kametsa Asaike' (living well), which combines eight principles:

1) CULTURE AND ETHICS
2) FOOD SECURITY
3) TERRITORY AND HARMONY WITH NATURE
4) PEACE
5) SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION
6) TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES
7) EDUCATION
8) REPRESENTATION

SUSTAINABLE COCOA FROM THE ENÉ


Marine Douchy/CARE

While Asháninka families largely depend on the forest for their subsistence, the area's cocoa production is the most important source of monetary income. Cash income is needed to pay for medicines, school materials, transportation along the rivers, and basic products such as batteries, fuel, clothing and some foods.

In 2010, cocoa producers formed an association called Kemito Ene, which successfully markets cocoa under Organic and Fair Trade certifications. Better standards of farming and cropping, improved prices and more secure market access have enabled Asháninka families to increase their income and wellbeing, whilst respecting their culture and the environment.

Amongst the long term improvements we have helped develop are; a school to provide training on cocoa growing, harvesting techniques and sustainability; and a 'Management School', which helps Kemito Ene with cocoa marketing and financial management.

INCREASES IN ASHÁNINKA COCOA PRODUCTION

Members of Asháninka cocoa producers cooperative:

2009
46 PRODUCERS

2013
200 PRODUCERS

Chocolate quality production:

2009
54%

2013
72%

Overall production:

2009
1.4 TONNES

2013
18 TONNES

ASHÁNINKA FAMILIES NOW HAVE STRONG LIVELIHOODS, FROM WHICH THEY CAN BUILD UPON FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS


Marine Douchy/CARE


Marine Douchy/CARE

EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO MANAGE THEIR LANDS AND RESOURCES

Beyond the communities' riverside lands are the forests of the mountains, in which some Asháninka (known as Kanoja Sati, or 'dwellers of the heights') choose to live in voluntary isolation, but where water, plants and animals are abundant.

These forest areas have been identified as high biodiversity hotspots, unique in the world. They are protected by two areas: the Asháninka Communal Reserve and the Otishi National Park. A Communal Reserve is recognised as a protected area category that communities should benefit from, and implies that the State and indigenous peoples' organisations should share the responsibility for its management.

RFUK has conducted research to support the protection of the communal reserve from oil exploration and exploitation. We have advocated for these areas to be classified for strict protection.



Musuk Nolte

We have also empowered Asháninka organisations to manage the Communal Reserve for the benefit of the communities. We promote the use of a comprehensive consultation process with the communities around the Reserve in order to create a realistic and participatory management plan for the area. This is based on a unique methodology developed by our partner indigenous organisations and is a first in the history of Peruvian Communal Reserve management.



Asháninka Settlement: RFUK

ASHÁNINKA COMMUNAL RESERVE FACTS

NO.1

ZERO

illegal logging in the Ene Basin

NO.2

160km

of boundaries between communities and Asháninka Communal Reserve demarcated

NO.3

237,000 HECTARES

of forest protected

NO.4

100 MILLION TREES

could be saved as a result of these actions

THE HOUSE OF THE EAGLE – MEGA DAMS IN THE AMAZON



The myth of Pakitzapango tells about a gigantic human-eating eagle (Pakitza) that used to live in the mountains of the Ene River. Pakitza with its big claws built a high wall of stones in the river so the Asháninka could be easily captured. Pakitza terrorised and killed so many Asháninka peoples for so many years that one day they decided to kill him. So they built a baited trap, a life-size human figure made of clay sent in a boat down the river towards Pakitza's home. When Pakitza saw the human in the boat he flew directly to him, but when the eagle sank its claws into the figure, it got stuck and the humans were able to kill it with their arrows. The feathers dropped into the river and transformed into little canoes containing the Yines, Machiguengas, Shipibos and all the indigenous communities that live down the river.



Pakitzapango Gorge: Raffaele Giordino

POTENTIAL IMPACT

73,000 HA OF FOREST FLOODED

OUR WORK SUPPORTING THE ASHÁNINKA PEOPLE INCLUDES:

- PROVIDING TRAINING ON THEIR RIGHTS
- PROVIDING TRAINING ON THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF MEGA DAMS
- SUPPORTING THOSE AFFECTED BY THE MEGA DAMS AT MEETINGS WITH CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT

In 2010, Peru and Brazil signed an energy co-operation agreement which involved the construction of five large dams in the Peruvian Amazon by Brazilian companies. One of the largest, a 165 metre high dam, was meant to be built in the Ene Basin in the Pakitzapango gorge. The mega dam would have flooded approximately 73,000 hectares of forest including community homes and lands, as well as causing major and irreversible impacts on the river.

RFUK supported the Asháninka by ensuring they were able to assess the potential impacts of the dam and were aware of their right to be consulted about it. As a consequence, communities brought forward objective information about potential impacts on them, and protested that their right to be consulted had been violated. We helped ensure that the views of communities were presented to government agencies and businesses that would have potentially been involved in the dams' construction. Largely as a result of this work, the Brazilian company Odebrecht, set to construct the dam in the Ene River and two more in the adjacent Tambo River Basin, withdrew from the schemes, citing the opposition from local communities. This important victory, and the way it was achieved, has gained recognition for the Asháninka, both in Peru and internationally.

RUTH AND CARE – ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES


CARE

RFUK is honoured to work with outstanding individuals and organisations that defend their territories, environment, and the livelihood of the peoples they represent. We help build their capacity and provide the conditions where they succeed and realise exceptional achievements.

RFUK is proud to work with Ruth Buendía, one of the 2014 recipients of the world's largest prize for grassroots environmentalists, the Goldman Environmental Prize. Ruth's work leading the Asháninka organisation Central Asháninka del Rio Ene (CARE) has effectively stopped the development of the Pakitzapango and Tambo 40 mega dams, and as a result, protected more than 70,000 hectares of forest from total destruction. Moreover, she has defended the Asháninka communities' rights to free, prior and informed consent and to remain living in their territories. Thanks to Ruth and CARE, the Asháninkas of the Ene River are more visible in the highly centralised country of Peru. Their voices and vision are being heard and respected.

CARE (http://careashaninka.org/) which represents 17 Asháninka communities, was founded in 1993 when the Asháninka people were suffering violence and persecution from the terrorist guerrilla group, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path). More than 6,000 Asháninka died during the time of conflict, and CARE's priority was to save lives and restore peace. After this phase of reconstruction, CARE's current objective is to support Asháninka communities to "live well". This task requires defending communities' rights to maintain their hard-earned autonomy and peace against external threats, as well as proposing alternatives to foster their own vision of development.

CHALLENGES AND THREATS TO INDIGENOUS LANDS

Regionally, the Andean Amazon faces enormous threats to its ecological integrity, as well as to its traditional inhabitants, mostly vulnerable indigenous peoples. Forest conversion and fragmentation, mainly by agriculture and cattle ranching, is boosted by the continued expansion of the road network.

Forest degradation and deforestation is driven by illegal logging and unsustainable forest product harvesting. Water contamination and hydrological alteration occurs in river basins affected by mega dams and extractive industries such as oil. These threats are driven by public and private economic initiatives at a national level by governments with weak legal and institutional frameworks, often without proper environmental and social assessments, and without the proper free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.


RFUK

Within our broader Andean Amazon Strategy, RFUK has identified four main issues affecting indigenous peoples in Peru:

- Weakening of the fundamental right of indigenous peoples to Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC): communities and indigenous organisations are unprepared for the challenges that come with new developments and are unlikely to take part in decision-making processes.
- Oil and gas exploration and exploitation: new bidding rounds are about to start in Peru, potentially threatening indigenous peoples' homes and livelihoods and weakening their rights.
- Illegal and unsustainable logging: logging in community lands without supervision and enforcement degrades forests and causes negative social impacts to communities.
- Weakening of territorial land rights: hundreds of communities are waiting for recognition and titling of their lands, whilst the legal and institutional framework for Communal Reserves is easily manipulated, creating a high risk of 'land grabbing'.

Future support from the Rainforest Foundation UK to partner organisations in Peru will be intended to help them address these threats.



Raffaele Giordano

THANK YOU

RFUK would like to thank all of our supporters for trusting in our approach to work with the real owners of the forests, indigenous peoples and funding our projects in the Andean Amazon region, including:

- Bettys & Taylors of Harrogate
- Fondation Ensemble
- Kathy Tracey
- Peru Opportunity Fund
- The Rainforest Fund
- The Weatherley Charitable Trust
- Rainforest Defenders

CONTACT US

If you like to know more about our work, achievements, and opportunities to help to address the challenges and threats to indigenous peoples of the Amazon, please email us: **info@rainforestuk.org** or visit online: **www.rainforestuk.org**

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