



NIA
TERO

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

INDIGENOUS PARTNERS OF NIA TERO

Nia Tero is proud to work with Indigenous Peoples globally who sustain thriving territories and cultures to strengthen guardianship of Earth and all beings.

Abau • Abelam • Achuar • Adara • Aipipa • Ajië (Yanëkuyë) • Akawaio • Akuriyo • Alamblak • Alugu • Amara • Ambulas • Anuta • Arama • Aramayana • Arapaso • Are • Arecuna • Arosi • Aruop • Awara • Awin-Pah • Awiyaana • Aziana • Baeggu • Baelelea • Baniwa • Banoni • Bará • Barasana • Baré (Warekena) • Barekasi • Barupu • Berik • Bipi • Biwat • Blablanga • Blackfoot • Boiken • Borong • Buna • Bunan • Buruwai • Busa • Carijona • Caruma • Caviyari • Cèmuhi (Central East) • Chambri • Chinamiru • Chini • Cofán • Cook Island Maori • Coripaco • Daakie • Dalabon • Daonda • Desana • Dow • Drehu (Lifou) • Drubea • Dyapa • Eduria • Eivo • ella Lavella • Ese • Fagani • Fagani • Fagauvea (West Uvea) • Fanamaketa • Fataleka • Gabbra • Gants • Gao • Gapapaiwa • Gari • Gaua • Gela (a.k.a. Ghari) • Gogodala • Gona • Gwaia • Halia • Hanahan • Hano • Hatohobei • Heiltsuk • Helong • Hiw • Hixkaryana • Hote • Huarani • Hupda • Iai • Iatmul • Imia Masa • Ingarikó • Inkariyana • Ipiko • Itano • Iwam • Jawe • Jawoyn • Jeañara • Kahiana • Kalam • Kambaramba • Kambot • Kamula • Kanamari • Kandas • Kaningra • Karafawyana • Karapaña • Karawari • Karaxana • Karon Dori • Karra • Katuenaya • Kaxuyana • Kayan • Kele • Kembra • Keriaka • Kewa • Koiari • Korafe-Yegha • Korubo • Kotiria • Kove • Kubeo (Cubeo) • Kula • Kulina (Pano) • Kunbarlang • Kuni • Kuni-Boazi • Kunimaipa • Kunwinjku • Kusaghe • Kwaio • Kwanga • Kwara'ae • Kwato • Kwènyii (Kunie) • Kwoma • Langalanga • Lantanai • Larevat • Lau • Lavukaleve • Lele • Lengo • Letuama • Lewo • Liabuku • Liki • Lo-Toga • Lolo • Longana • Lonwolwol • Lopi • Löyöp • Luaniua • Makolkol • Maku • Makuna • Malango • Manambu • Manusela • Marienberg • Marubo • Matapi • Matis • Mavea • Mawase • Mawayana • Mayagna • Mayoruna (Matsés) • Mian • Minidien • Minpoyana • Miraña • Mirity — Tapuya • Mok • Motuna • Mundugumor • Nadöb • Nagovisi • Nali • Nali-Pileni • Nasioi • Nauna • Ndom • Nemi (Tirí) • Nend • Nengone (Maré) • Ngala • Ngelima • Nifiloli • Niman • North Efate (Nakanamanga) • Notsi • Nukuma • Nukumanu • Nupani • Nusa Roviana • Nyeláyu • Okoymoyana • Olrat • Orokaiva • Owa • Pahi • Paici (Pwêêdi Wiimîâ) • Paici-Maka (Southwest) • Pamosu • Parukwoto • Patamona • Patpatar • Pileni (Vaeakau-Taumako) • Pira-tapuya • Pireuyana • Pirititi • Piropo • Ponam • Port Vato • Raga • Ramayana • Ramoaina • Ramoaina • Rapa Nui • Reef Islands • Rembarrnga • Rerep • Rotokas • Roviana • Roviana • Sa • Saami • Sahamalaza • Sakita • Sanima • Santa Cruz • Sapara • Savo • Savosavo • Sepik Iwam • Siane • Siekopai • Sika • Simbo • Sinaugoro • Siona • Siriano • Siwai • Solos • Sonsorolese • South Efate (Ifira-Mele) • Suena • Sukurum • Sulka • Sungai Utik • Ta'a • Tabriak • Tahalê (Fwâi) • Taiwano • Tajio • Talise • Tambunum • Tanema • Tanimuka • Tariana • Tatuyo • Taurepang • Terei • Tikopia • Tinputz • Tirio (Trio) • To'abaita • Toga • Toisapu • Torau • Tsohom • Tukano • Tukuca • Tulu • Tulu-Bohuai • Tunayana • Tuyuca • Txikiyana • Udege • Uitoto • Uruava • Utupua • Vaeakau • Vaeakau-Taumako (known as Pileni) • Vaghua • Vangunu • Vanikoro • Vera'a • Vonavona • Vurës • Wahgi • Wai-Wi • Waimiri Atroari • Wala • Walalangi • Wampis (Shuar) • Wano • Wapichana • Wardaman • Wayana • Wuvulu-Aua • Xârâcùù (North) • Xerew • Xowiyana • Yanomae • Yanomami • Yatxkuriyana • Yauna • Ye'kuana • Yimas • Yuhupde • Yujup • Yukuna • Yuruti • Zabana • Zazao • Zo'é

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WELCOME

INDIGENOUS GUARDIANSHIP OF EARTH

It is with deep gratitude that we invite you to read our 2023 annual report. In Nia Tero's sixth year of working in solidarity with our Indigenous partners and their trusted allies, we were proud to continue our support of the self-determined needs of Indigenous Peoples in their guardianship of collective territories, and to increase our community of allies in this work.

Scientists have reported that the best of what's left on this planet is in the hands of Indigenous Peoples who live in deep relationships to the land and sea.

These places are rich in biodiversity and are essential to the security of global food production, freshwater, and, ultimately, the Earth's climate. This is no accident. These thriving places persist as the result of Indigenous Peoples' guardianship of collective territories. The future of our livable planet relies on the protection and sustainable management of lands and waters by Indigenous Peoples.

In the following pages, we will share highlights from our programs and partnerships while reflecting on the challenges our Indigenous partners face, and the opportunities that lie ahead – centering their actions, movements, and ways of being and living.

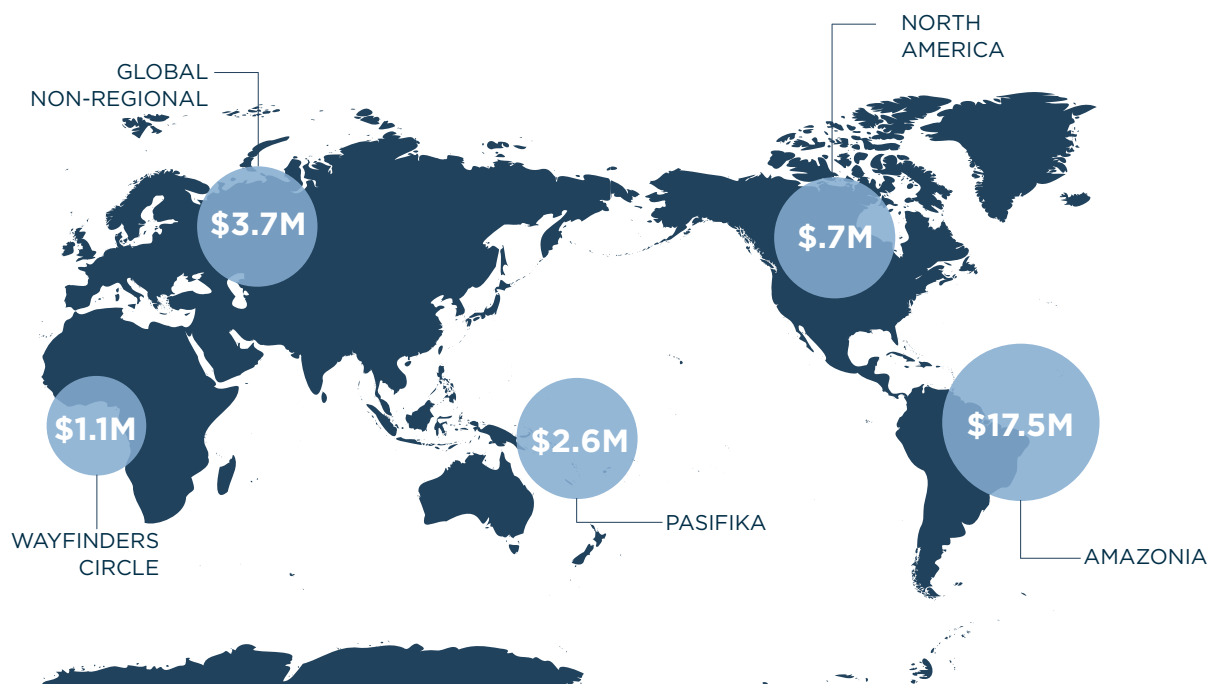
None of this work happens without deep trust-based and long-term relationships with our Indigenous partners, or without the collaboration and support of our funders. We thank you for being part of this community as we continue working toward our dream of Indigenous guardianship everywhere possible on Earth.

A light blue world map is centered in the background of the top section, showing the continents in a darker shade of blue.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUSTAIN MANY OF THE HEALTHIEST REMAINING INTACT ECOSYSTEMS ON EARTH



2023 Highlights



140

TOTAL GRANTS

*Including multi-year grants

\$25.6M

AWARDED

SUPPORTING



271

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
GLOBALLY



128

ORGANIZATIONS

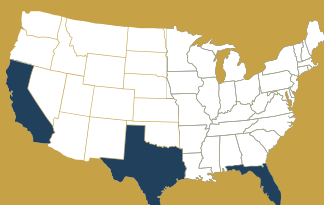
**We directly fund Indigenous Peoples
in support of their efforts to protect
their homelands and lifeways.**

IMPACT



128M

**HECTARES OF LANDS AND
WATERS PROTECTED**



AN AREA ROUGHLY THE SIZE
OF THE STATES OF **CALIFORNIA,**
FLORIDA AND **TEXAS** COMBINED



24.4

**GIGATONS OF CARBON
SEQUESTERED**



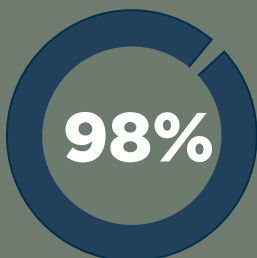
A CARBON EQUIVALENT
OF APPROXIMATELY



5.4B

VEHICLES

*An estimated 1.4 billion vehicles
are on the road globally



GRANTS HAVE BEEN AWARDED
DIRECTLY TO INDIGENOUS
ORGANIZATIONS, THEIR FISCAL
SPONSORS, OR ALLIES SELECTED
BY THE INDIGENOUS PARTNERS
THAT MANAGE FUNDS



LOOKING BACK

\$85M

IN GRANTS AWARDED
SINCE FOUNDING IN 2017
INCLUDING MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS

LETTER FROM OUR CHAIR OF THE BOARD



“

We work in the space between western knowledge and values, and Indigenous knowledge and values. We are neither one nor the other. We are the dialogue, the bridge, the point of tension. *We are Nia Tero.*

Indigenous Peoples' knowledge encompasses generations beyond memory of care and partnership with the earth: Not ownership of the environment as property, not exploitation of natural resources as commodities, but reciprocal relationships with nature as kin.

Nia Tero was founded with the purpose of partnering with Indigenous Peoples to support their self-determined needs, strengthening their unique guardianship of territory, and amplifying their example to inspire others to join us in this mission. As you'll see in the following pages, we have been doing just that since our inception six years ago.

In this work, we respect our Indigenous partners' choices regarding guardianship of their communities and territories. We support Indigenous Peoples in building the necessary infrastructure of guardianship: genuine territorial sovereignty, effective governance structures, and protection of culture and traditional values and laws – including land tenure, a secure financial base, and a healthy community. These are the preconditions, established by our Indigenous partners, to building the resilience and autonomy required to maintain guardianship of territory.

2023 was a year in which the organization was able to gather together and be present with partners in territory and at global events, standing alongside each other in service to the health and future of Earth.

We saw our mission and the messages of our partners reach new audiences turned allies in this collective movement of supporting Indigenous guardianship for the health of our planet. There is growing momentum around this work, and as we share in the pages ahead, successes, opportunities, and threats facing Indigenous Peoples, whose guardianship of collective territories is critical to the health of our planet.

This Annual Report provides an overview of the work done to fulfill this mission in 2023. It is also an invitation to others to join us in supporting and elevating Indigenous Peoples worldwide who are guardians of the healthiest ecosystems on this planet.

We work in the space between western knowledge and values, and Indigenous knowledge and values. We are neither one nor the other. We are the dialogue, the bridge, the point of tension.

We are Nia Tero.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Justice Williams', with a long horizontal line extending to the left and a large loop at the end.

JUSTICE JOSEPH WILLIAMS

Māori, Aotearoa / New Zealand
Chair of the Board, Nia Tero

LETTER FROM OUR CEO



“

It is clear that the most significant way that we will be able to turn the tide for a more sustainable future is to respect Indigenous ways of being, which underscore the deep commitment of Indigenous Peoples to their places and their relationship to the natural world within them.

It is not a coincidence that many of Earth's healthiest and most biodiverse regions are found in the lands and waters that Indigenous Peoples call home. Mounting studies demonstrate that Indigenous Peoples are the most robust defenders of healthy ecosystems, and therefore also the most critical defenders of Earth's climate and biodiversity. Despite this, Indigenous Peoples and their territories are under existential threats from extractivism and outside greed, ongoing colonization, logging, mining, and the extreme and increasing effects of climate change. This must change.

Nia Tero was founded in 2017 with the purpose of supporting Indigenous Peoples who are committed to protecting their collective territories, which are key to combating climate change and the loss of biodiversity. In the last six years, we have established partnerships with Indigenous Peoples' organizations in 33 biocultural settings, spanning our priority regions of Amazonia, Pasifika, and North America.

During this time, we have also demonstrated that it is possible to provide funding directly to Indigenous Peoples' organizations at scale. In 2023 alone, we distributed a total of 122 grants and 24 fellowships to our partners, totaling over \$25.6 million in US dollars, representing a 47% increase in grants from 2022. And, since inception, we have distributed 681 grants, totaling \$85 million, inclusive of multi-year commitments.

The work we do at Nia Tero brings together people from all over the world across many disciplines and experiences – from Indigenous leaders to youth activists, funders and investors to heads of state and policymakers. Within our organization, our Board, Advisory Council, and global team are also of diverse experiences, backgrounds, and Indigenous and non-Indigenous identities.

Coming from these many different spheres, we have all found ourselves drawn to the shared goal of figuring out how to solve the crises Indigenous Peoples and our planet are facing and chart a path for a healthier, more sustainable future.

I am proud to share our 2023 accomplishments in the following pages, where you will read stories of our partners' triumphs alongside ongoing struggles against threats to land and life. You will learn about our partners' fights against pressures to their collective territories, and initiatives they successfully led for the demarcation of lands and strengthening of self-governance. You'll also learn about our global mentorship and fellowship programs, bridging spaces with youth and elders, emerging and seasoned leaders, and creatives across mediums through storytelling, policy, leadership, and cultural programming.

It is clear that the most significant way that we will be able to turn the tide for a more sustainable future is to respect Indigenous ways of being, which underscore the deep commitment of Indigenous Peoples to their places and their relationship to the natural world within them.

And so, I look to everyone who has felt that spark of relation and I see each of us who engage in this work as messengers. Not everyone may get it right away, but when they do, we can mobilize more allies to stand with us in this work and join in supporting Indigenous Peoples who are facing immense challenges and outside pressures while staying committed to caring for their communities, homelands, and a thriving Earth.



PETER SELIGMANN
CEO

Our Mission

Nia Tero works in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples who sustain thriving territories and cultures to strengthen guardianship of Earth and all beings.

Our Vision

Our vision is to contribute to a world where Indigenous Peoples' guardianship of thriving homelands and waters is enabled everywhere possible on Earth.

Our Purpose

Nia Tero exists to support the self-determined needs of Indigenous Peoples by providing direct funding via grants and contracts to Indigenous Peoples' organizations, networks, and trusted allies worldwide. We also exist to influence and inspire respect, recognition, funding, and support of Indigenous Peoples' guardianship of collective territories.

What We Do

Nia Tero establishes and nurtures long-term, trust-based partnerships with Indigenous Peoples to support their guardianship of collective territories. We do this by providing direct funding via grants and contracts to Indigenous Peoples' organizations, networks, and trusted allies worldwide.

We also work to increase recognition and support of the vital role of Indigenous Peoples in maintaining a healthy planet – through their leadership, knowledge systems, and longstanding cultural practices.

Nia Tero does not work alone. We acknowledge that Nia Tero's work with Indigenous Peoples and their organizations is complementary to the many diverse and longstanding Indigenous movements that have existed for hundreds of years. We and those who have come before us and after us must join to meet this moment, and we are committed to sharing our approaches to partnership to make this happen.

Governance

Our Board of Directors, who are majority Indigenous, continue to shape the focus and pace of the organization along with a global Indigenous Advisory Council and regional advisory groups.

About Our Name

Nia Tero means "Our Earth" in Esperanto, a language created in the late 1800s to promote peace and harmony. Esperanto is a second language to all, first to none, allowing people who speak different native languages to communicate while retaining their own language and cultural identity. This concept of unity while upholding identity embodies the heart of Nia Tero.



Guiding Principles

Implicit in our vision and mission is recognizing and prioritizing Indigenous Peoples' rights, sovereignty, self-determination, and cultural vitality within and beyond their homelands and waters. Thus, we adhere to the following principles to guide all our work.

Center Indigenous Ways and Means in Nia Tero's working practices

Our structures and working practices explicitly reflect an intention to listen to both descendants and ancestors and work patiently to build relationships and trust. As part of this, we aspire to live the humility and listening spirit necessary to work in service to the wisdom, dreams, and self-determination of diverse Indigenous Peoples across Earth. We refer to this intention as Indigenous Ways & Means.

Follow and respect the rights and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples

Our work is guided by the priorities, systems of governance and decision-making, and ways and means of Indigenous Peoples achieving guardianship of territories. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is our starting point for all our work and partnerships.

Value the full spectrum of the diversity of life

In all our partnerships and choices, we center actions that sustain the abundance and diversity of life at local and global scales, including ecosystems, land and seascapes, humans, and all species. Doing so honors and sustains diverse human identities that overlay and are nourished by these other patterns of diversity.

Respect the diversity of Indigenous Peoples' ways of being and doing

Indigenous Peoples have diverse cultures, languages, ways of being, protocols, and live in geographically and ecologically diverse territories. Nia Tero acknowledges this spiritual and cultural diversity as essential to our shared humanity and in shaping our understanding of why the lands and waters that Indigenous Peoples inhabit remain among the healthiest and best cared for on Earth.

Focus on Indigenous Peoples' guardianship of collective territories

All our work serves Indigenous Peoples whose territories are defined by the self-determined geographic lines of Indigenous nationhood. These lines often predate and transcend modern nation-states and create a map of the world delineated by human identity, language, culture, and ecology.

Commit to long term partnerships with Indigenous Peoples

We seek to enter into trust-based partnerships with humility, centering relationships around the self-determined visions of our partners. Commitment to this is enduring – spanning multiple human generations and animating all our interactions. We place the survival of our partners above all else, and we are committed to co-designing of our engagements with our partners.



Where We Work



TERRITORIES NIA TERO SUPPORTS
In Amazonia, North America,
and Pasifika



The key regions where Nia Tero partners with Indigenous Peoples are the Pacific Islands, Northern Amazonia, and North America. We also partner with Indigenous communities from 15 territories worldwide through the Wayfinders Circle initiative.



WAYFINDERS CIRCLE

Initiative supported by Nia Tero,
Pawanka Fund and the World Union
of Indigenous Spiritual Practitioners



In these regions, we support Indigenous Peoples who share collective territories, and have established robust governance systems to safeguard their lands and waters. Through active consultation and collaboration with Indigenous leaders, we ensure their vision shapes the development of effective local, national, and global policies.



“

The difference in the partnership with Nia Tero is that it supports the implementation of the dreams and projects of Indigenous Peoples. They do not interfere in the way of life of the communities when supporting actions in our territories. We are the ones leading the actions in our territories, doing it our way. Nia Tero always supports the way we have always worked – the way of the Indigenous Peoples.

~ **SINÉA DO VALE**

Wapichana, Brazil

Coordinator of Territorial and Environmental Management, Indigenous Council of Roraima (CIR)



A close-up photograph of a green palm frond, showing the intricate texture of the leaves and the central rachis. The image is dominated by shades of green, with a solid brown vertical bar on the left side. The word "PROG" is written in a large, bold, brown font at the bottom.

PROG

AMAZONIA

NORTH AMERICA

PASIFIKA

WAYFINDERS CIRCLE

POLICY

STORYTELLING

FELLOWSHIPS

INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

RAMS

Nia Tero works alongside Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon to strengthen, amplify, and maintain guardianship of thriving forest landscapes.

Through long-term partnerships, we support Indigenous organizations and their trusted allies in exercising their territorial rights, bolstering governance of their communities, and asserting their own visions of well-being.

AMAZONIA





Impact Highlights

Nia Tero's efforts in Amazonia reflect its commitment to sustaining partnerships, influencing global movements, and strengthening its capacity to deliver on its strategic goals for Indigenous Peoples' guardianship and rights. In 2023,

Nia Tero maintained our partnerships with Indigenous Peoples living in **21 territories**, funding the efforts of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and their trusted allies to establish, strengthen, or maintain key policies related to Indigenous guardianship.

Brazil

Collaborating closely with Brazil's first Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and FUNAI, the federal agency for Indigenous affairs, Nia Tero supported communications and strategies to advance the implementation of policy commitments to Indigenous Peoples. This work **supported the demarcation of eight new Indigenous lands** under President Lula's administration, including territories in Pará and Amazonas states.

Nia Tero supported the Univaja Surveillance Team in carrying out **territorial monitoring** in the Vale do Javari Indigenous Land, which comprises an area the size of Portugal. The work **strengthened territorial governance** by Indigenous Peoples by advancing infrastructure and training in monitoring technologies, including GPS, mapping, and drones.

Nia Tero also supported Brazil's Indigenous Peoples in their **struggle against the Marco Temporal (time frame bill)**, a harmful thesis that, if implemented in the country, could halt the demarcation of Indigenous lands and even reverse some of the lands that have already been demarcated. Nia Tero supported the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil's (Apib) **advocacy campaign to raise awareness of threats involving the bill**.

Nia Tero partnered with Iepé, Imazon, and the Legacy Landscapes Fund to provide funding for the conservation of Greater Tumucumaque in northern Brazil. The agreement commits one million USD annually for 15 years, bolstering climate resilience efforts, protecting vulnerable wildlife species, and supporting Indigenous communities to sustainably and effectively manage their lands.

Colombia

Nia Tero has played an important role in strengthening Indigenous governance in Colombia by progressing the implementation of Decree 632, created in 2018 to advance the establishment of Indigenous municipalities and governance structures. We supported the National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC), the Papunahua Indigenous Council, and the Yurupari Jaguars Macroterritory in this movement.

We are currently supporting the creation and formalization of high-level dialogues involving all Indigenous Councils to advance their advocacy efforts for the implementation of the Decree. We also support an emergency fund that serves more than 50 communities in the region. The fund supports the protection and security of Indigenous communities, authorities, leaders, representatives, defenders, and activists managed directly by Indigenous organizations of the Colombian Amazon. They focus on providing legal assistance, medical and psychological assistance, relocation, social assistance, security training, and community protection initiatives.

Ecuador

Nia Tero partnered with the Shuar People's **campaign against Canadian and Chinese mining companies** aiming to install extractive projects within their territory. Continuing from 2022, Nia Tero also supported the Ecuadorian Indigenous Peoples' historic win to **protect Yasuni National Park and lands of Waorani communities and isolated peoples.**

\$17.5M
2023 GRANTS

Guyana

Nia Tero helped to establish technical units to strengthen Indigenous District Councils, enhancing their coordination, management, and strategic planning capacities. Further, Nia Tero supported **capacity-building initiatives through mentorship** in key technical areas and training of Indigenous communities on legislation that directly impacted Indigenous Peoples – the Amerindian Act of 2006. Over the years, Indigenous Peoples have advocated for revision of this legislation to ensure that their rights are recognized and fully protected.

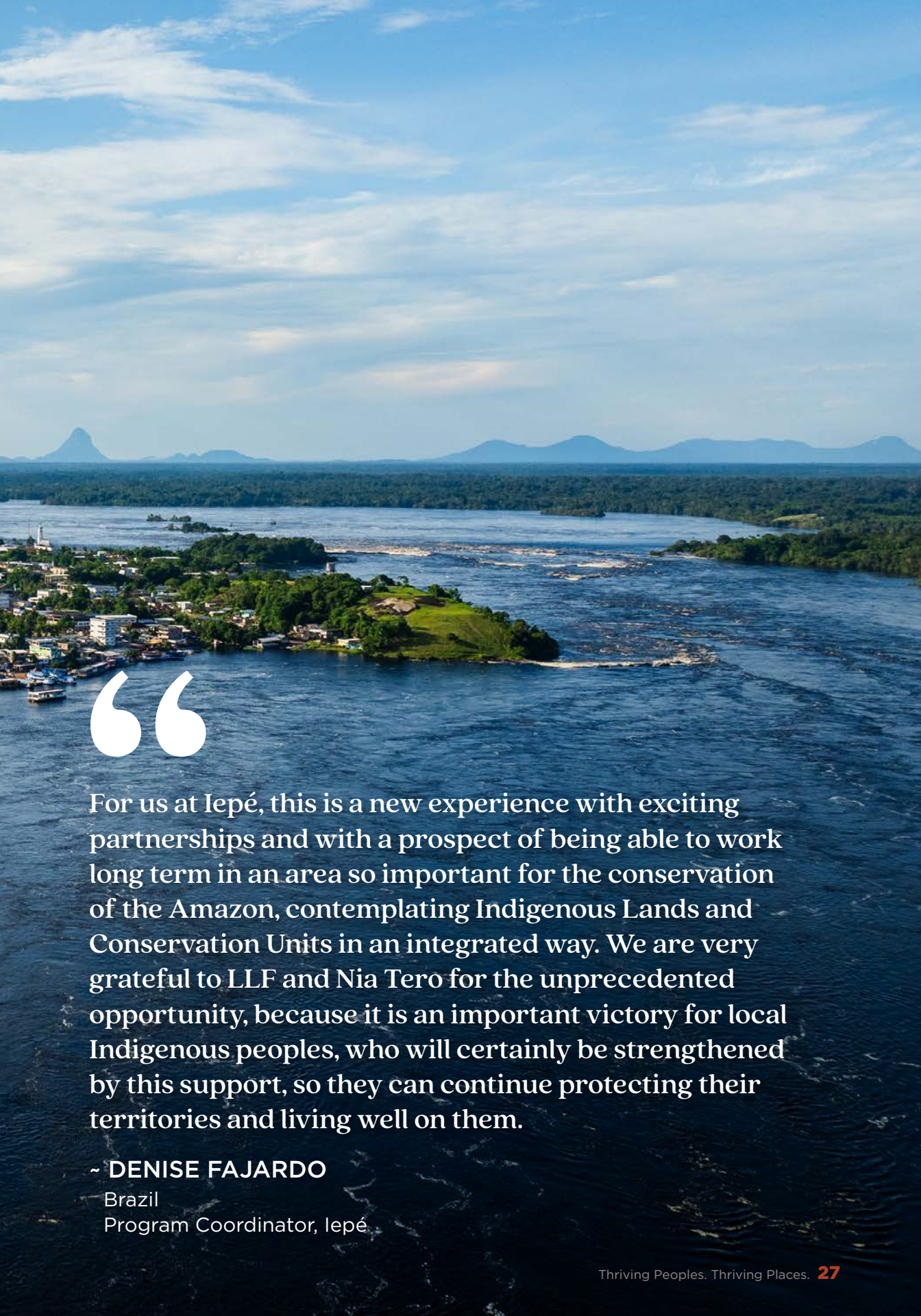
Peru

Nia Tero's support of the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the East's (ORPIO) Platform for Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) program and platform was key to shelving the proposed Law 3518/2022, which could have weakened protection of major forest landscapes where uncontacted Indigenous Peoples live in the Peruvian Amazon. The bill aimed to shift responsibility for creating Indigenous reserves from the national to the regional governments and to re-evaluate existing reserves. The decision to halt the bill was a major victory for Indigenous organizations in Peru.

Suriname

Nia Tero partnered with Indigenous organizations and traditional leaders to **draft a proposed Indigenous and Tribal Lands Rights bill**, advocating for **recognition of Indigenous rights** at the National Assembly and international policy spaces, and **supported territorial mapping projects** for the Wayana and Trio Indigenous Peoples. The Wayana peoples also advanced their plans to improve transportation in their territories using solar powered boats, with Nia Tero's support.



An aerial photograph of a wide river confluence in the Amazon. A small town with colorful buildings is situated on a lush green island in the foreground. The river flows towards the background, where distant mountains are visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. A large white quotation mark is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“

For us at Iepé, this is a new experience with exciting partnerships and with a prospect of being able to work long term in an area so important for the conservation of the Amazon, contemplating Indigenous Lands and Conservation Units in an integrated way. We are very grateful to LLF and Nia Tero for the unprecedented opportunity, because it is an important victory for local Indigenous peoples, who will certainly be strengthened by this support, so they can continue protecting their territories and living well on them.

~ **DENISE FAJARDO**

Brazil

Program Coordinator, Iepé

Nia Tero works with and through tribal nations and organizations across North America to enable and strengthen Indigenous guardianship of lands and waters.

We partner with Indigenous Nations that promote territorial guardianship and cultural revitalization, sustaining trusted partnerships and reaffirming Indigenous sovereignty.

NORTH AMERICA







NORTH AMERICA

Impact Highlights

Nia Tero's work in North America helps to strengthen Indigenous stewardship of territories by fostering cultural vitality, governance, and sovereignty across the region. In 2023, Nia Tero continued our partnerships with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI) and deepened our relationship with the Blackfeet Nation, the Blackfoot Confederacy, and the Heiltsuk Nation. We sharpened our focus on funding the efforts of three Indigenous-led organizations to strengthen and expand Indigenous Peoples' guardianship of territories both within and beyond the boundaries of reserves and reservations.

Heiltsuk Nation

Deepening ties with the Heiltsuk Nation, Nia Tero continued its support of the Nation's **cultural revitalization, food security programs and guardianship work**, with land and waters monitoring, youth engagement, and governance and leadership efforts.

Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI)

Nia Tero strengthened partnerships with ILI and the First Nations National Guardian Network in Canada, **supporting the growth of Indigenous guardians programs from coast to coast**. The success of this initiative over the years resulted in the Canadian federal government's recognition of the efficacy of Indigenous guardianship in environmental conservation. This federal recognition included a dedicated investment of \$800 million in Canadian dollars in long-term funding structures for Indigenous-led guardianship and conservation across Canada. A traditional Innu gathering structure was erected on Parliament Hill, publicly symbolizing and acknowledging the benefits that First Nations guardians programs generate for lands and waters across Canada. These benefits include climate resilience and biodiversity conservation, as well as betterment of social issues, including job creation, and sustaining and revitalizing Indigenous cultures and languages.

Blackfeet Nation

Deepening our long-standing partnership with the Blackfeet Nation and more broadly the Blackfoot Confederacy, Nia Tero helped support Blackfeet historic actions, including **significant cultural revitalization efforts on the Blackfeet Nation** – retiring grazing leases and reintroducing native buffalo,

and fostering abundant ecosystems and thriving guardianship in Blackfeet Territory. The Blackfeet call their guardians “Shield Keepers.” Shield Keepers are becoming a major force for Indigenous-led conservation on tribal lands. The release of the bison in an area of sacred cultural significance in the Blackfeet reservation was a powerful act of reclamation and assertion of sovereignty, occurring over a century after the bison were on the edge of extinction and the tribe having suffered so much settler trauma and devastation.

U.S. Indigenous Guardian Network

Collaborating closely with multiple organizations, including ILI and others, Nia Tero helped **host a series of national virtual conversations with Indigenous leaders from the United States to explore interest in creating a U.S. Indigenous Guardian Network**. Interest in the U.S. Indigenous guardianship and stewardship movement is gaining traction from numerous factors, including through commitments from the U.S. Department of the Interior, reflecting a growing recognition of Indigenous stewardship in land protection. The U.S. Indigenous Guardian Network conversations were a space for sharing, learning, and planning for a national in-person gathering to take place in 2024.

\$700K
2023 GRANTS





“

The partnership with Nia Tero is not just a one-dimensional, one-sided relationship. It is a two-way reciprocal relationship... All these things that we've been doing have just been planting seeds all over the place. Now, we're starting to see them take root. The culture is starting to be very visible in our community and is thriving. More and more people are connecting to it. They can see that our culture isn't in the history books - we're living it today.

~ **LONA RUNNING WOLF**

Blackfeet, Haida, Little Shell Cree
Blackfeet Nation

Nia Tero's partners across the Pacific Islands work at multiple levels to build institutional and political systems that support Indigenous lifeways in customary lands and ocean.

The independent nation states of the Pacific are predominantly Indigenous in population and government. Indigenous guardianship at an oceanic scale is being realized through policy and action at community subnational and national levels.

PASIFIKA





Impact Highlights

Nia Tero works alongside Pasifika Peoples to strengthen guardianship in the face of challenges from post-colonial administrative and state structures, as well as threats from large-scale industrial logging, mining, and fishing.

In 2023, we maintained our partnerships with Indigenous Peoples living in five independent Indigenous countries and one colonial territory: Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kanaky/New Caledonia, and Cook Islands.

We funded the efforts of Indigenous Peoples' organizations and their trusted allies who are supporting diverse Pasifika Peoples across the region to sustain and strengthen their guardianship through customary practices of land and sea management.

\$2.6M

2023 GRANTS

Solomon Islands

The Islands Knowledge Institute (IKI), a core Nia Tero partner, facilitated an agreement among Solomon Islands government agencies to refrain from resource exploitation in the Tina River catchment, showcasing Indigenous sovereignty and territorial protection. Additionally, IKI supported the initiation of a postgraduate program in Indigenous Islands Knowledges and Futures at Solomon Islands National University (SINU), empowering future leaders in Indigenous guardianship and knowledge systems.

Nia Tero's support for the Mala I Tolo initiative and Mai Maasina Green Belt partners in Malaita is transforming education by integrating traditional language and knowledge into the curriculum, fostering Indigenous stewardship and leadership among students.

Vanuatu

In 2023, Nia Tero began supporting an innovative approach to forest conservation, piloted by the Vanuatu Department of Forests in partnership with the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and the New York Botanical Garden, that builds on hundreds of years of Indigenous values-based forest management practice to provide answers to contemporary challenges of deforestation.

Palau

In 2023, the ocean and reef protection efforts of our North Pacific partner, One Reef, featured completion of a Traditional Stewardship curriculum, as well as engaging youth in building a Diangel (traditional canoe house) and a 23' kaeb (traditional canoe). The Diangel now serves as an alternative learning space, fostering education, knowledge exchange, and biocultural revitalization.

Papua New Guinea

In Papua New Guinea, Project Sepik has been collaborating with allied organization, Jubilee Australia Research Centre, to ensure that the Indigenous Peoples of the Sepik Basin properly exercise their right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) regarding the proposed development of a gold and copper mine adjacent to an upper tributary of the Sepik. Sepik River peoples have been engaged in a years-long battle to defend the health of the river – which hundreds of thousands of people along the river depend on and to which they hold deep spiritual and cultural connections.

In the New Guinea Islands, Nia Tero has contributed to the reinvigoration of ocean canoe culture among the Titan people of Manus – replanting canoe trees, building back canoe houses, sailing-canoe racing, and plans to re-energize customary inter-island trade using sailing canoes – reconnecting people with their ocean homelands and nurturing ocean guardianship.

Cook Islands

Nia Tero partner, Kōrero O Te 'Ōrau, continued to lead its work reconnecting Indigenous youth with the land and sea and thus cultivating the next generation of guardians. By the end of 2023, their Operation Taramaea program, which takes youth out onto the reef to harvest invasive Taramaea (Crown of Thorns starfish), had removed over 8300 of these dangerous reef-destroying invasives. The youth then used the Taramaea as fertilizer as they learned to plant and nurture traditional food gardens.





“

In the Pacific, all the states are majority Indigenous People states. We have people who came from the land, from the sea, and we understand this concept of managing the resources because we've done it for generations, and it's a matter of making sure we don't lose it as we become more globalized. We need to ensure that is maintained in the future, because it is the only proven sustainable way of managing our resources.

~ **RALPH REGENVANU**

Uripiv of Malakua Island (Vanuatu)
Artist, Anthropologist, Politician
Advisory Council, Nia Tero



WAYFINDER CIRCLE



SÁMIID
RIIKKASEARVI

LHOBA

GABBRA

JU HOANSU
NYA NYAE

HIN LAD NAI

SUNGAI UTIK

WARDDEKEN

QQS PROJECTS SOCIETY
(HEILTSUK NATION)

BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY

NATIVE AMERICAN
LAND CONSERVANCY

MAYANGNA NATION

ACHUAR NATION
WAMPIS NATION

RAPA NUI



The Wayfinders Circle is a collaborative initiative and platform dedicated to unleashing the transformative potential of Indigenous lifeways. It inspires people to reimagine development, conservation, and their relationships with each other and Mother Earth. The Wayfinders Circle amplifies Indigenous leadership that manifests a time-tested understanding of human responsibility to Mother Earth. Nia Tero, the Pawanka Fund, and the World Union of Indigenous Spiritual Practitioners (WUISP) have supported the Wayfinders Circle as conveners since its inception in 2019.

Impact Highlights

The Wayfinders Circle took critical steps throughout 2023, enhancing its alliances and sociocultural representation while strengthening its purpose and expanding its resources.

We also made a vital shift as we continued the transition from virtual to face-to-face member gatherings, creating space for members to deepen relationships and intercultural sharing. The engagements throughout the year brought the Wayfinders Circle forward in its goal for members to ultimately take the lead in organizing and governing the network in the years to come as it continues to expand.

Expanded Membership

In October of 2023, The Wayfinders Circle reached a milestone – **expanding to 15 members globally**, as the Ju/'hoansi (Nyae Nyae Conservancy and Community Forest) from Namibia joined the alliance.

With this, the Wayfinders Circle achieved its goal of increasing diversity and representation across all seven socio-cultural regions of the world: 1) Africa, 2) Arctic, 3) Asia, 4) Central, South America, and the Caribbean, 5) Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, 6) North America, 7) Pacific.

This diversity also spans across geographies, ecosystems, and governance systems – strengthening the possibilities for sharing and learning between members. We also saw the impact of this exchange as the Hin Lad Nai from Thailand and the Lhoba from Nepal – who joined in 2022 – became increasingly active in their membership throughout 2023.

Member Gathering

Following the first in-person all-member gathering in Ecuador in October 2022, several members of the Wayfinders Circle were able to meet in August 2023 during a regional gathering hosted by the Blackfoot Confederacy. This gathering took place during a very special moment with the protection and blessing from the high mountains of the Blackfeet Territory, in Montana, USA, **providing the opportunity for participants to engage in cultural activities and knowledge exchange.**

The gathering offered a chance for the Wayfinders Circle members in attendance to learn more about the culture and peoples of the Blackfoot Confederacy, their ancestral buffalo management practices, their ceremonies and spirituality, strategies for intergenerational transmission of knowledge, language preservation, and the challenges they face. Attendees also spent time with eight members of the WUISP, who traveled many days from their homelands in Asia to be there in body, mind, and spirit.



\$1.1M
2023 GRANTS

Film Production

We completed production of seven short films guided by and developed in partnership with the Wayfinders Circle members. We also **hired an impact producer to identify and act on opportunities to engage with external audiences**, inspiring change in support of issues identified by the members featured. The films are set to premiere in 2024.

Strengthened Governance

The Wayfinders Circle hired a facilitator – its first fully-dedicated employee – to strengthen internal governance and communication between members. By doing so, members can step up to represent it externally, engaging with decision-makers and other stakeholders as part of this strong alliance of Indigenous guardians, leaders, and spiritual guides.



Our message as Wayfinders is a simple yet profound reminder that we are all children of Mother Earth and should embrace a way of life grounded in the laws of nature.

The Wayfinders Circle can inspire others by prompting us to ask a fundamental question: ‘Who and what are we without our Mother Earth? Without her waters and resources?’

If we desire sustainable living and development, we must wholeheartedly adhere to the laws of Mother Nature. These laws are unchangeable and unalterable; we must simply revitalize a life rooted in the profound understanding that we, humans, are an indivisible, organic part of the single organism known as Planet Earth.

~ **SULTAN SARYGULOV**

Kyrgyz (Kyrgyzstan)

World Union of Indigenous Spiritual Practitioners





Nia Tero works with Indigenous Peoples around the world to ensure that relevant global, national, and regional policies strongly support Indigenous guardianship, and reflect and align with Indigenous spirituality and culture. Nia Tero's Policy work is driven by the belief that there should be no decisions made about Indigenous territories without Indigenous Peoples' agreement and deep engagement.



Impact Highlights

Nia Tero's policy efforts play a pivotal role in advancing the rights and recognition of Indigenous Peoples in policy forums.

In 2023, we worked alongside Indigenous leaders and policymakers to elevate their participation and leadership in global policy events, and in shaping frameworks and policies prioritizing Indigenous guardianship contributing to biodiversity protection and climate action.

Human Rights

In 2023, we supported and guided the participation of our partners from Peru and Colombia in the EMRIP session focused on the impact of militarization in Indigenous territories. Additionally, we accompanied them during the 54th session of the Human Rights Council. For our partner in Colombia (OPIAC), we supported and accompanied their participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) session, during which Colombia was under review. Lastly, we supported the participation of Indigenous leaders from OPIAC and the Siona people in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) hearing.

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

Collaborating with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and other partners, we successfully advocated for the inclusion of “respect for Indigenous and Traditional Territories” in Target 3 of the KMGBF. This achievement highlights the recognition of Indigenous guardianship as a crucial strategy for protecting the Earth.

Policy Trainings

Our policy trainings, focusing on the KMGBF, have empowered **over 100 Indigenous youth and women from 15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean**. Collaborations with Indigenous People Rights International (IPRI) and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples (UNVFIP) extended training programs to 50-70 Indigenous individuals across multiple continents, enhancing their ability to engage with UN treaty bodies.

\$2.3M
2023 GRANTS



African Regional Alliance on Community Conservation

Nia Tero supported the establishment of the Alliance on Indigenous and local communities for conservation in Africa (AICA). The inaugural gathering highlighted critical issues such as conservation-related displacement in Tanzania and land rights challenges in Namibia and Kenya, emphasizing the need for inclusive, Indigenous-led conservation models.

Indigenous Peoples' Engagement in Climate Events

We facilitated an Indigenous presence in climate events such as New York Climate Week and Regional Climate Weeks in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific. These efforts broadened Indigenous engagement and capacity building in preparation for substantial involvement at COP 28.



REFORESTING OUR MINDS



Watch this video from the 22nd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as Indigenous leaders from around the world share messages on the significance of this political meeting, goals for the Forum, and what makes this gathering of Indigenous Peoples so unique.

www.NiaTero.org/unpfii2023



“

Ensuring and respecting land rights represents a risk reduction strategy for all of humanity, not just for the people seeking to invest in lands inhabited by the [Indigenous] Peoples who manage them best.

~ **JENNIFER TAULI CORPUZ**

Kankana-ey Igorot (Philippines)

Global Policy and Advocacy Lead, Nia Tero



STORYTELL

Nia Tero's Storytelling work focuses on elevating and amplifying Indigenous voices, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and promoting awareness of Indigenous guardianship in collective territories globally. Our emphasis is on establishing trust-based relationships with Indigenous Peoples, their organizations, and proven allies. This work is done through our Seedcast podcast, film productions, public art activations, festivals, workshops, fellowships, and grants.



Impact Highlights

Storytelling builds a heightened awareness of the impact of Indigenous Peoples' cultural practices of reciprocity.

Nia Tero's Storytelling team centered Indigenous creatives and narratives in 2023 through collaborations with Indigenous storytellers across mediums, showcasing the power of Indigenous voices in driving social change and celebrating Indigenous cultural vitality.

Seedcast Podcast

Seedcast is Nia Tero's story-centered, Webby-nominated podcast where we dig up, nurture, and root stories of the Indigenous experience from around the world. In 2023, we completed the third season of Seedcast, producing 65 podcast episodes to date. The podcast secured first and second place in the 2023 National Native Media Awards by the Indigenous Journalists Association for our commitment to high-quality, impactful content.

Reciprocity Project

Facing a climate crisis, the Reciprocity Project embraces Indigenous value systems that have bolstered communities since the dawn of humanity. In 2023, in partnership with Upstander Project and REI, we completed seven films for the project's second season. They were produced by Indigenous filmmakers globally, centering on the theme of "return" to culture and Indigenous teachings. They were screened in multiple festivals, receiving several awards, including the 2023 Anthem Award and 2023 Golden Winner of Special Projects, as well as a San Francisco/Northern California Regional Emmy. The film "Pili Ka Mo'o" also won a Northern California Regional Emmy.

Kin Theory

Kin Theory, an initiative of Nia Tero, is a global Indigenous media makers database creating media connections that support narrative sovereignty and cultural vitality. In 2023, Kin Theory engaged with media makers at events globally, including film festivals like Blackstar and Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. At Big Sky, we hosted a DocShop panel on "Caring for Story by Caring for Community." Throughout the year, we also held virtual office hours with Kin Theory members. Additionally, the initiative had a full visual rebrand and official website launch.

The Wayfinders Films

In collaboration with the Wayfinders Circle, in 2023 we completed production of seven short films about Wayfinders Circle members. The stories were driven by and co-produced with the members. The films will premiere and be distributed in 2024.



WAYFINDERS
CIRCLE



RECIPROCITY
PROJECT



SEEDCAST

KIN
THEORY





“

*The land is our mother.
The forest is our father.
And the river is our blood.*

It's a saying that I've heard so many times growing up, and even now my grandpa still says it all the time. That is the way we, the Iban people, live and how we perceive nature—as something that's part of ourselves. I just hope that this film can reach people—people that can make a difference so that they can stop looking at the forest as a commodity, and really treat it as if it were our own bodies.

Excerpt from Seedcast Season 3:
The Omen Birds Still Sing in Sungai Utik

~ **KYNAN TEGAR**

Dayak Iban, Sungai Utik (Borneo)
Filmmaker, Director of Indai Apai Darah
(Mother, Father, Blood)





Nia Tero offers multiple fellowships to support Indigenous Peoples' creative endeavors, community leadership, policy-making, and cultural continuity. Through structured support and mentorship, our fellowships build the capacity of Indigenous guardians and emerging leaders.



IPS



Impact Highlights

Nia Tero's fellowship programs nurture the next generation of Indigenous leaders, advocates, and creatives. Fellowship opportunities are a pathway toward holistic networking and skill-building amongst Indigenous Peoples in their specific fields. The impact of our 2023 fellowship programs and trainings is evident in the increased visibility and influence of Indigenous Peoples in governance, policy, and media. Fellows contributed to significant policy dialogues and cultural projects, underscoring the effectiveness of fostering leadership skills, advocacy, and creativity.

Policy Apprenticeship

The Policy Apprenticeship program provided cohort-oriented support, linking Indigenous leaders with policy apprentices to navigate intricate policy areas at the United Nations.

In 2023, we co-organized 14 online trainings and 3 in-person meetings with the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, including at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII). For the online trainings, we had over 2,000 participants.

Apprentices successfully delivered statements on behalf of the Indigenous Caucus in major global meetings, and many have secured positions within their nominating organizations. These achievements showcase the program's success in developing skilled advocates.

At the 2023 UNPFII in NYC, Nia Tero's Policy and Communications teams joined forces with the UN to organize a communications training for Indigenous partners. It included

practice pitching media, presenting UN interventions, and social media tactics.

By linking Indigenous leaders and mentors with policy apprentices, the program addresses complex policy areas at the UN and ensures sustained advocacy for Indigenous rights and guardianship. Looking ahead, our Policy Apprenticeship program will continue strengthening Indigenous organizations' influence on global and national policies.

Creative Fellowships

Through our Storytelling efforts, we supported **four creative fellowships** managed by Nia Tero or with partners, including the **4th World Media Lab, NATIVe Stand, Storytelling Fellowship, and Pacific Northwest Art Fellowship.**

Creative fellows gathered and engaged at multiple events throughout 2023, including at Big Sky Film Festival for film screenings and panels, and at the 2023 Seattle



International Film Festival (SIFF), where the fellowship program hosted musician Jeremy Dutcher with a live recorded performance and conversation at KEXP.

We brought together 22 fellows, fostering creative and environmental leadership, including six in-person gatherings, resulting in achievements such as two fellows being elected to tribal councils based on their platforms of creativity and environmental advocacy. Additionally, four fellows and grantees had their work accepted into the Sundance Film Festival in January 2023.

Leadership Fellowship

The Leadership Fellows Program is a year-long hybrid Indigenous leadership training designed to strengthen emergent leaders from Nia Tero's trust-based partnerships. The program focuses on leadership development and succession, prioritizing culture, identity, and self-determination. **In 2023, 14 fellows (Achuar, Akawaio, Patamona, Wayana, and**

Tiriyó) participated in three training workshops in Achuar (Ecuador), Makushi (Guyana), and Wayana (Suriname) territories. Fellows are currently in the project implementation phase, executing activities in coordination with their local leadership. Some projects include community-based tourism, cultural revitalization, organic farming, airstrip maintenance, and youth skills training.

Origins Fellowship

The Origins Fellowship **launched its inaugural cohort in Central and Inner Asia**, led by our partners at the World Union of Indigenous Spiritual Practitioners (WUISP) through its Secretariat Arga Billig NGO. This innovative intergenerational program paired young Indigenous artists with spiritual elders, fostering cultural exchange and mentorship. It modeled mutual learning guided by elders, emphasizing connection to the land, creative expression, and self-reflection, while cultivating a fresh approach to nurturing Indigenous talent.

REFLECTIONS FROM
THE 2023 AMAZONIA
LEADERSHIP FELLOWS



The second cohort of Nia Tero’s Leadership Fellows Program, comprised of emerging Indigenous leaders from across the Amazon, share highlights from their time together in 2023.

www.NiaTero.org/LeadershipFellowship2023



“

With all the spaces that were given to me and all the challenges that I faced, I think my dream is to become a great leader of my people and to make changes in the present society.

~ **KEMAL ROBINSON**

Patamona, Kato (Guyana)

Amazonia Leadership Fellow





INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the guidance of our Indigenous partners, Nia Tero enables investments in infrastructure that strengthens their guardianship of territory. Our objective is to strengthen Indigenous organizations and all elements of their guardianship – sovereignty, governance, territorial protection, cultural vitality, and financial sustainability – through technology, innovation, and infrastructure.



ON &
UCTURE



Impact Highlights

In 2023, Nia Tero funded projects aimed at integrating energy, transportation and satellite telecommunication solutions within collective territories. An inspiring example is the growing work of our grantee Fundacion Kara Solar in the Achuar nation of Ecuador. These initiatives are not only developed in consultation with our Indigenous partners, but are also intended to be led and run by Indigenous Peoples from within their communities.

Solar Transportation

For Nia Tero's grantee, Fundacion Kara Solar, it all started with early morning dreams in the Achuar rainforest of a future where a fire energy canoe would be used by the Achuar to travel across their extensive territories in peace. Humble beginnings saw electric boat prototypes struggle to survive in the difficult environment of the Ecuadorian Amazon back in 2018. However, by the end of 2023, there are now **over 10 solar electric boats deployed at the hands of the Achuar of Ecuador, the Wampis of Peru, the Wayana and Baniwa of Suriname and Brazil and the Malaitans of Solomon Islands** – all in direct collaboration with Fundacion Kara Solar and Nia Tero.

In Ecuador alone, over 2,000 solar-powered trips have been made by the Achuar so far, rendering gasoline obsolete for all but the longest trips. Recharge stations have been constructed, Indigenous technicians have been trained and bigger dreams are at work, with Achuar teams building their own sustainable Achuar infrastructure of boats, solar energy, cold storage, and satellite internet – all

deployed and managed by the Achuar on their own terms, showing their Indigenous cousins what can be done at scale.

At the end of 2023, the leadership of Kara Solar passed from founder Oliver Utne to the Achuar engineer Nantu Canelos, a Nia Tero Fellow, whose leadership will be rooted more-than-ever in Achuar practices, such as early morning guayusa – the collective dream interpretation sessions in which key community decisions are made.

Enterprise Investments

In 2023, we consulted with our regional team members to review existing potential investment opportunities while concurrently refining our investment principles to ensure alignment with Nia Tero's mission and purpose. We also started an imaging process of the possible approaches to enterprise investment that would be best aligned with Nia Tero's mission while always centering the self-determined needs of our partners.





“

Here at Fundacion Kara Solar, our project is often perceived as just an electric-boat story, experimenting with technological innovation in the rainforest of Amazonia. With Nia Tero, we found a partner who was capable of seeing beyond the boats and helping our project be truly anchored in Achuar territory and culture. Nia Tero always supported us when we imagined that the true potential of Kara Solar was to have Achuar technicians build and operate these electric boats under Achuar leadership.

We shared a common dream, and it is now working out beautifully.

~ **NANTU CANELOS**

Achuar (Ecuador)

Executive Director, Fundacion Kara Solar



A close-up photograph of several bright green grass blades lying on a dark, textured wooden surface. In the lower right corner, there are several dark, textured berries, some of which are red and appear to be raspberries. The background is blurred, showing more of the wooden surface and some greenery.

**GRANTN
& FINAN**

GRANTS BY PROGRAM

GRANTS BY REGION

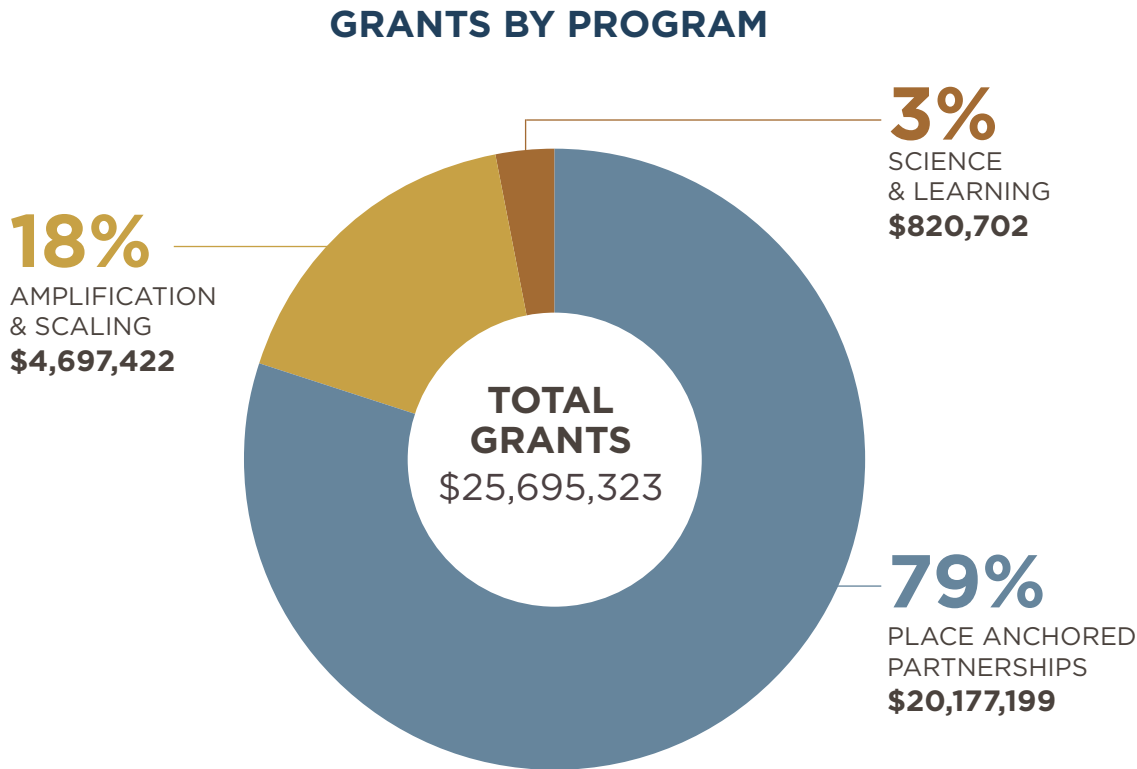
EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

2023 TOTALS

**MAKING
FINANCIALS**

2023 Grantmaking

Nia Tero is proud to provide grants, contracts, and technical assistance directly to Indigenous Peoples’ organizations, networks, and trusted allies based on our partners’ self-determined needs. In 2023, we distributed a total of 122 grants and 24 fellowships to our partners, totaling over \$25.6 million in U.S. dollars, representing a 47% increase in grants from 2022.



GRANTS BY PROGRAM



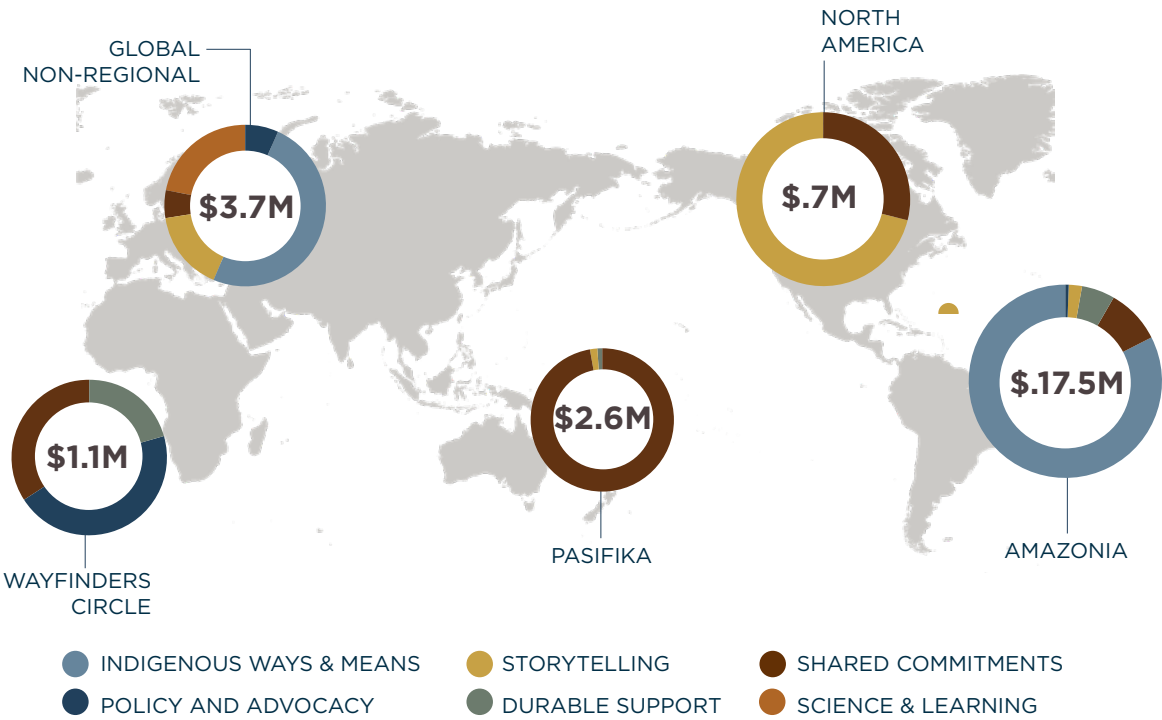
FELLOWSHIPS BY PROGRAM



2023 Grantmaking

CONTINUED

GRANTS BY REGION



**Nia Tero
directly funds
Indigenous
Peoples.**

60%
of Nia Tero's 2023
budget was allocated
to grantmaking

When you factor
in our program work,
the number is up to
85%
of our budget



SINCE INCEPTION

681

Total Grants Distributed

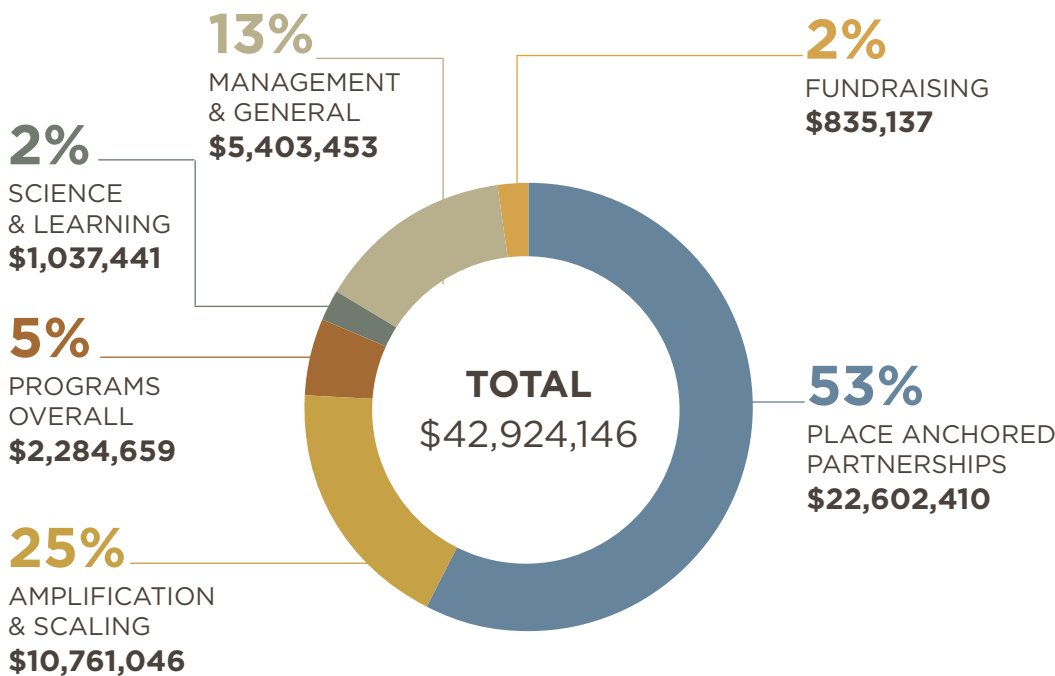
\$85M

Total Amount Granted
including multi-year commitments

2023 Financials

In 2023, Nia Tero raised a total of \$27.5 million in revenue from a growing portfolio of supporters from around the world who share our values and commitment to our work. As planned, we covered our expenses with restricted and unrestricted assets that are designed to fund our multi-year grantmaking commitments. In 2023, 85% of our nearly \$43 million in expenditures focused on our program delivery to support the self-determined needs of Indigenous Peoples and to plan an active role in accelerating true allyship globally. The remaining 15% supported our management, administrative, and fundraising capacities. We are moving into 2024 with a healthy financial outlook that enables us to directly fund Indigenous Peoples as they protect their homelands and waters.

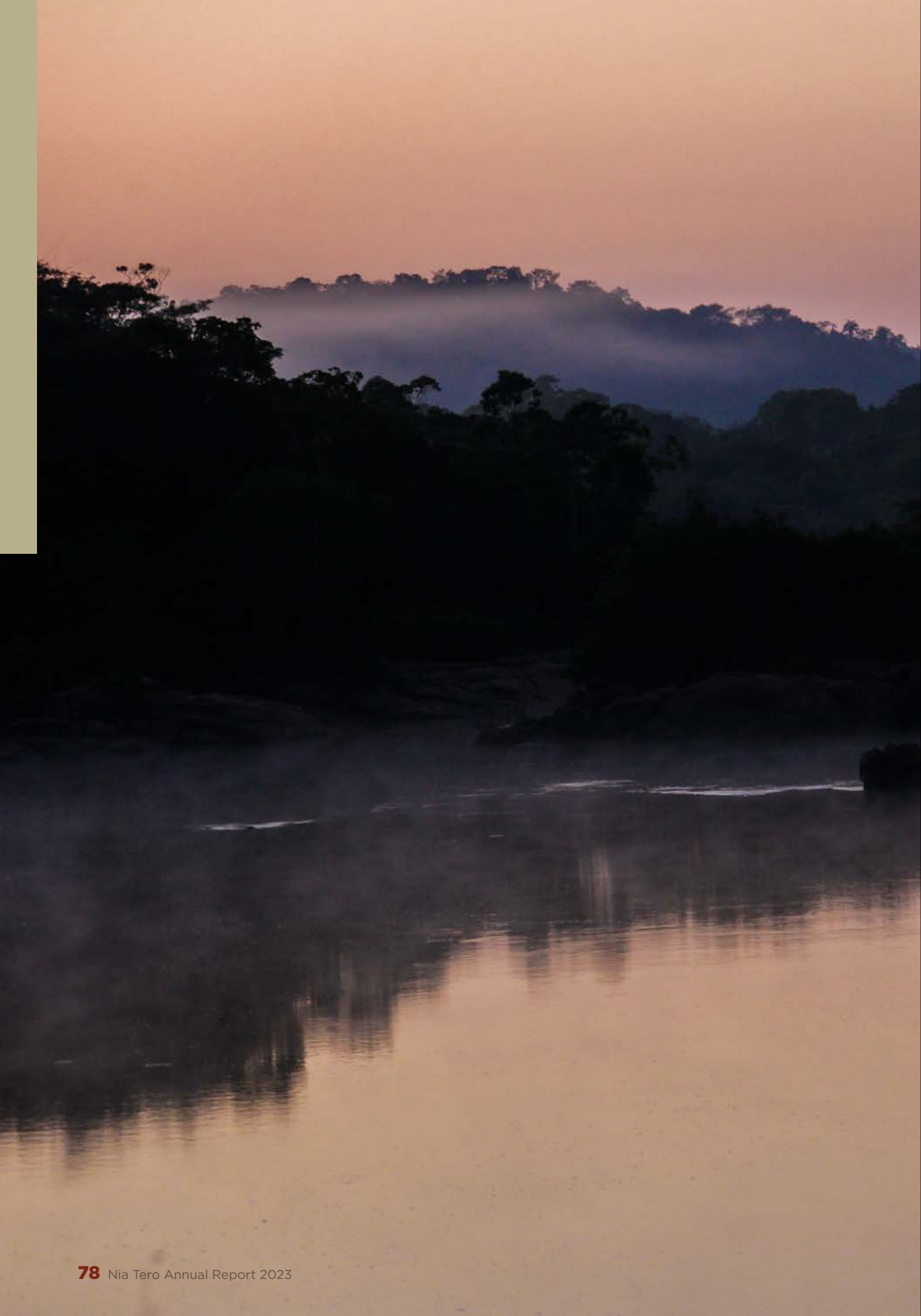
EXPENSES BY PROGRAM

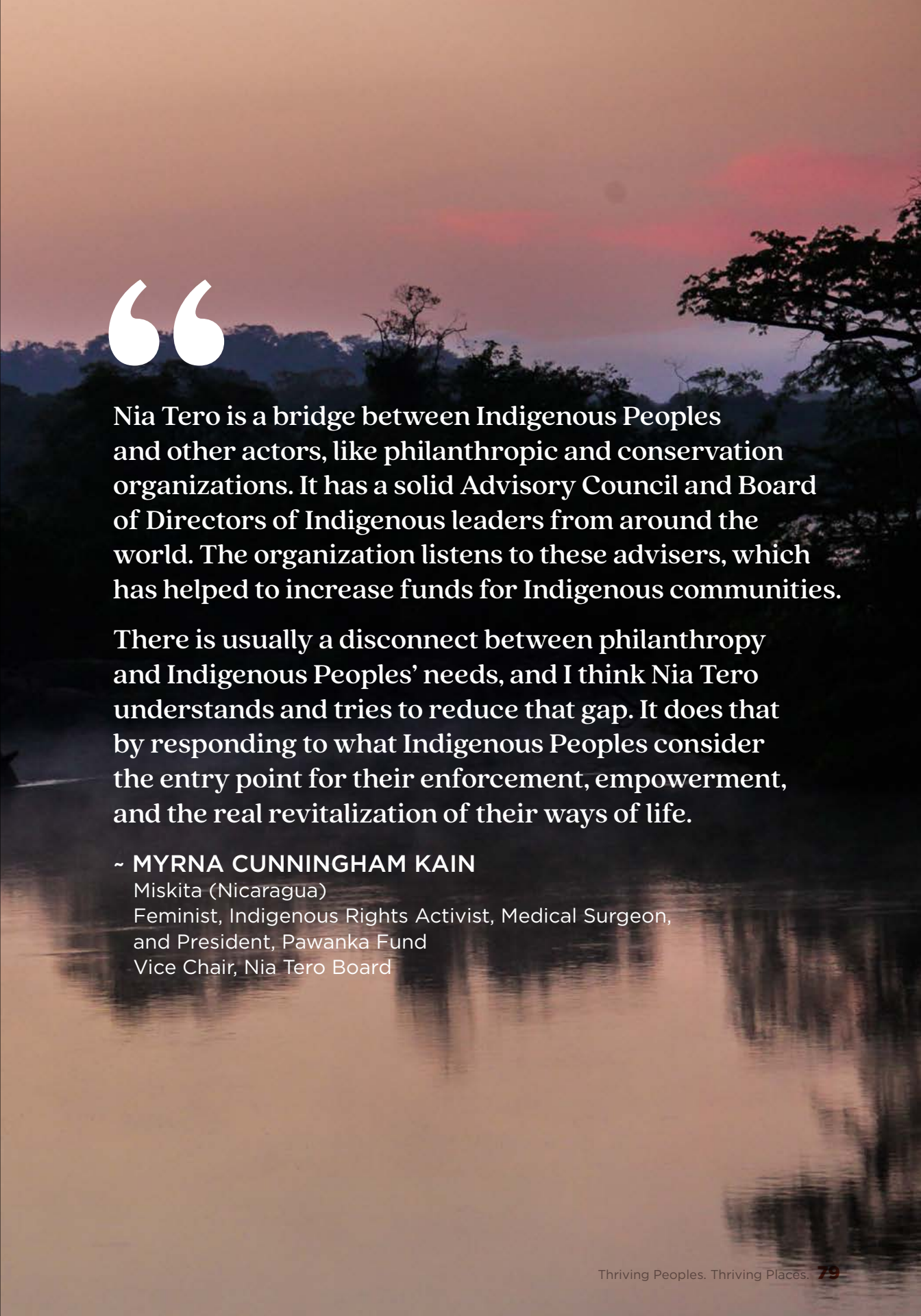


STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Statement of activities and changes in net assets for the year ended December 31, 2023.

	2023			2022
	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	TOTAL	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUES				
Contributions and grants	10,189,928	13,253,866	23,443,794	19,887,594
Contract revenue	63,182	-	63,182	106,360
Net Investment Gain/Loss	3,928,539	-	3,928,539	(1,140,082)
Other revenue (Loss)	(9,885)		(9,885)	2,202
Net assets released from donor restrictions	18,090,093	(18,090,093)	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	32,261,857	(4,836,227)	27,425,630	18,856,074
EXPENSES				
PROGRAM SERVICES				
Place Anchored Partnerships	22,602,410	-	22,602,410	16,070,778
Amplification and Scaling	10,761,046	-	10,761,046	8,606,062
Science and Learning	1,037,440	-	1,037,440	1,680,974
Program Overall	2,284,660	-	2,284,660	2,596,407
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	36,685,556	-	36,685,556	28,954,221
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
Management and General	5,403,453	-	5,403,453	4,199,972
Fundraising	835,137	-	835,137	525,718
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	6,238,590	-	6,238,590	4,725,690
TOTAL EXPENSES	42,924,146	-	42,924,146	33,679,911
Changes in Net Assets	(10,662,289)	(4,836,228)	(15,498,516)	(14,823,837)
Net Assets at beggining of year	77,430,328	21,876,613	99,306,941	114,130,778
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	66,768,039	17,040,385	83,808,425	99,306,941





Nia Tero is a bridge between Indigenous Peoples and other actors, like philanthropic and conservation organizations. It has a solid Advisory Council and Board of Directors of Indigenous leaders from around the world. The organization listens to these advisers, which has helped to increase funds for Indigenous communities.

There is usually a disconnect between philanthropy and Indigenous Peoples' needs, and I think Nia Tero understands and tries to reduce that gap. It does that by responding to what Indigenous Peoples consider the entry point for their enforcement, empowerment, and the real revitalization of their ways of life.

~ **MYRNA CUNNINGHAM KAIN**

Miskita (Nicaragua)

Feminist, Indigenous Rights Activist, Medical Surgeon,
and President, Pawanka Fund
Vice Chair, Nia Tero Board



OUR



TEAM

OUR TEAM

Global Team

Nia Tero is a U.S.-based non-profit comprised of Indigenous and non-Indigenous team members working globally with Indigenous Peoples committed to guardianship of their territories.

Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders came together in 2017 to found Nia Tero. We are a global bridging organization, occupying the spaces between diverse knowledge systems and values, bringing Indigenous Peoples and allies together for dialogue and partnership grounded in reciprocity as we collectively work toward the goal of Indigenous guardianship everywhere possible on Earth.

Our staff and colleagues are based across Amazonia, the Pacific Islands, Asia, and North America, with a large contingent in our home office in Seattle, Washington (USA). We speak many languages – predominantly English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French – plus a wide range of Indigenous languages.

Our Board of Directors is similarly diverse in background and expertise, and a majority are Indigenous. The Board is accountable for providing counsel, insight, oversight, and direction on our strategy. Our global Indigenous Advisory Council provides non-fiduciary guidance and wisdom. Regional Indigenous advisory groups also provide region-specific guidance and wisdom to our place-anchored work.

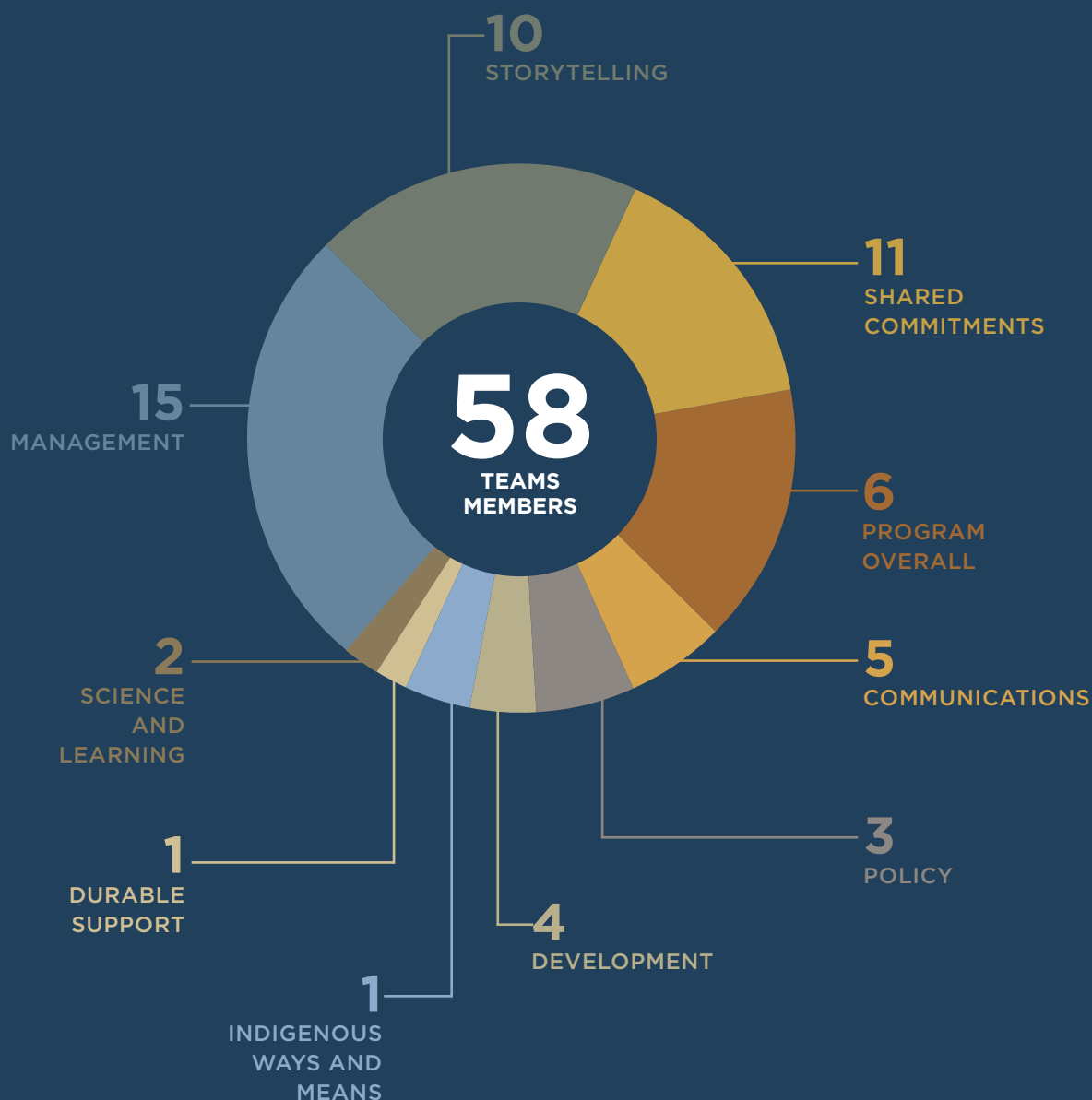
2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Home Week: In August, our full global team gathered in Coast Salish territory for “Home Week.” Throughout our time together, we built community, reflected on our first six years as an organization, and worked together to imagine and step forward into the future of our organization and achieving our mission.

New Headquarters: After over a year of searching, we identified a new office space for Nia Tero’s Seattle headquarters and welcomed the team into our newly renovated space in mid-September as Indigenous spiritual leader, Chenoa Egawa (Coast Salish of the Lummi and S’Kallam Nations), opened the new office space. We are excited for this next chapter in Seattle.

Growing Our Team Globally: We welcomed 11 new team members to Nia Tero, including for the new role of Chief Strategy & External Relations Officer on our executive team. By the end of 2023, we had 58 team members, living across 12 countries globally, including within our key regions of work.

GLOBAL AND U.S.-BASED TEAMS BY DEPARTMENTS



OUR TEAM

Board of Directors

The Nia Tero Board of Directors is composed of the founding partners, other individuals of goodwill, and globally-recognized representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.



JOSEPH WILLIAMS

Māori
BOARD CHAIR 2023



**MYRNA
CUNNINGHAM KAIN**
Miskita
VICE CHAIR



PAUL KLINGENSTEIN
VICE CHAIR



**ANNE MARIE
BURGOYNE**



BRENDA PIPESTEM
Eastern Band
of Cherokee Indians



KEVIN STARR



LIAM KOKAUI
Ngāti Arera



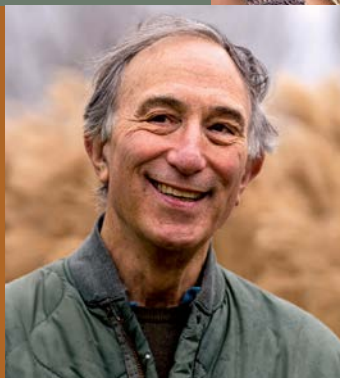
**MICHAEL
CROW**



NAINOA THOMPSON
Kanaka Maoli



NEMONTE NENQUIMO
Waorani



PETER SELIGMANN



VICKY TAUI-CORPUZ
Kankana-ey Igorot
BOARD CHAIR 2017 - 2022



YO-YO MA



OUR TEAM

Advisory Council

The Nia Tero Advisory Council is comprised of Indigenous leaders and two expert philanthropic observers guiding the growth of Nia Tero’s institutional culture and relationships

towards a global set of partnerships that can amplify Indigenous Peoples’ voices and influence, secure thriving land and sea within their territories, and fulfill the Nia Tero mission.

AROHA TE PAREAKE MEAD

Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Porou, Tuhourangi,
Ngāi Tuhoe and Ngāti Tūwharetoa (Māori)
Tribes, Aotearoa/New Zealand



DOMINIQUE BIKABA

Bashi Tribe, Eastern Congo,
Democratic Republic
of Congo



GUNN-BRITT RETTER

Saami, Unjárga-Nesseby
by Varangerfjord,
North-Eastern Norway



JOJI CARINO
Ibaloi-Igorot,
Cordillera Region
of the Philippines



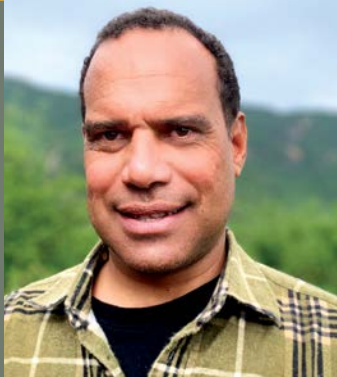
**LAURA
HATTENDORF**
Observer



OLE KAUNGA MALI
Laikipia Maasai, Kenya



RALPH REGENVANU
Uripiv of Malakua Island,
Vanuatu



SHERRI MITCHELL
Penobscot Nation,
Penawahpskek



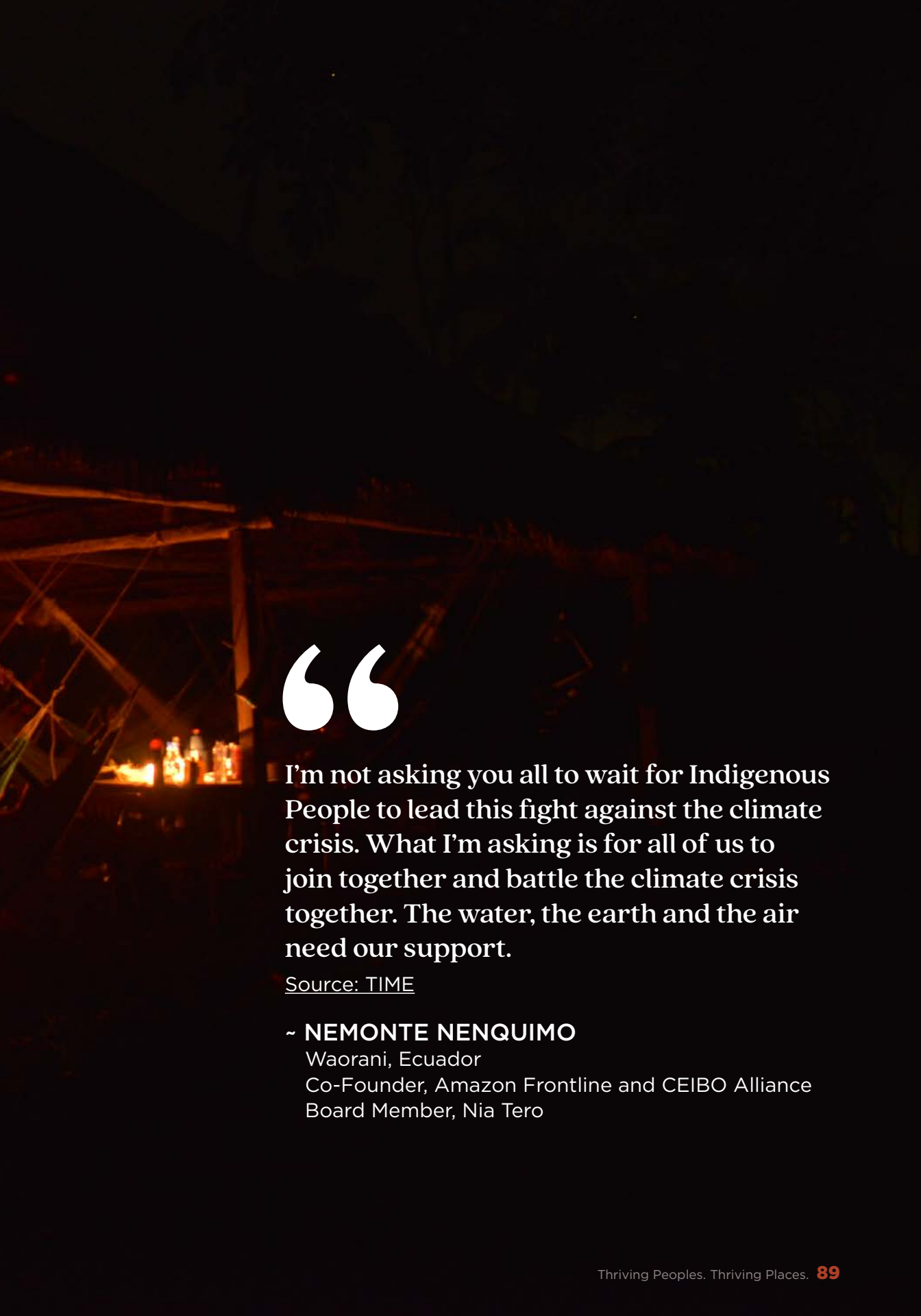
STEPHANIE PLATZ
Observer



VIVIANA FIGUEROA
Omaguaca-Kolla, Indigenous
from the Jujuy Province
of Argentina







“

I'm not asking you all to wait for Indigenous People to lead this fight against the climate crisis. What I'm asking is for all of us to join together and battle the climate crisis together. The water, the earth and the air need our support.

Source: TIME

~ **NEMONTE NENQUIMO**

Worani, Ecuador

Co-Founder, Amazon Frontline and CEIBO Alliance
Board Member, Nia Tero



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GRATITUDE

Credits

Annual Report Team: Cindy Chischilly, Nichlas Emmons, Hill Ossip, Alex Robinson, Bruno Weis

Design: Renata Zincone | **Copy Editing:** Kim Baca | **Spanish Translation:** Leslie Benzakein

Contributors: Marc Ballandras, Joel Cerda, Bryan Gunnar Cole, David Cook, John Davis, Chris Filardi, Ashley Green, Lauren Guzauskas, Erjen Khamaganova, Monique Lada, Eleni Ledesma, Daniela Lerda, Mariana Lopez, Margarita Mora, Marianna Olinger, Michael Painter, Luana Polinesio, David Rothschild, Paul Roughan, Peter Seligmann, Jessica Schroeder, Catherine Sparks, Jennifer Tauli Corpuz, 'Aulani Wilhelm

Photography: Cover: Traditional house (Palau, Pasifika) by Luke Scott Fernandez; **p.3** Top to bottom: Headdress Enawene-Nawe (Enawene-Nawe Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); Woven leaves (Guam, Pasifika) by Luke Scott Fernandez; Canangucho Fruit (Inga Territory, Amazonia) by Juan Javier Jojoa Jojoa; Canoe (Pasifika) by Luke Scott Fernandez; Sunset (Guam, Pasifika) by Luke Scott Fernandez; **p.5:** Huni Kuin woman carrying cassava (Huni Kuin Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); **p.8** Left to right: Justice Joseph Williams, Wave (Guam, Pasifika) by Luke Scott Fernandez; **p.10** Left to right: Peter Seligmann, Berries on tree by Felipe Contreras; **p.13:** Annatto seed (Kisedje Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); **p.15:** Jingle Dress Dancer (Dakota Territory, North America) by Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota); **p.18:** Headdress Enawene-Nawe (Enawene-Nawe Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); **p.20:** Woven leaves (Guam, Pasifika) by Luke Scott Fernandez; **p.23:** Tawarawana dance in Khikatxi village (Kisedje Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); **p.24:** Patawa Palm Weaving (Inga Territory, Amazonia) by Juan Javier Jojoa Jojoa; **p.26:** City of São Gabriel da Cachoeira, located on the Rio Negro (Balaio Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje; **p.29:** Ojibwe Women's Drum (Dakota Territory, North America) by Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota); **p.30** Blackfeet dancers (Blackfeet Territory, North America) by Whitney Snow (Blackfeet); **p.32:** Braid of sweetgrass in abalone shell (Dakota Territory, North America) by Jaida Grey Eagle (Oglala Lakota); **p.35:** Fishers Youth Camp (Koror Palau, Pasifika) photo by OneReef Micronesia; **p.36:** Fog over the hills in Malaita (Solomon Islands, Pasifika) by Daniel Lin; **p.38:** Open Proa Sailing in Yap (Micronesia, Pasifika) by Daniel Lin; **p.40:** Wayfinders Circle and Blackfoot confederacy members in front of Chief Mountain (Blackfeet Territory, North America) by Mariah Gladstone (Blackfeet, Tsalagi); **p.43:** Camdon Croff demonstrates the Chicken Dance (Blackfeet Territory, North America) by Mariah Gladstone (Blackfeet, Tsalagi); **p.44:** Ruth Tentents (Achuar) washing in river (Achuar Territory, Amazonia) by Martin Kingman; **p.46:** Nia Tero and Indigenous partners at UNPFII (Lenape Territory, North America) Photo Hill Ossip; **p.47:** Drumming during Matt Remle Seedcast Episode (Duwamish Territory, North America) by Felipe Contreras (Duwamish Territory, North America) by Felipe Contreras; **p.49** Top to bottom: Leslie Salazar-Lopez, Sama'i Gualinga, Olivia Bisa, Sonja Guajajara, Leonor Zalabata, Txai Suruí speaking at Climate Week (Lenape Territory, North America) by The Peoples Forum; International

Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (Panama) by LAC Caucus; Nemonte Nequimo, Paul Roughan, Jing Corpuz, and Peter Seligmann speak at Climate Week (Lenape Territory, North America) by Nathalie Figueroa; **p.50:** Roof of Kisedje traditional house (Kisedje Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); **p.52:** Sean Milanovich (Cahuilla) and Gina Milanovich (Cahuilla, Cupeño) (Mojave Desert, North America), by Nils Cowan; **p.53:** Rose Fox (Blood Nation) (Blackfeet Territory, North America) by Bryan Cole; **p.55** Top to bottom: Sumpa Etsa (Achuar) Elder from Inia Ikiampri film (Achuar Territory, Amazonia) by Martín Kingman, Scene from Pili Ka Mo o film (Hawaii) by Justyn Ah Chong (Kanaka Maoli), Gathering Materials in Sungai Utik (Sungai Utik) by Kynan Tegar (Iban Dayak); Felipe Contreras (North America) by Emily Higgins; **p.56** Sungai Utik Longhouse (Sungai Utik, Asia) by Kynan Tegar (Iban Dayak); **p.58:** Amazonia Leadership Fellows gathering (Suriname, Amazonia) by Martín Kingman; **p. 59:** Linoleum block printing at PNW Arts Fellowship gathering (Duwamish Territory, North America) by Fox Spears (Karuk); **p.61:** Jing Tauli-Corpuz speaks during 2023 UNPFII communications training (Lenape Territory, North America) by Hill Ossip; **p.62** Training center for knowledge and ceremonies (Tukano Territory, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); **p.64:** Rio Solar, Kapawi river, Wayusentsa (Achuar Territory, Amazonia) by Kara Solar; **p.65:** Angel Wasump (Achuar) on electric boat with parrot (Achuar Territory, Amazonia) by Kara Solar; **p.67:** Solar boat (Achuar Territory, Amazonia) by Kara Solar; **p.68:** Luciano Peas (Achuar) at the front of a solar powered boat (Achuar Territory, Amazonia) by Kara Solar; **p.70:** Canangucho Fruit (Inga Territory, Amazonia) by Juan Javier Jojoa Jojoa; **p.75:** Mongolia field (Mongolia, Asia) by Daniel Lin; **p.78:** Sunrise on Iriri River (State of Pará, Amazonia) by Kamikia Kisedje (Kisedje); **p.80:** Nia Tero team members during Home Week 2023 (Duwamish Territory, North America) courtesy of Nia Tero team; **p.84:** Board of Directors photos courtesy of each member of the Board; **p.86:** Advisory Council photos courtesy of each member of the Advisory Council; **p.88:** House of Knowledge (Inga Territory, Amazonia) by Juan Javier Jojoa Jojoa; **p.90** Sunset (Guam, Pasifika) by Luke Scott Fernandez; **p.95:** Smoke cleansing during Wayfinders Circle Gathering (Mongolia, Asia) by Daniel Lin

Appendix

Key Terms & Concepts

INDIGENOUS GUARDIANSHIP

Remarkable places within Indigenous territories persist because of what we call Indigenous guardianship. Time-earned knowledge systems and place-specific technologies are linked to the right, responsibility, and capacity to sustain vital natural systems. Enormous pressures threaten guardianship around the world, and Indigenous Peoples are seeking recognition, partnership, and support to counter these forces. Nia Tero exists to help make that happen.

COLLECTIVE TERRITORY

Collective territories are places where people can share a purpose and achieve things at a scale not otherwise possible. That includes nurturing vast natural ecosystems, managing life-giving natural resources, and maintaining revered sacred sites. Nia Tero focuses its work in places where Indigenous Peoples hold collective territories.

RECIPROCITY

Nia Tero views reciprocity as the way of life that centers mutually beneficial exchange and sharing between all beings; past, present and future; human and nonhuman; seen and unseen; on Earth, our only home.

INDIGENOUS WAYS AND MEANS

Nia Tero considers Indigenous ways and means to be the way that Indigenous Peoples relate to one another and all beings. This term encompasses the full diversity of Indigenous cultures, languages, protocols, and ways of being and caring for the Earth.

Nia Tero acknowledges that this diversity is essential to our shared humanity and shapes our understanding of why the collective territories that Indigenous Peoples inhabit remain among the healthiest on Earth.

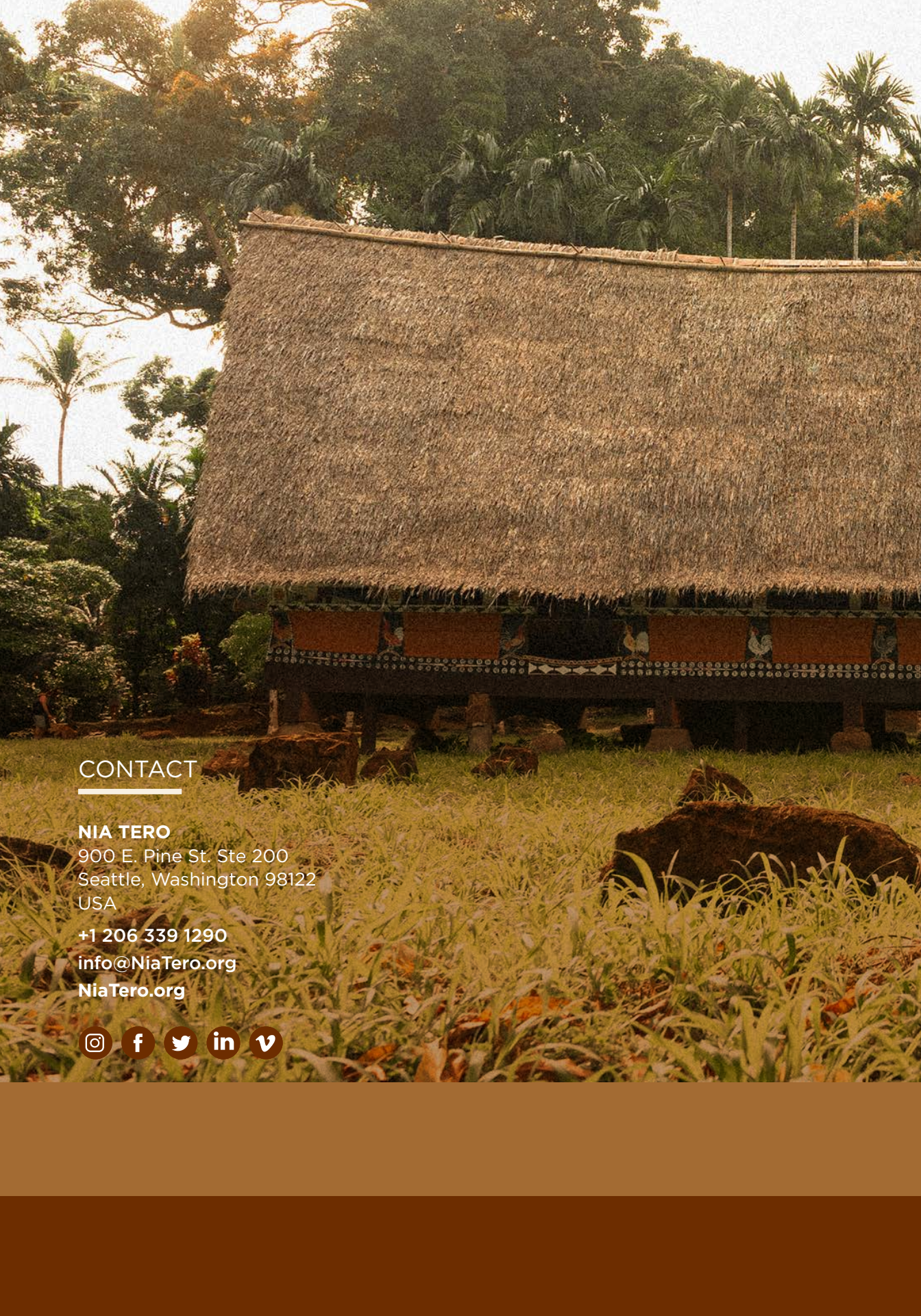
SELF-DETERMINATION

Nia Tero fully supports Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Nia Tero's mission, vision, and aspirations for impact all center the rights of Indigenous Peoples to care for thriving homelands and waters in accordance with their own self-determined priorities and decision-making processes.

FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

As defined by the United Nations, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is a principle protected by international human rights standards that states all Peoples have the right to self-determination and that Indigenous Peoples' rights to lands, territories, and natural resources are embedded within the universal right to self-determination. Indigenous Peoples conduct their own independent and collective discussions and decision-making in an environment where they do not feel intimidated and where they have sufficient time to discuss in their language, and in a culturally appropriate way; and can withdraw consent at any stage.



A photograph of a traditional thatched-roof house, likely a traditional Hawaiian structure, situated in a lush tropical environment. The house has a steeply pitched, thick thatched roof made of dried palm fronds. The walls are dark, and there is a decorative band of colorful patterns (possibly woven or painted) running horizontally across the middle of the house. The house is elevated on wooden stilts. The foreground is filled with tall, green grass and some fallen brown leaves. The background is a dense forest of tropical trees, including several tall palm trees. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

CONTACT

NIA TERO

900 E. Pine St. Ste 200
Seattle, Washington 98122
USA

+1 206 339 1290

info@NiaTero.org

NiaTero.org

