



**NIA
TERO**

Thriving Peoples • Thriving Places

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

We deeply appreciate our partnership with **Nia Tero**, an organization that acknowledges the **significance of Indigenous Peoples** and local communities in global efforts to safeguard people, place, and culture. Our collaboration has demonstrated the profound impact of uplifting Indigenous voices and endorsing community-driven initiatives.

~ **MADELSAR NGIRAINGAS**

Micronesia

Micronesia Director, One Reef

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WE SERVE

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) • Fanamaket • 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 • Kwênyii (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 (Tiri) • Nend • Nengone (Maré) • Ngala • Ngelima • Nifiloli • Niman • North Efate (Nakanamanga) • Notsi • Nukuma • Nukumanu • Nupani • Nusa Roviana • Nyelâyu • Okoymoyana • Oirat • Orokaiva • Owa • Pahi • Paici (Pwêêdi Wiimâ) • Paici-Maka (Southwest) • Pamosu • Parukwoto • Patamona • Patpatar • Pileni (Vaeakau-Taumako) • Pira-tapuya • Pireuyana • Pirititi • Pirope • Ponam • Port Vato • Raga • Ramayana • Ramoaaína • Ramoaaína • 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

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

04 Introduction

- 04 Indigenous Peoples We Serve
- 06 Welcome
- 08 About Us
- 09 Guiding Principles
- 10 Notes from Leadership

16 Regions

- 18 Overview
- 20 Amazonia
- 24 North America
- 28 Pasifika

34 Global

- 36 Wayfinders Circle
- 40 Policy
- 42 Storytelling
- 46 Infrastructure & Innovation
- 48 Fellowships

56 Financials

- 58 Standing Together
- 60 Grantmaking

64 Our Team

- 66 Departments
- 68 Board of Directors
- 70 Advisory Council

72 Closing



WELCOME

In 2022, Nia Tero celebrated its fifth year of working in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples who sustain territories and cultures through their guardianship of Earth and all beings. From the beginning, Nia Tero has moved forward in the belief and the practice that trusting relationships are critical to our future, and are therefore the foundation of all our work. Our cornerstone is supporting Indigenous Peoples around the world who are collectively working to build a sustainable future for all.

PARTNERED WITH

271 & 117
Indigenous Peoples Organizations

OVER

86%
of the 2022 annual budget supports our programs and grantmaking



Indigenous Peoples manage and protect
50%
of the Amazon Forest

Territories managed by Indigenous Peoples sustain
25%
of above-ground carbon in tropical forests

Lands managed by Indigenous Peoples emit
6X
less carbon than publicly protected lands and
36X
less than privately owned lands

Much of the world's remaining biodiversity is sustained by Indigenous Peoples

Though Indigenous Peoples make up only
5%
of the population, their guardianship benefits Earth and all beings



At Nia Tero, we deeply respect and honor the diverse interpretations and expressions of Indigenous Peoples' relationship with place. These relationships encompass their inherent right to self-determination and safeguarding their collective territories as well as the diversity of peoples, cultures, languages, and practices intertwined with the wellbeing of lands, waters, and thriving places over generations past, present, and future.

As you explore the following pages, we hope you will see the profound importance of these relationships threaded throughout every aspect of our work. We acknowledge, in gratitude, that it is only through collaboration and shared commitment that we can make a meaningful difference. *Thank you for being part of our collective effort!*

ABOUT US

Nia Tero is a US-based non-profit working in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and movements worldwide to support their efforts to protect their territories.

Our governing bodies, leadership, and staff are of diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous identities and life experiences. We view this diversity as a source of our strength as a bridging organization, committed to Indigenous self-determination and an inclusive culture that is respectful of Indigenous wisdom, practices, and protocols.

Nia Tero provides durable support and is committed to increasing funds to Indigenous Peoples to protect their homelands, share their methods of care for the land, and deepen an understanding of Indigenous ways of being with non-Indigenous communities.

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.

MISSION

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

VISION

Our vision is of an Earth where Indigenous guardianship of thriving homelands and waters is **ENABLED** everywhere possible on Earth.

ASPIRATIONS

Over the next decade we will **UPHOLD** a network of place-anchored partnerships with Indigenous Peoples that demonstrate the power of Indigenous guardianship to sustain a vibrant Earth. Building upon and working alongside this network, we also **EXPAND** recognition and support for Indigenous guardianship globally.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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 to work patiently to build relationships and trust. We refer to this intention as Indigenous Ways and 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.

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.

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, and the molecules carried within them. Doing so honors and sustains diverse human identities that overlay and are nourished by these other patterns of diversity.

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 pre-date and transcend modern nation-states and create a map of the world delineated by human identity, language, culture, and ecology.

COMMIT TO TRUSTING, LONG TERM PARTNERSHIPS

Our work relies on building and nurturing trust-based, direct relationships. 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 all of our engagements with our partners.

NOTES FROM OUR CEO



It is with great humility that we present Nia Tero's 2022 annual report. Over five years have passed since we began our journey, and during this time we've built trusted relationships with Indigenous Peoples and communities across the globe.

INTRODUCTION

Today, we're working with 271 Indigenous Peoples whose combined territories stretch across over 128 million acres. Each and every one of these cultures are unique, and the fact that they're here sustaining dominion over vast land and seascapes is absolutely remarkable. Why? Their territories, rich in ecological and natural resources, are coveted by nation-states and by industry.

Over five years, we've witnessed a sea change in the activism and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples' efforts to revitalize their cultures, languages, and territorial control. Nia Tero plays an important part in supporting this progress—through both financial and technical support, we uplift Indigenous partners by telling their stories, advocating for policy shifts, and securing the health of their Peoples and their places.

Our 2022 grantmaking increased 28% to \$17.5 million, with over 90% directly contributed to Indigenous partners for the protection and security of their traditional homelands. Our policy team played an important role in the Convention on Biodiversity's acknowledgement that the rights of Indigenous Peoples must be front and center in efforts to protect global biodiversity. And our Storytelling team collaborated with Indigenous Fellows and Indigenous Storytellers across multiple cultures to highlight the deep reciprocal connection and relationships between Indigenous Peoples and their homelands through compelling podcasts and videos.

The 2022 annual report will give you the flavor of our work and of our progress, none of which could have been accomplished without determined and strong Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners. At the same time, we must also acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples continue to be assaulted by invasions into their territories across the entirety of Earth. Governments, which often look the other way or actively participate in these invasions, so often envision Indigenous Peoples as obstacles to "economic progress" and barriers to "more productive" uses of lands and waters.

The potential to learn from Indigenous Peoples on how to treat the living Earth makes the work of Nia Tero and of our partners exceptionally urgent and important. Fortunately, we are prepared for this battle, and we are indebted to our partners, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, for their encouragement and support.

Peter Seligmann
CEO

NOTES FROM OUR CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



“Ko te pae tawhiti whaia kia tata; ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina.”

“Always seek to bring the distant horizons closer; but, at the same time, reach out and grasp the close horizons.”

The above is an old proverb of my people, the Māori of New Zealand, reflecting the perspective of a Pacific voyaging people. It also resonates for us at Nia Tero. We are also voyagers, though a different kind.

INTRODUCTION

It has been over five years since we commenced operations. Half a decade of mission-driven work was once a distant horizon, but it's now close enough to grasp.

Our most distant horizon is the global realization through self-determination of Indigenous Peoples' guardianship of their traditional territories. The vehicle for our voyage is the design, nurture, and proliferation of trust-based partnerships with Indigenous Peoples. Our most powerful tools are our ears: to listen with care and humility to Indigenous aspirations and dreams, and, with the same care and humility, to do all we can to support them. In this, we serve all of humanity, for we all benefit when Indigenous Peoples—their cultures, languages, practices and values—thrive within their traditional territories.

While 2022 has been a difficult year for us all, we're finding ways to come together again as people need to do, to build on what has been achieved. There's new, growing energy in the area in which we work. Unprecedented opportunities exist to build favorable national and international policy frameworks to attain Indigenous guardianship of territory. More resources are becoming available as governments and private enterprise discover the importance of Indigenous guardianship of territory for us all. And there's greater worldwide awareness of the importance of protecting Indigenous rights, self-determination, traditions, and values.

Still, threats remain and paradoxically grow as the power of Indigenous voices grows. The pandemic continues to threaten some Indigenous communities, as does continued violence, extractive incursions into their territories, climate change impacts, the impoverishment of Indigenous-led movements, and more.

All these factors, positive and negative, mean the demand for Nia Tero's resources and capacity has never been greater. We need more organizations willing to work for the protection of Indigenous Peoples and their territories. As Nia Tero heads into our second half-decade, our commitment to working in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples to achieve guardianship of their territories remains undimmed; and the distant horizon of its fulfillment on a global scale is a little closer than it was.

I commend this annual report, not just because it contains useful information about our work in 2022 and our goals going forward, but because it serves as an important invitation for you to join us on our journey to the next horizon.

Mauri ora ki a koutou katoa.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Williams'.

Joseph Williams
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD



“

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

We have been fighting for a very long time for the legal recognition of our land rights in Suriname.

Consecutive governments made many promises to Indigenous Peoples in Suriname, and at the same time they have also demanded proof from us that this is our ancestral land. In just five months, we were able to demarcate our territory, which seems impossible to everyone; but impossible things are what we have done since Nia Tero believed in us.

~ JUPTA ITOEWAKI

Wayana People, Suriname
President, Mulokot Foundation

AMAZONIA

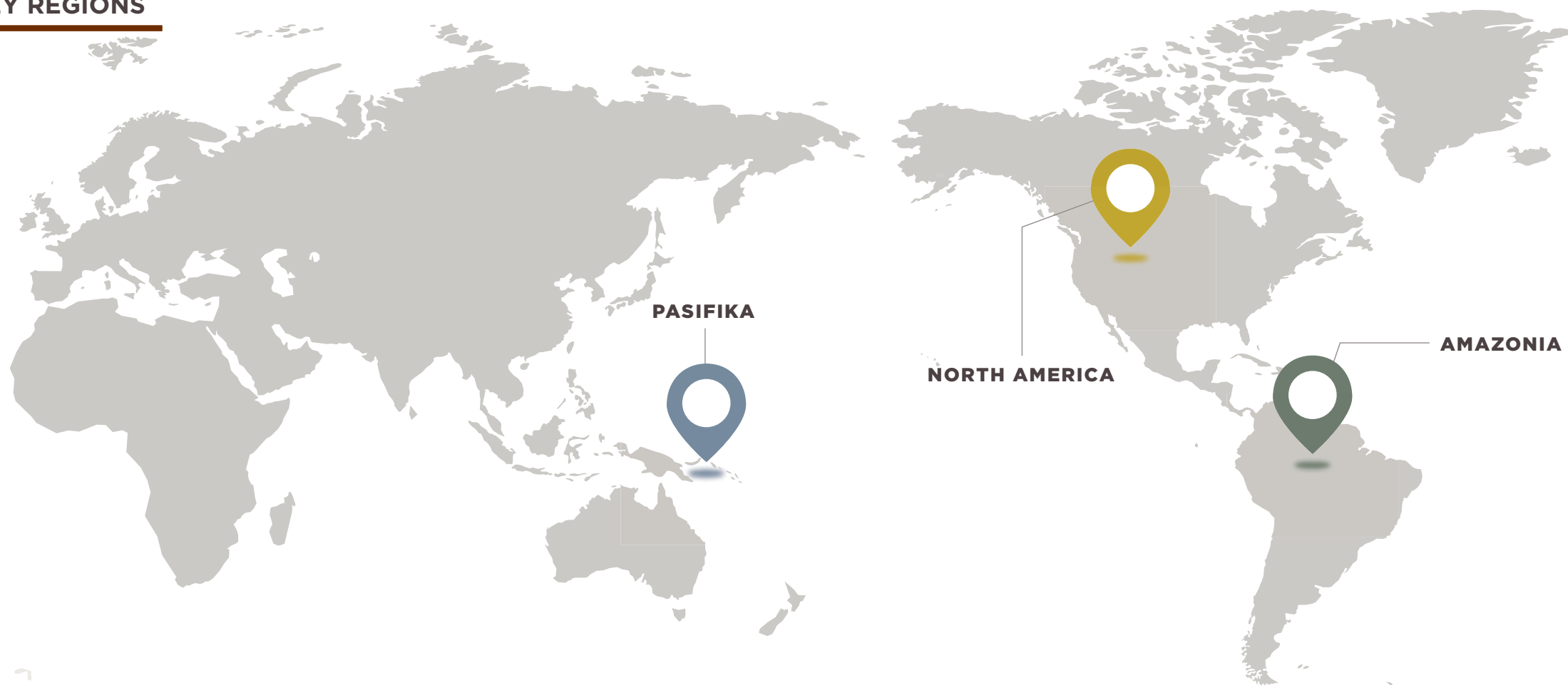
NORTH AMERICA

PASIFIKA

Regions

Nia Tero is dedicated to collaborating with Indigenous Peoples in biodiverse regions that hold immense significance for the overall welfare of humanity. Our commitment lies in working alongside Indigenous Peoples and geographies that are pivotal for the wellbeing of all.

KEY REGIONS



Our focus areas include partnerships across the Pacific Islands, Amazonia, and North America. 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.**



AMAZONIA

Nia Tero works alongside Indigenous Peoples in Amazonia to maintain, strengthen, and amplify guardianship of 60 million hectares of forest lands. We support Indigenous partners, primarily through grants, to exercise their territorial rights, bolster governance of their communities, and assert their own vision of wellbeing. To achieve this, we are supporting Indigenous Peoples in northern Brazil, southern Suriname, western Guyana, eastern Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. We also provide training, networking, and storytelling opportunities in addition to grants. Regional Indigenous advisors guide us in this process.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Nia Tero's support subsidizes the implementation of territorial protection actions including the monitoring and enforcement of critical areas, the training of Indigenous guardians, and the strengthening of Indigenous governance structures. These actions are essential to guarantee the integrity of the territory and the preservation of Indigenous life and cultures."

~ **BUSHE MATIS**
Brazil
Coordinator, UNIVAJA



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



We are very happy that Nia Tero helped us solve a problem that we would have faced if we had not achieved this partnership, which is our PGTA (life plan). This life plan of the Indigenous Peoples of Tumucumaque, in the Western region, is where we talk about territorial management.

~ AVENTINO TIRYÓ KAXUYANA
Brazil
President, APITIKATXI

AMAZONIA ACHIEVEMENTS

We remain dedicated to supporting our partners across Amazonia, including **strengthening our relationships with Indigenous organizations and leaders** in Brazil, and enabling new partnerships in key landscapes, including the Wayamu, which holds three Indigenous lands, and the Yanomami territory.

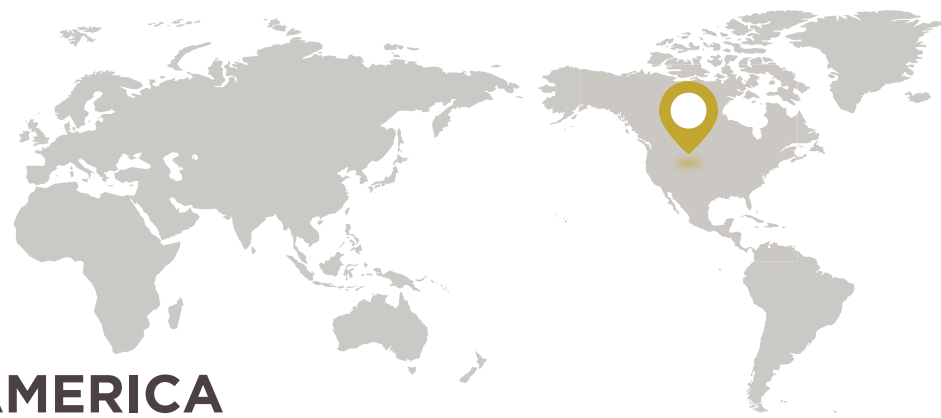
We are working with several of our partners to define and pursue long-term funding needs to sustain their territories. We **conducted a consultation** with our Indigenous partners in the Tumucumaque and began designing a long-term fund for their territory. We also **expanded our partnerships** in Ecuador and Peru, encompassing the Achuar of Peru, the Shuar of Ecuador, the Loreto regional Indigenous organization in Peru, and with key NGO policy partners.

Nia Tero board member Nemonte Nenquimo, Indigenous leader of the Waorani Peoples—along with her people—led **a historic victory against oil drilling** in their territory in Ecuador, setting a precedent for other communities in the Amazon to keep oil extraction out of their territories. We are grateful to our partners, Amazon Frontlines and Ceibo Alliance, who were part of this effort.

Territorial mapping helped advance policy goals, as the Wayana People of Suriname took charge of mapping their own lands. Their maps were included in a **bill recognizing collective land rights of Indigenous Peoples**. Across Tumucumaque, Roraima, and Western Guyana, the Zo'é and other **partners continue to successfully implement their own management plans**. The presence of **forest fire brigades and Indigenous monitoring teams helped shield territories** from devastating fires and invasions in Roraima. The Organización Regional de los Pueblos Indígenas del Oriente (ORPIO) **halted road construction** from Genaro Herrera to Angamos, which would have infringed upon the lands of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation.

We completed a **leadership training for 25 Indigenous youth from four Indigenous territories**, despite limited opportunities to train youth in remote communities due to language barriers and technology access. This training helped grow our partners' capacity, nurturing the next generation of leaders. They also acquired valuable knowledge and skills on international environmental conventions through policy training—spending time with leaders of partnership organizations is invaluable to the youth, so we will continue to prioritize this. We also supported three more organizations to develop strategic plans and kick-start implementation.





NORTH AMERICA

Nia Tero works across the North American contiguous land mass with and through tribal nations, partnering with Indigenous Peoples to enable Indigenous guardianship of lands and waters. This work, which is currently focused in Canada and the United States, supports guardianship efforts that prioritize both the restoration and protection of ecological health concurrently with revitalization of Indigenous cultures, languages, and practices.

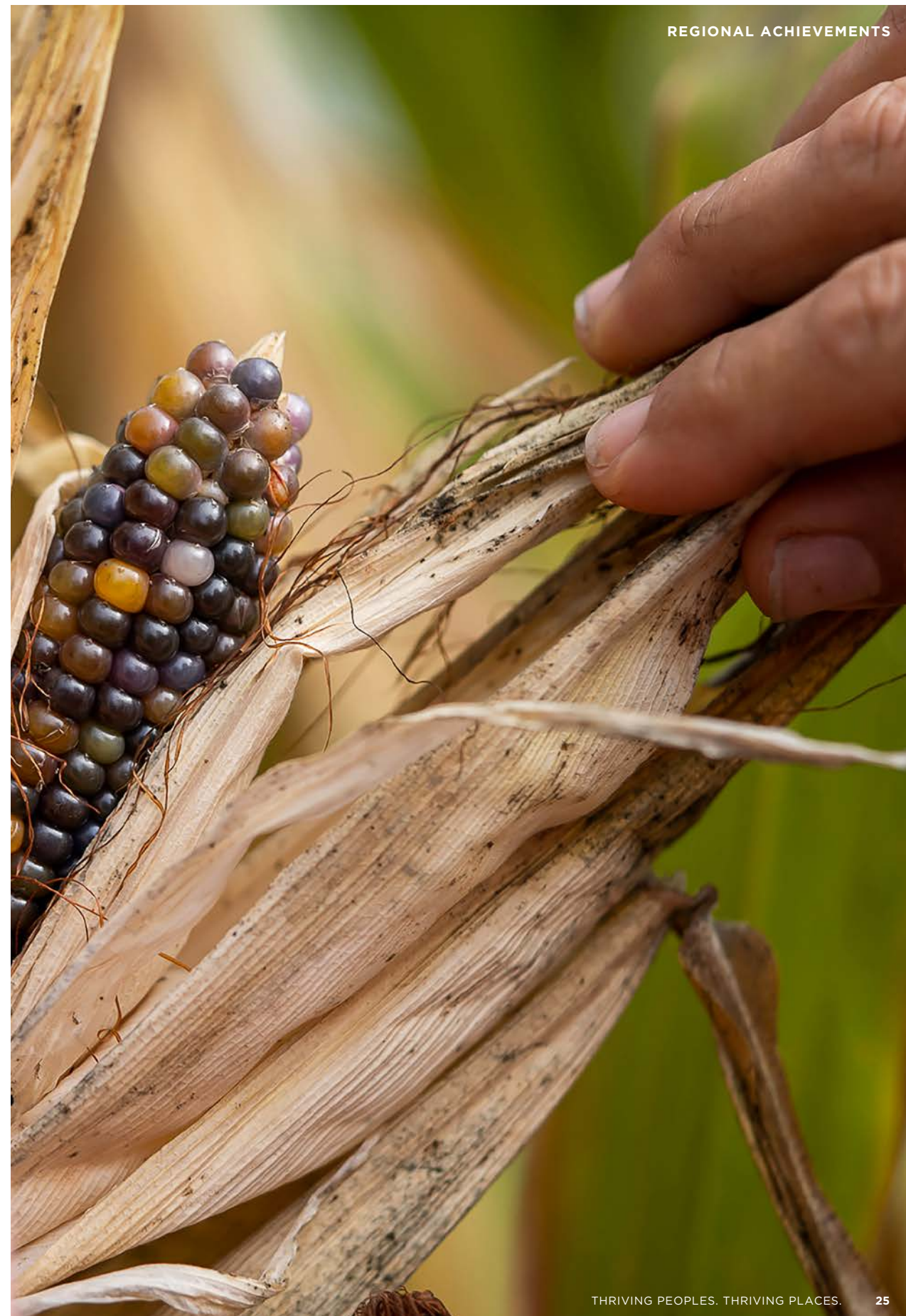


PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Nia Tero is unique among Indigenous Leadership Initiative's (ILI) supporters in being wholly focused on advancing Indigenous governance, territorial sovereignty, protection and restoration of culture, and other elements serving the cause of Nationhood. Nia Tero's growing voice in the conservation world is a powerful reminder that Indigenous Peoples are the first and still best stewards of healthy, intact ecosystems, if recognized and supported in continuing their tenure on their own homelands.

~ VALÉRIE COURTOIS

Innu Community of Mashteuiatsh, Canada
Executive Director, Indigenous Leadership Initiative





NORTH AMERICA ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, Nia Tero continued our support of Indigenous guardians' efforts to secure guardianship of lands and waters across North America, while building partnerships and supporting Indigenous-led policy.

Our major partner in Canada is the Indigenous Leadership Initiative (ILI). ILI is led by Valérie Courtois, who brought global attention to this important guardianship work through her 2022 TED Talk as part of the Nia Tero TED Salon, reaching an audience of over one million people.

In late 2022, **Indigenous guardians in Canada made globally significant advances** with the careful attention and work of a great number of people and organizations, including Nia Tero's partner, ILI. In December of 2022, the Canadian federal government took advantage of its role in hosting the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), announcing its **commitment to devote \$800 million Canadian dollars to several large-scale Indigenous-led** guardianship initiatives. Shortly afterward, ILI also announced a new, first-of-its-kind in the world, First Nations Guardian Network. The network spans the whole of Canada and launched with funding support from the Canadian government. This network comes from over a decade of consistent work and demands of Indigenous Peoples, and the impact of their guardian programs. **Over the past few years, Indigenous guardian programs in Canada have grown from approximately 30 programs to 120.** The announcement of this network to support, connect, and assist

an ever-growing number of guardianship programs is a watershed moment for First Nations Indigenous guardians across Canada, and a beacon for Indigenous Peoples globally. The lessons and opportunities offered through this national effort has the potential to inspire and inform similar efforts in other countries throughout the world, including the United States.

Nia Tero also has a strong partnership with the **Blackfoot Confederacy**, which spans the Canada and U.S. political border. We firmly believe Blackfoot lands are a primary North America opportunity for the resurgence of thriving places and peoples, specifically around bison rematriation. These efforts are not simply focused on bringing tens of thousands of free-ranging bison to tens of millions of hectares within a certain time frame. They are also an important opportunity to help nurture culturally developed Indigenous knowledge and relationships with place since time immemorial. Our support of the Blackfoot Peoples' revitalization of culture, song, ceremony, language, and the interconnectivity of transferred knowledge between people, grasslands, and bison is one step forward in ensuring success for all.



PASIFIKA

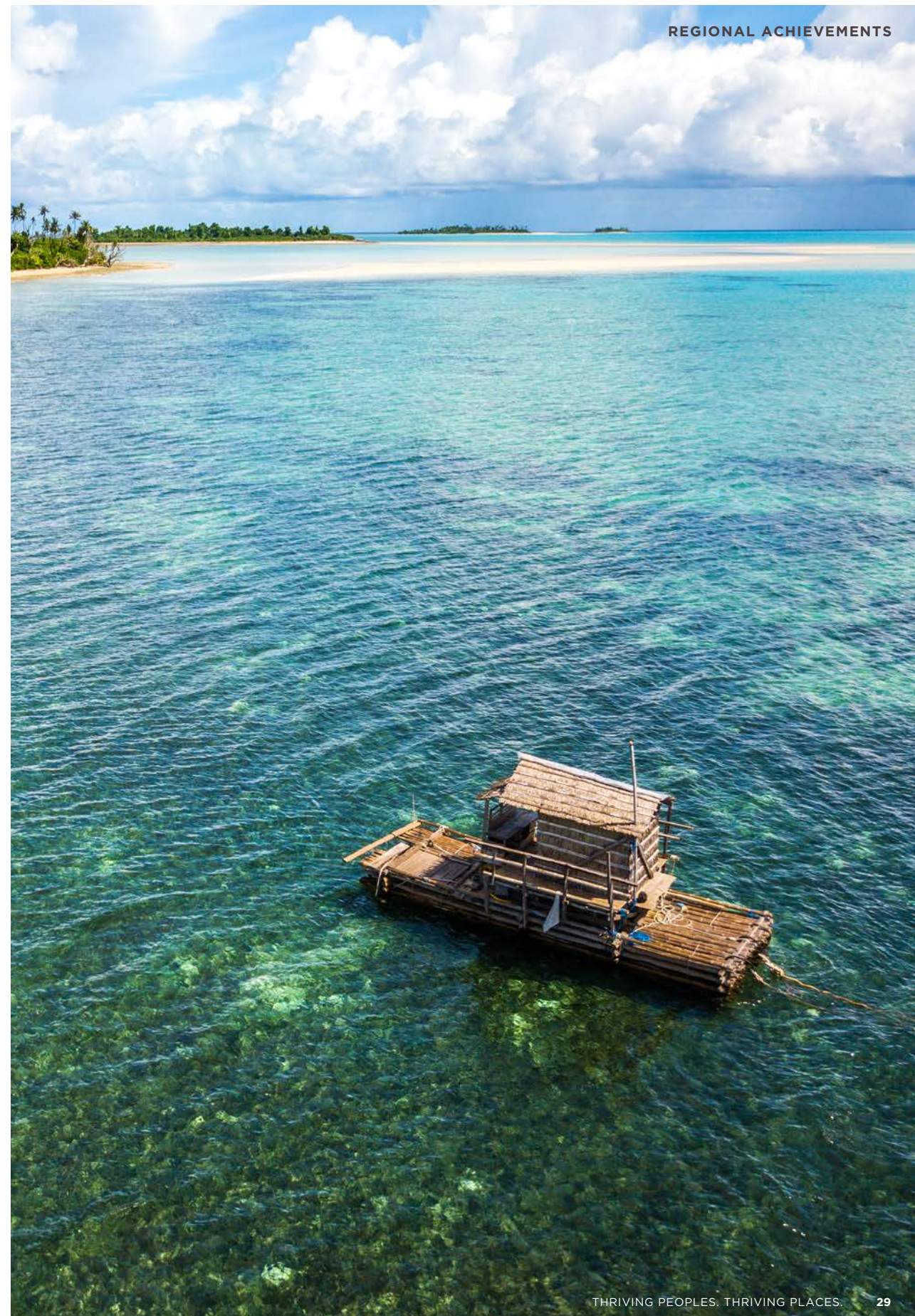
Currently, Pasifika faces massive threats from industrial logging, mining, and fishing; and the dominance of globalized monoculture endangers Indigenous ways. Collaborations with Pasifika guardians grew from the aspirations of Solomon Islands communities to protect their forested high places and aim for whole-domain Indigenous management of the ocean. Led by a diverse Pasifika-based team, the program strategy in 2022 weaved together three pillars: Islands, Ocean, and Identity. We're working alongside Pasifika Peoples to strengthen guardianship of sacred Island homelands—Sky Islands and Atolls—to sustain the bountiful ocean, at scale; and to elevate a collective, diverse, reciprocity-based regional identity to amplify and secure a self-determined vision for a thriving Pasifika.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Nia Tero is unique in thinking about Ocean Guardianship based on customary or Indigenous ways and values. This has provided a unique space for us to move forward with the Manus LLG Marine Conservation Law and the Morobe People's attempts to stop DSTP (Deep Sea Tailings Placement) by Wafi Golpu mine. We are attempting to stop massive destruction of the ocean homelands and livelihoods of the Indigenous Peoples along the Morobe coast—this is incredibly important!

~ **PETER BOSIP**
Executive Director, CELCOR





PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Nia Tero provides an opportunity for me as an Indigenous person of the area to strengthen leadership of the Indigenous group, and prepare our community to understand global challenges that will impact Indigenous communities here in the Solomon Islands.

~ FRED CONNING
Solomon Islands

PASIFIKA ACHIEVEMENTS

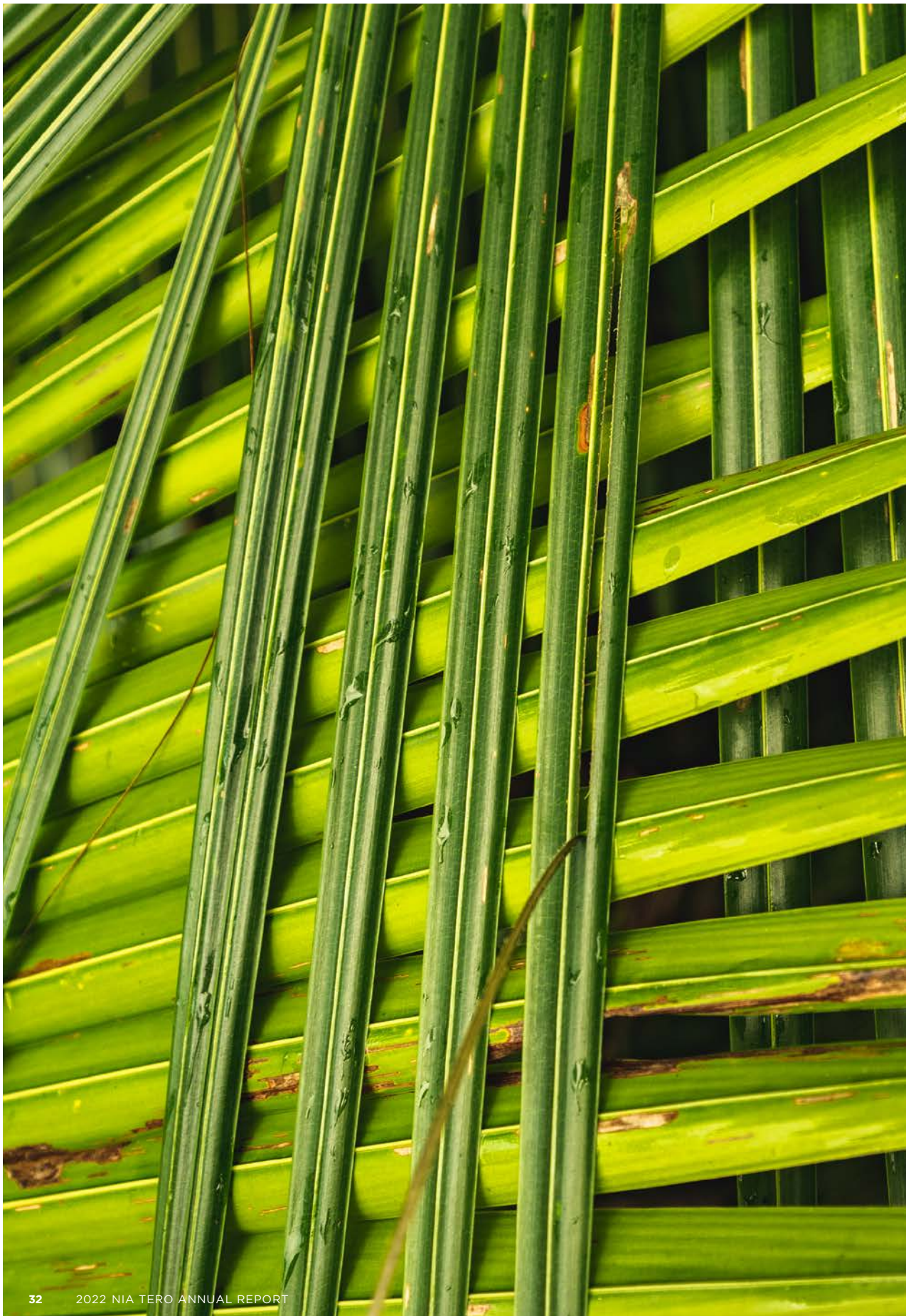
Indigenous guardianship of islands and oceans is vital to the health of the Pasifika region, and in 2022 we furthered our work to elevate the influence of Pasifika identity in shaping policy and action on guardianship. **The Sky Islands Pledge has continued to resonate** in subnational expressions of Indigenous agency across the domains of education, regulation, and investment in Solomon Islands.

At the same time, the Mt. Panie Kauri reserve in Kanaky/New Caledonia has expanded, and traditional learning centers were established at Hatahobei (Helen Reef) and the Hatahobei community in Koror, Palau. Additionally, plans are in place to establish partnerships and centers in six more communities in Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia over the next two years, furthering our commitment.

In addition to the specific guardianship work in the rich reef systems in remote areas of Koror, Palau, our Pasifika team has been active on the **Palau National Marine Spatial Planning Steering Committee**. Through our direct support of pelagic fisheries and marine planning reform as part of maintaining Palau's leadership in large-scale ocean guardianship, our team is ensuring that lessons learned across Indigenous-led Pacific Island States directly inform large-scale Marine Spatial Planning.

Solomon Islands Ocean Guardianship side events at UN convenings in Lisbon, New York, and Egypt helped garner support for Pasifika values-based ocean mapping processes in the Solomon Islands. These efforts have helped to influence regional policy, including deep-sea mining moratoria, Indigenous values being considered in large-scale ocean conservation planning, and direct access to climate finance for Indigenous communities.

We sustained our firm commitment to Sepik River Peoples living in Papua New Guinea who stood in opposition to the Frieda River mine and in support of guardianship of the river, with backing from the provincial government. **Save the Sepik campaign** lodged a complaint with the Australian National Contact Point for Responsible Business, which was **signed by over 2500 Sepik River People** to increase pressure on mining company, Pan Aust. We're hopeful for a favorable ruling affirming the importance of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Nia Tero is funding critical activities to further ground the people in the practices.

As a result, the people are able to acknowledge and appreciate their values and principles. These activities are critical for longer lasting outcomes in the protection of Indigenous held lands, and the protection of these lands is vital for the world to mitigate climate change impacts.

~ EMANNUEL PENI

Sepik People, Papua New Guinea
Human Rights Defender, Coordinator of Project Sepik

WAYFINDERS CIRCLE
POLICY
STORYTELLING
INFRASTRUCTURE
& INNOVATION
FELLOWSHIPS

Global

At Nia Tero, our global programs seek out and employ the most effective methods to support Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous sovereignty, and Indigenous action. We build concrete strategies and foundations that enable this work through storytelling, policy, infrastructure, fellowships, and networking initiatives; as well as increasing direct funding opportunities for Indigenous Peoples. Continually building and engaging our relationships is fundamental to these strategies. As we continue to develop and move forward in this work, these various and often creative avenues serve as a means through which our partnerships and programs dynamically support, elevate, and amplify Indigenous knowledge, action, and sovereignty.



WAYFINDERS CIRCLE

The Wayfinders Circle supports and gathers Indigenous guardians from around the world who protect their lands, waters, and territories.

It is also a learning network dedicated to investing in Indigenous Peoples and sharing possible pathways for human societies to achieve ecological, social, cultural, and spiritual harmony. Through a joint effort between the Pawanka Fund, the World Union of Indigenous Spiritual Practitioners, and Nia Tero, the Wayfinders Circle was launched as a global network dedicated to unleashing the transformative potential of Indigenous lifeways, inspiring all people to reimagine development, conservation, and the way they relate to each other and to Mother Earth.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

For me, the Wayfinders Circle is a path that helps us speak out in defense of our territory and unites us so we have the power to tell the Peruvian State about why our work is so important, about our autonomy and governance, and finally, about our vision to reach a quality of life.

~ TEOFILO KUKUSH PATI

Wampis Nation, Peru
Pamuk President of the
Autonomous Territorial
Government of the Wampis Nation

WAYFINDERS CIRCLE MEMBERS ALL SHARE THESE COMMON ELEMENTS:

Strong Governance:

Durable and sturdy governance systems that follow Indigenous Peoples' worldviews are key for their cultures and territories to thrive.

Guardianship of Collective Territories and Ecosystems:

Intrinsic motivation to take care of Mother Earth on their ancestral territories and ecosystems, and proven wisdom and experience in leading processes that have led to robust guardianship for future generations.

Transmission of Ancestral Knowledge and Spirituality:

Intergenerational transmission of knowledge and spirituality are core elements for Indigenous Peoples to thrive. This is also linked to the need for access to intercultural education and Indigenous health, as ways to maintain knowledge and keep traditional practices alive.



WAYFINDERS CIRCLE
GLOBAL MEMBERS



ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, grants were made by Wayfinders Circle conveners Nia Tero and Pawanka Fund to each member of the Wayfinders Circle to strengthen **self-governance and collective management of territories and natural resources**—a priority of all Wayfinders Circle members. The annual grants have been used to:

- **Strengthen** economic, education, health, food, communications systems, Indigenous languages, and transmission of knowledge systems.
- **Monitor and defend** territories and natural resources, including investments in GPS, cameras, community mapping, and legal advice.
- **Organizational strengthening**, including strengthening capacities to make collective and inclusive decisions, responses to emergencies, and building alliances and networks.

In 2022, the Wayfinders Circle completed communications training for members, and launched the **Wayfinders Circle website**, creating an engaging hub for external audiences to learn about the Wayfinders’ guardianship work. The Wayfinders Circle Governance Report was finalized and published in four languages and presented at a successful event held in April in New York City at the **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**, where a new five-minute introductory video about the Wayfinders Circle was also screened.

The Wayfinders Circle celebrated our first in-person members and conveners gathering in October 2022—the first in-person gathering since the beginning of the pandemic and a highlight of 2022, which included a visit to Achuar Territory in Ecuador. Additionally, the Wayfinders Circle brought key members to the **United Nations Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15)**

in Montreal in December, holding a collective Wayfinders Circle event as well as side events where members shared examples of guardianship of their territories.

Nia Tero’s Storytelling team began film production of seven Wayfinders Circle portrait films, to be completed in 2023, to share examples of culture and guardianship of territory. In addition, over the summer of 2022, Nia Tero’s **Seedcast podcast team produced a beautiful two-part episode with the Gabbra People of East Africa.**

Lastly, **two new members—the Lhoba of Nepal and the community of Hin Lad Nai in Thailand**—were welcomed into the Wayfinders Circle in 2022, with Hin Lad Nai from Thailand attending our Ecuador gathering. A third new member will be finalized in 2023.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Wayfinders is connecting—connecting sky, earth, water.
You know, our spirit lives among those things, because when we pass on and go into the other lives, these are things that will be connected and will be liberating...To work together, live together, and learn from each other... is our only hope.

~ **CONRAD MARAINGURRA**
Warddeken, Australia

POLICY

We work to ensure that relevant global, national, and regional policies strongly support Indigenous guardianship, and reflect and align with Indigenous spirituality and culture. We believe that there should be no decisions made about Indigenous territories without Indigenous Peoples' agreement and deep engagement. Nia Tero is working 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.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The final text of the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)** included strong language on Indigenous Peoples' rights, which was accomplished through the dedicated technical work of the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)**, of which we've been a primary advocate since 2020. We continued to facilitate and support Indigenous communities' effective and expanded participation in the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** and the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.

Through our **policy apprentice training program**, we enhanced the capacity of Indigenous Peoples' effective participation in global policy forums and in translating national commitments into action on the ground. We also developed guiding principles for establishing **Indigenous-led financial mechanisms and direct finance access** to biodiversity and climate finance. These principles were deployed to influence initiatives such as the **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) Pledge**, and **Protecting Our Planet (PoP) Challenge**.

In 2022, we sustained our commitment to **Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI)** as they **championed justice for victims of criminalization and impunity**. Throughout the year, IPRI concentrated its efforts on six countries, collaborating closely with Indigenous organizations in Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines, India, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). This partnership strengthened their endeavors to enhance awareness and take tangible steps in **combating the criminalization and violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights** while holding those responsible accountable.

As our team has grown, we've **strengthened our connections with regional place-based projects and initiatives**. Rather than assuming an outsized role in direct advocacy during critical global processes, our focus has shifted towards **providing technical support to enhance our partners' capacity for effective advocacy**, encompassing both technical expertise and logistical support.



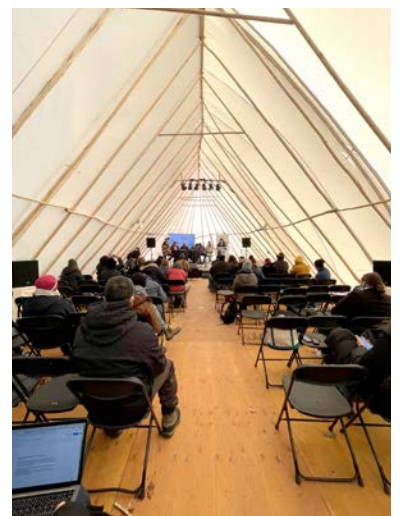
PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

I keep learning, as a human being we always are in the learning process.

What Nia Tero is doing with us is training us as Indigenous human resources, giving us tools to help our peoples and organizations from wherever we are, because we know that we are trained for the Indigenous movement, for our people.

~ TABEA CASIQUE CORONADO

Ashéninka, Peru
Secretary of AIDSESP



STORYTELLING

Nia Tero's Storytelling work focuses on elevating and amplifying Indigenous voices, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and promoting awareness of Indigenous guardianship in both collective territories and globally. This work is done through various mediums such as fellowships, podcasts, public art activations, films, grants, panels and workshops. Storytelling builds a heightened awareness of the impact of Indigenous Peoples' cultural practices of reciprocity. Our emphasis is on establishing trust-based relationships with Indigenous Peoples, their organizations, and proven allies.

ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2022, Nia Tero's Storytelling team initiated and continued several dynamic opportunities to uplift and amplify Indigenous Peoples through diverse platforms and engagements. This evolving framework supports and strengthens Indigenous storytellers to fortify and complement Nia Tero's global priorities and strategies across priority regions, and continues to foster an overarching network of international Indigenous creatives.

The **Reciprocity Project (RP) launched Season One films** at the **Big Sky Documentary Film Festival**, which were shortlisted for international recognition and showcased in high-profile media spaces globally. Additionally, we organized community screenings for the Cherokee, Wayuu, Kānaka Maoli, Shinnecock, and Wabanaki communities. The project gained recognition and was presented at renowned film festivals such as the **Sundance Film Festival, Skábmagovat, Māoriland Film Festival, BlackStar, and at ImagineNative. We also launched a partnership with Public Broadcast Service (PBS) to introduce the Indigenous Creatives series**, publishing **12 original written stories** in collaboration with our creative fellows and grantees spotlighting the talent and creativity of Indigenous artists. Our filmmaking endeavors also included the completion of principal cinematography for **REMATHAU**, a feature length documentary that explores the important relationship of Micronesian Peoples with the Pacific Ocean and surrounding islands.

CONTINUED >





PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Nia Tero's Storytelling program allowed me to make one of my most prominent films with the Reciprocity Project Season One series. The boost this story gave my film career has also contributed to my political position by being a benchmark for the construction of public and climate policies in Colombia and across Latin America. Also, this filmmaking experience made it possible to work with my family and Wayuu Peoples in a very thoughtful and important project that is now globally recognized.

~ **DAVID HERNANDEZ PALMAR**

Wayuu, La Guajira along the Colombia & Venezuela Border
Storytelling Fellow and
Reciprocity Project Filmmaker

Season 2 of Nia Tero's podcast, Seedcast, featured 14 thought-provoking original episodes showcasing global Indigenous leaders, communities, artists, policy champions, and environmental activists on both national and international media platforms, including National Public Radio (NPR) and KEXP.

Kin Theory, a global Indigenous media-makers database, launched in February. This platform supports relational and media connections that honor narrative sovereignty, cultural vitality, and climate awareness. Through this Nia Tero initiative, over 30 workshops and panels were organized in collaboration with esteemed industry professionals, academic institutions, and Indigenous conferences worldwide. We also hosted and participated in 24 complimentary events throughout the year.

As part of our **Creative Grants Program and Creative Fellowships**, we were able to financially resource Indigenous creatives and partners with \$1.4 million in direct funding.

And lastly, for Indigenous Peoples' Day, our **Thriving Peoples. Thriving Places.** poster campaign resulted in great public engagement with an impressive 26 million unique interactions, highlighting the Indigenous women activists, artists, and scholars at the heart of this campaign.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS



When I think about the impact of working with the Storytelling team at Nia Tero, it goes far beyond the [Reciprocity] Project itself...Working with the Reciprocity team and the Storytelling team continues to expose me to the power and impact film can have on me as an educator... I highly value what I've learned and deeply appreciate what we co-created. As an educator, I feel better armed to go forth and continue my work where children in my family and our community see themselves as belonging in this world and fully realize their potential.

~ **CHRISTOPHER NEWELL**

Passamaquoddy, Wabanaki Confederacy
Reciprocity Project Filmmaker and Educator

...Our stories, grounded in the wisdom of our Ancestors, reverberate through the celestial bodies and make impacts beyond our limited knowledge. I believe they help restore balance to our Mother Earth. Let us continue to tell them together.

~ **PRINCESS DAAZHRAII JOHNSON**

Neets'aai Gwich'in, Alaska
Storytelling Fellow and Reciprocity Project Filmmaker

Representation and having a seat at the table as a Native person is more important than ever right now, because there's so much that can be learned from our perspectives on life and our traditional knowledge and place-based knowledge.

~ **JARED LANK**

Mi'kmaq Acadia First Nation, Wabanaki Confederacy
4th World Media Lab 2022 Fellow

INFRASTRUCTURE & INNOVATION

One of Nia Tero's unique strengths lies in our investments in infrastructure—supporting our partners in their self-determined aspirations for guardianship. Our infrastructure priorities include funding the integration of energy, transportation, and telecommunication platforms within collective territories.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Kara Solar was the first organization to deploy solar-electric boats in the Amazon with the Achuar of Ecuador, but reliability and the need for frequent repairs proved to be an issue. With the assistance and funding provided by Nia Tero, **electric boats have since proven to be highly reliable.** We are pleased to report that in 2022, over 350 electric boat trips were completed with great success in Achuar territory. To further identify long-term success factors for electric boats across Amazonia, Nia Tero initiated a supply chain study to learn more about their effectiveness and sustainability. We held discussions on solar boat co-design with new Indigenous partners from across Amazonia and Pasifika—a collaborative effort that resulted in the adaptation of boat designs to meet the unique requirements of local communities.

The deployment of electric boats not only offers reliable transportation, but also brings supplemental benefits to our partners, such as solar-powered recharge stations that fulfill daily energy needs, including telecommunications. This new reliability happened because the Achuar crew has total

autonomy and operational control of the electric boats, having gained the ability to integrate the management of complex electric vehicles as part of their traditional methods of guardianship. Innovation continued with the deployment of prototype telecommunication 'Hermes' boxes, which use classic two-way radios to transmit digital files (text, photos), and thus provide a rugged, cost-effective, and secure form of telecommunication that is well-matched to the needs of certain Indigenous communities.

Our 3rd annual Technodigenous event was a remarkable success, held virtually over three days in May 2022. Technodigenous facilitates frank and constructive ongoing discussion between practitioners, technologists, and thinkers about the differences in perspectives of technological development, the ethical challenges of interaction, and possible sets of guiding principles for the co-design, adaptation, and deployment of technological solutions in Indigenous territories. We had the privilege of virtually hosting **70 attendees from 12 countries,** engaging in vibrant discussions and sharing best practices on the topic of **"Diversity of Tenure and Technology."**



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Since we started working together, we have developed a strong bond with Nia Tero. The projects are going well. The demarcation of our territory and the solar boat project were developments the Wayana were dreaming to achieve, and Nia Tero had the same dream. Our young ones are learning, and developing, through these projects. This makes me very happy. Our relationship is so important to me, because it has strengthened the Wayana.

~ IPOMADI PELENAPIN

Chief of the Wayana Indigenous People of the Village of Kawemhakan (Lawa)

FELLOWSHIPS

Nia Tero offers multiple fellowships to support Indigenous Peoples' creative endeavors, community leadership, policy-making, and cultural continuity. Nia Tero views fellowship opportunities as a pathway toward holistic networking and skill-building among Indigenous Peoples in their specific fields. The overarching goal across all of our fellowship programs is to amplify and uplift Indigenous voices.

Nia Tero offers a suite of **Creative Fellowships**, each of which supports Indigenous Peoples across diverse approaches to storytelling, cultural amplification, self-determined capacity-building, networking, and skills-acquisition. Our **Policy Apprenticeship** seeks to strengthen Indigenous organizations in influencing global public policies that are applied at the regional, national, and local levels, directly and indirectly impacting their territories. The **Leadership Fellowship** strengthens emergent leaders from Nia Tero's regional partnerships, contributing to local long-lasting support and Indigenous guardianship.

CREATIVE FELLOWSHIPS

Nia Tero's Creative Fellowships play a significant role in amplifying the work and impact of Indigenous creatives engaged in groundbreaking projects that draw from their cultural heritage, environment, and diverse storytelling methods.

2022 included several noteworthy highlights for Nia Tero's Creative Fellowships. This year marked the first North American Summit of Indigenous filmmakers, comprised of current and alumni fellows, dedicated to environmental and cultural documentaries. Camden International Film Festival (CIFF) hosted this gathering on the homelands of the Penobscot Peoples. Indigenous Advisory Council member Sherri Mitchell (Penobscot) was in attendance.

A return to in-person gatherings kicked off with Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in February 2022 in Montana. A collective fellowship gathered at COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, with Storytelling and Pasifika Journalism Fellows.



Pacific Northwest Art

Nia Tero's Pacific Northwest (PNW) Art Fellowship unites PNW-based artists from diverse Indigenous backgrounds who specialize in a multitude of creative disciplines, each at varying stages of their activism-driven pathways. We take great pride in offering this opportunity for Indigenous creatives working in this region of Turtle Island, providing them with professional and personal support.

2022 achievements for Pacific Northwest Art Fellows include noteworthy events such as a post as Washington State Poet Laureate, and an elected position to Klamath Tribal Council.

4th World Media Lab

Rooted in connection to territory, the 4th World Media Lab provides Indigenous filmmakers with progressive immersion into film learning and media exploration ranging from storytelling basics, pitching techniques, and presentation to marketing strategies, distribution methods, industry networking, and fundraising. The lab also provides valuable residencies at several renowned international film festivals.

4th World Media Lab Fellows made great strides in 2022 such as receiving the Tulsa Artist Fellowship, an Emmy Nomination, appearing at the Tribeca Film Festival, and acceptance into a PhD program focused on Indigenous knowledge systems.

NATIVE Stand

The NATIVE Stand Fellows Programme is an international professional-development opportunity for Indigenous producers to attend the European Film Market (EFM) in Berlin with one to two market-ready feature film projects. This opportunity is exclusive to Indigenous feature film producers, or producing directors, to have their project(s) promoted and curated through the NATIVE Indigenous Cinema Stand. Due to the global pandemic, the NATIVE Stand experience was virtual only. Though held

online, each fellow was able to make significant headway on their projects and pitch them to industry executives.

Storytelling Fellowship

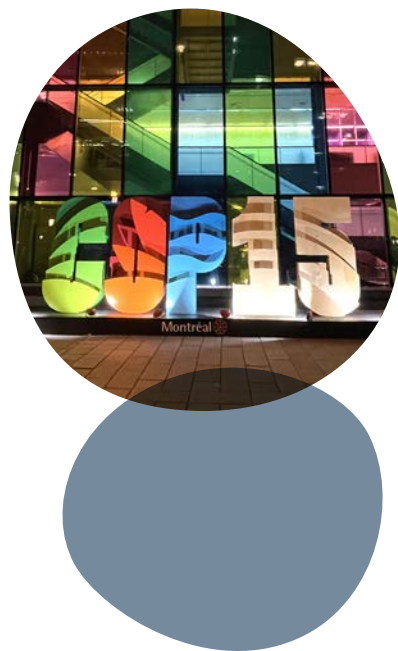
Nia Tero's Storytelling Fellowship is a year-long program amplifying innovative Indigenous projects rooted in culture, environment, and story. The program focuses on Nia Tero's priority regions, as well as global participation, and serves to enhance creatives' individual capacity, strengthen community bonds, and promote the visibility of Indigenous leadership in the field of storytelling.

Achievements for Storytelling Fellows in 2022 included a new PBS series, the completion and publication of a new novel, and the launch of a new grant program for creatives.

Pasifika Journalism Fellowship

The Pasifika Journalism Fellowship supports individuals or pairs of Indigenous journalists on stories across Pasifika that cover critical topic areas surrounding what we call Indigenous guardianship—Indigenous Peoples' sovereign, collective care for thriving homelands and waters. Issues may span topics of environment, identity, oceans, sustainability, and culture.

2022 achievements for Pasifika Journalism fellows included a presence at COP27 for networking as well as documentary film production, the launch of a new podcast, and acceptance into a PhD program.



LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP

The Leadership Fellows Program is a year-long hybrid leadership training established in 2019 to strengthen emergent leaders from Nia Tero's trust-based partnerships. The program is modeled after Indigenous teaching methods and concepts of leadership with the goal to enhance leadership development and succession, contributing to guardianship of territories.

The program is divided into two key moments: 1) a six-month long training period in partnership with LifeMosaic and 2) a six-month project implementation phase. Participants include the Achuar from Ecuador, Akawaio and Patamona from Guyana, the Wayana from Suriname, and the Tiriyo and Wayana from Brazil.

During the first half of 2022, the program was in the project implementation phase, in which 20 fellows and peers coordinated with their community leaders and worked collaboratively on a project of choice. Projects included sexual offenses awareness workshops, community-based tourism, solar lamp installations, elaboration of handicrafts, food preservation, and waste management initiatives. The latter half of 2022 focused on the selection of fellows for the 2023 cohort and adaptation of the curriculum.

POLICY APPRENTICESHIP

In 2022, Nia Tero's Policy team launched the Policy Apprenticeship Program, seeking to strengthen Indigenous organizations in influencing global public policies that are applied at the regional, national, and local levels, directly and indirectly impacting their territories.

The program facilitates programming with established leaders and mentors alongside apprentices, all of which are part of the Amazonian organizations of their countries (five in total): Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname.

Indigenous Leaders and Mentors: With their experience in advocacy and territorial, national, and global work, they support the learning process imparted with a practical scope.

Indigenous Policy Apprentices: Having a leadership role in their territories and organizations, the Policy Apprentices have been delegated as liaisons to strengthen collective knowledge on the specialized topics reviewed in the training.



This structure was developed considering that topics and scenarios reviewed at global policy convenings are highly complex, specialized, and require, on the one hand, the Indigenous experience of those who have participated in them; and on the other hand, the learning process of those who will carry out the follow-up and promote advocacy processes from their organizations.

Through our Policy Apprentice training program, we enhanced the capacity of Indigenous Peoples' effective participation in global policy forums and in translating national commitments into action on the ground. Policy leaders and apprentices participated in virtual and in-person trainings, as well as attended key policy convenings throughout 2022, including COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt and COP15 in Montreal, Canada. A critical experience and outcome for those in the Apprenticeship program was their participation in the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)**'s support of the final text of the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**'s inclusion of strong language on Indigenous Peoples' rights, which was accomplished at COP15.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The program is very helpful in delivering knowledge to young leaders, and facilitating exchanges. It has helped me to see things from a different perspective, and think about the impacts of our actions and decisions. It has also encouraged me to work as a collective to find solutions to our problems within our territories while keeping our customs and traditions alive.

~ KEMAL ROBINSON

Patamona, Guyana
Leader of the Environmental Monitoring Program of the North Pakaraimas District Council



PARTNER SPOTLIGHTS

“

Through the global pandemic and ongoing climate impacts, we as the next generation of storytellers, emerging elders, have begun to see the importance of our roles as storytellers in the pathway to healing, empowerment and making change. The nurturing, wrap-around support, mentoring, and encouragement of [the Nia Tero Storytelling team] has helped us to keep our head above water. The work we have done with them has helped Rako continue to survive. We are forever grateful for the love and deep care given to us all.

~ LETILA MITCHELL

Rotuman, Fiji

Rako Pasefika, Grantee and Reciprocity Project Filmmaker

The Nia Tero Storytelling Fellowship was life changing for me as a filmmaker and an artist.

It gave me a freedom that I have never had before, as a cultural storyteller. I felt very supported by the Storytelling staff and facilitators, who have become like family to me. Also, connecting with other Indigenous creatives from all over the world was an amazing opportunity too. While we came from different places, we all shared a love for our homelands and the teachings of our people. These new perspectives have allowed me to give back to our community in new ways.

~ KATSITIONNI FOX

Mohawk, Akwasasne

Filmmaker and Potter, Nia Tero Storytelling Fellow,
Reciprocity Project Filmmaker



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

The difference that Nia Tero has made is an encouragement, a balm that soothes a body tired by the outrages suffered for hundreds of years. Knowing that we have someone who is sincerely concerned about the protection of territorial integrity, or about its management, gives us the courage and the value that we need to face a thousand obstacles; to continue with the fight for the perpetuity of our culture, of the daily insistence that ancestral knowledge is not lost.

~ WAAKIACH KUJA
Achuar Nation, Ecuador

STANDING TOGETHER
GRANTMAKING

Financials

Nia Tero is proud to directly fund Indigenous Peoples in support of their efforts to protect their homelands, share their methods of care for the land, and deepen an understanding of Indigenous ways of being with non-Indigenous communities.

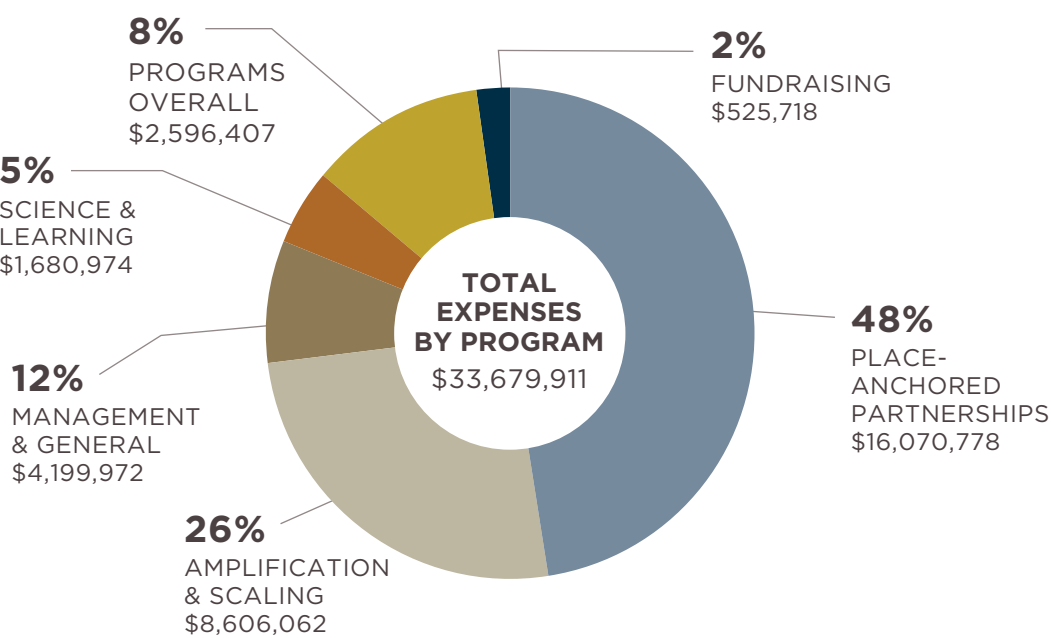
STANDING TOGETHER

In 2022, 86% of our \$34 million in expenditures focused on our program delivery to uphold and expand a global network of place-anchored partnerships to secure Indigenous guardianship.

The remaining 14% supported our management, administrative, and fundraising capacity.

Nia Tero raised a total of \$18.9 million in revenue from a growing portfolio of supports 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.

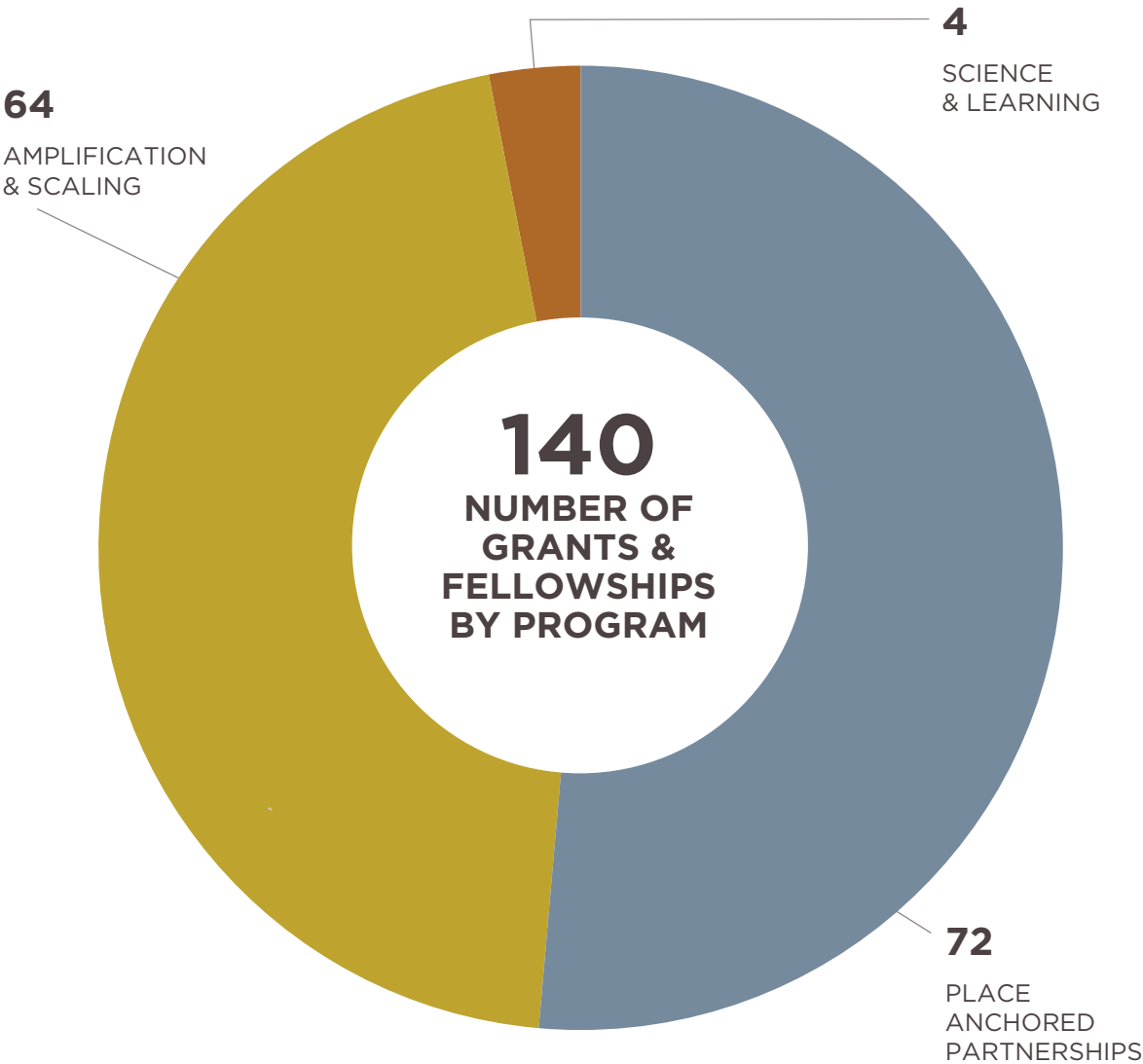
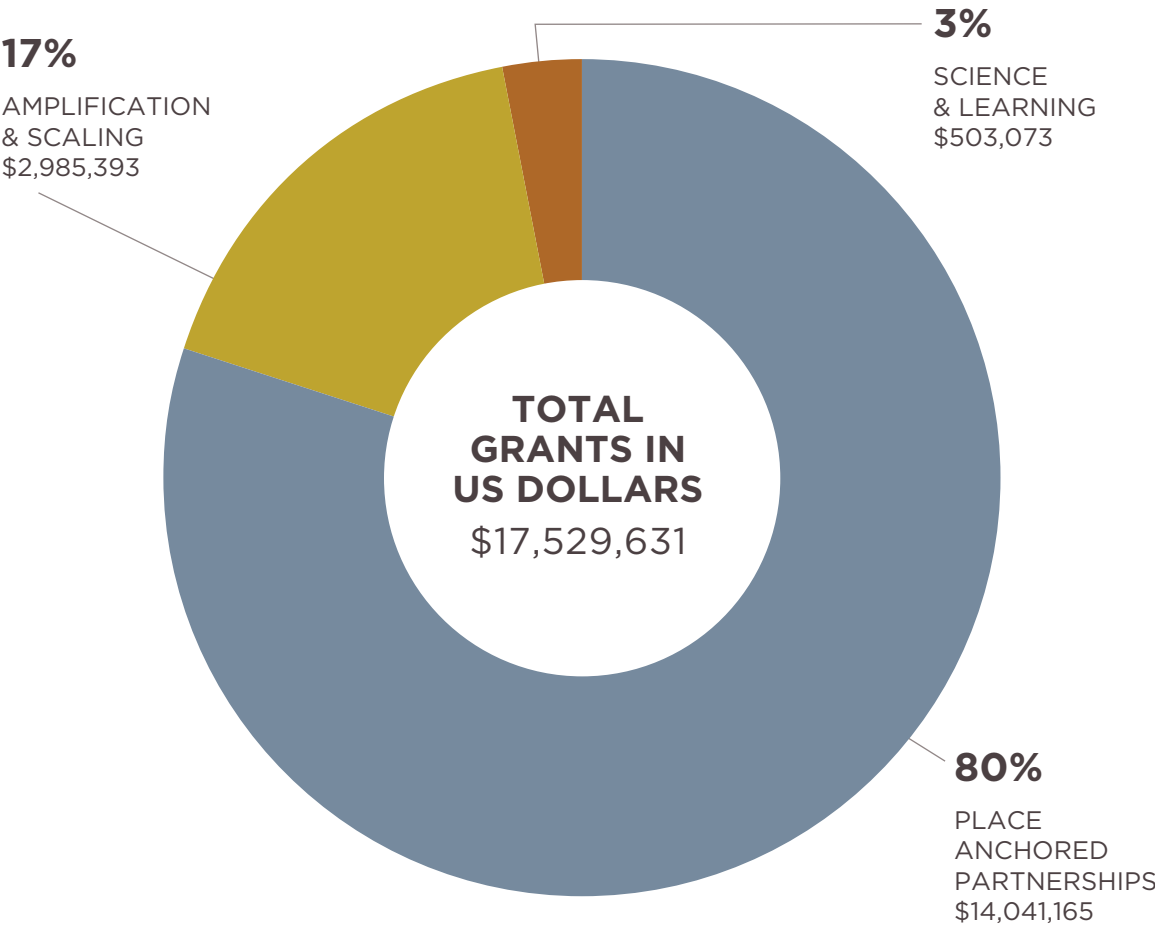
This year’s economic volatility caused widespread investment losses. However, Nia Tero mitigated our losses to \$1.1 million thanks to a conservative investment strategy. We are moving into 2023 with a healthy financial outlook that enables us to directly fund Indigenous Peoples as they protect their homelands and waters.



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES				
Statement of activities and changes in net assets for the year ended December 31 2022				
	2022			2021
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL	TOTAL
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Contributions and grants	\$15,239,291	\$4,648,303	\$19,887,594	\$16,795,873
License and screening fees	106,360	-	106,360	-
Interest and investment loss, net	(1,140,082)	-	(1,140,082)	(123,330)
Other revenue	2,202	-	2,202	(749)
Net assets released from donor restrictions	32,159,954	(32,159,954)	-	-
Total Support and Revenue	46,367,725	(27,511,651)	18,856,074	16,671,794
EXPENSES				
Program services:				
Place anchored partnerships	16,070,778	-	16,070,778	10,005,767
Amplification and scaling	8,606,062	-	8,606,062	7,519,130
Science and learning	1,680,974	-	1,680,974	735,257
Programs overall	2,596,407	-	2,596,407	2,174,069
Total Program Services	28,954,221	-	28,954,221	20,434,223
Supporting services:				
Management and general	4,199,972	-	4,199,972	4,014,624
Fundraising	525,718	-	525,718	384,466
Total Supporting Services	4,725,690	-	4,725,690	4,399,090
Total Expenses	33,679,911	-	33,679,911	24,833,313
Changes in net assets	12,687,814	(27,511,651)	(14,823,837)	(8,161,519)
Net assets at beginning of year	64,742,514	49,388,264	114,130,778	122,292,297
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$77,430,328	\$21,876,613	\$99,306,941	\$114,130,778

GRANTMAKING

In 2022, we distributed a total of 123 grants and 17 fellowships, totaling \$17.5 million to our partners, representing 28% more in grants than in 2021. Cumulatively, Nia Tero has distributed over 500 grants since inception.



SINCE INCEPTION





PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Nia Tero is viewed as an agent of positive change, a partner in our journey to heal from the enduring effects of historical trauma. Unlike previous experiences where organizations often dictated the path to healing, Nia Tero stands beside us, offering support and resources without imposing their own directives. This is paramount, as Indigenous communities have long endured paternalistic approaches from well-intentioned organizations. We possess the knowledge and capability to heal ourselves; what we need are the necessary resources, and Nia Tero has played a pivotal role in this regard.

~ LONA RUNNING WOLF

Blackfeet, Haida, Little Shell Cree
Blackfeet Nation

TEAM DEPARTMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

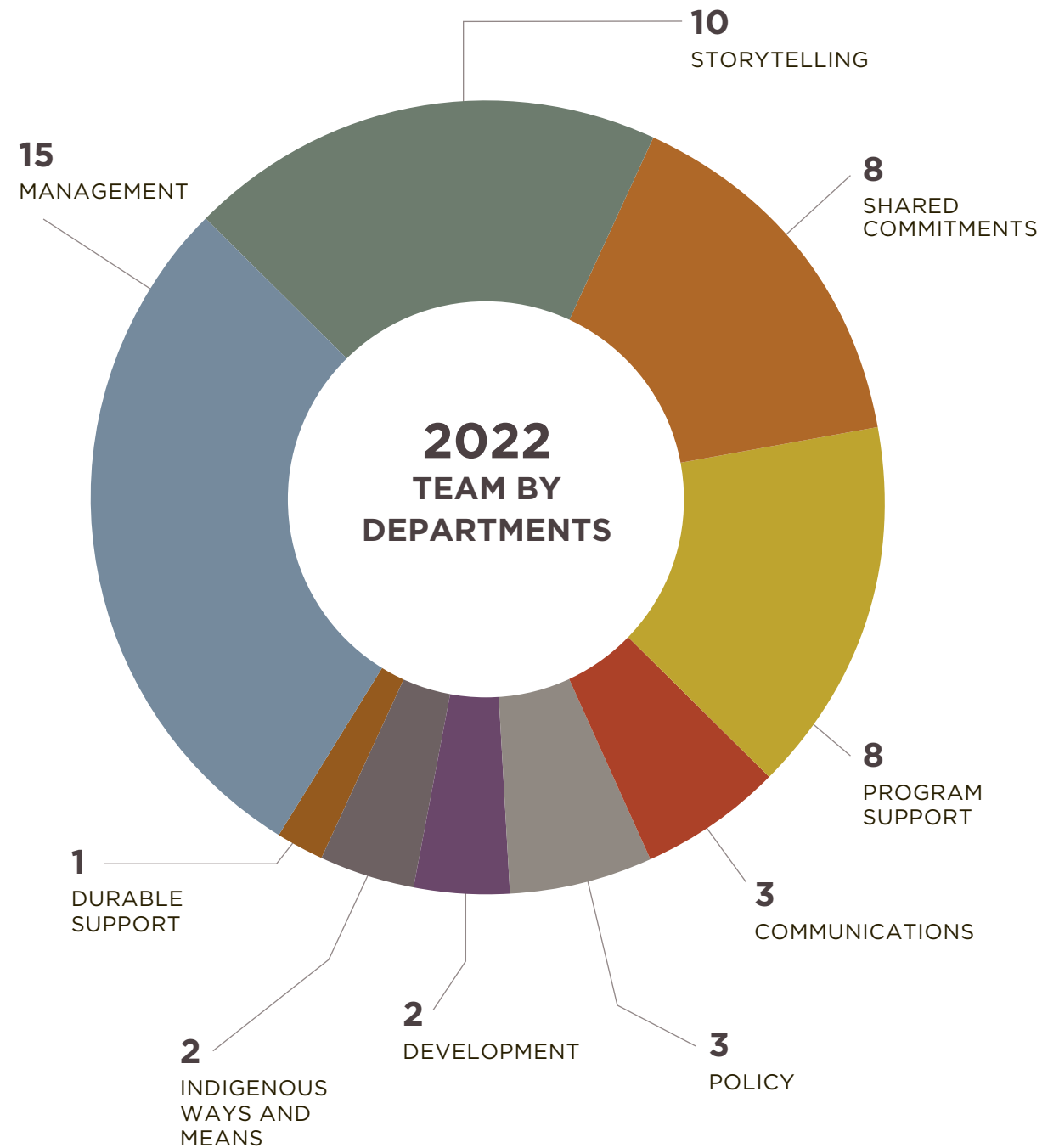
Our Team

Nia Tero is steadfastly committed to an inclusive environment that enables our team to best serve our mission in support of Indigenous guardianship. We prioritize strong Indigenous leadership in all aspects of our organization. Nia Tero's governing bodies, leadership, and team are of diverse Indigenous and non-Indigenous identities and life experiences. We center Indigenous self-determination in our approach and a culture that respects and is guided by Indigenous wisdom, practices, and protocols.

DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH

Key to our mission is embracing diverse perspectives, lived experiences, and work backgrounds in an environment that promotes innovation, creativity, trust, and teamwork.

While Nia Tero is a US-based non-profit, our team—which grew to 52 members in 2022—spans twelve countries throughout our key regions of focus. Our ambition is for our senior leadership to be equally Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and our board will always be majority Indigenous. We view this diversity as a source of our strength as a bridging organization, committed to Indigenous self-determination and Indigenous ways and means.





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.

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT

ROW 1 **JOSEPH WILLIAMS**, Māori
BOARD CHAIR 2023

MYRNA CUNNINGHAM KAIN, Miskita
VICE CHAIR

PAUL KLINGENSTEIN
VICE CHAIR

ROW 2 **ANNE MARIE BURGOYNE**

MICHAEL CROW

LIAM KOKAUA, Ngāti Arera

ROW 3 **YO-YO MA**

NEMONTE NENQUIMO, Waorani

BRENDA PIPESTEM, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

ROW 4 **PETER SELIGMANN**

KEVIN STARR

VICKY TAULI-CORPUZ, Kankana-ey Igorot
BOARD CHAIR 2017 - 2022

NAINOA THOMPSON, Kanaka Maoli

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.

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT

- ROW 1

DOMINIQUE BIKABA, Bashi Tribe, Eastern Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo

JOJI CARINO, Ibaloi-Igorot, Cordillera Region of the Philippines
- ROW 2

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

LAURA HATTENDORF, Observer

OLE KAUNGA MALI, Laikipia Maasai, Kenya
- ROW 3

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

SHERRI MITCHELL, Penobscot Nation, Penawahpskek
- ROW 4

STEPHANIE PLATZ, Observer

RALPH REGENVANU, Uripiv of Malakua Island, Vanuatu

GUNN-BRITT RETTER, Saami, Unjárga-Nesseby by Varangerfjord, North-Eastern Norway





THE FUTURE

We hope the stories shared throughout these pages have demonstrated the importance of trust-based relationships, and that supporting Indigenous Peoples' methods of guardianship are deeply critical to the sustainability of our collective futures. Because of the work of Indigenous leaders, great accomplishments are being made across regional and global partnerships, programs, and initiatives. The elevation and amplification of Indigenous voices, stories, and visions through programs such as the Wayfinders Circle, and initiatives such as Seedcast and the Reciprocity Project, continue to share the Indigenous knowledge and visions for a viable future in Indigenous guardianship that the world needs to see.

Our partnerships across Amazonia, Pasifika, and North America continue to make great strides in advancing policy, establishing new methods of exchange and communication, and monitoring lands and waters in autonomy and self-determination.

Now is the time for us all to support Indigenous guardianship of our Earth as the way forward. We hope you will join us!

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.

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