

More than 80 Pan-American civil societies have put forward a strong manifesto calling on their governments to keep '**Amazon Free from Oil and Gas**', ahead of the Amazon Summit starting tomorrow. The manifesto is calling for an end to oil projects throughout the Amazon, in defense of the climate and against the constant oil spills that have destroyed biodiversity, health and the livelihoods of forest peoples.

This is the result of a two day Amazon Dialogue bringing together many actors including networks, indigenous peoples' organizations, activists, nature defenders, communicators, academics, women and inhabitants of the Amazon.

Below is the manifesto and you can find quotes from the leaders attending the "Amazonia free of oil and gas" event. On [this drive](#) you can find photos and videos of the event, including the full recording of the seminar. We'll also be adding footage from the march happening tomorrow, [see here](#).

Various organizations will be following the Amazon Summit and are available for interviews on the manifesto and about the summit. For more information don't hesitate to contact our colleagues in Belém, accessible on WhatsApp too.

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With thanks!

Amazon Free from Oil and Gas
Connecting the Peoples and Territories

Main demands:

- **Avoiding the tipping point of the Amazon and, consequently, climate collapse, requires an articulated policy of immediate phase-out of fossil fuels.**
- **The Amazon Summit is the opportunity to decide to leave oil and gas in the ground, a show of leadership for other countries to follow.**

- **The Amazonian heads of state must take concrete and effective measures to guarantee the protection of this fundamental territory and their peoples, in order to face the global climate crisis, and promote new development alternatives.**

FULL TEXT:

We, movements, networks, collectives, indigenous peoples' organisations, activists, nature defenders, communicators, academics, women and inhabitants of the Amazon, other biomes and other regions of the planet, gathered in the Brazilian city of Belém to discuss the participation and contribution of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon Basin and its Caribbean and Atlantic coasts in the face of the current climate crisis.

We know that our fate is intertwined with that of the Amazon, wherever we are on the planet. Halting deforestation is necessary and essential to ensure the protection of the largest tropical rainforest, but it is no longer enough. At a time when the climate emergency is causing unprecedented heat waves and extreme events across the planet, the immediate reduction of the exploitation, production and burning of fossil fuels, which are primarily responsible for greenhouse gas emissions, must be an absolute priority. If we are to avoid the tipping point of the Amazon and, consequently, climate collapse, we need an articulated policy of immediate fossil fuel phase-out.

The Amazon Summit is an opportunity for the countries that are home to the world's largest rainforest to take a clear stand on its future. Leaving oil and gas in the ground is the demonstration of leadership. We need to call on other countries to do the same, in order to secure the planet's living conditions.

We can lead, from the global South, the worldwide effort to create "fossil fuel free zones", and set an example by stopping extracting oil and gas in the Amazon.

In this sense, in harmony with the Assembly of the Peoples of the Earth, we demand that the heads of state of the countries that share the territory of the Amazon take concrete and effective measures to guarantee the protection of this territory, which is fundamental to confront the global climate crisis and promote new development alternatives.

To this end, Amazonian states must: set a date for the end of fossil fuel production; stop offering new blocks for oil and gas exploration (conventional and unconventional/fracking) in the region and its coasts; stop subsidising the exploration and production of these fuels; reorient the subsidies currently granted to fossil fuels towards the promotion of sustainable production of forest products and renewable energy; initiate a closure and remediation plan for fossil fuels and the promotion of sustainable forestry and coastal production from renewable energy; redirect current fossil fuel subsidies towards the promotion of sustainable production of forest and Amazonian coastal products from renewable energy; initiate a closure and remediation plan for existing extractive areas, involving affected populations.

- Guarantee the territorial rights and the Free, Prior and Informed Consultation of the peoples and territories affected by oil and gas exploitation, as well as the reparation and recovery of the affected territories, with respect for their autonomy and self-determination.
- Create compensation mechanisms for the population historically affected by this industry.
- Strengthen the role of the command and control authorities to avoid impunity for companies responsible for pollution and environmental degradation.
- Ensure the necessary preventive actions on the part of the companies to allow for rapid action to clean up and contain oil spills and gas leaks.
- Generate local economic alternatives with respect for the indigenous economy, and in consideration of the dependence on labour and basic needs generated by the entry of the fossil fuel industry into the territories.
- Initiate the transition to a new energy model that protects the biodiversity of the Amazon and its peoples as part of the commitments of the Paris Agreement, that considers the particularities of each territory and avoids new territorial impacts. This transition must be just and popular, based on the discussion of a new energy model that responds to the needs of the people, through energy sources that generate less impact and respect the ecological limits of the planet.
- Demand that private banks and multilateral institutions stop financing fossil fuel extraction projects in the Amazon, and that they redirect resources to finance measures for the restoration and recovery of the Amazonian forests, as well as new models of energy production that can be community, cooperative or local, and directed by the communities themselves.
- Support the referendum initiative in Ecuador for the non-exploration of oil in Yasuní as a measure to protect this area of unique biodiversity on the planet.

Endorsing this text:

350.org América Latina, 350.org Brasil, 5 Elementos Educação para Sustentabilidade, Articulação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil (APIB), AIDA, Associação Maranhense para a Conservação da Natureza (AMAVIDA), Associação de Preservação do Meio Ambiente e da Vida (Apremavi), ARAYARA Brasil, ARAYARA Guyana, ARAYARA Maranhão, ARAYARA Suriname, ARAYARA Internacional, Articulação Antinuclear Brasileira, Asamblea Ecologista Popular, Associação Alternativa Terrazul, Associação Movimento Paulo Jackson (Ética, Justiça, Cidadania), Campaña Que Paguen los Contaminadores América Latina, Centro Amazónico de Antropología y Aplicación Práctica, Centro de Desarrollo Andino Sisay, Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH/Honduras), Centro de Estudios Humanistas Nueva Civilización, Ciclos Vitales, Citizens' Climate Lobby Colombia, Claudia Renata Lod Mores, Censat Agua Viva (Amigos de la Tierra Colombia), Consejo Permanente para la Transición Energética Justa en Colombia, ClimalInfo, Climalab Colombia, Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira (COIAB), COESUS, Coalizão Não Fracking Brasil, Comissão Pastoral da Terra (CPT),

CooperAcción, Coordinadora Regional de los Pueblos Indígenas de San Lorenzo (CORPI SL), Corporación Yariguíes (GEAM), Corporate Accountability America Latina, Defensores do Planeta, Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Força Ação e Defesa Ambiental (FADA), Foro Ciudades para la Vida, Fórum Mudanças Climáticas e Justiça Socioambiental, Frente por uma Nova Política Energética para o Brasil, Fridays For Future MAPA, Fundação Grupo Esquel Brasil, Grupo de Estudos em Educação e Meio Ambiente do Rio de Janeiro (GEEMA), Gestos, Greenpeace Brasil, Grupo de Financiamiento Climático para Latinoamérica y el Caribe, GFLAC, Grupo de Trabalho Amazônico (GTA), Instituto Brasileiro de Defesa do Consumidor (IDEC), Instituto Ambiental Viramundo, Instituto Ecoar para a Cidadania, Instituto Ecosurf, Instituto Floresta dos Unicornios, Instituto Fronteiras, Instituto Mapinguari, Litigância Climática e de Direitos (LITIGA), Movimiento Ciudadano frente al Cambio Climático (MOCICC), Movimento Pela Soberania Popular na Mineração (MAM), Nacionalidad Waorani del Ecuador (NAWE), ONG Casa Venezuela, Observatório do Petróleo e Gás (OPG), Organización de Pueblos Indígenas del Oriente (ORPIO), Pachamama Alliance Perú, Projeto Saúde e Alegria, Purpose Brasil, Reacción Climática, Rede Brasileira de Educação Ambiental (REBEA), Red de Transición Energética, Rede de Cooperação Amazônica (RCA), Rede de Mulheres Ambientalistas da América Latina, Rede Fé, Paz e Clima, SOA HUB Garopaba, Sociedad Amigos del Viento Uruguay, Uma Gota No Oceano, Unión de Afectados por Texaco, UDAPT, Universidade Federal do Ceará.

Quotes

Jammer Manihuari (Pueblo Kukama) - Peru

"Oil and gas activity endangers humanity. Our rivers and our animals are contaminated. It is not acceptable if the coming out of this summit is never implemented, as is the case with the Escazú agreement. We don't want to just talk among indigenous peoples, while governments make decisions without consulting us. We cannot be negotiating thousands of lives, the future of our countries, of our generation. No more extractivism that ends the lives of our brothers and sisters in the Amazonian territories!"

Elaine Shajian (Pueblo Awajún) - Perú

"The oil spills are causing chronic malnutrition and anemia, miscarriages, and even cases of polio in our area. The state does not guarantee our right to health. The spills are mostly in the rivers, in the oxbow lakes, and Petroperu [the state company] has abandoned us. Our demands include no more oil concessions within indigenous peoples' territories, remediation of spills that have already occurred, and prior consultation and citizen participation to guarantee the rights of indigenous peoples".

Alessandra Korap Munduruku (Pueblo Munduruku) - Brasil

"To talk about oil is to talk about resistance. The people decided to resist. Resistance comes from the grassroots. We are having cases of mercury in blood in our villages. How are we going

to solve the problem of Brazil, of the Amazon, if it is our bodies and our lives that are being affected. It is not worth negotiating. A government that does not listen, kills in silence. We have to defend our flora, our people and our rivers. We want to continue with our autonomy."

Cacique Jonas Mura (Pueblo Mura) - Brasil

"Where gas is exploited, our fish disappears. We need to defend our rivers, our fauna and flora. There are people who still sell our land without our knowledge, without consulting us who are the real owners of these lands. Our rivers are beginning to dry up, our forests are disappearing, our children are beginning to get sick. We have to join forces and defend ourselves. We are threatened with death. Will I have to be another dead Indigenous to be heard, to be recognised?"

Edmilson dos Santos Oliveira (Conselho de Caciques dos Povos Indígenas do Oiapoque Etnia Karipuna) - Brasil

"We have consultation protocols that must be respected. We will not accept any project that we have not been informed about. Our territories are rich in rivers, mountains and forests. Our grandparents left us a clean land, and now it is our responsibility to protect it, for our children and grandchildren. We are here to ask for support, to help us. Free Amazonia, without oil and gas!"

Esperanza Martinez Yáñez (Acción Ecológica) - Ecuador

"Capitalism has managed to install the idea that without oil we cannot live, but oil is little more than 100 years old. It is limited and has a short life in this system, and is fulfilling a genocidal mandate in the process of extraction. In Ecuador, we are building technical capacity to remove the infrastructure that exists in a block of Yasuní. The decision to get out of oil is not only theoretical or political. The process of abandonment has to be real, not merely declarative, and requires more than the physical removal of the material: we have to reconcile ourselves with Mother Earth. The native peoples will be fundamental to this process. There can be no democracy without stopping oil. There can be no democracy without concrete actions to protect nature and the rights of the people."

Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai (Pueblo Achuar) - Ecuador

President of the Sagradas de la Amazonía alliance, a union of 27 indigenous organizations and nationalities of the Peruvian and Ecuadorian Amazon

"Without the organization of indigenous peoples, we would have already passed the point of no return. [...] I believe in the indigenous alliance and in the international alliance, which gives strength to the actions in the territories. It is important to shout and to take our claims to the streets, but we also need to work on legal action and review what the international agreements and some articles of the constitutions say. We have to do advocacy, we have to demand from the State in each country and at the international level. We must reach the world with our clear message: we demand solidarity and conscience to respect Mother Earth, to respect nature. We are alive and firm with the sole purpose of saving life".

Erlan Sleur (Probios) - Surinam

Also, president of Foro Social Pan Amazónico (FOSPA)-Surinam

"It is very hypocritical of rich countries to tell us to protect our nature, while we have their international companies exploiting our territories. We are now facing deep sea drilling, which is very dangerous. An oil spill won't be a problem only for Surinam, it will affect the whole region. We need each other to fight for the Amazon. For life, we defend the Amazon."

Mari Luz Canaquiri (Huaynakana Kamatahuara kana). Loreto - Perú

President of Federación de Mujeres Kukama del río Marañón y afluentes

"The exploitation (of fossil fuels), after more than 50 years, has brought us death, poverty and pollution. We have heavy metals in our blood and no water fit for human consumption. With each flood, the water rises and the soil is also contaminated. Water is a human right. If we damage our forests and rivers, we are slowly killing ourselves. We defend it in the Amazon, it is for the whole world. Because we are defending life."