

2020-2021
INDIGENOUS WOMEN
CURA DA TERRA



CURA DA TERRA 2021

Mother Earth is sick, so are our people. This are times of pandemic and climate emergency, ecocide and genocide. Today, we live the consequences of an economic, social and spiritual model that has infected our territories and bodies. A virus that puts money above life.

-Cura da Terra (2020)

Abstract: Cura da Terra is an indigenous women's lead project that aims to co-create narratives of responsibility, reciprocity and regeneration in times of systems collapse.

After the success of [Cura da Terra 2020](#), we decided to create a network and platform for indigenous land defenders around the world to share their stories and strategies to cure the territories, bodies and spirits; we intend to create a dialogue between those who are in the frontlines defending life on the planet and the global movements emerging in times of crisis.

Context: Cura da Terra -cure of the earth- is the way our sisters of Amazônia, Cerrado, Pantanal, Pampa, Caatinga and Mata Atlântica in Brazil called themselves during the historic encounter of Xingu back in January 2020. We have listened to their heed in times of pandemic and destructive fires caused by greed, we as indigenous women respond to their calling for global solidarity.

As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned, we have outreached the limits of our planet, we are already living in extreme droughts, forest fires, floods, wars over water, massive climate driven migrations and food shortages for hundreds millions of people. The existing system of structural inequalities have exterminated 60% of animal species in the last 40 years, has allowed the accumulation of wealth and power in a few hands while half of humanity lives in poverty, and has precipitated a deep spiritual, social, political and economical crisis. The recent pandemic has revealed the contradictions of this world, it is the first time that inequality rose in virtually every country on earth at the same time, while the increase of wealth of 10 rich people would be enough to prevent anyone from falling into poverty because of the virus and pay for universal vaccination. This is not the world we want for future generations.

We need urgent and sustainable change. The decade of 2020-2030 will be determinant, we can still stay below the 1.5°C that could precipitate climate collapse, we can dismantle structural inequality.

We indigenous peoples are 6.2% of the global population but in our territories is preserved almost 80% of the planet's remaining biodiversity. This shows that in the heart of our peoples exist an array of diverse ways of knowing and being that beats resilience: for more than 500 years our communities around the world have dealt with oppressions that threaten spirits, bodies, territories and cultures. Simultaneously, local and global movements of organized

women, emerges as an intersectional movement that questions the deep logic of patriarchy, capitalism, colonialism, and racism. In the intersection of indigenous movements and organized women already exist viable alternatives to tackle climate emergency and systemic inequality.

How do we heal our territories, bodies and spirits? With these questions as our guide this project focuses on co-creating replicable and scalable narratives, tools and practices from inside the women's indigenous movement. An amplifier of *Cura da Terra* voices in defense of cultural and ecological diversity and the foundation of a global repository of epistemic alternatives for the ongoing systems collapse.

Previous work: In January 2020 we started a process of accompaniment to the indigenous movement in defense of Amazônia in Brazil, this same year covid-19 pandemic flipped everything and pushed our work towards creative narrative intervention which derived in [Cura da Terra](#).

#CuraDaTerra 2020 Global Gathering

English <https://youtu.be/TzXHx7sYDxE>

Spanish <https://youtu.be/XWnHxcFYyoA>

Portugese https://youtu.be/qmBC_X7LDJs

1 min trailer: https://youtu.be/oUa-OXU1_-l

#CuraDaTerra Series

EP 01: Watatakalu <https://youtu.be/Tinf4ctzalw>

EP 02: Célia <https://youtu.be/O9dQafEhqjw>

EP 03: Sônia <https://youtu.be/xRPyLHHOm08>

EP 04: Tsitsina <https://youtu.be/CrJLUWcsR-o>

EP 05: Maria <https://youtu.be/Jzh1lPcCXI>

These were some of the previous steps from January 2020 to September 2020:

- A report about the Xingu Basin gathering in January 2020. As well as a media and networks analysis report.
- A series of interviews with global leaders from social movements, multilateral organizations, Indigenous elders and others that have led or advised key political struggles across the globe.
- This fed into an analysis of global levers for change and a synthesis of relevant case studies.

- Simultaneously, we have been interviewing key Indigenous leaders and local movements in Brazil and Spanish speaking communities around the world.
- Given that this work has occurred during the COVID-19 crisis, we have created a COVID annex document that helps us think through broader frames around cultural narratives. This document in its spanish version has created a working group and has been used by several academic institutions as analysis document.
- Generation of a support network for the dissemination of content in 3 languages (English, Spanish and Portuguese).
- Strengthening of alliances with Latin American alternative communication networks.
- We also incorporated a big data analysis of recent media coverage of these issues. As well as the ongoing work with APIB
- As part of the co-creation process, we started a key alliance with Midia India and APIB (The Brazil's Indigenous People Articulation) and we started by creating narrative and data analysis during #AbrilVermelho.
- All of these inputs have led to some initial key frames to share with allies, including journalists, authors, researchers, policy-makers and activists.
- We started creating a series of narrative interventions and prototypes that were used during the APIB Indigenous Women's Assembly.
- Those same narrative prototypes were tested during the Maraca's international mobilisation to save lives. Which later derived into a web series.
- **On September 5th 2020**, more than 267 indigenous women from 116 indigenous nations in 37 different countries gathered in a word circle. We shared reflections, criticisms, pains, dreams and actions. In times of pandemic and climate emergency, ecocide and genocide, we choose hope.

2021 APPROACH:

Cura da Terra is an already existing network of organizations, collectives and media. Some of them are Festivales Solidarios, Ella Global, Waya Akua, MICIV, Elijo Dignidad, La Sandía Digital, FGER, Culture Hack Labs, Midia Ninja, Midia India, APIB, CLACPI, Mujeres en Movimienta among others. We will continue to build and strengthen this network to amplify the voices of indigenous women defending life around the world.

For the second iteration of the Cura da Terra project, we want to keep two main pillars: A) A project led by indigenous women with deep diversity in its core B) the narrative objective of placing indigenous women voices at the center of the climate emergency narrative.

NEXT STEPS:

1. Systematize the previous encounter of Cura da Terra and create an open call for those who were not able to actively participate.
2. Continue weaving the network of Cura da Terra, first by strengthening the North, Central and South American dialogue, then connecting to the other 4 continents.

3. Fundraise and produce the next Cura da Terra Global Gathering on the 5th of September 2021
4. Continue supporting a Pan-Amazonian alliance with a shared sense of identity, key frames and core messaging through our key allies APIB, Midia India and Midia Ninja.

TIMELINE:

Oct 20 -Jan 21: Systematize and build the Cura da Terra platform as an ongoing narrative. / Supporting the Pan-Amazonian alliance.

Feb 21 -May 21: Continuation of the Cura da Terra platform / Pre-produce and fundraise for the next Cura da Terra.

Jun 21 - Sep 21: Production of Cura da Terra 2021 / Continues content creation for the platform and amazonian support.

DELIVERIES:

- Monthly newsletter of Cura da Terra stories, news, and actions by and for indigenous women who defend their territories. (With a close follow up to the amazonian network).
- Narrative support and content creation in defense of Amazônia and the indigenous movement in Brazil.
- Systematization of Cura da Terra 2020, as an extended narrative report and strategy.
- Culture Hack Live workshops for indigenous women organizations that will be part of the next encounter.
- Second encounter Cura da Terra as an online global gathering of indigenous women on the 5th September 2021.

TEAM:

Andrea Ixchiú, general coordination. Lucía Ixchiú (Indigenous women networks), Gabriela Hernández (communications coordinator), Débora Chacón (content creation), David Hernández (Indigenous networks), Lucila (big data analysis) , Paloma (media analysis), Felipe Viveros (production), Federico Zuvire (creative).

"In the midst of this extermination, we, Indigenous women, make melody of the struggle, while we recover land stolen from us, we insist on celebrating our existence. We sow hope, because we, ourselves, are the very Earth healing itself."

- Celia Xakriaba