

# A FOREST CALLED AMAZON

by Chief Ninawa Huni Kui  
Forest Guardian





This book is dedicated to the thousands of people who have given their lives protecting the Amazon and to all land, water, air and forest defenders around the world.

The text and illustrations were created in collaboration with the Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures collective.

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My name is Ninawa Huni Kui! I am one of the Hereditary Chiefs of the Huni Kui people.

Today, I will tell a story about a forest who is called

**AMAZON.**

The Amazon Forest is more than 50 million years old.



The Amazon Forest is not older than its relatives in other places, but it is the largest in the world.

The Amazon Forest is a living being and a sacred mystery.





The Amazon forest can't live without their soul mate, who is called River Basin. Both the Amazon Forest and River Basin are enchanted shape-shifters. They dance together and shape shift all the time into a million dancing forms simultaneously.

At any time, they can be a tree, a waterfall, a jaguar, an anaconda, a manioc bush, a monkey, a dragonfly, a hummingbird, a human being or anything in between.

In fact, the human beings who are part of the Amazon Forest are called originary peoples over there. They are also known as Indigenous Peoples.

Most Indigenous Peoples do not see themselves as separate from the land and from the whole planet.

Many call the planet Mother Earth.





For Indigenous Peoples, the Forest is a school, a university, a hospital and a pharmacy. Some Indigenous Peoples are also known as guardians of the forests.

The Amazon Forest needs guardians because it is constantly under attack.

The attackers are Greed, Arrogance, Vanity and Indifference.



**Greed** wants to sell the forest to get rich.

**Arrogance** wants to overpower the forest to show how strong he is.

**Vanity** is jealous and self-centred - she wants to destroy the beauty of the forest.

**Indifference** couldn't care less about the Forest.



Without Indigenous Peoples doing their job as keepers and guardians of the Amazon, the whole ecosystem will be destroyed by the attackers.

Both the Amazon Forest and River Basin are under threat right now and so are the Indigenous Peoples who guard it.

Indigenous Peoples need your help to protect the forest and their right to exist in the forest.

"THE AMAZON FOREST AND RIVER BASIN ARE VITAL TO THE PLANET. THE FOREST FILTERS THE AIR AND THE RIVER BASIN REGULATES MANY PARTS OF THE WATER CURRENTS AROUND THE WORLD. IF THE ATTACKERS HAVE THEIR WAY, WE WILL ALL PAY THE PRICE: THE FOREST WILL TURN INTO A SAVANNA, WE WILL SEE MORE FIRES, MORE DROUGHTS, MORE FLOODS, MORE EXTREME WEATHER. CLIMATE CHANGE WILL ESCALATE IF THE AMAZON FOREST IS GONE."





We must wake up the whole world to what is happening to the Amazon and to the Indigenous Peoples in Brazil.

We must protect the land, water and air protectors all over the world: the Indigenous Peoples who are putting their lives on the line to defend the planet.



If the land is suffering, we are suffering too, because our bodies are also land.

If the planet is unhealthy, our bodies are unhealthy. Without a healthy planet, human beings cannot survive.

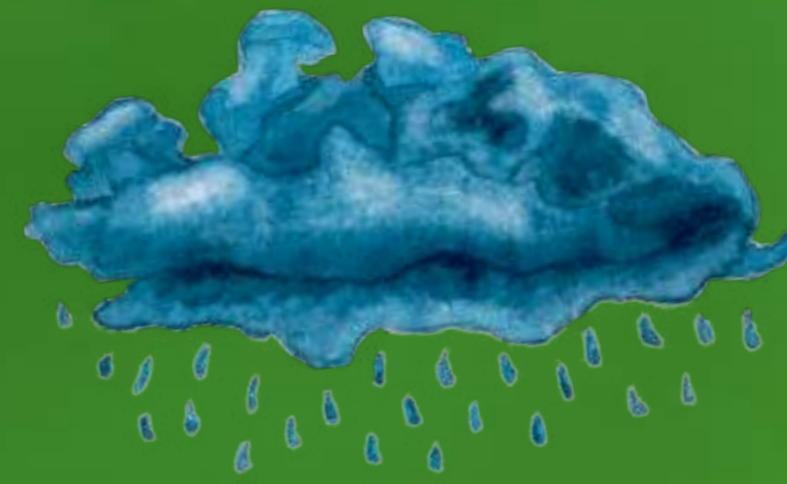


# The AMAZON is shouting for help!

We must defend the guardians of the forest!

We need to save the Amazon because everyone's future is at stake!

We must protect the rights of nature and of Indigenous Peoples in Brazil and everywhere.



Indigenous Peoples are only 5% of the world's population and they protect 80% of the remaining biodiversity.

Will you Join us in the  
struggle to protect life  
on **MOTHER  
EARTH?**





If you identify as kid at heart:

1. Cut out the cartoon of Chief Ninawa, glue it to a cardboard and then to a popsicle stick. Choose one of the messages of Chief Ninawa or write your own in a cardboard. Take Chief Ninawa with you for a walking protest in a forest
2. Think about the connection between this forest and the Amazon Forest: Is this forest you are in protected from Greed, Arrogance, Vanity and Indifference?
3. If you receive any pocket money consider donating it to a project that protects forests
4. Write to a celebrity or politician expressing your concerns about the destruction of the Amazon Forest.

If you identify as a grown up, please use the platforms available to you to support Indigenous rights and those who are protecting the Forest.

Donate one day of your salary a month to local or international Indigenous led initiatives that are protecting the forest.

Consider committing to the pledge on the following pages -->





## Pledge of Generations

In a time of overlapping crises, we need new commitments across generations. We need a compass of maturity, discernment and responsibility that can help us heal from the perceived separation between "humans and nature".

This separation creates a collective trauma - a collective open wound. Our compulsion to consume everything is a symptom of a diseased metabolism - of our refusal to face the reality of what this trauma has done to ourselves and to the planet.

We need a new compass to face together the storms of global challenges that are coming our way.

We will need to remember how to breathe and to walk with humility, honesty, humour and accountability.

We will need to learn to face our collective pain and to heal together.



## a new compass:

*I pledge to learn to age well and die well, fulfilling our responsibilities to each other, and especially to future generations of all species, and to accept that the generations that follow us will challenge us just as we challenged those that came before ours.*

**To my generation**

**To the generation coming right after mine**

*I pledge to try and "have your back" as you push my generation and those that follow, even if I don't always "back you up".*

**To the generation right before mine**

*I pledge to work with you to figure out what is needed from us by the generations preceding and following ours, in order to support our collective (inter-generational, inter-species) healing.*

*I pledge to try to learn to be the elder that you will need (without seeking recognition or legacy), including by synthesizing my own learning (especially so that you can learn from my mistakes), and to practice knowing when to just listen, when to intervene, when to offer guidance, and when to step back and let you make your own mistakes.*

**To two generations after mine**

*I pledge to learn from your mistakes so as not to repeat them, to honour that you did what you thought was best (even if I disagree with what you did), to forgive you for not always being the elders that we needed, and to try to bridge the gap between us and especially between you and the generations following me.*

**To two generations before mine**

**To the Amazon and Indigenous peoples in Brazil and everywhere**

*I pledge not to support businesses and politicians who contribute to the destruction of the environment, or the cancelation of rights of Indigenous peoples everywhere. I pledge to support businesses and initiatives that uphold Indigenous and environmental rights and that strive for social and ecological health and wellbeing.*



How are you also part  
of the Amazon Forest?



DRAW HERE