

# Bridging Europe and Amazonia

An introduction to the political framework surrounding climate and sustainable development, the importance of global partnerships, and the presentation of an EU project that explored alternative solutions

# The Future We Want



Climate Alliance



# A Sustainable Future for All

A sustainable future for all will only be possible if we reconcile social justice, the ecological boundaries of the earth and economic development. The over-use of natural resources globally is having a dramatic impact on the environment and leading to social problems. Only if the consumption of resources is reduced will we succeed in creating the conditions needed for effective climate protection and sustainable development. We need sustainable regional and local solutions that enable a good life for all the world's peoples – be it in the cities and towns of Europe or the indigenous territories of Amazonia.

Indigenous peoples play a decisive role in global climate protection and possess an in-depth knowledge of their environment, the tropical rainforest. Similar to many other communities whose

livelihoods depend directly on the use of natural resources, indigenous peoples are among those most affected by climate change despite the fact that they barely contribute to it themselves.

It is essential that we campaign for climate justice and support indigenous peoples to preserve their living space. Building on their experience, they can, in turn, help us to develop concepts that promote a good life for all the world's peoples. Climate Alliance and 16 partner municipalities and organisations from across Europe took just this approach in the project "EYD2015: The Future We Want – Local Authorities for Sustainable Development".

Picking up on the slogan of the Rio+20 Summit on sustainable development of "The Future We Want", this EU-funded project provided the framework for

indigenous delegates to act as ambassadors for sustainability during three European tours. In their search for answers to the question of how a good life can be guaranteed for all, the delegates travelled to seven countries across Europe and exchanged with politicians, citizens and representatives of locals organisations and municipalities. The focus: for these various actors to gain inspiration from other ways of life through a direct exchange with indigenous representatives. What can we learn from our partners and how can we implement this in practical terms? What is the relationship between our everyday lives, consumption, our behavioural patterns and the realities of life for indigenous communities in Amazonia?

Drawing on the experiences gained during the delegation trips, Climate Alliance and its

# Transforming Our World

project partners have formulated recommendations to support “sustainable development for all”. We have based these recommendations on findings and suggestions made throughout the project as well as Climate Alliance’s vast experience in its over 25 years of cooperation with COICA, the coordination body of the indigenous organisations of the Amazon Basin (Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica). The resulting political demands are broken down for the local, national and European levels; we look forward to a dialogue on their implementation.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the EU for its financial support.

The “Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development” with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) are internationally binding documents that pave the way towards transformative policy. They rightfully recognise the regional and local levels as being of critical importance in moving towards sustainable development. Consistent implementation of these agreements would mean nothing less than the end of the fossil fuel age and thus a profound transformation of our societies.

**Around 30% of the carbon still stored in the Amazon rainforests can be found in indigenous territories. These areas offer great biodiversity and provide critically important ecosystem services that reach far beyond their borders. As guardians of traditional knowledge, indigenous peoples have succeeded in preserving these fragile ecosystems while also acting as their stewards.**

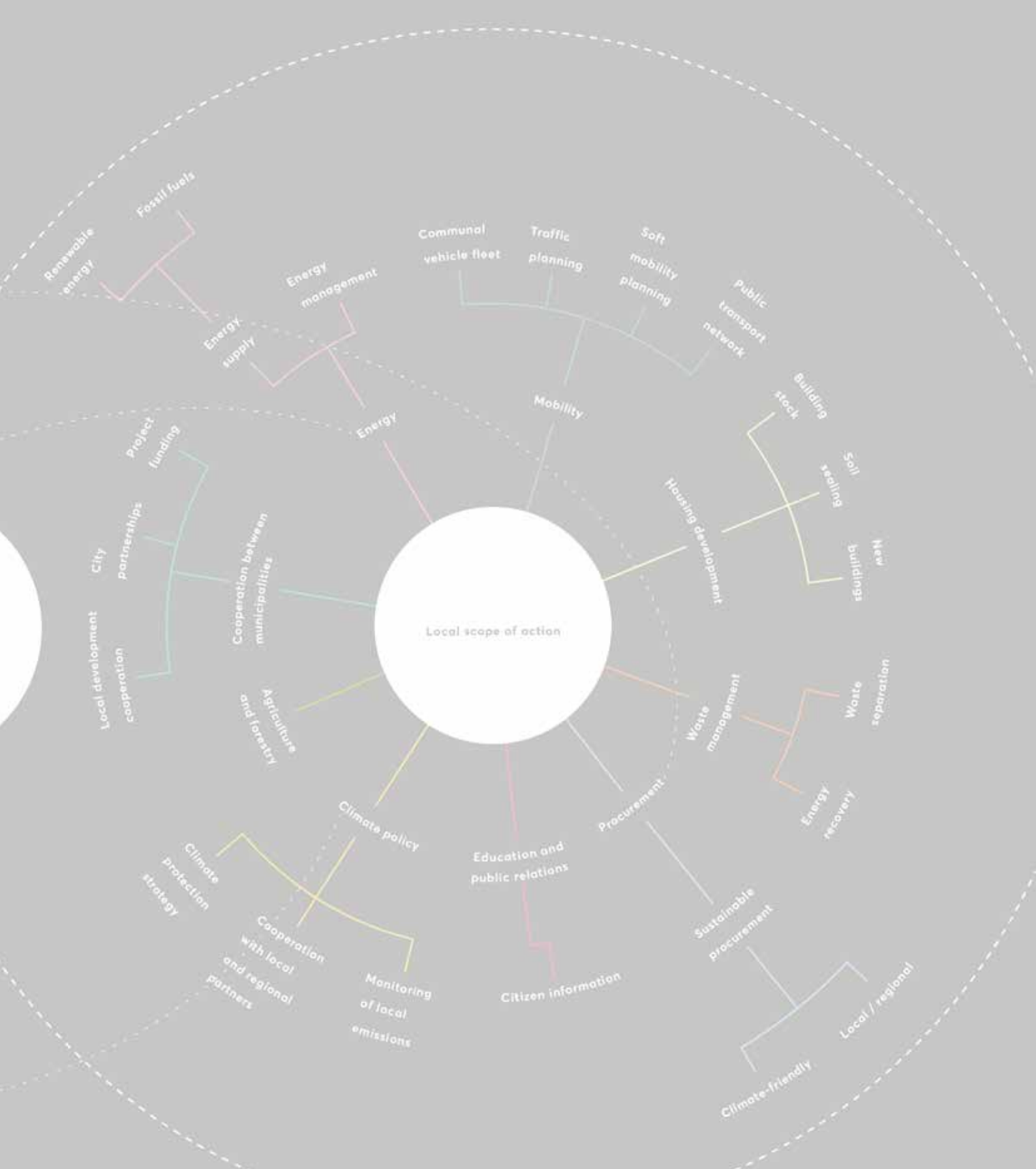




# Climate Alliance's Approach

- fair
- nature-based
- local
- resource-saving
- diverse







# Together for Climate Justice

**“Twenty-five years ago, we began bringing cities and municipalities together to combat climate change. Today, I am proud to represent the only European local government network with tangible reduction targets.”**

**Tine Heyse, President of Climate Alliance’s Executive Board;  
Councillor for Environment, Climate, Energy and North-South,  
City of Ghent, Belgium**

For more than 25 years, Climate Alliance member municipalities have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. With some 1,700 members spread across 26 European countries, Climate Alliance is the largest city network dedicated to climate action and the only one to set tangible targets: each member city, town and district has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by ten percent every five years.

Climate Alliance’s work is based on the premise that the challenges of climate change require global per-

spectives and local solutions. It is for this reason that we have supported climate protection in European municipalities for decades while working closely with our cooperation partners – the indigenous peoples of the Amazon region – to preserve and protect the rainforests.

For us and our member municipalities, global partnerships are an invaluable opportunity to have a direct impact. We therefore foster the exchange between representatives from European municipalities and indigenous peoples. A direct exchange offers insights into the global challenges that indigenous peoples face to facilitate political support for the SDGs. At the same time, this interaction opens up opportunities for mutual learning and prompts action. COICA, as coordinator of numerous indigenous organisations of the Amazon Basin, is a key partner in this work. The direct partnerships of Climate Alliance members also help anchor climate justice locally.

## Asháninka people, Peru – Munich, Germany

Representatives of the Asháninka people regularly visit the state capital of Munich for development education and awareness raising. They draw attention to the effects of climate change and the exploitation of raw materials. In return, the city of Munich supports the Asháninka with PR measures and contributes to countless smaller sustainability projects that support reinforcement of their territorial and cultural rights.



## Harakmbut people, Peru – Hanseatic City of Rostock, Germany

Rostock maintains a partnership with the Harakmbut people of Peru to protect the natural resources in the Amaraeri Communal Reserve. As a "Fair Trade Town", the Hanseatic city campaigns for sustainable urban development.



## Partnerships on the National Level

Climate Alliance members in Austria and Luxembourg are also active in the field of climate justice: Climate Alliance Austria has maintained a partnership with the umbrella association of indigenous organisations in the Rio Negro region of Brazil since 1990. Among its greatest successes is the state recognition of 122,000 km<sup>2</sup> of rainforest as indigenous territory.

In Luxembourg, the municipalities select projects to support in Latin America, Africa or Asia from suggestions made by Action Solidarité Tiers Monde (ASTM), which is part of the national coordination office of Climate Alliance Luxembourg. Building on these projects, ASTM develops the educational work in the respective communities.

## Zoersel, Belgium – Bohicon, Benin

Since 2011, local politicians and young people from the municipality of Zoersel in Belgium and the city of Bohicon in Benin have enjoyed a fruitful intercultural exchange in the context of their partnership.

Starting in 2015, a yearly exchange programme has brought adolescents from Belgium to their partner city in Benin to stay with local families. There, the young Belgians support a mobile playground, playing and painting with roughly 200 children. The kids from Benin rarely have the opportunity to play: from the age of seven, they are considered little adults and expected to work and cook, leaving little time for games. As part of the intercultural exchange, young people from Zoersel and Bohicon even composed a rap song together.

With the support of Zoersel, Bohicon set up a new library equipped with 16 public computers. They also launched a "biblio-mobile" consisting of a motorcycle with a transport box for books to be brought to kindergartens and primary schools in remote areas.

Social institutions in both cities are also supporting each other. In this context, Elvire, a social assistant from Bohicon, completed a three-week internship at Monnikenheide, an institute for mentally disabled people in Zoersel. Back in Benin, she launched reactivation programmes at "St. Camille Psychiatric Institute", such as weaving bed frames, a vegetable garden and a rabbit farm. Her practical advice for reintegration after a stay at St. Camille helps both the patients and their families.

On the political level, Bohicon and Zoersel pledged to back each other in the process of creating and implementing a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) as part of their commitment to the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. The Covenant is the world's largest urban climate and energy initiative, which has already been signed by more than 7,500 local authorities in Europe and beyond. Bohicon plays an active role in the Covenant of Mayors initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa. Zoersel is the first European signatory to commit to the Covenant jointly with its partner city.

As one example within the SECAP, Bohicon plans to form a team for waste management and hygiene at the public market funded with Belgian federal subventions.

For more information (in Flemish), please see:  
[www.zoersel.be/stedenband](http://www.zoersel.be/stedenband)

This is how we envision partnerships: powerful global alliances planned and implemented on the local level!



**Two mayors – one vision: better educational opportunities for women  
Inauguration of a women's school for literacy in Bohicon**

# The Future We Want: Local Authorities for Sustainable Development

A good life is simple – but what does a good life actually involve? Does a good life for all also mean a sustainable future? And what can we learn from our indigenous partners with these questions?

Climate Alliance is working with 16 member municipalities and partner organisations from ten European countries on exactly these questions.

During the EuropeAid-financed project “The Future We Want” organised as part of the European Year of Development, we discussed a just and sustainable future for all with civil society, politicians and our indigenous partners from the Amazon rainforest.

Besides a multitude of local activities in the partner countries, we focused on two aspects in particular: delegation trips to Europe involving our indigenous partners from Ecuador, Peru and Brazil, and our Europe-wide campaign “A good life is simple”, which remains available for free download in 13 languages. Further topics and materials will be added over the course of 2018.

[overdeveloped.eu](http://overdeveloped.eu)

# Swap fast food for time with the kids

A good life is simple



overdeveloped.eu

37 minutes of the average father's daytime are spent occupying himself with his children

50 percent of worldwide food ends up as waste

50 thousand soccer pitches could fit on the area of daily cleared rainforests - due to the need of animals' animal feed on the ground

One poster of the "A good life is simple" campaign

# Active Together

The following 17 municipalities, networks and organisations collaborated on the “The Future We Want” project:

## Climate Alliance (project lead)

With some 1,700 members spread across 26 European countries, Climate Alliance is the largest city network dedicated to climate action and the only one to set tangible targets: each member city, town and district has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent every 5 years. Recognising the impact our lifestyles can have on the world’s most vulnerable people and places, Climate Alliance pairs local action with global responsibility.

[climatealliance.org](http://climatealliance.org)

## ANATOLIKI S.A., Greece

ANATOLIKI S.A. is the development agency of Eastern Thessa-

loniki’s local authorities. It was established in 1995 to support sustainable development in the Thessaloniki Metropolitan Area in the Greek region of Central Macedonia. ANATOLIKI S.A. is active in the fields of environment and infrastructure, energy saving and renewable energy sources, mobility, employment, social economy, local and regional authority support, business support and the promotion of new technologies.

[anatoliki.gr/en](http://anatoliki.gr/en)

## ASTM, Luxembourg

ASTM is a Luxembourgian non-governmental organisation (NGO) active in international development cooperation. Since 1969, it has supported the political, economic and social emancipation of the marginalised population in the Global

South. In 1995, five municipalities from Luxembourg as well as ASTM and the NGO Mouvement Ecologique, established Climate Alliance Luxembourg, which acts as the National Coordination for Climate Alliance. Climate Alliance Luxembourg combines environmental and educational work in Luxembourg with political work and supports solidarity projects in the southern hemisphere for holistic environmental and development policy.

[astm.lu](http://astm.lu)

## City of Cascais, Portugal

The Câmara Municipal de Cascais is the local governing body with delegations and responsibilities in municipal management. The city of Cascais is located on the southwest coast of Portugal and counts around 206,000 in-

habitants. The city administration is actively involved in the promotion of sustainable management and quality of life through an integrated approach to development and local policies. Cascais is active in climate change adaptation on the local, national and EU levels, and implements climate adaptation measures through a local adaptation framework.

[cm-cascais.pt](http://cm-cascais.pt)

## **City of Daruvar, Croatia**

The city of Daruvar is located in Bjelovar-Bilogora County in central Croatia. It covers an area of 64 km<sup>2</sup> and has approximately 11,650 inhabitants. Due to a series of historical circumstances, the national composition of the Daruvar area is today very diverse and the city is home to Croatia's Czech minority. Daruvar engages

in different activities to promote sustainable development of the region.

[daruvar.hr](http://daruvar.hr)

## **Municipality of Zoersel, Belgium**

The municipality of Zoersel, located in the north of Belgium, is 38.65 km<sup>2</sup> in size and home to around 22,000 people. Zoersel maintains project partnerships with countries in Africa. Since 2011, various activities have been organised as part of the town twinning with Bohicon in Benin. The municipality of Zoersel includes implementation of the SDGs in its multi-annual plans and, together with its partner city of Bohicon, signed the Covenant of Mayors in 2016.

[zoersel.be](http://zoersel.be)

## **Nadace Partnerství, Czech Republic**

The Czech environmental partnership foundation Nadace Partnerství is a leading foundation and NGO supporting sustainable development solutions. Nadace Partnerství helps people to protect and improve their environment. It distributes grants, runs educational programmes and provides professional services.

[nadacepartnerstvi.cz](http://nadacepartnerstvi.cz)

## **Climate Alliance Austria**

Climate Alliance is the largest climate protection network in Austria. Communities, schools and businesses establish partnerships with indigenous organisations in the Amazon region. The main focus lies on information and awareness raising projects



as well as activities to promote knowledge on climate issues and sustainable development. It aims to generate public and stakeholder support regarding climate protection, equality and mitigation.

[klimabuendnis.at/english](http://klimabuendnis.at/english)

## **IMRO-DDKK Non-profit Ltd., Hungary**

IMRO was established in 2009 with the aim of providing effective support to local and regional environmentally-friendly policies and initiatives, as well as to foster sustainable, environmental thinking and behaviour by engaging the main local and regional actors in environmental policy development.

IMRO is active in the Hungarian region of Zala and supports ten municipalities in the Transdanubia region.

[imro.hu/en](http://imro.hu/en)

## **Focus Eco Center, Romania**

Focus Eco Center is an NGO working in the fields of sustainable development, climate protection and the environment in the Central Transylvanian region of

Romania. During the last 25 years of activity, the organisation has cooperated with many local authorities on joint projects. It is very active in the fields of water management and environmental education and has partnered with Romania on several international campaigns concerning climate protection, overconsumption and promotion of the SDGs.

[en.focuseco.ro](http://en.focuseco.ro)

## **kate, Germany**

kate ecology & development located in Stuttgart is a non-profit consulting and training organisation for sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, global justice and development cooperation. Since 1999, kate has worked on the national and international levels in development aid projects in the fields of education for sustainable development, climate justice and corporate social responsibility in tourism. It moreover advises on the implementation of environmental and social standards.

[kate-stuttgart.org/en](http://kate-stuttgart.org/en)

## **City of Wels, Austria**

Wels is located at the heart of the state of Upper Austria. It is an attractive place of business and work with a total population of around 63,000 inhabitants. By supporting the project, Wels is particularly committed to climate protection and sustainable development in addition to its measures in the field of renewable energies.

[wels.gv.at](http://wels.gv.at)

## **City of Tîrgu Mureş, Romania**

Located in the north-central part of Romania, the city of Tîrgu Mureş with 130,000 inhabitants is the capital of Mureş County. Tîrgu Mureş has set itself the goal of reducing energy consumption, fostering renewable energies and promoting the use of local resources and products.

[tirgumures.ro](http://tirgumures.ro)

## **OroVerde, Germany**

OroVerde is a non-profit foundation that has been initiating and actively supporting and promoting projects for conservation of the tropical rainforests since

1989. In Germany, the foundation focuses on environmental education, providing information about tropical forests and fostering information exchange between nature conservation organisations, industry, science and politics. Various campaigns in Germany help to raise awareness for tropical rainforests.

[regenwald-schuetzen.org](http://regenwald-schuetzen.org)

## **Reflex Environmental Association / Climate Alliance Hungary**

Reflex Environmental Association is a national Hungarian NGO founded in 1987. Its work mainly involves raising awareness, networking and implementing national and international environmental projects on climate issues in particular. Reflex also coordinates the work of Hungarian Climate Alliance, which was founded by local authorities and environmental NGOs back in 2009.

[reflexegyesulet.hu](http://reflexegyesulet.hu)

## **State Capital of Munich, Germany**

The city of Munich is the capital of the state of Bavaria and counts 1.5 million inhabitants. It has been a member of Climate Alliance since 1993. The climate partnership between Munich and the Asháninka established in 1997 helps the indigenous Asháninka people of Peru to protect their territories and the rainforest. The citizens of Munich, in turn, are able to learn a great deal from the Asháninka delegates during yearly delegation trips.

[muenchen.de/int/en](http://muenchen.de/int/en)

## **Federal City of Bonn, Germany**

As the former capital of the Federal Republic of Germany, the City of Bonn has an established global network of relations and contacts in the fields of environment, development, and science. Bonn's population of over 320,000 citizens is multicultural, educated and cosmopolitan. It is the 'Federal City' – Germany's second political centre and home to countless federal ministries. It also hosts many international NGOs that are active worldwide as well as the German United

Nations City. Nineteen United Nations organisations, programmes and offices operate in a wide variety of areas, though all are connected through the contribution they make to sustainable development.

[bonn.de](http://bonn.de)

# ... With Our Indigenous Partners of the Amazon Region:

## Asháninka, Peru

The Asháninka people constitute the largest indigenous group in the Peruvian rainforest with some 80,000 people. Where possible, the village communities are self-sufficient. Land is not owned by one single person but rather by the village as a whole and this is made available to the community's families for permanent use. Official land titles granted to the community also become the property of the community. Due to the increasing pressure on their environment and the threat to the destruction of their livelihood, the Asháninka are in a constant battle for their land. They receive international support through their long-term partnership with the state capital of Munich.

## Federação das Organizações Indígenas do Rio Negro (FOIRN), Brazil

FOIRN is the umbrella association of the indigenous organisations of the Rio Negro river basin, which represents about 80 local associations of indigenous communities, groups and women's organisations in the Brazilian Rio Negro region. It is a private non-profit organisation, without any political or religious ties. The association's headquarters are located in São Gabriel da Cachoeira, Amazonas state, Brazil.

[foirn.org.br](http://foirn.org.br)

## Socio-Environmental Institute (Instituto Socioambiental, ISA), Brazil

The Socio-Environmental Institute, or ISA for short, was established in 1994 as a non-profit organisation for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and the environment in Brazil. It conducts its own scientific studies but also implements programmes to promote socioeconomic development in several regions of Brazil either alone or in cooperation

with indigenous organisations. It is headquartered in São Paulo.

[socioambiental.org/en](http://socioambiental.org/en)

## Kichwa Community of Sarayaku, Ecuador

The Kichwa-speaking community of Sarayaku people dwells beside the Bobonaza River in the province of Pastaza in the Ecuadorian Amazon region. The estimated 1,500 members of this community have lived in this area covering 135,000 hectares for generations. The name Sarayaku has existed for hundreds of years and means 'river of corn'. Some 95 percent of Sarayaku territory is primary forest. Through conservation and the sustainable use of the natural resources available in their area, the community pursues its vision and mission of reinforcing the concept of Sumak Kawsay ("buen vivir", a "good life") and the continued existence of Kawsak Sacha (the "living forest"). The community has opposed oil exploitation in its territory since the late 1980s.

[sarayaku.org](http://sarayaku.org)



Climate Alliance delegation tour of Luxembourgian municipal representatives in Sarayaku, Ecuador (March 2017)

# Legal Notice

Published September 2017  
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Design and graphics: Splendid Design Co. [www.we-are-splendid.com](http://www.we-are-splendid.com)

Printed on 100% recycling paper (Blue Angel)

Pictures:

Page 1: Kätyy Kaes  
Page 9: Eli Melcher for the City of Munich  
Page 9: FENAMAD  
Page 11: Municipality of Zoersel  
Seite 13: „A good life is simple“ campaign / Climate Alliance  
Seite 19: Climate Alliance

This publication has been produced in the framework of the project “EYD 2015: The Future We Want – Local Authorities for Sustainable Development” with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Climate Alliance and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



**A good life is simple**  
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Climate Alliance of European cities with indigenous rainforest peoples | Alianza del Clima  
District court of Frankfurt am Main | Registry No: VR10149 | VAT ID: DE244331692 | Presidents: Holger Matthäus and Tine Heyse

