WOMAN AS CREATORS
OF BIODIVERSE FORESTS
Ecuadorian Amazon

Ancestral System Chakra Ushun Purun.

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Kichwa population occupies 80% of the territory of the province.
Situation

* Loss of ancestral knowledge
* Reduction of forests and biodiversity in the chakra fields or vegetable gardens
* Low diversity of species for human consumption and wildlife
* Weakening of cultural identity, the role and position of women in communities
All beings have the same essence (plants, animals, gods and humans), are part of a whole and constitute a unique community.

Difference from "the western society", which radically separates the nature of society. Nature is an object, which can be exploited and commercialized.
Ancestral System of Chakra, Ushun and Purun

SYSTEM RUN BY WOMEN in which a large variety of food, medicine, timber, craft and wildlife resources are managed.
Women grow many different plants of short and long cycles on the chakra (fields), the ushun and purun, increasing the diversity of useful resources for family, regenerating forests and guaranteeing food sovereignty.

At least 62 species of useful short-cycle plants are grown in the chakra fields and there is at least about 44 species of useful trees and palms in family purun.
Transmission of knowledge and spirituality

- The planting of the chakra field is an activity of women. The woman who owns the field, with the support of the women of the family, plant cassava and other species.

- Planting begins with a ritual, which invokes Nungulli, goddess of fertility of the earth, and mother of women, who transmits knowledge and protect crops so that there will be a good harvest and enough food for the family.
Management of Chakra fields

- Clearing of forest
- Seed collection
- Planting short-cycle plants
Management of Ushun

Women and men gather seeds and seedlings in the forest.

Seedling nursery of species the Amazon forest.
Management of Ushun

Planting fruit trees, timber, medicinal plants and others which wild animals feed on, and as it grows, it turns into…
Management of Purun

Forest and its biodiversity has recovered
Results

Creating biodiverse forests
• Women maintain the traditional system of conservation of strategic resources
• Powerful mechanism for adaptation and mitigation to climate change
• Strengthening food sovereignty and autonomy
• Revival of culture

• Appreciation of the role of women as guardian of ancestral knowledge has allowed greater participation in decision-making in communities and greater access to leadership positions.
Thank you.