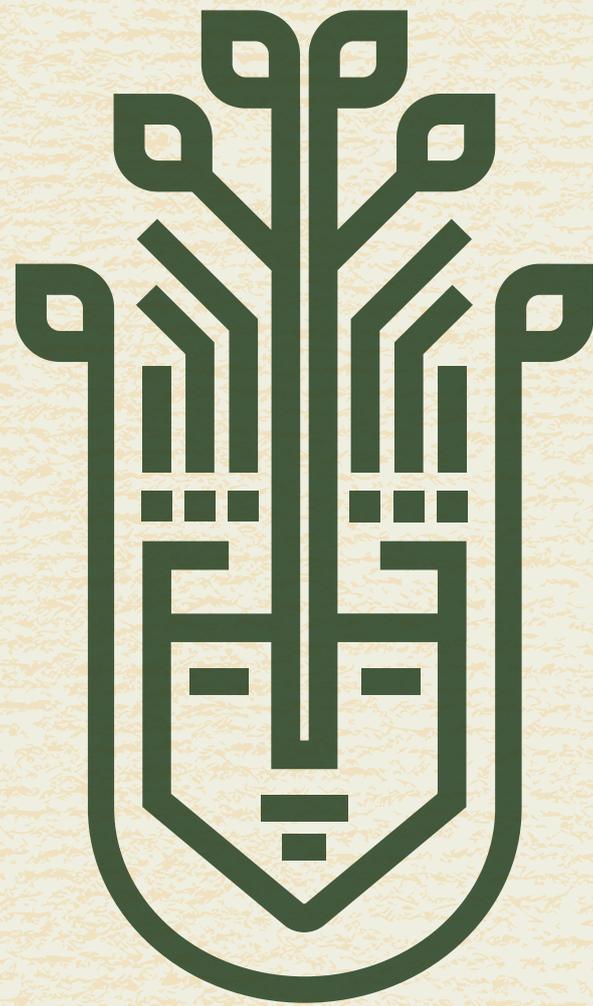


# Annual report 2023



Living Gaia e.V.



## Dear friends of Living Gaia e.V.,

We hope you are well, healthy and enjoying 2024 so far.

Our team has just returned from Acre, and we are finally finding the time to take a deep breath and look back on the past year.

In 2023, the two absolute **highlights** were the signing of the **land purchase agreement** and the first big **gathering of the Huni Kuin women** of the Jordão region. Bunke and Rita also visited us again for an eventful **European tour!**

We will give you a short review of these and other events here, and also inform you shortly about the latest developments in the current year.

**Thank you for your support** and interest in our work this year, last year and the years to come!

# Tarayá Project



Foto: Guto de Lima

2023 was a decisive year for the “land purchase project”: after five years of bureaucracy and fundraising, the purchase agreement was finally signed in May 2023 and the **land purchase was sealed**.

The project is now called **Tarayá**. This is what the Huni Kuin once called the river Tarauacá, on which the land is located.

However, there is still a long way to go before our long-term goals are achieved. We are currently working with our Brazilian and European partners, the Instituto Yubekã, on the following tasks:

- Regularizing the land and establishing the **Tarayá Foundation**: the bureaucracy will be with us for a while yet, as the final survey of the land and registration in the land register is a lengthy process. The main aim of the foundation is to protect the land from exploitation for future generations.
- **Agroforestry and reforestation**: One of the first steps after the purchase was to draw up a master plan for an agroforestry system. A permaculture system for the cultivation of food, medicinal plants, plants of economic value and seedlings for the gradual reforestation of the cleared 800 hectares of land is being created.

- **Management and protection of biodiversity:**  
A few weeks ago (in April 2024), we carried out a biodiversity inventory together with our partner Catraia. This is the first step towards long-term and sustainable protection. You will receive more information in one of our next newsletters.

**We still need your support for all these important steps.**

Only by joining forces can we realize the establishment of a protected area where people, animals and plants can live without fear of exploitation and loss of habitat.

We will keep you up to date on all developments!  
Both here via this newsletter and on our website.



Foto: Guto de Lima

# Successful gathering of the female Huni Kuin representatives

Aibú Dayá is an **Indigenous women's association** in Jordão, Acre, founded two years ago by five politically active Huni Kuin women in cooperation with village communities and supported by Living Gaia e.V. and a Brazilian lawyer.

The association, led by **Indigenous women**, is committed to **female leadership, education and sustainability**. The Huni Kuin have been fighting for their rights and forest protection for almost 100 years. They are affected by climate change, food shortages and water scarcity, amongst other problems.



Foto: Jakob Stolz für Living Gaia e.V.

In the second year of the association, the first **large meeting of all representatives** from 30 of 41 villages was held.

Over the course of **seven days**, the topics discussed included **women's health, basic structural conditions** in the villages, handicraft workshops and the situation of **traditional midwives, master craftswomen and teachers**. In addition, they practiced a wide variety of traditional rituals, chants and dances together. The event concluded with a ceremony led by the women. Photographer Jakob Stolz supported us with his photography as well as with workshops for the Huni Kuin youth.

The association supports women structurally and develops **sustainable, integrative and social projects**. In cooperation with Brazilian partners, we have already started working with Aibú Dayá in the second year on more government funding for the Huni Kuin.

You can find more information on our website.

# Huni Kuin Tour 2023

We are delighted to give you a few insights into our varied and eventful tour with **Bunke** and **Rita Huni Kuin**. The two women spent around eight weeks traveling with us in Europe. They generously shared the diversity and knowledge of their rich culture.

One highlight was our participation in the **Medicine Festival** near London, filled with ceremonies and concerts. At the music fusion between DJ Alma Omega and Rita and Bunke at the Genezareth church in Berlin, we were able to raise EUR 1,000 for a women's center in Jordão. There was also an **art and photography exhibition** by Rita Huni Kuin and Jakob Stolz. Rita also enriched various **panel discussions** with her in-depth knowledge of her culture, the challenges facing Indigenous people in Brazil and women in particular, as well as her visions for the future.



The most important political events were the panel “International alliances for Indigenous People and the protection of the Amazon” at the **Brazilian Embassy** and a discussion at the **Latin America Institute** of the Freie Universität Berlin.

We are grateful for the new connections that have been made through the tour and the **growing network**. Thank you to our **volunteers** and all the support and energy!



# Clean drinking water for the villages of Jordão

The **lack of access to clean drinking water** is the **most serious threat to the health** of people in the Jordão region. Of the 42 villages in the region, only a few have a functioning artesian well with a suitable filter system. In many villages, people drink water directly from the river. Especially in the dry season, this can be fatal for many people: diarrheal diseases are the rule, especially among children. It is not uncommon for babies to die from these illnesses.

This is why our partner organizations APOTI (Associação povos da terra) and the Instituto Yubekã have launched the *Upash* ("water" in *hatxa kuin*) project: Solar powered **Artesian wells** with filter systems are to be built in the **20** most affected villages. The Hamburg-based company Meraki already financed the first two wells. We are very grateful for this partnership.

However, a large sum is still missing to finance the remaining 18 wells. **We therefore urgently need further donations.**



Foto: Guilherme Menezes.



Foto: Guilherme Menezes.

# Club logo, website, and web address



LIVING GAIA E. V.

Since last year, we have a **new website** with a revised design and restructured content. Take a look at it if you don't know it yet! The web address **[www.living-gaia.org](http://www.living-gaia.org)** has remained the same. However, the web address of the land purchase project has changed. This is now **[www.living-gaia-conservation.org](http://www.living-gaia-conservation.org)**.

We now use the “cacica” logo uniformly for our association and all projects. The symbolism is pretty much in line with the call by indigenous Brazilian activist Watatakalu Yawalapiti to “reforest” our spirit:

***“Não basta reflorestara floresta, é preciso também reflorestar a mente, o seu pensamento, reflorestando trazemos a cura”.***

***In English: “It is not enough to reforest the forest. We must also reforest our mind, our thoughts. By reforesting, we achieve healing”.***

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Panorama 3000 once again for designing the logo for us.

# Our Team

Our core team has not changed since last year. For those who don't know us yet, we'd like to introduce ourselves once again.

**Simon** is the manager of the Tarayá project. He works full-time for the association and is responsible for most of the association's administrative tasks, as well as communication, vision and strategy.



**Jaci** has been a permanent member of the team since last year. She has lived with the Huni Kuin on and off since 2013 and is particularly responsible for the women's projects and the Aibu Daya women's association, accompanying the Huni Kuin during the trips and communicating directly with the Huni Kuin. She also manages the social media channels and helps organize the Huni Kuin tours.

**Marie** helped set up the association. After a long break, she has been volunteering for Living Gaia again since 2022 - especially for everything to do with numbers.



And of course there is **Alexandra**, the founder and honorary chairwoman of the association. She has been active for the protection of the Huni Kuin and the Amazon rainforest for a decade now.

In 2023, Alexandra continued to manage her passion project Living Gaia e.V. with confidence, drive and vision, alongside her many other tasks and her full-time position as Managing Director of Coaching Spirale GmbH.

# Finances

Thanks to you, in 2023 we were able to raise the amount of

**€ 167.414,91.-**

for the association and its projects! This includes both donations and tenders.

That is significantly more than last year. We are pleased to see that our projects and our work continue to flourish over the years.



**Thank you for  
your support!**

INFO: For the German tax office, a bank statement is sufficient for donations up to €300. For donations over €300, we will be happy to issue a donation receipt on request.

# Outlook for 2024

2024 is in full swing and one thing is certain: it is already an intense year. The more our projects thrive, the more effort they require. Here are a few **highlights** from this year:

As mentioned above, a **biodiversity inventory** has already taken place on the Tarayá project this year. We will inform you in more detail about the developments in the protection of the forest in the next newsletters.



Foto: Jakob Stolz für Living Gaia e.V.

In April 2024, Jaci and Simon travelled to the Huni Kuin in Acre for the **second large gathering** of Huni Kuin women, which we organized together with the Aibu Dayá women's association. The association was founded by the Huni Kuin women of the region with our support. Representatives from 38 out of 42 villages came together for 5 days. You can find out how the Gathering went and what news we brought back with us in our next newsletter.

Together with filmmaker Philipp Kaczmarek, we also had the great opportunity to make a **documentary film** about the **Huni Kuin women** and their activism. Preparations have been underway online since the beginning of the year. We spent 4 weeks in Brazil with a team of 5–9 people to shoot the film **“Daughters of the Earth”**. On the one hand, the film will show the beauty, strength and significance of the forest. At the same time, it is intended to draw attention to the problems and call for the protection of the forest.

# Closing words

We would like to **thank each one** of you for **your support!** Every donation helps to strengthen the Huni Kuin, protect the forest and promote gender equality.

As a non-profit organization, we are dependent on donations. Our projects are constantly growing and need more and more supporters. **If you value our work and know of people companies that could support us, please forward them this report or share our website with them.**

Of course, we will keep you regularly informed about all news and developments in our **newsletter** and on our **social media channels!**

**We wish you an enriching and time close to nature!**

Your Living Gaia e.V. Team

HAUX HAUX.

## Donation account:

Living Gaia e.V.

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