

Eperara women of Ecuador claim collective health in times of COVID-19

Description of the project:

The project is carried out in the indigenous Ecuadorian community of Eperara de Santa Rosa. Women's groups organised themselves to reclaim their ancestral medicine culture, while strengthening their climate resilience. Based on a collective decision in favor of the community's health, they decided to take their own actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They carried out a mapping process to identify medicinal plants for use as a resource to protect their health and that of their families. The community thereby realised that the food production and habitat management depend on many factors such as ancestral culture, gender-responsive economy, biodiversity conservation, education and housing.



TRANSFORMATIVE OUTCOMES

Climate impact



Establishment of a medicinal bank for the conservation and management of endemic plants



Conservation of 70 hectares of forest



Mapping and identification of fauna and flora with climatic and ancestral relevance.

Gender impact



Shifting gender roles in the traditionally male-dominated sector of medicine



Promoting new leadership among girls, adolescents and women within community assemblies.



Community task-sharing that eases womens' workloads

Scalability / replicability



Capacity building replicated and scaled-up among women in other Ecuadorian villages



Information sharing on the stages of the process with other indigenous communities in Ecuador



Creation of the Ceremonial Centre for Collective Health to empower the leadership of women and girls



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CONTACT

APRENDIZAJE EN MOVIMIENTO
a quietly forceful energy



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