Introduction

We are the generation that embraces the richness of our ancestral roots, aware that our identity is intrinsically linked to the territories we inhabit. We unite in a deep commitment to the defense of our ancestral territories, guided by the traditional knowledge and cosmovisions of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, Palenqueros, Raizales, Quilombolas, and the knowledge of local communities. In this unity, we find the strength and determination to protect the socio-biodiversity of our territories for the next generations and are reborn.

In understanding the current context faced by young people from Ethnic peoples and local communities—including displacement and forced migration; gender, racial, environmental and class discrimination; economic marginalization; armed conflict; lack of recognition as political subjects; loss of the right to territorial autonomy; extractive activities of natural resources (mining, hydrocarbons, agro-industrial, tourism, urban, genetic); and ancestral knowledge—we demand to implement articulated actions on territorial rights, conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and climate change.
For all of this, we consider it fundamental to strengthen intercultural training schools for young people in territorial rights, biodiversity management and conservation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation (including permaculture, restoration, etc.). This would allow the empowerment of young people from Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local communities to participate in decision-making spaces and exercise their responsibilities, roles, and commitments in the defense of their ancestral territories.

We also propose our articulation with already formalized youth networks with which we can exchange knowledge and experiences.

This will only be possible by guaranteeing the protection of the lives of our environmental and territorial leaders, their non-criminalization, and addressing the impartial application of justice in the face of violations of their universal human rights.
The participants of the Latin American regional youth workshop who collectively wrote this manifesto are:

Sheerlay Alejandra Palacios Espinoza (Red MAAD - Afro-Latin American, Afro-Caribbean and Diaspora Women; Piquiucho - Chota Valley - Carchi –Azúcar Foundation); Cleiton Lucas do Vale Purificação (National Coordination for the Articulation of Rural Black Quilombola Communities – CONAQ); Clara Rossell (National Confederation of Indigenous Women of Bolivia – CNAMIB); Daniela Carabalí Ararat (Process of Black Communities in Colombia – PCN); Dokera Domíncio (International Indigenous Women’s Forum – FIM); Danitza Quispe Huilica (National Organization of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Peru – ONAMIAP); David Shica Espinoza (National Agrarian Confederation – CNA); Deyse Ramirez Santoyo (Mexican Network of Peasant Forestry Organizations – Red MOCAF); Frandy Yudith Yabimay Ponare (National Indigenous Organization of Colombia – ONIC); Jhomas Maynas (Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Amazon - AIDESEP); Pilar L. de la Torre (ALDEA Foundation); Mayra Ibeth Haylock Dereck (Coordinating Committee of Women Territorial Leaders – CMLT); Moises Emanuel Soza Chi (Integral Forestry Association San Andrés Petén, AFISAP, partner of the Association of Forest Communities of Petén – ACOFOP); Mónica Solís Vergara (Association of Afro-descendant Women of Northern Cauca - ASOM); Skarleth Guadalupe López Lucas (Center for the Autonomy and Development of Indigenous Peoples – CADPI); Valeria Ambrocio Choque (Andean Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Organizations - CAOI) Yaily Nadir Castillo (Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests – AMPB); Yerly Ulcue Perdomo (Organization of Amazon Indigenous Peoples of Colombia – OPIAC)

This manifesto was signed in Bogotá, Colombia on September 7, 2023.

BECAUSE TERRITORY IS LIFE AND LIFE IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT TERRITORY