

AMAZON HOPE

PURPOSE and GOALS

[Amazon Hope](#) is an exhibition open to the public at [Affirmation Arts Gallery \(New York\)](#) that aims to promote engagement with indigenous peoples and their partners in Brazil in response to rapidly changing socio-ecological and political climate. It seeks to combine forces of the diverse indigenous groups of the Xingu River basin and the outside partners working most closely with them to address the slow-moving ecological disaster. The Xingu region is “ground zero” of an Amazonian tipping point, which threatens to turn the ecoregion of the southern

Amazonian – today called the “arc of deforestation” – from tropical forest to open woodlands and savannas. The disappearance of the southern tier of Amazonian tropical forest, predicted to succumb to forest conversion, aridification and fire, may prompt the cascading effect of irreversible environmental change far across the Amazon. It will also grievously impact traditional indigenous lifeways, regional socio-ecological systems and public health.



The goal of Amazon Hope is to build on the decades of partnerships between participants to strengthen networks between indigenous groups across the southern Amazon and Xingu Corridor. This initiative - the southern Amazon indigenous firewall - aims to develop coordinated strategies and local capacities to monitor threats and act upon them, and safeguard indigenous cultural heritage and their tropical forest homes. Specifically, the workshop and exhibition event will develop joint endeavors, co-designed with indigenous organizations, aimed at putting tools in the hands of indigenous communities to address the current challenges they face.

These will include:

- (1) Xingu Indigenous Network – Geospatial Observatory (XIN-GO) project aims to develop locally administered “smart forest” tools to monitor forests, rivers, fires and land use in the Upper Xingu indigenous area (TIX) in Mato Grosso, the hardest hit area of tropical deforestation and degradation, and broader Xingu corridor.
- (2) Virtual Amazon is a related project working with indigenous partners to develop mechanisms to preserve rapidly eroding indigenous knowledge and technologies, including digital repatriation. The tragic burning of the Museu Nacional in 2018, highlights the need to safeguard and digitally document extant collections in Brazil and abroad, including CMNH, AMNH and NMAI, and cultural heritage, technology and built environment.
- (3) The event also seeks to crowd fund for installing basic IT and training resources, a first step toward capacities and networks shared by both projects in the Kuikuro.

Amazon Hope joins together the specialists most intimately engaged with the Xingu and the diverse indigenous peoples who call it home. It aims to jointly consider the current crisis – the hardest hit portion of the Amazon – and communicate its vitality and importance to interested partners, potential donors and the public. The disastrous fires, which catapulted to the world stage recently, have plagued the region for a decade. They are the result of drought conditions, which have become the new normal in the arc of deforestation. Local fire prevention efforts have succeeded in curbing the collapse of the closed moist forests of the region, but far more is needed. Amazon Hope will help devise solutions, namely the creation of a southern Amazon indigenous “firewall,” a tool to protect the lands, forests, waters and cultural heritage. Technology will empower indigenous people themselves, who constitute a veritable army of committed individuals, zealously looking for solutions to defend against the decimation of their lands and livelihoods.

**HELP BUILD A SOUTHERN AMAZON INDIGENOUS FIREWALL,
THROUGH XIN-GO, VIRTUAL AMAZON & PARTNER PROJECTS.**



CORE PARTICIPANTS



Presenters (16):

Chief Afukaka, Takuma and Amunegi Kuikuro

Assoc. Indígena Kuikuro (AIKAX)

Ianukula Kaiabi Suia

Assoc. Terra Indígena do Xingu (ATIX)

Carlos Fausto & Bruna Franchetto

Museu Nacional (Rio de Janeiro)

André Villas Boas & Marcelo Salazar

Instituto Socioambiental (ISA)

Stephan Schwartzman

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

Paul Heritage

Peoples Palace London, UK and Rio de Janeiro)

Gringo Cardia, G. Cardia

Design (Rio de Janeiro)

Helena Lima & Glenn Sheppard

Museu Goeldi (MPEG)

Eduardo Neves

Museu de Arqueologia e Etnologia, Univ. de São Paulo (MAE-USP)

Wetherbee Dorshow

Earth Analytic/Puente Institute

Michael Heckenberger

Univ. of Florida

Liz and Laura Subin

Hosts: Pennywise Foundation

Other Core Participants/Observers (8):

Paul Baker, Duke University

Anthony Seeger, UCLA/ Smithsonian

Morgan Schmidt, MIT

John Crock, Univ. of Vermont

Drew Stephens, Chris Mathias & Alison Chakoumakos,

Puente Institute

Deborah Harding, Carnegie Museum of Natural History

(CMNH)

