

An aerial photograph of a dense, green forest in the Ecuadorian Amazon. A wide, winding river with a light brown, silty water flows through the forest, creating a meandering path. The forest is thick and covers the entire landscape. The text is overlaid on the image in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**WOMAN AS CREATORS
OF BIODIVERSE FORESTS
Ecuadorian Amazon**

Ancestral System Chakra Ushun Purun.

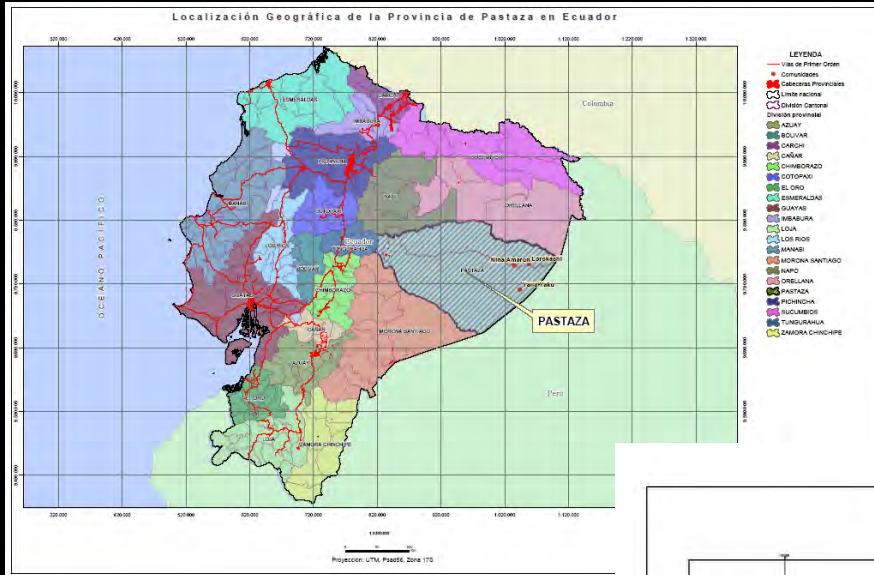
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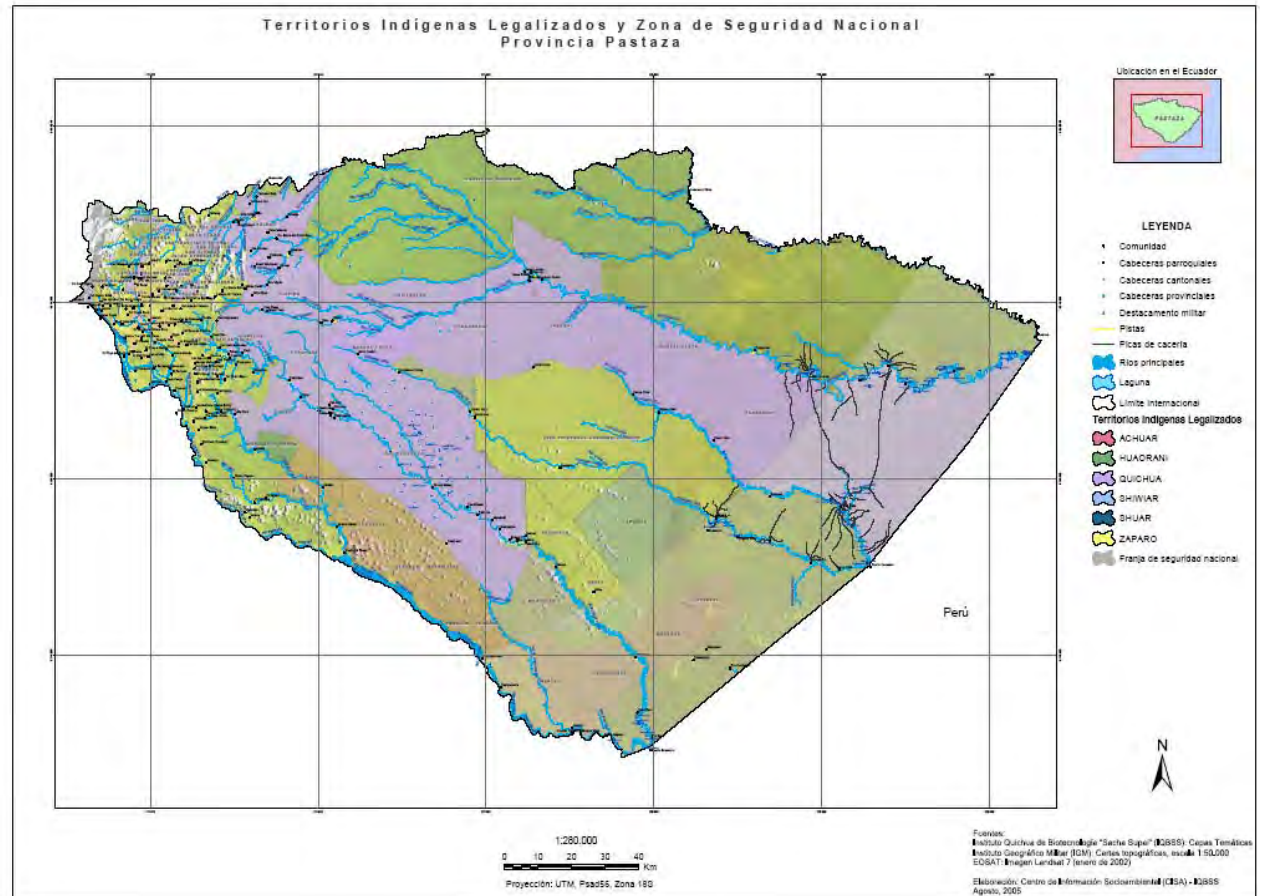


Location



Ecuadorian Amazon,
Pastaza province

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**

Kichuan conception

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.

Ancestral System of Chakra, Ushun and Purun



- 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...



PURUN



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.