

LOVE FOR LIFE

Organization Presentation



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Empowering People & Protecting Nature for a Conscious Earth Culture



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About



Love For Life is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to conscious, collaborative action that models regenerative practices and upholds sacred relationships with self, each other and the Earth to ignite social, ecological and spiritual healing.



Our Vision

Our vision is a *Conscious Earth Culture* where human and Nature thrive.
A united world in which all love to live, in which all life is held sacred, and in
which all can realize their full potential to share their unique gifts in
service of life.

Our Mission

We empower people and protect Nature through whole system
regenerative action.



Creating real change starts with an open heart

for when we *feel* that all life is fundamentally interconnected, we are inspired to act differently.



Our Approach

All our work is dedicated to people, projects and processes that model social, ecological and spiritual healing rooted in reverent connection to the Earth.

- 01

We work with a strong network of partners

We adopt a unique model of accompaniment based on bottom-up processes and establishing long-term strategic alliances with local and regional partners. Together, we connect with real needs on the ground to build and strengthen local capacities to empower people and protect Nature.
- 02

We listen deeply to act boldly

We honor and emphasize the cosmovision of the Indigenous and local communities with whom we work together. Our model integrates and builds on ancestral wisdom and cultural knowledge, while introducing innovative approaches and technologies to meet the new challenges of our time.
- 03

We care for humanity and the living Earth alike

We embrace the sacredness of all life and recognize that everything is fundamentally interconnected and interdependent. We focus on creating long term impact with projects and processes that seed a future based on reciprocity and kinship with each other and the living Earth.

Our Areas of Impact



We work to unleash and nurture the whole potential of humanity and the living Earth, creating impact across six interconnected areas of impact.

- Solar Energy Access
- Regenerative Agriculture & Food Sovereignty
- Indigenous & Community Leadership
- Ecosystem Protection & Restoration
- Holistic Empowerment
- Heart-Centered Consciousness

Independent Solar Energy Access



We empower Indigenous families living in remote rainforest areas by creating access to clean, sustainable and independent solar energy through building local capacities and infrastructures.

Love For Life strengthens the empowerment of Indigenous families living in remote rainforest areas by creating access to clean, just and independent solar energy. Our work builds vital local and regional infrastructure for decentralized energy solutions, training and storage facilities, ensuring long-term sustainability. We build local technical expertise by training local technicians and trainers of trainers and together install complete off-grid solar home systems that are specifically designed to meet the energy needs of each family and community.

Solar energy creates more than light; it is a catalyst for empowerment and self-determined development. We have installed more than 700 solar home systems and trained community solar technicians serving over 60 rainforest communities in 12 Indigenous territories across five Latin American countries.

Clean, renewable energy is fundamental to protecting Indigenous rights, lands and cultural heritage . Our holistic, culturally sensitive approach in remote areas promotes energy sovereignty, gender equality, health, education, communication, economic empowerment, and environmental protection. Through solar energy, Indigenous communities and our Indigenous partner organizations have been able to use land conservation tools, such as participatory mapping and monitoring, that are critical to protecting their sovereign territories and preserving their cultures and ancestral rainforest territories for present and future generations.

Regenerative Agriculture & Food Sovereignty



We strengthen the capacities of Indigenous peoples and local communities by leveraging existing traditional knowledge and facilitating exchange for the revitalization of local food systems and regenerative, organic agriculture.

Love For Life strengthens the revitalization of Indigenous food systems and regenerative agriculture. In partnership with Indigenous and local communities, we implement ecological agroforestry systems that are rooted in traditional knowledge and regenerative practices. These food systems improve local livelihoods by increasing organic crop yields and quality, while reducing costs, replacing chemical inputs and generating income. A key aspect is the revitalization of Indigenous-led seed, nursery and exchange systems that strengthen food sovereignty and its economic viability.

We emphasize reciprocity and the principles of Nature to promote regenerative and biodiverse ecosystems that maintain ecological balance together with the local cultural heritage. Well over 10,000 people benefit from our food sovereignty program and more than 550 Indigenous and local farmers families are actively consolidating and/or transitioning to regenerative and organic food systems. Our work includes the creation of ten community-led plant nurseries and three regional native seed banks.

Food sovereignty is a fundamental right that goes hand in hand with protecting the Earth. It revitalizes Indigenous cultures, reconnects communities to their lands and enables them to exercise their territorial rights. Indigenous food systems are a treasure trove of knowledge that contribute to human and ecosystem well-being, sequestering large amounts of carbon dioxide and preserving rich biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Indigenous & Community Leadership



We work with Indigenous and community leaders who steward the protection and restoration of their territories, cultures and ancestral knowledge bringing people into nourishing, reciprocal relationships with each other and the Earth.

Love for Life strengthens the work of present and future Indigenous and community leaders, who model ways of being in kinship with the living Earth. They are knowledge keepers, tradition bearers and are caretakers of our Planet's biodiversity. We prioritize women-led processes and initiatives, recognizing their critical role as Earth-based wisdom holders in social and ecological healing. Together with our partners, we advocate for climate, environmental, and social justice, seeking recognition of Indigenous rights, cultural heritage, land tenure, and the critical contributions of Indigenous peoples in protecting the Earth and shaping local, national, and international policies.

Our impact includes training more than 400 Indigenous people as multipliers and agents of change, supporting over 70 communities in forest conservation, and engaging with more than 12,500 people as custodians of the rainforests directly in our programs.

We work with more than nine Indigenous and especially women-led partner organizations to strengthen their institutional, collective and individual learning, management capacity, financial stability, outreach and advocacy. These collaborations advance social, economic and environmental justice, amplify the voices of Indigenous and community leaders, and strengthen the recognition of their invaluable contributions to global biodiversity, the preservation of traditional knowledge and to finding ways for living in harmony with the natural world.

Ecosystem Protection & Restoration



We work with Indigenous peoples as guardians of the rainforests to create pathways for healing and restoring their ancestral territories, protecting the Earth’s vital ecosystems and the future of us all.

Love for Life partners with Indigenous peoples to create pathways for protecting and restoring their ancestral territories and critical ecosystems, particularly the Amazon and Mesoamerican rainforests. Recognizing the vital role of Indigenous people in conserving the world's biodiversity, our partnerships are fundamental to our mission. Strengthening the empowerment of Indigenous peoples is the most effective strategy for rainforest conservation, as they are responsible for conserving 80% of the Earth's biodiversity, while they represent less than 5% of the world's population.

Our approach combines ancestral wisdom with modern innovations, using regenerative methods and technologies. This holistic strategy fosters pathways for ecological healing and restoration, transitioning from damaging extractive economies to thriving regenerative systems. Our initiatives are contributing to the protection and stewardship of 4.5 million hectares of rainforest by nine Indigenous nations. This has benefited three of the world's most important tropical forests and increased their protection.

The Amazon, Talamanca and Darien rainforests are among the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet, and we are deeply committed to their protection. Our work not only supports these vital ecosystems but is aimed at ensuring the resilience and well-being of our planet for future generations.

Holistic Empowerment



We strengthen holistic local empowerment through the revitalization of the Indigenous bioeconomy, a regenerative, forest-based economy uniting traditional agroforestry, ancient knowledge and innovative production.

Love For Life strengthens the holistic empowerment of our partners on multiple levels. By building solid administrative and financial management skills, we strengthen the organizational capacity of Indigenous-led organizations and traditional support networks, creating new opportunities for sustainable livelihoods for both individuals and communities.

Another key aspect of our work is the promotion of Indigenous-led organic markets. We develop and support community-owned local exchange platforms, markets and cooperatives that enable value creation and market access. This promotes environmentally and culturally responsible value chains and ensures the growth and sustainability of local economies.

Our impact includes training Indigenous women as multipliers and leaders in regenerative production and marketing. We have established three regional hubs for the production and marketing of organic rainforest products, with over 40 self-organized market fairs. Our efforts are helping to protect more than 850 native forest products and seeds - the essence of a thriving bioeconomy.

Holistic empowerment means revitalizing forests, families and futures. By putting the economy in the service of ecology, a way of life can be sustained that respects and nurtures the natural world, keeping forests standing and life thriving.

Heart-Centered Consciousness



We recognize that to meet the challenges of our time and to restore the outer landscapes of the world, we must turn to the inner landscapes of our being, listening to the wisdom of the heart to create change from the inside-out.

Love For Life cultivates a heart-centered consciousness, embracing the oneness of life. We engage in heart-centered communication. This means, speaking from and to the inner dimensions and mechanics of creating regenerative change and connecting to the core of our being, which connects us to the core of all beings, recognizing our shared and interdependent lives.

We create experiential spaces for exploring the relationship to self, other and Nature. These spaces are valuable for cultivating relational intelligence, raising consciousness, and doing the inner work necessary to create effective outer change. Spaces of presence and connection allow for deeper insight and understanding the emergent nature and infinite unfolding potential of life.

An essential part of our mission is to cultivate being in right relationship with the living Earth. This includes remembering our sacred responsibility to heal ourselves and the land. We practice slowing down to not only learn about the natural world but from her, recognizing the inherent wisdom of the Earth. Through the heart we can hear the often-forgotten language of the Earth and be guided towards a Conscious Earth Culture where humanity is in deep and intimate connection with the natural world allowing all life to thrive.

Rainforest territories in Latin America

We work together with nine Indigenous Nations across Latin America to protect their territories, cultures and ancestral knowledge.

Costa Rica
Panama
Ecuador
Peru
Colombia



- Rainforests**
- La Amistad International Park
 - Darien Rainforest
 - Amazon Rainforest

Meet the Core Team



Cristina Arau
Founder & Executive Director



Rosemary Alvarez
Regional Director Latin America



Thomas Hilker
Program Manager



Andrea Stöcker
Finance Manager



Ivannia Alvarado
Communiations Coordinator

Values that guide our work



Rooted in Reverence

Reverence for life is an attitude of honoring and holding all life as sacred. We believe that reverence arises from a heart-centered consciousness that enables us to awaken to, feel and experience that all life is fundamentally interconnected. Living with reverence means challenging modern cultural values and re-examining our relationships with self, each other, and the living Earth.

Igniting Imagination

Igniting our imagination allows the mind to transcend the limitations of the past, embrace the potential of the present moment and nurture the blossoming of a new future that our heart knows is possible. Imagining includes holding space for the pain, destruction and injustices in today's world, while seeing and amplifying the wonder, love and beauty that is equally present.

Weaving Connections

Weaving connections is both a practice and an invitation to embody the interwoven nature of life. It involves engaging as equals in shared power models, facing challenges together, and exploring the possibilities of our interconnectedness. When diverse people collaborate for a common purpose, they forge outcomes and paths that did not exist before unleashing our collective potential.

Awakening Intuition

Intuition awakens as heart and mind come into coherence and our understanding is informed within us from a seemingly intangible source. We see intuition as access to inner wisdom that is connected to the greater Whole, guiding our lives and from which we develop authentic power. Beyond rationality, it can be felt by everyone as a sense of inner knowing.

Cultivating Courage

Cultivating courage for us means being true to who we are, living from the heart and embarking on a journey into the unknown, where new possibilities arise, while embracing the risks of uncertainty, difficulty and resistance. Derived from the Latin root 'cor', meaning heart, courage is the inner strength expressed when we allow the wisdom of the heart to guide our actions.

Local Partners



Asociación de Mujeres Artesanas Indígenas
Emberá



Asociación de Mujeres Indígenas Kábata
Könana



Coordinadora de Mujeres Líderes Territoriales
de Mesoamerica



Alianza Ceibo



Asociación de Desarrollo Integral del Territorio
Indígena Talamanca Cabécar



Clínica Ambiental



Amisacho Lab

Strategic Partners



Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques



Red Indígena Bribri y Cabécar



Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de
Petén



Colectivo Waybil



Yakum



Amazon Frontlines

Patricia Hidalgo

Agricultural Technician, Cabécar Territory , Talamanca Rainforest

“My name is Patricia, I am an agricultural technician working in the food sovereignty program. As Cabécar women, we have strengthened and revived our ancestral agricultural practices through our work with Love For Life. Although, we inherited rich cultural planting traditions, our practices were disrupted by the introduction of monocultures, which negatively impacted our territory. Love For Life’s support enabled a return to traditional practices. We are now embracing ecological, regenerative farming, rediscovering the practices passed down by our elders. This revitalization brought significant positive changes. Families are producing their own food, achieving economic benefits by selling their products, and fostering resilience through seed exchanges. On a personal level, this journey has empowered me to fully embrace my identity. Today, I collaborate with other producers and mentor young people, encouraging them to preserve and cherish our agricultural heritage rooted in Cabécar culture.”

Karina Ahua

from Acaro, a Waorani community

“I am Karina, from Acaro, and I am so proud to call Acaro my home. I have two daughters. I am worried about our nature, our land, our home. We don’t want people to damage it. The moment the oil companies arrive, they damage and pollute the rivers, trees, nature — our home. We can’t allow that anymore. I am very thankful for the support of the solar project. More so, I am grateful for my daughters and the benefit it brings to the whole community. Love For Life’s support has provided something we desperately needed in our community. For me, and for us, it is something really special. Now that we have solar systems that give us access to electricity, I am very happy. Also for the wellbeing of my daughters, because they are able to walk safely at night. And for my daughters’ studies, I am very happy for that, too. What Love For Life have given us is a treasure for the protection of our home in the forest and culture.”

Jeffry Torres

Local Solar Program Coordinator, from Talamanca Rainforest

“Every day, the families walk for many hours to provide for their lives. To visit them to install the solar home systems, we travel for hours, crossing dangerous rivers, slopes, and muddy trails. We walk through the territories of dangerous animals like jaguars or mountain tigers. Sometimes we walk for hours in heavy rain. Then, suddenly the rain stops and the sky opens, allowing the sun to shine and bringing unbearable heat deep into the dense jungle mountains. Climbs, descents, hill after hill: every step is an immense effort. But when we reach the other side of a deep valley, we feel good and accomplished. After the fatigue, mud, and all the obstacles, it is an incredible satisfaction when we finally reach our destination. The best moment is when we see all the smiling and happy faces of the families, when they are able to see at night because of the solar-powered light that illuminates the dark.”

Ore Nenquimo

from Gomataon, a Waorani community

“My name is Ore Nenquimo. First of all, I would like to thank Love For Life from the bottom of my heart. Many years ago, they [the oil companies] always promised us support, but we never got any, quite the opposite. And now that I am old and have many grandchildren, I can finally see that my dream has come true and we are getting light, something I have longed for so long. I thank the Love For Life team very much for their support and for thinking and acting above and beyond, not like the oil companies and other people who always give us false promises. I no longer need a flashlight to give out food at night. I don't need candles anymore. Now that we have light, I will use it to make our traditional handicrafts in the evening, celebrating my rich cultural heritage. There are no words to express our gratitude and what this means for our people.”

Felipe Enquiri

From Tzapino, a Waorani community

“I am so happy and proud about our solar system. I was always worried about how much noise the generator makes, and that we cannot afford to buy enough gasoline. Now, when the sun sets, we can just turn on the light powered by our solar system and see what's in the dark – with no noise and no pollution – and no dependency on oil and the companies that destroy the forest – our home. We used to make handicrafts to buy gasoline. Now we can meet other needs with the money that we make. We can buy books for our children to go to school, and they can use the light to do their homework and study at night. If someone is sick, we can pay to fly them to a hospital or use the gas to take them by canoe to see a doctor. We can use radios to communicate with other communities, arrange gatherings to defend our territory and way of life. Thank you so much for your support!”

Impact achieved across impact areas

Together with our ecosystem of local partners, we ensure the protection of more than 850 native forest products, which are the fundamental basis for a thriving bioeconomy. We develop regional hubs for the production and marketing of organic rainforest products and establish self-organized ecological local markets that strengthen Indigenous people in their role as guardians of Nature. Together we are leading the way in environmental stewardship and preservation of ancient traditions in harmony with the flourishing of the natural world and local communities.



45 +

Indigenous women leaders trained as “knowledge weavers” and multipliers on regenerative production and marketing

Impact numbers

700 +

Solar home systems installed solar-powering over 60 rainforest communities in 12 Indigenous territories across 5 countries

4.5 M

Rainforest hectares guarded and protected by nine Indigenous Nations

550 +

Over 550 Indigenous and local farmers are actively revitalizing and transitioning to regenerative agroforestry and food systems

“Our partnership with Love For Life over the years has been a school for us, a cultural school, instrumental in remembering and honoring our cultural heritage, while addressing the needs of our people in our territory. Our cultural practices were disappearing, and our work together has played a crucial role in reviving and celebrating our cultural identity. We have been able to strengthen our community life, learn from our elders, initiate knowledge exchanges, revive our cultural practices, rescue our spiritual values and live our connection with Mother Earth. We have instilled and revitalized our cultural knowledge of agriculture in our communities, creating food sovereignty – and all of this has been done by women. We have empowered women to become solar technicians, create more dynamism, more opportunities, both in community and individual development and in political advocacy to defend our rights, our culture and our territories. We have achieved a lot, and I really appreciate the way we work together. Thanks to our partnership with Love For Life, we now have a headquarters, we are a strong women's association, with our own leadership, with our own decision-making, and with a very strong institutional framework.”

Maricela Fernández
Founder & President, Asociación de Mujeres
Indígenas Kábata Kōnana



A woman with long dark hair, wearing a red and white patterned shirt, black shorts, and black rubber boots, stands in a grassy field, holding a machete. A young child with long dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt, dark shorts, and black rubber boots, stands to the right, eating a piece of fruit. The background is a dense green forest under a cloudy sky.

Through the heart,
we can hear the (forgotten)
language of the Earth.

Ecology, Culture, Action.

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