

AMAZONIA

THE HEART OF MOTHER EARTH

A film by
Gert-Peter Bruch & Esmeralda of Belgium

A STORY OF OUR COMMON DESTINY



The Indigenous Peoples are the last stand between preserving an ecosystem on which the world depends and its total collapse.

During the beginning of the Bolsonaro era, the Brazilian Amazon and its indigenous peoples have experienced one disaster after the other, as the murder in 2022 of Dom Phillips, the British journalist, and Bruno Pereira, the Brazilian indigenist, has tragically demonstrated. As a result, deforestation in the Amazon has increased significantly, and wildcat miners, loggers and gold diggers have invaded many indigenous lands, poisoning soils and rivers. There is chaos in the rainforest, and scientists warn that we are ebbing increasingly closer to an "Amazon tipping point," given all these stresses on the forest.

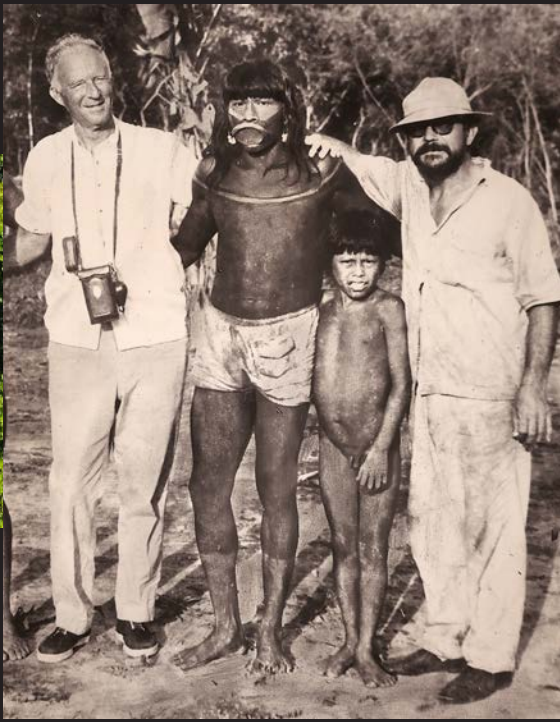


In a politically polarized nation, economically faltering and weakened by a catastrophic response to the Covid crisis, Indigenous Peoples and their allies know that they need to mobilize the world once again. Their future is at stake, as well as ours.



This film follows five indigenous leaders from four different generations: legendary chief Raoni Metuktire of the Kayapo people, chief Valdelice Veron of the Guarani-Kaiowa, chief Ninawa from the Huni Kui people, chief Kretã Kaingang of the Kaingang and young indigenous activist Val Munduruku of the Munduruku people. All of them are determined to transform national and international policies that affect their lands and

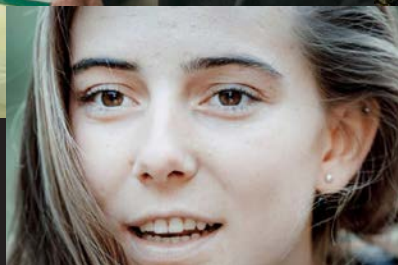




This documentary puts the absolute necessity to demarcate and protect all Indigenous lands at the heart of the fight for the Amazon. It tells the story through the words of those who defend the rainforests. Significant witnesses will explain how this has also been part of our common story for more than 60 years: with the creation of the National Park of Xingu (1961), the essential contribution of the Brazilian activists, the Vilas-Boas brothers and Sydney Possuelo, the visit of King Leopold III who spent several months living with indigenous communities, Raoni and Sting's world tour in 1989 which raised awareness and funding internationally and, finally, COP26 in Glasgow (2021) where huge sums of money were promised to protect the Amazon.

In the last 30 years, Western countries have invested millions in the protection of the rainforest but are still participating in its destruction. Leaders will explain how ecocide goes side by side with genocide and why it is so important that the International Criminal Court recognises ecocide as a crime against peace.

To have their lands effectively protected, chief Raoni and the new generation of indigenous leaders need new allies on the national and international fronts. They also need to bring the cause of the rights of Indigenous Peoples to the center of the political debate.



In partnership with Greenpeace, Stop Ecocide International, WWF, Planète Amazone & Leopold III Fund for Nature Conservation and Exploration

TREATMENT



In Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro handed over power to Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on January 1, 2023; leaving the Amazon and the Indigenous Peoples, guardians of biodiversity, in a state of war. The film 'Amazonia, the Heart of Mother Earth' therefore aims to mobilize the international community so that trade, development and consumption no longer threaten the integrity of indigenous territories.

For indigenous peoples, the Amazon is a biocultural territory where rivers, mountains, air and wind are sacred elements and a part of nature linked to all other species. The rejection by the dominant development model of this biocentric vision is about to lead us to our downfall. By providing

an understanding of how the Guardians' relationship with Mother Earth is a matter of spirituality, reciprocity and responsibility, the documentary aims to touch a wide audience straight to the heart.

The directors have chosen to approach the great challenges of our time through transgenerational stories giving human faces to the struggle. These faces are those of five great indigenous witnesses of four different generations. The history of their people and their intertwined personal journeys paints a vibrant and surprising chapter in the contemporary history of humanity: that of the tragic struggle that began more than half a century ago, punctuated by resounding victories. A struggle to save the living world.

To strengthen the emotional charge of their powerful testimonies, the film alternates narratives with magnificent images, as a background for interventions by Mother Earth herself, through songs and texts inspired by indigenous peoples' legends and prophecies..

Major Brazilian and international witnesses feature throughout the film, including President Lula, Sydney Possuelo (former president of the National Indian Foundation), Jojo Mehta (co-founder of Stop Ecocide International) and young climate activist Adelaide Charlier. Their interventions underline the extent to which the story of the safeguarding of the Amazon is above all a common future to imagine and build with unity and cooperation, so that the heart of our Mother Earth continues to beat long after our passage.

Directed and produced by:

Gert-Peter Bruch & Esmeralda from Belgium

With: chief Raoni Metuktire, chief Valdelice Veron, chief Ninawa Huni Kui, Val Munduruku, chief Kretã Kaingang

And: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (President of Brazil, 2003 -2011, 2023-2026)

Sydney Possuelo (former president of the National Indian Foundation)
Orlando Vilas-Bôas (son of Orlando, one of the founding brothers of the Xingu National Park)

Jojo Mehta (co-founder of the Stop Ecocide International Foundation)

Adélaïde Charlier (Youth for Climate Belgium)

Romulo Batista (Greenpeace Brasil)

Béatrice Wedeux (WWF Belgium)



Gert-Peter Bruch is a director and keynote speaker on environmental issues. After the success of his first documentary film "Terra Libre" on the topic of the Amazon forests and the strong detailed impression it gave on the topic for professional eye, he decided to direct this film to a wider audience.. Gert-Peter Bruch has been committed to the protection of the Amazonian forest for over 30 years, and supported the first international campaign with chief Raoni. He has organized numerous field and awareness campaigns, including three international tours of chief Raoni.



Esmeralda of Belgium is a journalist, author and keynote speaker. She has also co-produced three documentaries and written books about her family, environmental issues and female Nobel Peace Prize winners. Daughter of King Leopold, who visited the Xingu with the Vilas Boas in 1964, she is the President of Leopold III Fund for Nature Exploration and Conservation created by her late father in 1972. A campaigner for the environment and human rights, particularly for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, she is an ambassador for WWF UK and Stop Ecocide International. Making this film gave her the opportunity to follow in his father's footsteps into the lands of the Kayapo peoples, nearly 60 years after him.