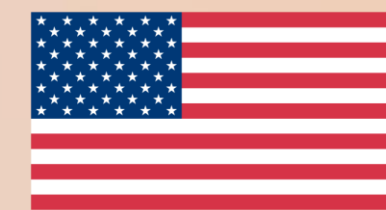




**UNIVERSIDAD NACIONAL
INTERCULTURAL DE LA AMAZONÍA**

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BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR KAKATAIBO INDIGENOUS LEADERS IN THEIR FIGHT FOR LAND AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Summary

The objective of the research was to identify the barriers and opportunities that Kakataibo indigenous leaders face in their struggle for territory and the environment, focusing on the following points: Invasion and are affected by activities such as illegal logging, drug trafficking and illegal mining, territorial rights and increasing conflicts. Indigenous leaders face threats, physical violence for defending their lands and the environment. This has resulted in the death of several indigenous leaders in the Peruvian Amazon.

Introduction

The research addresses the barriers and opportunities faced by indigenous Kakataibo leaders in their struggle to defend their territory and protect the environment. The Kakataibos, located mainly in the Peruvian Amazon, have historically been guardians of their ancestral lands, playing a crucial role in the conservation of Amazonian ecosystems. However, their leadership and activism are hampered by a number of challenges, including the expansion of extractive activities, the lack of recognition of their territorial rights, and violence by illegal actors.



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Methodology

During the research, a qualitative approach will be used through the use of structured interviews that will be conducted in the Kakataibos language. This methodology is the most appropriate given that the topic involves very sensitive experiences and contexts, because a brief survey is planned to be carried out with the help of participatory workshops with the community. Once the analysis of the information obtained is completed, a careful study of the information will be carried out to detect from these primary sources (which are usually not revealed out of fear) types of events that, if reported early, could prevent more violent events. Finally, the use of an early warning system, in the Kakataibos language, aimed at all surrounding communities and the national security system to prevent violent events is proposed.

Contextualization of the problem

The Kakataibo are indigenous peoples with a rich history and culture, who have lived in the Peruvian Amazon for centuries. However, in recent decades, their territories have fallen victim to the expansion of illegal activities such as drug trafficking, illegal logging and mining. Between 2020 and 2021 alone, 15 Kakataibo defenders have been murdered. The growing violence has been reinforced by the lack of state protection; community leaders continue to be persecuted and are constantly threatened by drug trafficking and illegal logging mafias, who seek to exploit the natural resources of the Kakataibo territory. Although laws exist to protect environmental defenders, the State's response is often insufficient or comes too late.



Results

During the research, a qualitative approach will be used through the use of structured interviews that will be conducted in the Kakataibos language. This methodology is the most appropriate given that the topic involves very sensitive experiences and contexts. Likewise, a brief survey is planned to be carried out with the help of participatory workshops with the community. Once the analysis of the information obtained is completed, a careful study of the information will be carried out to detect from these primary sources (which are usually not revealed out of fear) types of events that, if reported early, could prevent more violent events. Finally, the use of an early warning system, in the Kakataibos language, aimed at all surrounding communities and the national security system is proposed to prevent violent events.

Discussion

Technology presents a complex landscape for Kakataibo indigenous leaders. While there are risks and challenges, there are also opportunities to use technology as a tool to defend their rights, protect their territory and preserve their culture. It is essential that indigenous communities have access to technology and receive training to use it effectively. In addition, policies and strategies need to be developed to ensure responsible and ethical use of technology so that it can be an instrument of empowerment and sustainable development for indigenous peoples.



Conclusion

The struggle of the Kakataibo indigenous leaders for their territory and the environment is a struggle for the survival of their culture and way of life. The challenges are numerous, but there are also opportunities to advance in the protection of their rights and the preservation of the Amazon. The union of indigenous communities, international support and growing awareness of the importance of the Amazon are crucial elements for the success of their struggle.