

Here are the four indigenous spiritual leaders who are travelling from the Amazon:

Elena Valeria Vasquez

Maestra Curandera and traditional artist
Shipibo tribe, Peru



Elena Valera Vasquez is a Maestra Curandera in the ancient ayahuasca tradition of Shipibo tribe in Peru. She started training with plant medicines aged 16, studied at a modern nursing school, and then went deep into her ancestral tradition with guidance from Shipibo elders. Now she works as an ayahuasca Curandera at the Temple of the Way of Light, a fairtrade retreat centre that integrates Shipibo tradition with Western psychotherapy in a jungle setting. She is also a talented artist, working with acrylic and natural paint, and produces artworks depicting her ayahuasca visions as well as traditional stories and legends.

Miguel Evanjuanoy Chindoy

Community Leader, Inga tribe, Columbia

Union of Indigenous Yagé Medics of the Colombian Amazon.



Miguel Evanjuanoy Chindoy is a member of the Inga people from the Putumayo river in Colombia. He is a Community Leader, environmental engineer and follower of yagé medicine since his childhood years. Miguel has been trusted to represent over 100 Spiritual Leaders that form the Union of Indigenous Yagé Medics of the Colombian Amazon. His work with UMIYAC consists in constructing a dialogue between western knowledge and ancestral knowledge: the role of indigenous spirituality in environmental conservation and territorial defence, and the role of yagé and ancestral medicines in indigenous mental health, peace building and reconstruction of the social fabric in war-torn regions.

Benki Piyãko

Pajé and spiritual leader, Asháninka tribe, Brazil



Benki Piyãko was trained by his grandfather to be a Pajé in the Asháninka tradition: someone who possesses a deep knowledge of traditions and healing and uses this knowledge to help his community. He and his brothers became leaders of their community's non-violent resistance to the invasion of their ancestral land in Brazil. Benki participated in the ECO92 Environment and Development Summit, and there learned modern sustainability techniques. He founded the Yoreka Atame School of Primeval Forestry, the Pro-Indigenous Commission, the Young Guardians of the Forest Warrior Association, and the Agri-Forestal Movement. He is an internationally-renowned political and spiritual leader.

Tii Arutam Tuntiak

Chief Uwishin & Spiritual Leader, Shuar tribe, Ecuador



Tii Arutam Tuntiak is the Chief, Spiritual Leader and senior Uwishin (ayahuasca shaman) of the Shuar Nation of Ecuador. He was initiated as an Uwishin by the most renowned teachers of his tribe, and studied Philosophy and Psychology at University too. He was one of the founders of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador, the Organization of United Traditions, the Confederation of the Condor and the Eagle, and he represented South America at the delegation of indigenous elders who met the Dalai Lama. He now practices traditional spiritual healing with ayahuasca at the Shiram Yaa Ancestral Wisdom Center.