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# Background report on Domingo Peas - winner of the WIN WIN Gothenburg Sustainability Award 2025

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## 1. Domingo Peas and the Fight Against Amazon Exploitation

Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai is an Achuar Indigenous leader from the Ecuadorian Amazon who has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the rainforest since the early 1990s. He emerged as a prominent leader in the Indigenous movement over 30 years ago, serving as Vice-President of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) from 1993–1996. This early leadership role positioned Domingo as a bridge between Indigenous communities and broader national alliances, strengthening resistance against oil, mining, and logging incursions into ancestral lands. In the late 1990s, as oil companies pushed into previously untouched territories, Achuar elders (including Domingo and his peers) forged unprecedented partnerships with global allies. For example, Achuar leaders initiated a partnership with the Pachamama Alliance to defend nearly 2 million acres of ancestral rainforest, on the belief that all people have a stake in the Amazon’s wellbeing. Domingo Peas played a key role in these collaborations, helping develop community-driven resource management plans aimed at long-term wellbeing and self-determination instead of extraction

([The Achuar](#)). This decades-long leadership established Domingo Peas as a pivotal figure in the fight against Amazon exploitation.

A recent pinnacle of Domingo's advocacy was the 2023 "Keep Oil in the Ground" referendum in Ecuador. Leading up to this historic vote, he and other Indigenous leaders waged a public awareness campaign to protect Yasuní National Park – one of the most biodiverse places on Earth – from oil drilling ([NACLA](#)). Their message resonated nationwide. In August 2023, Ecuadorians voted by a nearly 60% majority to halt all new oil extraction in Yasuní, a groundbreaking victory for environmental and Indigenous movements. Domingo's coalition-building and persistent advocacy were widely credited as critical in achieving this outcome, empowering voters to choose to "keep the oil in the soil" despite intense pressure from extractive interests ([The Earthshot Prize](#)). Domingo Peas hailed the result as a triumph for Indigenous rights and a hopeful model for the world, showing that frontline communities can lead bold climate action. However, he remains vigilant as oil companies and some officials have attempted to undermine the vote; his leadership continues in ensuring the referendum's mandate is honored ([Apnews](#)). Overall, from the 1990s to today, Domingo's unwavering stance against Amazon exploitation – through grassroots organizing, alliance building, and democratic action – has achieved major milestones in protecting the rainforest.

## 2. The Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance

Domingo Peas's most influential platform is the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance (ASHA), a coalition he helped found in 2017. Today, he serves as President of its Governing Board ([Weforum](#)), guiding a unified front of over 30 *Indigenous nations* across Ecuador and Peru. The Alliance's member nations collectively steward 35 million hectares (86 million acres) of pristine rainforest in the headwaters of the Amazon River ([My Green Pod](#)). Under Domingo's leadership, ASHA has declared this vast bioregion off-limits to industrial-scale resource extraction, asserting Indigenous stewardship as the best guarantee of its protection. This makes the Sacred Headwaters Alliance the world's largest Indigenous-led conservation initiative by area. The model is unprecedented – ASHA brings together diverse peoples (Achuar, Kichwa, Waorani, Shuar, Sápara, and many others) who have set aside historical differences to present a united front in defense of their shared rainforest. Domingo Peas's inclusive and bridge-building leadership has been crucial in achieving this unity. With patience and respect for each nation's autonomy, he helped forge a common vision and governance structure for the alliance. As a result, 28 Indigenous organizations from two countries now speak with one voice on Amazon protection, creating a powerful force against governments or corporations seeking to divide communities. "We have said, 'Enough is enough. We don't want extractive industries. We have to protect this area,'" Domingo explains of the alliance's stance, emphasizing that 30 Indigenous nations have come together to defend 30 million hectares of intact forest in the Sacred Headwaters region ([Democracy Now!](#)).

The global importance of the Amazon Sacred Headwaters cannot be overstated. This rainforest region – often called the "*lungs of the Earth*" – plays a pivotal role in the planet's climate system and biodiversity. As environmental strategist Atossa Soltani noted at COP26, the Amazon is the largest remaining rainforest on Earth and is "*key to addressing climate stability.*" If its destruction continues, humanity faces a tipping point of ecological collapse with dire consequences worldwide. The Headwaters area that Domingo's alliance protects is especially critical: it harbors old-growth forests of immense carbon storage capacity and generates vast moisture flows that regulate weather across South America and beyond (the Amazon's trees release 20

billion tons of water to the atmosphere daily, driving rainfall patterns as far as the Andes and plains beyond). By safeguarding 35 million hectares of this heartland, ASHA provides a buffer against climate change – preventing emissions from deforestation and keeping regional rainfall systems intact. Scientists estimate that protecting these forests will avoid roughly *2 billion metric tons* of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (through 2025) that would occur if the lands were deforested ([IMongabay](#)). Moreover, this region sustains *tens of thousands of species*, many found nowhere else. Its protection is thus a boon for global biodiversity conservation. Domingo Peas frequently reminds world leaders that the Amazon’s fate and humanity’s fate are intertwined: “*To Indigenous people, it is clear that if the forest is destroyed, humanity will be at a point of no return,*” he warns ([The Earthshot Prize](#)). This conviction underlies ASHA’s mission as articulated by Domingo – protecting the Sacred Headwaters is not just an Indigenous issue but “a gift to all life on Earth” and a responsibility to future generations ([My Green Pod](#)). Under his guidance, the Alliance has championed this message on the world stage, asserting that saving this rainforest is a prerequisite for meeting global climate and sustainability goals.

### 3. Global Advocacy for Amazon Conservation

While rooted in the Amazon, Domingo Peas has tirelessly carried his peoples’ message to international arenas, emerging as a leading voice for Indigenous-led conservation on the global stage. He has actively participated in high-profile environmental conferences and summits – from United Nations climate talks to the World Economic Forum – ensuring that the perspectives of Amazonian nations are heard by world leaders. For instance, at the COP26 U.N. Climate Summit in Glasgow (2021), Domingo was a prominent member of the Indigenous delegation. In an interview there, he stressed that “*we cannot win the battle against climate [change] unless we protect the world’s remaining rainforests,*” calling for an end to logging, mining, and oil drilling in the Amazon ([Democracy Now!](#)). He highlighted that wealthy nations and banks must stop financing fossil fuels, urging a just transition to protect the “lungs of the Earth.” Speaking as the Coordinator for the Sacred Headwaters Initiative, he presented a bold proposal for permanent protection of the Amazon’s headwaters, declaring “Leave fossil fuels in the ground. No more mining. No more logging.” His presence in Glasgow – alongside other Indigenous leaders like Atossa Soltani and Nemonte Nenquimo – was part of an “*unprecedented moment*” of Indigenous participation at COP, which Domingo helped catalyze. By elevating Amazonian issues in that global forum, he drew widespread media attention to the plight of the rainforest and the solutions Indigenous peoples offer. He also engaged directly with policymakers: inside the COP venue, he met diplomats and ministers, advocating for support of ASHA’s bioregional protection plan ([Mongabay](#)). His COP26 advocacy not only influenced the dialogue in Glasgow but also laid groundwork for subsequent international commitments to forest protection.

Beyond climate conferences, Domingo has carried the Amazon’s voice to various UN and international summits. In December 2022, he participated in the U.N. Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, where he joined Indigenous representatives calling for a global target to protect *80% of the Amazon by 2025*. There, he bluntly stated, “*Without the Amazon, there is no life. We all need the forest to live in a dignified way,*” underscoring to negotiators and observers that protecting his home is essential for everyone’s future ([Aptnnews](#)). He urged governments (including Canada and other Amazon investor nations) to strengthen protections and fund Indigenous-led conservation, rather than rely on top-down approaches that have failed in the past ([Politico](#)). His diplomatic efforts have led to meetings with heads of state, environment ministers, and even Pope Francis, where he conveys on-the-ground realities of deforestation and the spiritual importance of the rainforest to its peoples. By combining moral authority and

concrete policy proposals, Domingo has helped shift global climate and biodiversity discussions toward greater recognition of Indigenous rights and solutions.

Domingo Peas's influence has also reached the World Economic Forum (WEF), a venue not traditionally known for Indigenous representation. In January 2024, he was invited to Davos as part of a panel of Indigenous leaders teaching global executives and policymakers about protecting the Amazon. There, he urged world leaders to align economic practices with the Indigenous concept of the natural world as a living provider, rather than a commodity ([World Economic Forum](#)). He spoke of how Achuar culture's ancestral focus on *diversified, sustainable harvesting* – “done with care and love” – has kept their forests intact for millennia. By contrast, he warned that modern economies built on monocultures and resource extraction are inherently unsustainable. Domingo gave a tangible example: “*One of our products making its way onto global markets is vanilla,*” he noted, referencing a sustainable agroforestry crop cultivated by Indigenous communities. Yet he explained the barriers Indigenous entrepreneurs face in accessing international finance and fair markets. Domingo appealed to banks and investors in the audience to “*help us educate our people and continue maintaining our forests for the benefit of humanity*”. His speech at Davos was a clarion call for partnership: he asked that global financial systems support Indigenous stewardship (through grants, equitable trade, and debt relief), rather than funding the industries that destroy the forest. His global advocacy has been instrumental in shifting the narrative – from seeing Indigenous communities as victims of climate change to recognizing them as vital leaders of climate solutions. This advocacy contributed to greater commitments: for example, world leaders at COP26 and COP27 acknowledged the need to fund Indigenous-led forest conservation, and major foundations and governments have since pledged billions for this cause. Domingo's role in these developments exemplifies how he uses diplomacy and public engagement to build international support for Amazon protection.

## 4. Alternative Development Models and Sustainability

Central to Domingo Peas's vision is the rejection of development models that depend on extracting resources at the expense of the environment and Indigenous welfare. He has witnessed firsthand how promises of oil and mining wealth never translated into real benefits for Amazon communities. As one Amazonian leader lamented, “*Fifty years of petroleum operations have left us in ruins*” – with polluted lands, ill health, and scarce economic or educational improvements to show for it ([NACLA](#)). Domingo echoes this sentiment, arguing that it is unacceptable to sacrifice the forest for schools or clinics that often never materialize. Instead, he champions alternative models of education, healthcare, and livelihood that work in harmony with nature. In practice, this means pursuing a regenerative, “post-extractive” economy – one where Indigenous peoples can thrive and access modern services without drilling wells or cutting down the forest. Under Domingo's leadership, the Sacred Headwaters Alliance released a *Bioregional Plan 2030*, which outlines a transition from an extractive economy to a “regenerative bioeconomy” in the Amazon ([ASHA Bioregional plan](#)). This plan encompasses community-led initiatives in sustainable agriculture, forestry, renewable energy, intercultural education, and healthcare that are grounded in Indigenous knowledge. It seeks to improve livelihoods and social well-being while conserving biodiversity and land rights ([The Earthshot Prize](#)). In essence, Domingo Peas is helping demonstrate that an alternative development path is not only possible, but already being built on the ground – one that *prioritizes the well-being of Indigenous communities and the ecological integrity of the whole region*.

Domingo and his allies are actively advancing several sustainable development initiatives as pillars of this new model:

- **Diversified Agroforestry**

Instead of destructive monoculture plantations, Amazon Indigenous communities practice agroforestry – growing food, medicine, and cash crops beneath the rainforest canopy. Domingo emphasizes that his culture’s ancestral product diversification is a key reason “*the forest remains standing*” in their territories ([World Economic Forum](#)). By cultivating a mix of crops (fruits, vegetables, timber, etc.) in harmony with the ecosystem, they maintain soil health and biodiversity. One example is the chakra system used by Achuar and Kichwa farmers, which integrates dozens of species in a single garden. These practices yield abundant produce for local needs and surplus for market, all without clear-cutting the forest. Domingo points to such agroecological methods as proof that communities can generate income while actually *protecting* the forest, not destroying it.

- **Sustainable Vanilla and Fair Trade Exports**

Domingo often highlights vanilla as a success story of Indigenous enterprise. Amazonian vanilla is a native orchid that grows in the understory; communities like the Achuar have begun cultivating it as a high-value export crop. “*One of our products making its way onto global markets is vanilla,*” Domingo notes, symbolizing how Indigenous farmers can participate in international trade on their own terms. Through partnerships, they are exporting vanilla and other rainforest products (like cocoa, coffee, and natural oils) via fair trade channels that ensure equitable prices. These ventures provide income to fund local schools and clinics, *without* resorting to oil concessions or mining royalties. By scaling such projects, Domingo argues, Amazon nations can decouple their economies from oil dependency. Indeed, the Sacred Headwaters Alliance works with organizations to create direct market access for Indigenous products, thereby supporting community development and cultural resilience.

- **From Carbon credits to Biocultural Jaguar Credits**

As the world shifts to carbon-neutral goals, Domingo Peas insists that Indigenous peoples should benefit from climate finance for the carbon storage and biodiversity protection their lands provide. However, he has been cautious about standard carbon credit schemes. “*Talking only about selling carbon doesn’t seem coherent, and it makes us uncomfortable,*” Domingo says, reflecting concerns that carbon markets alone won’t address Indigenous needs ([Ecosystem Marketplace](#)). He advocates for mechanisms that value intact forests holistically – in his words, an “*equal exchange, benefiting both worlds. We take care of the forest, and this should generate support for us in a regenerative economy of solidarity.*”. A complement to carbon credits are the so-called [Biocultural Jaguar Credits](#) which is an innovative approach to conservation that blends the cultural and ecological knowledge of indigenous communities with modern financial mechanisms. This model focuses on biocultural crediting, where credits are generated through stewardship activities by local communities, ensuring the preservation of both biodiversity and cultural heritage. The approach emphasizes right relationships, mutual respect, and collaboration between stakeholders, aiming to reshape conservation finance to be more inclusive and effective.

- **Technology for Territorial Monitoring**

Embracing innovation, Domingo and the Alliance are also leveraging technology to monitor and protect their lands from illegal exploitation. They collaborate with tech-

focused NGOs to deploy tools like drones, satellite mapping, and mobile apps that help Indigenous rangers surveil vast rainforests for illegal logging, mining, or wildlife poaching ([Mongabay](#)). For instance, open-source apps (developed by groups like Digital Democracy) allow communities to document and map incursions even offline, strengthening their governance over remote areas ([Cisco Blogs](#)). Domingo notes that co-creating such tools is vital because historically “technology is often used against Indigenous Peoples” – for example, outsiders using GPS to stake claims. By using modern technology, Indigenous land defenders can gather evidence, alert authorities, and assert their territorial rights more effectively. The Alliance’s programs include training youth in GIS mapping and establishing community monitoring stations with solar-powered communications ([The Earthshot Prize](#)). These efforts have already helped reduce illegal deforestation in some Sacred Headwaters territories. Embracing modern tools, Domingo argues, does not conflict with Indigenous values; rather, it empowers communities to protect the forest on their own terms in the 21st century.

Through these initiatives, Domingo Peas advances a compelling alternative development paradigm. It is one grounded in the Indigenous principle of “*Buen Vivir*” (Good Living) – seeking a balanced, fulfilling life for communities in harmony with nature, instead of pursuing endless extraction and growth ([Democracy Now!](#)). Education and healthcare in this model are sustained by local regenerative economies and supported by global solidarity (such as climate funds or philanthropy), rather than by oil revenues that come with environmental devastation. By championing agroforestry, fair trade, ecosystem service payments, and tech-enabled protection, Domingo is proving there are viable economic pathways for Amazon peoples that do not involve destroying the rainforest. His work in this arena challenges the narrative that Indigenous communities must choose between development and conservation. Instead, he shows that true development *is* conservation – that healthy forests and healthy communities go hand in hand. These sustainability efforts, many of which are already underway, form a blueprint that can be replicated across the Amazon and other tropical regions. Domingo often points out that Indigenous territories with secure tenure and sustainable projects act as bulwarks against deforestation, benefiting the entire planet ([Earth.Org](#)). As such, supporting these alternative models is a cost-effective and just strategy for countries seeking to meet climate and sustainable development targets.

## 5. Philosophy and Leadership Approach

A quote from Domingo Peas on leadership reads “True leadership is not about being at the forefront, but about walking together—honoring ancestral wisdom, defending life, and paving the way for future generations without expecting anything in return. This recognition is not just for me, but for the Indigenous peoples who have protected our forests, waters, and cultures for millennia. To lead is to listen, to build unity, and to act with courage in the face of the forces that threaten our shared future.”

Domingo Peas’s leadership is deeply rooted in his Indigenous Achuar worldview, which emphasizes the unity of humans and nature and the importance of collective well-being ([BBC ideas](#)). In Achuar cosmology (an example of *animism*), there is no separation between people and the rest of the living world ([Regenerative Economics](#)). Every organism, whether animal, plant, or even river, is seen as having a spirit and intrinsic value. The Achuar “treat all beings as relatives” and recognize that humans are simply one part of the broader web of life. This perspective instills a profound respect for nature: exploiting or harming other beings is viewed as

morally wrong. Domingo, raised in this tradition, carries that ethos into his environmental leadership. He often explains that his people see themselves *“as part of the living world, deeply connected with nature with a responsibility to respect, care for and defend other entities.”*. In practice, this means decisions are guided not by short-term profit but by what will maintain the balance of life for future generations. When Domingo speaks on the international stage, he frequently invokes this relational philosophy. At COP26, for instance, he urged that we must *“change our relationship to nature”* and *“really put at the center of our thinking our connection to life and our commitment to future generations.”* ([Democracy Now!](#)). Such statements encapsulate an Indigenous ethos that has guided Domingo’s approach: the Earth is our extended family, and leadership means ensuring the health of the whole community of life, not just humans.

Another core aspect of Domingo Peas’s leadership style is his focus on listening, consensus-building, and unity. He is described by colleagues as a humble, inclusive leader who elevates others’ voices rather than dominating discussions. In Amazonian Indigenous governance, decisions are traditionally made by listening to all community members (elders, youth, women, shamans) in long deliberations until a collective agreement is reached. Domingo follows this pattern, patiently hearing diverse perspectives and forging common ground. His effectiveness in uniting 30 distinct nations in the Sacred Headwaters Alliance speaks to this ability – he honored each group’s concerns and found the shared values that could bind them together. He also actively builds bridges between cultures. Fluent in Spanish and conversant in global discourse, Domingo acts as an interpreter of Indigenous values to outsiders and vice versa. For example, when engaging government ministers or CEOs, he frames requests in terms those audiences can grasp (like “sustainable development” or “climate resilience”) while still rooted in his peoples’ vision. This *bridge-building* talent has earned him respect in both Indigenous and international arenas. His colleagues note that he’s equally comfortable speaking before a village assembly deep in the rainforest or a United Nations panel in a major city – and in both cases, his approach is to listen first and then speak from the heart on behalf of his people.

Domingo’s leadership is also characterized by values of collaboration and unity-building across all sectors of society. He firmly believes that protecting the Amazon is not the sole responsibility of Indigenous peoples but a shared obligation of all humanity. *“I call on everyone, all walks of life... We must work together for our common future,”* he implored at a gathering in Glasgow ([Democracy Now!](#)). This inclusive vision leads him to seek partnerships far and wide: with other Indigenous nations (as seen in ASHA), with NGOs and scientific institutions, and even with governments and businesses willing to change course. Domingo often uses the metaphor that we must “find our shared future” and “construct a new path forward” together, rather than remaining stuck in conflict or blame. This forward-looking optimism, even after centuries of injustice against Indigenous peoples, is a hallmark of his leadership. It enables him to sit at negotiating tables with former adversaries (e.g. officials of ministries that once granted oil leases on his land) and invite them into a solution-oriented dialogue. By focusing on unity and the “common good for all humanity”, he shifts the narrative from confrontation to cooperation, which has opened many doors.

Crucially, Domingo Peas leads by example and integrity. He lives in his community in the Amazon whenever he is not traveling, maintaining a simple lifestyle connected to the forest. Those who know him remark on his generosity, courage, and spiritual groundedness. He frequently engages in traditional ceremonies and makes decisions through consultation with elders and spiritual leaders, ensuring his leadership is guided by ancestral wisdom. This grounding gives him a calm

confidence even in high-pressure global forums. At COP26, before giving his speech, he participated in an Indigenous-led prayer with others, asking permission from the spirit of the forest to speak on its behalf. Such practices illustrate how his worldview of unity is not just rhetoric but lived practice. It fosters a leadership ethos based on *service* – serving his people and the Earth rather than seeking personal power. This stands in stark contrast to many political leaders and has attracted attention as a model of ethical leadership. Indeed, commentators have noted that Domingo’s style – empathetic, values-driven, and inclusive – exemplifies the kind of leadership needed to tackle global sustainability challenges. By blending traditional Indigenous values with modern diplomatic skill, Domingo Peas provides an inspiring example of how to lead in a way that heals the relationship between humans and nature.

## 6. Global Unity and the Future of Amazon Protection

Domingo Peas envisions a future where international cooperation bolsters Indigenous efforts, achieving lasting protection for the Amazon through a united global front. His vision extends beyond the Amazon basin to encompass all allies – governments, civil society, scientists, and everyday citizens worldwide – joining forces with Indigenous guardians. *“It’s going to take all of us, all sectors of society, to come together... for the common good of all humanity,”* Domingo asserts ([Democracy Now!](#)). In practical terms, this means he advocates for mechanisms where the world community supports the Amazon’s defenders. For example, he has called for an international pact or agreement to permanently protect the Sacred Headwaters region, backed by funding to compensate Ecuador and Peru for keeping resources in the ground. He supported the idea of a global Amazon Protection Fund and debt forgiveness initiatives, wherein creditor nations relieve Ecuador’s debt in exchange for forest conservation commitments. Such proposals are gaining traction; Norway’s rainforest fund and the recent Amazon Summit in Brazil echoed similar concepts, indicating that Domingo’s advocacy is influencing policy at high levels. His emphasis is on partnership with autonomy: *“We want a collaborative relationship with the government... but one with autonomy,”* he told officials, meaning Indigenous peoples seek cooperation without sacrificing their self-determination ([Mongabay](#)). International unity, in his view, must respect Indigenous leadership rather than impose solutions from above.

A cornerstone of the future Domingo Peas is helping to build is the idea that Indigenous-led conservation models can guide global sustainability efforts. Recent studies validate this approach: forests under Indigenous management tend to have significantly lower deforestation rates and higher biodiversity than other areas ([Earth.Org](#)). In the Brazilian Amazon, only 5% of net forest loss from 2000–2021 occurred in Indigenous territories and protected areas, even though those areas contain over half of the Amazon’s forests ([Carbon Brief](#)). These data underscore what Domingo has long argued – that supporting Indigenous guardianship is one of the most effective strategies to safeguard the Earth’s lungs. By highlighting such success stories, Domingo is influencing global conservation paradigms to be more inclusive of Indigenous rights and knowledge. International bodies like the UN and World Bank are now incorporating Indigenous-led approaches in their climate and biodiversity programs ([How Indigenous communities advance climate action at COP ...](#)), reflecting a shift that leaders like Domingo helped bring about.

Domingo Peas’s vision for the Amazon’s future is fundamentally optimistic: he speaks of the Amazon not as doomed, but as a *“beacon of hope for our planet’s future”* if humanity chooses

the path of respect and collaboration ([My Green Pod](#)). In speeches, he often paints a picture of “global unity” where the wisdom of Indigenous peoples guides a worldwide movement to regenerate the Earth. He invokes ancestral prophecy and responsibility – noting that his ancestors cared for the forest for thousands of years, and now it is this generation’s duty to ensure it thrives for thousands more.

He also stresses the moral and spiritual dimension: saving the Amazon is not just a technical challenge, but a chance for humanity to rekindle its sacred relationship with nature. This message resonates globally as climate anxiety rises; many find hope in the idea that modern society can learn from Indigenous cultures how to live sustainably. Indeed, Domingo’s leadership has inspired countless young people (Indigenous and non-Indigenous alike) who see in him a role model of courage and principle. His work training the next generation – for example through the Living Amazon School (Escuela Viva Amazonica) he co-founded to educate young Indigenous leaders ([World biodiversity summit](#)) – ensures that his vision will carry on. The students of this program learn both traditional knowledge and modern skills, embodying the fusion of old and new that Domingo believes is key to the future.

He also calls on consumers worldwide to rethink their relationship to the Amazon – for instance, reducing demand for Amazonian oil, gold, and beef, and instead supporting sustainable products from Indigenous enterprises. By changing consumption and finance patterns globally, pressure on the Amazon can be relieved. Domingo frequently thanks international supporters and urges them to continue raising their voices, saying that saving the Amazon requires a global chorus. “*The forest is calling on us that we have to do this ecological transition,*” he said in Glasgow, “*we cannot continue the path that we’ve been on*” ([Democracy Now!](#)). This encapsulates his appeal: that all nations join in an “ecological transition” towards a new paradigm of living with nature.

In conclusion, Domingo Peas stands as a transformative leader whose Indigenous-led conservation model offers a powerful blueprint for the future. Through decades of dedication, he has helped unite a broad coalition to protect a critical swath of the Amazon, demonstrated sustainable alternatives to extraction, and carried the Amazon’s voice to the highest international levels. His philosophy of living in unity with nature, combined with pragmatic alliance-building, has achieved tangible conservation victories and influenced global policies. Looking ahead, Domingo’s work underscores that the fate of the Amazon and the fate of humanity are inseparable – and that by following the leadership of its Indigenous guardians, the global community can secure a thriving future for the Amazon rainforest. His vision of global unity in protecting the Amazon invites all of us to participate, reminding the world that we are all connected to this great forest’s future. As Domingo often says, “*We not only protect nature; we are nature itself*” ([World Economic Forum](#)). – a humble truth that could guide a more sustainable and equitable era of global development.