

2025 Advocacy Actions Report

Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino

Period: 2025

Version: 2025

Report on Fundación Kuichi's advocacy actions during 2025.

Who we are

We are Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino, a grassroots organization made up of women of different ages, backgrounds, and professions. We bring together rural, urban, peasant, and Indigenous women from the department of Nariño, united in the defense of life, territory, and nature.

We emerged from the urgent need to listen to and strengthen the voices of women and their communities in response to the loss and degradation of the department's high-mountain ecosystems. From a gender perspective, we work to conserve the Andean bear and the ecosystems that sustain life, recognizing the fundamental role of women in caring for the territory, preserving memory, and strengthening community resilience.

Our work is strengthened through strategic alliances and support processes with organizations that share our vision of environmental justice and gender equity, including Fondo Lunaria and MAMA CASH, whose support has been fundamental to developing advocacy, training, and community conservation actions in the territories.

To sustain our processes, we promote a self-management strategy based on the sale of T-shirts produced through a participatory process, conceived as a tool to fund educational workshops and field visits with communities. The T-shirt design emerged from collective workshops with girls, boys, young people, and parents, in which a message of awareness and commitment to the conservation of the Andean bear was jointly created, expressed in the phrase: “I protect the Andean bear”.

In this way, we have developed a participatory methodology in which culture, self-management, and biodiversity conservation intertwine as a path toward community strengthening and the construction of environmental peace from the territories.

Purpose

Our purpose is to make visible and transform negative interactions between people and the Andean bear in the department of Nariño through community processes that include sustainable agricultural practices and the promotion of territorial defense, based on the social appropriation of knowledge that connects art with issues such as climate justice, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation.

We seek new ways to communicate environmental education. One example is participatory science, using tools such as camera trapping and community wildlife monitoring, while recognizing the leadership of rural, urban, Indigenous, and peasant women, as well as the fundamental role of girls, boys, and young people in strengthening the protection of the Andean bear and the construction of environmental peace in our territory.

Using images obtained through camera trapping, co-creation workshops with communities produce music, dance, theater, and drawing pieces, turning art into a tool for social transformation.

In this way, we promote coordinated efforts focused on caring for nature and the biodiversity of high-mountain ecosystems, and on conserving one of

the mammals most threatened by human activity in Colombia: the Andean bear.

Participation spaces

Since 2019, we have also achieved impact in civic participation spaces, such as the formulation of development plans, COP 16 in the city of Cali, Colombia, in 2024, and various academic and social spaces that address the need to confront the biodiversity crisis through climate and gender justice as fundamental pillars for building environmental peace in the territories.

Thanks to these actions, our organization's advocacy has reached approximately 2,400 people.

These experiences have enabled us to develop various advocacy actions, described in this report.

Advocacy actions for the conservation of the Andean bear

This document describes the advocacy actions carried out by Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino, focused on community well-being and biodiversity conservation, with particular emphasis on conserving the Andean bear.

These actions were developed with women, young people, girls, and boys from territories that are part of the Andean bear biological corridor, through participatory science and environmental education processes supported by

local knowledge and diverse artistic expressions such as dance, music, drawing, painting, photography, and creativity, used as tools for the collective construction of knowledge and the strengthening of environmental awareness.

The purpose of this document is to share the achievements reached during 2025, organized around the following advocacy actions:

- Territorial projects for the defense and conservation of the Andean bear.
- Advocacy in environmental education and outreach spaces.
- Training and research processes.
- Processes for collecting the memories of women's leadership in defense of the territory.
- Territorial advocacy for the conservation of the Andean bear.
- Travesiando con el Oso.

Territorial projects for the defense and conservation of the Andean bear

Semillas Guardabosques 3

As part of the advocacy action Territorial projects for the defense and conservation of the Andean bear, the third edition of the “Semillas Guardabosques” project was carried out during 2025. This initiative inspires girls and boys to value Andean bear conservation through educational, artistic, and participatory science processes, cultivating a

deep connection with the territory and sowing environmental awareness from childhood.



The Semillas Guardabosques project began in 2023, had its second edition in 2024, and in this third implementation (2025) was carried out with the participation of 25 primary-school students from the Aguapamba campus of Institución Educativa Municipal Agustín Agualongo, located in the township of San Pedro de la Laguna, municipality of Pasto.

This process strengthened rural girls' and boys' love for and awareness of their territory through art—drawing, painting, music, and dance—and participatory science, supported by the installation and educational use of camera traps for wildlife monitoring.

During the project, girls, boys, parents, and teachers facilitated an encounter between art and science, enabling dialogue between local knowledge and academic knowledge and strengthening the connection with life and nature. The following actions were developed:

- **“Tierra de Colores” (Land of Colors) workshops:** a painting-creation space led by Jimena Cárdenas, Visual Arts professor at Universidad de

Nariño. In these workshops, the students painted their territory from their own feelings, using natural pigments extracted from the earth.

- **Body expression and tradition:** under the leadership of Cathalina Acevedo, a graduate in Performing Arts, a process of reconnecting with the body and the territory was developed, integrating dance and music around caring for the Andean bear.
- **Biodiversity monitoring:** the students received training in monitoring local fauna and flora, with the support of biologist Johana Castro and botanist Gloria Pantoja. On June 28, 2025, a field trip was conducted from the school to the Aguapamba intake, where they put their acquired knowledge into practice.

As a result of this experience, each student created a work inspired by their surroundings, forming the Galería del Oso Andino. A dance performance was also presented, accompanied by the song “Lindo Osito”, the result of a collaborative process with San Francisco Buesaquillo school.

These results were shared with the community on July 27, 2025, as part of the Fiestas Culturales y Tradicionales de San Pedro de la Laguna, celebrating the learning and the strengthened bond between the girls, boys, and their territory.

Education and outreach

KUICHIchieando por el Ambiente

As part of its 2025 strategic roadmap, the Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino Kuichi launched the webinar series “KUICHIchieando por el Ambiente” as a communication and popular

education tool through social media. This strategy was designed to democratize scientific and territorial knowledge, using virtual platforms to connect with communities in times of major socio-environmental challenges. Moderated by environmental geographer Angie Dayana Eraso, the series of sessions helped position feminist climate justice on the public agenda, linking knowledge about the biology of the Andean bear and its habitat with conflict-prevention strategies and institutional response pathways.



These webinars functioned as a virtual “juntanza” strategy, allowing Kuichi members such as Jhoana Castro (biologist), Marilyn Botina (educator), Gladys Agreda (educator), and Farah González (conservation veterinarian) to share participatory science tools and community pedagogies with women, girls, and boys from the territory. By combining these spaces for dialogue with the promotion of the “Travesiando con el Oso” initiative, Kuichi wove a powerful narrative of harmonious coexistence and territorial defense. This communication effort not only strengthened Kuichi's visibility, but also became a key advocacy strategy for empowering women to protect biodiversity and life.

Fourth edition: Feria del Oso Andino y el Páramo, Urrao – 2025



As part of our environmental education and outreach actions, we participated in an environmental fair promoted by the Gobernación de Antioquia, the Alcaldía de Urrao, and CORPOURABA, held in the municipality of Urrao, Antioquia, from September 18 to 20, 2025. The event brought together science, environmental education, culture, and community in one space through workshops, talks, outdoor film screenings, and a green business fair, with the aim of celebrating local biodiversity and promoting the protection of strategic ecosystems, especially the Andean bear and Páramo del Sol.

Our organization participated by sharing the processes developed to conserve the Andean bear and high-mountain ecosystems, based on environmental education and participatory science, through the implementation of community camera trapping as a tool to strengthen the social appropriation of knowledge.

This space fostered a valuable exchange of knowledge and experiences, during which a sample of the community camera-trapping work was presented. Through dialogue with participants, the role of the Andean bear as an umbrella species and the importance of forests and páramos in sustaining life in the territories were highlighted. Networks were also strengthened with women's organizations committed to caring for life and defending the territory, such as Reserva Natural de la Sociedad Civil Matilde Montañez – Páramo del Sol.

Second Festival Ramsar La Cocha: Guardianes del Agua y la Vida – El legado ambiental del territorio



We participated in the second edition of Festival Ramsar La Cocha, held on October 17, 2025, at Centro Educativo Municipal Santa Teresita (CEMSAT), located in the Santa Teresita settlement, township of El Encano. The event was led by Santuario de Flora Isla de La Corota, together with Fundación Suyusama, Corponariño, and Sistema Departamental de Áreas Protegidas de Nariño (SIDAP).

The festival combined environmental education, science, culture, and community participation, bringing together girls, boys, young people, teachers, and families from the settlements of Santa Teresita, Mojondinoy, Santa Rosa, and Santa Clara. Through theater performances, exhibitions, mural painting, contests, and displays of sustainable enterprises, it promoted love and care for Laguna de La Cocha, the páramo, and wetlands, becoming a space for intergenerational dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and experiences around the territory and its conservation.

In this context, Kuichi participated by sharing its work in environmental education and participatory science, particularly the community camera trapping implemented in schools in the townships of Buesaquillo and San Pedro de La Laguna. This space enabled a mutual exchange of learning: the community expressed interest in conservation processes and shared experiences of wildlife sightings, especially of the Andean bear, as well as concern about negative interactions with the species resulting from attacks on livestock.

Based on this dialogue, researched strategies for preventing conflicts between the Andean bear and productive activities were shared, providing practical tools for coexistence. The exchange also strengthened Kuichi's relationship with teachers responsible for Proyectos Ambientales Escolares (PRAE), who expressed interest in coordinating joint work during 2026 to develop environmental education actions contextualized to the territory, integrating the school curriculum and highlighting Andean bear conservation as a pedagogical focus.

Bioexpo Nariño, 5 mundos por descubrir



As part of our advocacy actions in environmental education and outreach spaces, we participated in BIOEXPO Nariño 2025, a green business fair aimed at promoting sustainable environmental initiatives.

At this space, we shared our participatory science work through community camera trapping as a tool for conserving the Andean bear and its habitat. We also carried out community self-management actions through the sale of our T-shirts, produced through a collective process, as they were designed in participatory sessions with girls, boys, young people, and families, in which a message of awareness and commitment to Andean bear conservation was collaboratively created. This message took shape in the phrase “I protect the Andean bear”, as a symbol of ownership, shared responsibility, and care for the territory.

As a result of participating in BIOEXPO Nariño 2025, we strengthened coordination and collaborative work with different actors. Foundations such as Libre Colibrí, together with students, teachers, and the general public, expressed interest in becoming involved through volunteering and joint

actions with Fundación KUICHI. This participation also expanded the reach of our educational work, generating invitations to share our experiences in participatory science and Andean bear conservation in educational spaces such as Institución Educativa Municipal Ciudadela Educativa de Pasto, contributing to environmental awareness and the strengthening of territorial networks for the defense of biodiversity.

We also gave a talk in the conservation track, further increasing the visibility of our territorial work and positioning the Foundation in regional environmental advocacy spaces.

Regional conference: Environmental education methodologies and social appropriation of knowledge from the Global South

The talk aimed to share the community camera-trapping experience carried out by Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino, a process that, beyond generating scientifically valuable data, seeks to make knowledge about biodiversity part of everyday life. Under this approach, art, music, theater, and audiovisual production become strategic allies for building new knowledge and communicating the importance of conserving life, moving beyond the purely scientific sphere to become part of the daily lives of peasant families.

Training and research

Diplomado 3.0: Investigar en tiempos de crisis, un análisis desde las periferias

From March to June 2025, Kuichi participated in Diplomado 3.0: Investigar en tiempos de crisis, un análisis desde las periferias, promoted by Fondo Lunaria and Universidad del Cauca, to share experiences of youth and community leadership and reflect on the role of research in times of crisis.



Collective research: we were part of the research group Conflictos socioambientales y defensa territorial. We worked with colleagues from the following collectives: Resistencia Aquitania, Suma Seres Alternativos, Maleza MP, Mujeres del Desierto, Futboleras Fénix de Occidente, Red de Huertas, and Semillero de Etnografía. The group worked around a general research question that had to be answered from the particularities of each territory.

What was our objective?

- Make visible territorial defense practices in Buesaquillo and San Pedro de La Laguna (Pasto) in response to the expansion of the agricultural frontier and deforestation, which fragment the Andean bear's habitat and generate conflicts with communities.
- Identify the practices that have endured, been transformed, and how they are transmitted between generations.
- Analyze the impacts on high-mountain ecosystems and peasant economies.

For this purpose, we used the following methodology:

- Collection of stories through minga-style gatherings, promoting dialogue and active listening.
- Social mapping through “Cartografiando con Kuichi”, to map the territory from the community's own perspective.
- Systematization of the stories and participatory documentation of the experiences.

What was the result?

- Writing the story “Semillas de Paz y Esperanza: Una apuesta por el cuidado de la vida” to narrate the findings creatively.
- Making territorial defense practices visible and strengthening the intergenerational transmission of knowledge.

Read the story of our research:
https://online.fliphtml5.com/evdsw/nska/#p=9

Research with Universidad Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca



The project “El cuidado del oso de anteojos como ejercicio de construcción de paz ambiental y ciudadanía en Pasto, Nariño, a través de la Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino durante el periodo 2020–2024” is supported by Universidad Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca and links the protection of the spectacled bear (Tremarctos Ornatus) with the construction of territorial peace and climate justice.

Objectives and methodology: the central purpose was to establish how preserving this species contributes to the collective protection of the territory on the urban outskirts of Pasto, Nariño. Under a sociocritical and decolonial paradigm, the research used a qualitative methodology that prioritizes popular knowledge and dialogue among forms of knowledge. It sought to change perceptions of the bear—from an animal often seen as a threat to livestock—to that of a “Jardinero del Páramo”, essential to water regulation.

Advocacy strategies: the collective developed various actions to connect conservation with social life:

- **Education and community science:** use of camera traps operated by women, girls, and boys for participatory wildlife monitoring.
- **Urban advocacy:** creation of the “bear character”—a costume—that visited schools and media outlets in Pasto to raise public awareness.
- **“Travesiando con el Oso” event:** a sports and cultural event that brought cyclists and urban runners together with rural communities, promoting appreciation of the territory and gastronomic exchange.
- **Art and popular education:** painting of a mural at Escuela Semillas Guardabosques to ensure generational succession in protecting the páramo.

Main results:

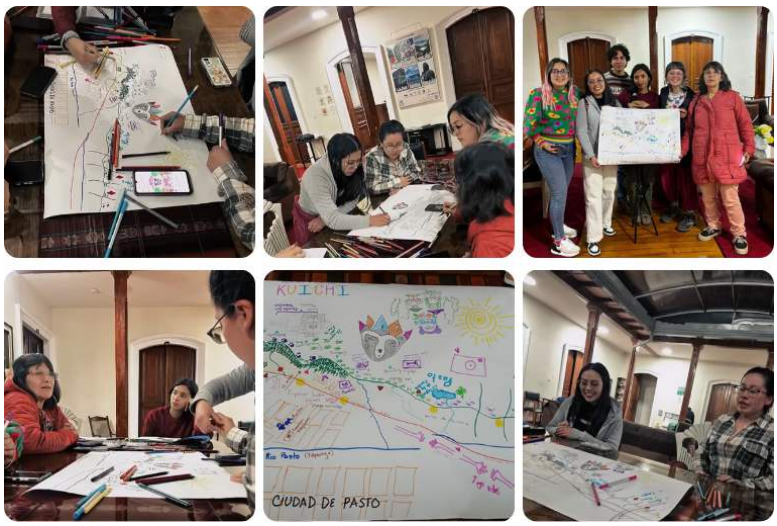
- **Perceptual transformation:** conflict between human beings and wildlife was mitigated, reducing the intention to hunt as the bear began to be recognized as a protector of the ecosystem.
- **Political empowerment:** the project positioned bear protection in institutional dialogue spaces, connecting local agendas with international networks such as Mama Cash and Fondo Lunaria.
- **Social sustainability:** a network of guardians was consolidated that uses community language as a tool for political action, challenging extractivist views of the territory.

The report concludes that effective conservation is inseparable from recognizing the rights and knowledge of peasant communities. Protecting the Andean bear is presented not only as a biological task, but also as an act

of resistance and peace that strengthens the social fabric between the countryside and the city.

Social mapping workshop

As part of the advocacy action called Training and research processes, on June 17, 2025, the Foundation participated in a social mapping workshop led by Geography students from Universidad Nacional. The workshop sought to reflect collectively on practices that contribute to caring for and defending life and the territory.



This space enabled collective reflection on practices that contribute to caring for and defending life and the territory. During the workshop, participants shared their experiences of community work through participatory science and environmental education, and identified territorial resistance processes, as well as environmental issues associated with urban expansion in the Corredor Oriental de Pasto, negative interactions between peasant families and the Andean bear, and the impact of constructing the eastern bypass road.

Diplomado Juntanza Climática Feminista, en territorios bioculturales por la seguridad, la vida y la paz



One of our members participated in the Diplomado en Justicia Climática Feminista between September and November 2025, aimed primarily at strengthening territorial leadership and the defense of life through the collective construction of knowledge. This training space sought to provide women with tools for advocacy in biocultural territories, integrating intergenerational perspectives and ancestral knowledge to promote security, justice, and peace. The importance of this process lay in consolidating “juntanza” networks that make visible the resistance of women from the Pacific and the south of the country, opening the way for closer and more effective leadership actions through future mentoring that will continue what was planted during this cycle.

In this context, the participation of Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino Kuichi was fundamental, as it offered a practical perspective on how climate justice is intertwined with biodiversity protection and women's empowerment in Nariño. Its experience of harmonious coexistence with vulnerable species and territorial defense through caring for the land enriched the program, showing that environmental conservation is inseparable from the struggle for gender equity. This joint effort was made possible through the coordination of Universidad de Nariño, Fundación Barranquilla+20, Red de Escuelas Campesinas de Yacuanquer, and Organización Soy Pacífico, with the support of ONU Mujeres, Fondo de Mujeres para la Paz y la Acción Humanitaria, and Mujeres por la Justicia Climática.

Escuela Popular de Saberes Ambientales



It was a meeting space for young people, Indigenous and peasant communities, teachers, environmental leaders, and popular knowledge from urban and rural territories, aimed at contributing to the participatory formulation of the Agenda Ambiental 2026–2036 for the municipality of Pasto from a territorial and community perspective, through environmental education, ecological justice, and territorial rights.

The school included six modules in which experiences were shared and the care, health, and defense of territories were promoted, addressing topics such as the health of water and soil, biodiversity, food, territorial planning, and community risk management.

Kuichi's participation in the School made it possible to highlight the work the Foundation has been carrying out in the Corredor Oriental of the municipality of Pasto and in other territories of the Nariño mountain range, strengthening ties with rural and urban communities, environmental leaders, young people, and local organizational processes. This exchange helped enrich the Environmental Agenda with concrete experiences of community conservation, participatory wildlife monitoring, and processes of territorial appropriation.

Likewise, thanks to this dialogue among forms of knowledge, it was possible to share practices of participatory science, environmental education, and territorial care that recognize the leading role of women, girls, boys, and young people, as well as the importance of local knowledge in protecting high-mountain ecosystems and the Andean bear.

Women's leadership

Collecting the memory of women's leadership

As part of the Women's leadership advocacy action, in April and August the Foundation participated in three sessions to collect the memories of ecofeminist women leaders, promoted by Pontificia Universidad Javeriana and Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia (ICANH).

These sessions took place in the Chapacual settlement, municipality of Yacuanquer, and in the Aguapamba settlement, township of San Pedro de la Laguna, municipality of Pasto, where we met with peasant women from Organización 19 de Agosto – COMCASUD (Comunidad Campesina como Sujeto de Derechos).



In these gatherings, rural, peasant, and Indigenous women from different generations and territories came together to share our voices, dreams, and struggles, and to strengthen recognition and collective memory. Through a space woven from listening, care, and words, we reflected on the relationship between women and the land, our identities as rights-holders, and the importance of protecting water, páramos, and biodiversity, highlighting key species such as the Andean bear.

These spaces made it possible to highlight the fundamental role of women in defending life and territory, as well as the contribution of women's leadership to caring for ecosystems and building environmental justice from the territories.

Meeting with ENDA Colombia



On May 24, 2025, at Casa Cultural 4 Colores in the township of Obonuco, municipality of Pasto, a meeting was held between Red Kuichi and Red Nariñense de Huertas Agroecológicas – Agroforestarte, in a space facilitated by colleagues from ENDA Colombia. This space for dialogue and exchange made it possible to recognize shared experiences focused on biodiversity conservation and climate change management, through processes led by women in the territories.

This joint space served to prepare the May 25 event, focused on constructing narratives that would highlight the role of women in territorial defense and environmental sustainability, as part of the Género y Clima – Promoviendo la implementación de género-responsiva del Acuerdo de París project.

On May 25, we recorded a video about our process; the meeting took place in the township of Buesaquillo, part of the Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental, a territory experiencing significant deterioration due to inappropriate land use, since extensive cattle ranching is one of the activities placing the greatest pressure on high-Andean forests. Practices

such as allowing cattle to graze inside the forest have led to conflict situations in which the bear attacks livestock in search of food, causing economic losses for peasant families. This situation has generated a negative perception of the species that, in many cases, leads to its hunting.

For this reason, we have worked in this township since 2019, developing training processes and participatory workshops with peasant families, girls, boys, young people, and women heads of household, aimed at raising awareness about territorial defense, climate change mitigation, conservation of high-mountain ecosystems, and mitigating conflict between human beings and bears. These actions integrate environmental education through art and culture, as well as participatory science through camera trapping and community wildlife monitoring, strengthening local knowledge and biodiversity conservation.

Holding the meeting in Buesaquillo allowed our colleagues from ENDA Colombia to learn directly about our process and visit the territory where our collective effort to care for life in forests and páramos takes shape, driven by women's leadership in territorial defense and biodiversity conservation.

Exchange of strategies for defending land and territories through conservation – August 2025

On August 21, 2025, from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. (Mexico and Central America time), the Exchange of strategies for defending land and territories through conservation was held, a space convened by MAMA CASH, our funder and strategic ally, which brought together organizations and community processes from the region working for environmental justice. This meeting

included an exchange of experiences between Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino and the Guardianas del Estero El Conchalito collective (Mexico), fostering a dialogue among forms of knowledge between conservation initiatives led by women from different territories and ecosystems.



The purpose of the meeting was to promote a space for connection, learning, and collective strengthening among partner organizations receiving resources through the exchange of tactics, tools, and strategies advanced by Indigenous and rural women, human rights and environmental defenders, together with their communities, in the areas of marine, forest, and biodiversity conservation.

In this space, Fundación Kuichi shared the process it carries out in the territories and the strategies it implements to defend them through conservation, highlighting the social appropriation and collective construction of knowledge with a gender perspective through participatory science methodologies such as community camera trapping and environmental education processes supported by artistic expressions and

popular pedagogies. These include dance, drawing, painting, radio theater, music, and diverse creative expressions, used as tools to strengthen the bond between communities, the Andean bear, and its habitat.

Recognition of the territory was also highlighted through the identification of plants and seeds, carrying out community inventories and collecting information about their cultural, scientific, medicinal, and food-related importance, strengthening biodiversity care and the biocultural memory of the territories.

Fundación Kuichi's participation in this exchange made it possible to highlight territorial experiences in Andean bear conservation, recognize shared learning with other conservation processes in the region, and strengthen networks of women defenders of life, reaffirming the essential role of women's leadership in protecting territories and biodiversity from community, cultural, and environmental justice perspectives.

Second Gathering of Women Environmental Defenders, Cali, Colombia

Kuichi actively participated in the Second Gathering of Women Environmental Defenders in Cali, a strategic “juntanza” space that strengthened territorial resistance under the motto “Mujeres que luchan, territorios que resisten”. During the event, Kuichi's delegate brought her knowledge of Andean bear protection to an agenda that prioritized collective care, political analysis of territories, and the exchange of experiences at knowledge and entrepreneurship fairs. This participation was key to consolidating mutual-support networks and building joint statements demanding guarantees for the defense of life and nature, reaffirming that

women's empowerment is the driving force behind biodiversity conservation and climate justice in communities.







This gathering, organized by ENDA Colombia with the support of WEDO and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany, was an invaluable opportunity for Kuichi to renew its strength and find inspiration to continue its work for harmonious coexistence in the territories.

Territorial advocacy for the conservation of the Andean bear

Community fabric for the defense of territories

The Andean bear, as an umbrella species, plays a fundamental role in the health and balance of the ecosystems of the Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental. However, the expansion of the agricultural and livestock frontier has intensified interactions between this species and local communities,

generating a complex socio-environmental conflict that threatens both the survival of the Andean bear and the well-being of the families living in the territory.

In response to this challenge, the initiative Fortalecimiento del tejido comunitario del Corredor Biológico del Oso Andino was developed, with the central objective of promoting territorial defense through community empowerment, active participation, and the coordination of collective strategies aimed at protecting the natural and cultural environment. This initiative was based on building a dialogue among forms of knowledge that would enable a shift from situations of negative interactions to processes of coexistence between communities and the Andean bear.

During eight strategic sessions, community workshops, interinstitutional meetings, and direct dialogues with communities were held, mainly in the municipalities of Funes, Puerres, and Pasto. These activities were developed in coordination with key actors such as Corponariño and municipal administrations, and were aimed at building a participatory diagnosis of the issue, sharing proposals such as conservation agreements and payment for environmental services, and jointly formulating an action plan for territorial defense and Andean bear conservation.

The process took place between March and July 2025 through a progressive approach that included a participatory socio-environmental diagnosis, community outreach, interinstitutional coordination, and consolidation of agreements in the territory. Through workshops, community visits, technical roundtables, and interinstitutional meetings, it was possible to characterize the main issues associated with coexistence between peasant and Indigenous communities and the Andean bear, as well as strengthen

channels of dialogue and shared responsibility between the community and the competent institutions.

As a result, community agreements were established to strengthen local leadership—with special participation by women—form a citizen oversight committee, and hold the Travesiando con el Oso commercial fair as a socio-economic mitigation strategy for affected families. Together with the institutions involved, it was agreed to implement a technical diagnosis to characterize and georeference affected families, provide non-lethal deterrence measures, and strengthen the proposal Acuerdo para la Conservación del Oso Andino en el Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental, submitted to the Ministerio de Ambiente, laying solid foundations for conservation actions in the short, medium, and long term.

Acuerdo para la Conservación del Oso Andino en el Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental

As part of the territorial advocacy actions, the project Acuerdo para la Conservación del Oso Andino en el Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental was formulated, a proposal built from the territories with the participation of peasant and Indigenous families that coexist with high-mountain ecosystems. The project seeks to strengthen the socio-ecosystem capacity of this strategic area of the biological corridor, promoting coexistence between communities and the Andean bear through an integrated approach to conservation and sustainable development.

The proposal sets out strategies to implement sustainable production systems, reforestation processes, strengthened environmental governance, and conservation of strategic ecosystems. It also incorporates Pago por

Servicios Ambientales (PSA) as a complementary strategy to ensure the sustainability of the actions, encourage community commitment, and recognize the role of communities—especially women—in protecting the territory.

It is important to note that this project was intellectually developed by the organization and submitted in December 2025 to Fondo para la Vida y la Biodiversidad of Ministerio de Ambiente, through Corporación Autónoma Regional de Nariño – Corponariño, as part of the interinstitutional coordination processes promoted during the development of the initiative to strengthen the community fabric of the biological corridor.



Travesiando con el Oso Andino

On November 23, 2025, Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino held the environmental event “Travesiando con el Oso Andino”, a community activity that combined sport, culture, and environmental education as a territorial advocacy strategy for Andean bear

conservation and the promotion of harmonious coexistence between communities and biodiversity.



The activity took place in the township of Buesaquillo, at Parque San Francisco, a rural area of the municipality of Pasto that forms part of the Andean bear biological corridor. The event's main objective was to raise awareness of the importance of conserving the Andean bear and its habitat, as well as to raise funds to install electric fences for 30 families in the township affected by negative interactions with the species, helping to reduce conflicts between human beings and bears and care for the territory.

Travesiando con el Oso Andino included local and regional athletes in 10K running and cycling categories, with two difficulty levels (20K and 40K), enabling diverse participation and promoting appreciation of the territory through routes across rural areas of the biological corridor.

The event also featured active participation from the township community through a peasant market and craft fair, as well as a cultural program with artistic performances for audiences of all ages. These activities

strengthened the social fabric, energized the local economy, and reinforced the bond between communities and their natural surroundings.

This advocacy action helped position the Andean bear as an ally in caring for the territory, highlighted community conservation strategies, and showed that sport, art, and culture can be effective tools for environmental awareness, social mobilization, and biodiversity conservation from the territories.

Achievements reached in 2025

Based on the advocacy actions carried out and described in this report, the main achievements reached by Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino in 2025 are presented below.

Achievement	Description
1. Strengthening community conservation of the Andean bear	Kuichi consolidated community conservation processes in the Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental, promoting coexistence between peasant and Indigenous communities and the Andean bear through environmental education, participatory science, and territorial advocacy actions that helped mitigate situations of negative interactions and position the Andean

	bear as a key species for the health of high-mountain ecosystems.
2. Strengthening and visibility of women's territorial leadership	The leadership of rural, peasant, Indigenous, and urban women was strengthened, recognizing and making visible their role in caring for the territory, defending biodiversity, and transmitting knowledge. This leadership drove processes of memory, community participation, citizen oversight, and political advocacy at the local and regional levels.
3. Social appropriation of knowledge through participatory science and artistic expressions	The implementation of participatory science methodologies, such as community camera trapping and wildlife monitoring, combined with artistic and cultural expressions and popular pedagogies, strengthened the social appropriation of knowledge, bringing Andean bear conservation closer to the daily lives of girls, boys, young people, and communities in general.

4. Educational advocacy and strengthening of school environmental processes	Kuichi strengthened environmental education processes in rural and community school settings, working jointly with teachers and promoting environmental education contextualized to the territory, aimed at addressing local issues and recognizing the Andean bear as a pedagogical and cultural focus.
5. Building community and interinstitutional conservation agreements	Through spaces for dialogue and interinstitutional coordination, community agreements and joint commitments were reached with environmental authorities and municipal administrations, including the formation of leadership and oversight committees, implementation of technical diagnoses, provision of non-lethal deterrence measures, and strengthening of conservation proposals such as Acuerdo para la Conservación del Oso Andino en el Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental.

6. Positioning Kuichi as a gender-responsive environmental advocacy leader	Active participation in environmental fairs, festivals, diploma programs, training processes, and local, regional, and national advocacy spaces positioned Kuichi as a reference in community Andean bear conservation with a gender perspective, strengthening coordination networks with social organizations, institutions, universities, and women's collectives.
7. Outlook and sustainability of community processes	The actions carried out during 2025 laid solid foundations for continuing these processes in 2026 through organizational strengthening, the construction of strategic alliances, and the formulation of conservation proposals with a territorial approach.

Final reflections

The advocacy actions carried out by Fundación Kuichi – Red de Mujeres por la Conservación del Oso Andino during 2025 show that community conservation, built from the territory, art, participatory science, and a

gender perspective, is an effective strategy for protecting biodiversity and defending life. Through educational, cultural, research, and territorial advocacy processes, Kuichi has helped transform negative interactions between communities and the Andean bear, promoting situations of harmonious coexistence and recognizing this species as a key actor in the health of high-mountain ecosystems and the socio-environmental balance of the Corredor Biológico Centro Oriental.

Strengthening women's leadership and the social appropriation of knowledge have been cross-cutting pillars of this process, making visible the fundamental role of women in caring for the territory, transmitting knowledge, and strengthening community resilience in the face of environmental degradation. The combination of participatory science methodologies, artistic expressions, and popular pedagogies, together with the construction of strategic alliances and self-management mechanisms, has expanded the impact and positioned Kuichi as a reference in gender-responsive community conservation in the south of the country, reaffirming its commitment to defending life, territory, and biodiversity.

Central idea

For Kuichi, Andean bear conservation is an action to defend life, territory, and biodiversity, strengthened by women's leadership, community participation, art, and dialogue among forms of knowledge.

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