



EQUITABLE
ORIGIN

2020 Annual Report

Ten Years of Supporting
Indigenous Rights and
Responsible Development

A higher standard. A better choice.™



Splendid frog (*Cruziohyla raspedopus*).
Photo: Murray Cooper.

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Pañacocha Lagoon, Sucumbios, Ecuador.
Photo: Murray Cooper.

Letter from the President

Dear Board Members, Staff and stakeholders:

From a very young age, I was interested in the Amazon and the challenges that came with energy development in the region. In high school, I worked with a group of lawyers who were involved in environmental litigation that was seeking to bring benefits to communities that had been affected by oil production in Ecuador. Through this experience, I became very familiar with the issues associated with energy development and I was convinced of the need to develop good practice standards to address the social and environmental impacts of the sector. That is when my friend and colleague, Manuel Pallares, and I decided to create Equitable Origin.

Equitable Origin was founded over a decade ago with a mission to partner with business, communities and government to support responsible development of energy and natural resources. Our long-lasting partnership with the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA) has allowed us to work effectively with indigenous organizations in the Amazon region over the years, helping them assert their rights and involving them in the development of the world's first set of environmental and social standards for the oil and gas industry.

We brought together industry, indigenous organizations, local communities, government representatives, NGOs and academics to negotiate and agree on best practices for the sector, which we consolidated into the



EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development. The EO100™ Standard is used to verify and certify the environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance of an energy development site or project.

In the last few years, Equitable Origin has increasingly focused on supporting indigenous rights in the Americas. The COVID-19 pandemic has hit Indigenous Peoples particularly hard, highlighting the importance of gaining access to information as well as the need to bridge the digital divide. As a result, we are helping to connect indigenous communities to the internet in order for them to gain access to and share valuable information on health, education, and participation in development decision-making that will allow Indigenous Peoples to safeguard their rights, and to preserve their lands, culture and history for future generations.

We are pleased to celebrate Equitable Origin's first decade in strengthening indigenous rights and supporting the energy industry in improving their sustainability practices. As we embark upon a new decade, we thank all of you who have contributed to our work.

David Poritz
President



Sunset in the Ecuadorian Amazon.
Photo: Murray Cooper.

Letter from our Board Member



The Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA) and Equitable Origin have been working together since EO was founded more than a decade ago. Both organizations have evolved throughout this time. Through agreements, both organizations have committed to carrying out activities and programs focused on strengthening indigenous rights in the region. Thanks to this partnership, we have coordinated our work within a strategic plan.

COICA has always had an innovative and evolving spirit. Because of this, we are always updating our proposals. COICA and the nine organizations that comprise it, constantly gather innovative proposals, ideas, and initiatives from the community level which allows us to help empower Indigenous Peoples. In line with our mission and vision, our activities are focused on strengthening and enforcing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, promoting their property rights to land and territories. We seek to generate policies, proposals and actions at the local, national and international levels, and in this way promote the equitable development of the Amazonian indigenous nationalities and peoples.

I believe it is important to support these ambitious initiatives proposed at the community level and by local indigenous organizations. They want to continue inventing and creating new tools that help strengthen the communities' rights. To do so, partnerships with organizations such as EO are crucial.

For example, under the current leadership,

COICA has been implementing its online education platform, "Jungle Drums", to strengthen the rights of young communicators and indigenous women. This is a very important initiative that is linked to our organizational process. EO will support these initiatives during 2021, allowing the generation of information and knowledge on issues of great importance during these difficult times.

Additionally, in partnership with EO, a series of tools were created and launched successfully. For example, the Resource Hub to Strengthen Indigenous Rights (CEFO) is an innovative, interesting and important initiative for Indigenous Peoples. There is a real demand from the communities themselves to have access to information and tools that help empower our communities. Together with EO, we worked on developing the FPIC-360 tool in consultation with the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, allowing their point of view to be incorporated into the FPIC process. Furthermore, in coordination with EO, the EO100 Standard was developed. This tool allows extractive companies to improve their processes and thus improve their responsible practices towards the environment and Indigenous Peoples.

Establishing creative initiatives guides our work to continue supporting these important topics. We want to keep working, we want to keep growing and implementing activities in a coordinated way.

Juan Carlos Jintiach
COICA



Aguarico River, Ecuador.
Photo: Manuel Pallares.

Letter from the CEO



Ten years after the founding of Equitable Origin, we find ourselves in a world that is much different than we could have imagined. With the unprecedented circumstances of 2020, we are devastated by the impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic, especially as indigenous communities have been among the hardest hit. We are also proud to support the communities that we work with during this challenging time and we have quickly adapted to respond to the needs of our partner organizations.

This pandemic has reminded us how intertwined and dependent we are on the natural world. Rebalancing our relationship with nature will require protecting and learning from traditional communities and respecting the environment. The next decade will require even more attention to Indigenous rights and resources and increasingly sustainable business practices.

Our most recent work over the past few years has positioned us to make great strides in these areas. In 2019, Equitable Origin, in partnership with the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), created the Center for Strengthening Indigenous Rights, an online Resource Hub allowing Indigenous Peoples to better understand, assert, and safeguard their rights in the context of natural resource development.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, Equitable Origin has adapted our tactics and shifted our priorities to meet the needs of the communities who have been most impacted, from transitioning in-person events to vibrant virtual convenings, to connecting indigenous communities to the internet.

We have also achieved a number of key milestones in applying the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development to energy projects in North and South America. In 2020, one of the project sites certified to the EO100™ Standard achieved a premium price for their EO100™-certified production, demonstrating that there is a market for responsibly produced energy.

As we navigate these next ten years, we hope to be equally as responsive and impactful in our work to continue providing meaningful ways to strengthen indigenous rights and support responsible natural resource development.

Soledad Mills
Chief Executive Officer



The background of the entire page is a photograph of indigenous people, likely from Ecuador, wearing traditional headgear with colorful feathers and intricate patterns. The image is partially obscured by an orange overlay that contains the text.

About Equitable Origin

Equitable Origin (EO) is an independent, non-profit, 501(c)3 organization incorporated in the U.S. that supports companies, communities and Indigenous Peoples in ensuring responsible natural resource development. Since its founding in Ecuador in 2009, EO has worked with Indigenous Peoples, the private sector, other non-governmental organizations and governments to develop best practices and promote a rights-based approach to sustainable development throughout the Americas.

We seek to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determine the course of their own development. In collaboration with indigenous organizations and other partners, we created the world's first multistakeholder,

independent, voluntary standards system for the energy sector, recognizing Indigenous Peoples as key rights-holders. We designed a tool for monitoring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in projects that affect Indigenous Peoples' land, rights, and resources. And we developed the [Center for Strengthening Indigenous Rights](#), an online platform to share information with and among Indigenous Peoples.

Equitable Origin is currently active throughout North and South America, with staff in Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, and the United States.

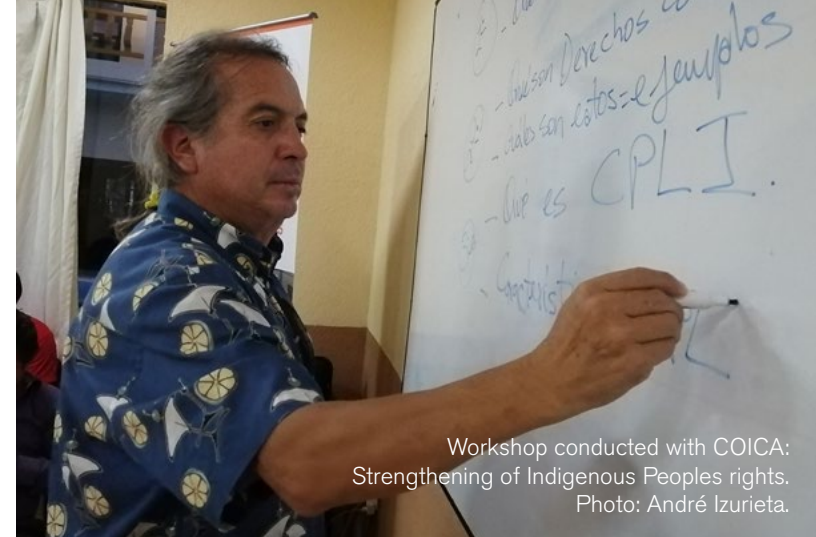
Mission

Equitable Origin partners with business, communities and government to support

transparent, equitable, and sustainable development of energy and natural resources.



Development of the EO100™ Standard.
Photo: Pablo Yépez.



Workshop conducted with COICA:
Strengthening of Indigenous Peoples rights.
Photo: André Izurieta.



Signing of the Cooperation Agreement with AIDSEP, together
with Lizardo Cauper, President of the Shipibo People, Peru.
Photo: Equitable Origin.



Workshop conducted with COICA:
Strengthening of Indigenous Peoples rights.
Photo: André Izurieta.

The Team

Equitable Origin is governed by a multi-stakeholder board and benefits from a multicultural team of professionals specialized in a variety of fields, including biology, human rights, economics, law, anthropology, ethnobotany, communications, international development, government affairs, social responsibility, public policy, and business

administration. Our team has extensive experience both engaging with indigenous communities on the ground as well as with working with the private sector to develop and implement best management practices to reduce social and environmental impacts and ensure respect for Indigenous rights in large-scale, land-based development projects.



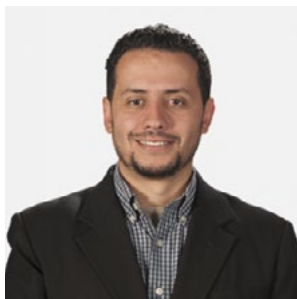
Soledad Mills
Chief Executive Officer



David Poritz
President & Co-Founder



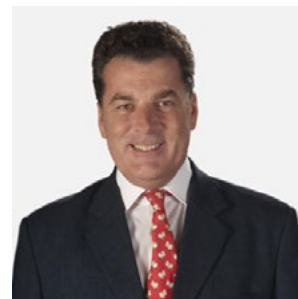
Manuel Pallares
Co-Founder & Senior Advisor



Galo André Izurieta
Audio Visual & Communications
Specialist



Bruno Taborga
Program Manager



Assheton Carter
Vice President, Europe



Pablo Yépez
Director of Socio-environmental
Affairs

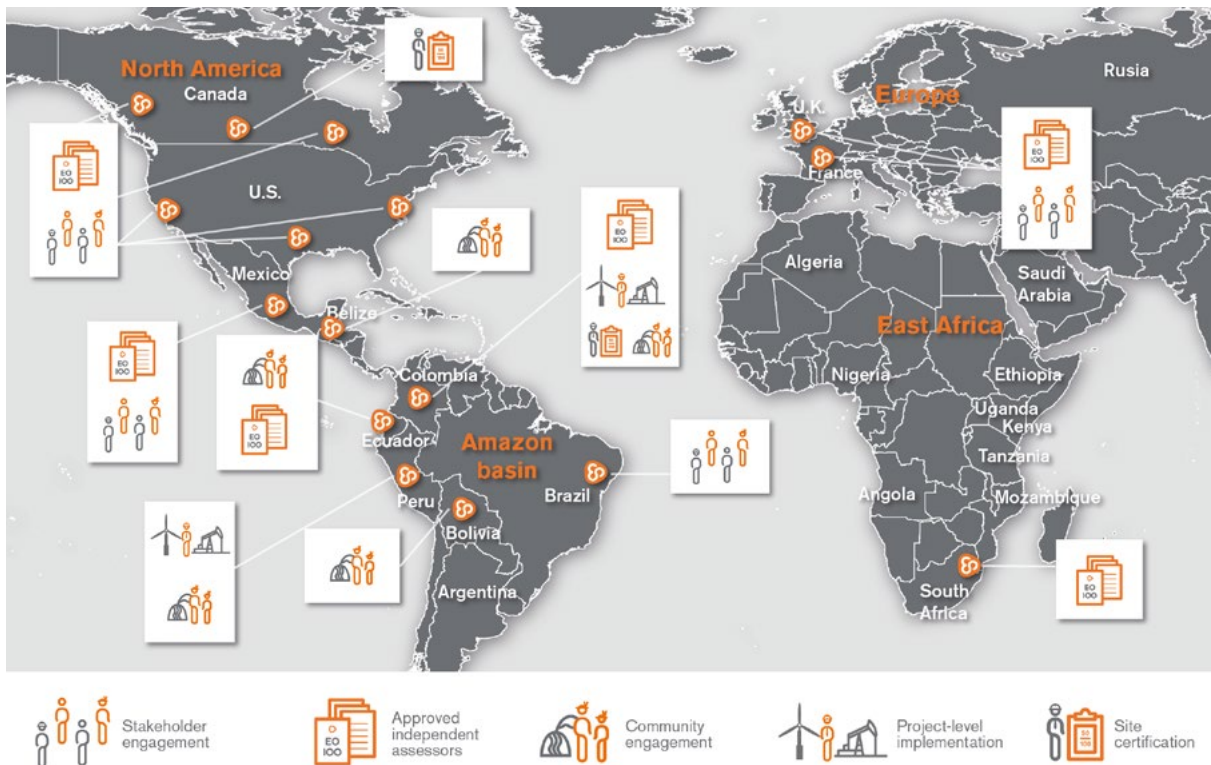


Roraima González
Technical Coordinator



Kaki Comer
Program Analyst

Where we Work



Reaching communities that are affected by existing or planned energy development has been a core consultation and engagement strategy for Equitable Origin. We have engaged communities and stakeholders throughout the Amazon region as well as in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Belize, and Europe. We have worked with several energy companies in North and South America to develop, assess

and certify best management practices on social and environmental performance. We have conducted training for companies' sustainability and community relations teams and have delivered workshops on the [EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development](#) to consultants and assessors in Colombia, the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.

History

Founding in Ecuador



Equitable Origin was founded in 2009 out of personal experience with oil and gas development and indigenous communities in the Amazon. The organization was co-founded by Manuel Pallares who currently serves as a Senior Advisor, and David Poritz, who acts as President. Manuel Pallares is a biologist and native of Ecuador, who has spent more than two decades working on indigenous rights in

the Amazon-Andean region and is an expert on the social and environmental impacts of oil and gas exploration and production. David is originally from the United States and has over a decade of knowledge of industry practices gained through engaging NGOs and energy companies throughout Latin America and through living with indigenous communities.

Oil & Water documentary

The documentary film, Oil and Water, released in 2014, charts the story of Equitable Origin's evolution, and features our co-founder and President, David Poritz, and Hugo Lucitante, a young member of the Cofan indigenous community, focusing on their experiences with

oil development in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Both strive to protect the Amazon rainforest by raising awareness about the impacts extractive industries have on communities and the local ecosystem.





Solar panels and wind turbines.
Photo: pinanissimo via iStock by Getty Images

Indigenous Peoples' Rights



Over the years, Equitable Origin has developed strong partnerships with Indigenous Peoples' leaders and associations at the national and regional levels. Our long-standing partnerships with indigenous organizations in the Amazon region include COICA (Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin), based in Ecuador, which coordinates nine national Amazonian indigenous organizations; CONFENIAE, the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (Ecuador); AIDSEP, the Inter-ethnic Association of the Peruvian Forest Development (Peru); and OPIAC, National

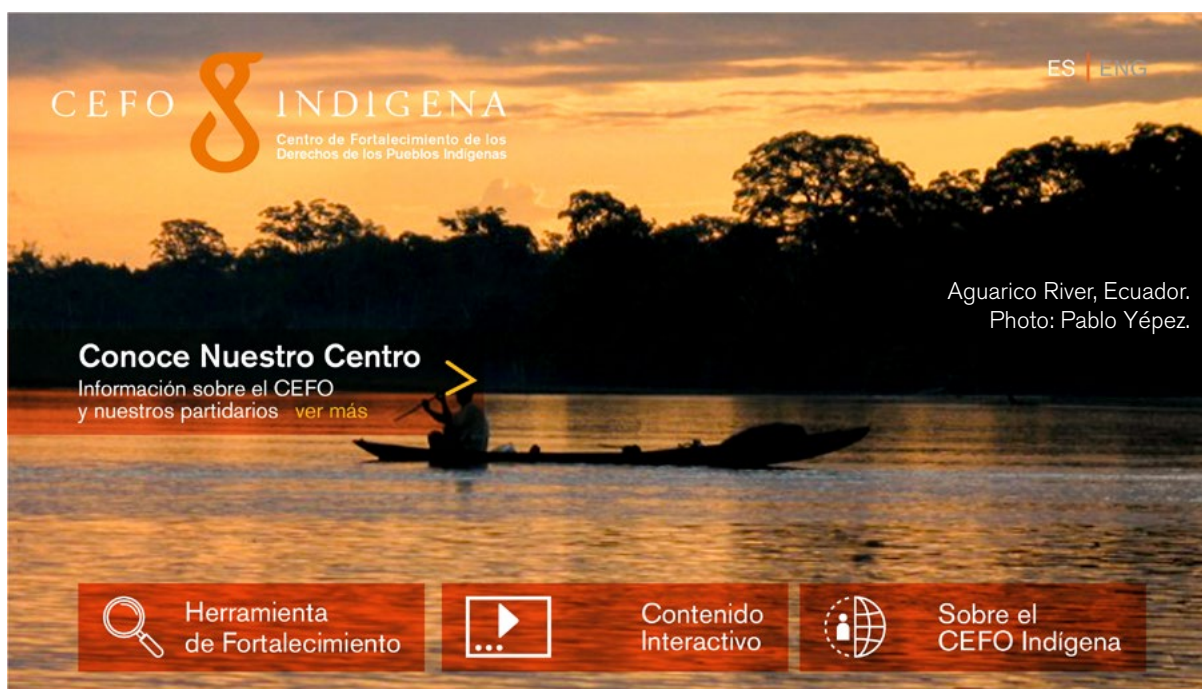
Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon (Colombia).

Indigenous Peoples' representatives are part of our governance structure and we seek to incorporate community perspectives and participation in all of our work. We leverage local partnerships to build trust, ensure continuity of projects and create opportunities for community-led solutions to natural resource development. Our indigenous organizational partners are integral to our work as collaborators in, and co-designers of programs, outputs, and impact measurement.



Center for Strengthening Indigenous Rights

The Center for Strengthening Indigenous
Rights online portal



Since 2019, Equitable Origin and the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) have developed the Center for Strengthening Indigenous Rights, an online resource hub (“the Resource Hub”) that Indigenous Peoples can use to better understand, assert, and safeguard their rights in the context of natural resource development. The Resource Hub focuses on three main pillars:

1. A virtual library of information on rights and resource development
2. Capacity-building through workshops, e-learning, and ‘mingas’ (a Quichua word meaning convenings to share ideas and collectively problem-solve for issues and challenges facing a community)
3. An expert network to respond to the needs of Indigenous Peoples.

On August 9th 2020, in celebration of the International Day of Indigenous Peoples, Equitable Origin and COICA published a short [video](#) about the Resource Hub.

To date, the Resource Hub has made the following impressions and impacts:

Resource Hub Statistics (From February 2020- December 2020)	
Visits to the Resource Hub	More than 900 individual visitors
Countries	Present in more than 40 countries
Blogs	39 Blogs published
Videos	47 videos uploaded
Resources uploaded	More than 950 documents, guides, tools and studies



Highlighting the needs of Indigenous Peoples during the pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Equitable Origin and COICA quickly pivoted to focus on the creation of digital content, online educational modules, and communications to help strengthen indigenous rights. As a result, since March 2020, the Resource Hub has focused on developing and disseminating information related to the right to information, health services, and the responses of communities in the face of the pandemic, including video interviews, blogs and webinars.



In June 2020, Equitable Origin, in collaboration with the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) hosted a virtual seminar on [“Access to Emergency Funds by Indigenous Peoples: Available Resources and Access Mechanisms”](#) and [“Strategic Partnerships in the Pandemic: The successful case of COICA-CONFENIAE and the Fundacion Raiz”](#). The webinars sought to provide tools to empower Indigenous communities to address inequality of access to funds and financial resources that allow them to develop their own programs in response to the global health emergency.

As part of the Resource Hub initiative, we launched a series of video interviews called '[Indigenous Voices](#)' to hear directly from indigenous leaders and communities about their challenges and responses to the pandemic. [Tuntiak Katan Jua, leader of the Shuar Nation in Ecuador, member of EO's board and the Vice Coordinator of COICA](#), spoke about the current situation of COVID-19 and the defense and protection of life in the Amazon basin. Tuntiak touched on key areas of focus such as: the need for complete and reliable information about the gravity of the pandemic; the need for food security and food sovereignty; and a guarantee of the territorial rights of indigenous communities.

We also [interviewed Elvia Dagua](#), Leader of Women and Health of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE), as part of the series. Elvia emphasized the importance of the Amazon rainforest to the health of local communities and their ability to fight off the pandemic. Elvia talked about CONFENIAE's communication campaign to inform communities of the dangers of COVID-19, urging them to stay in their communities to not expose themselves to the virus. Elvia also mentioned that CONFENIAE is opening an indigenous medical center to help treat people through the use of ancestral medicine and that COICA is sending food and medical kits to the most vulnerable communities.



Elvia Dagua, Indigenous Leader of Women and Health (CONFENIAE) Ecuador.
Photo: CONFENIAE.



Workshop conducted with COICA:
Strengthening of Indigenous Peoples rights.
Photo: André Izurieta.

FPIC-360°: Strengthening Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

The right to FPIC is a key principle of international human rights law to protect Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods and territories and is therefore a requirement of many sustainability standards and international finance institutions. However, despite a growing body of knowledge around FPIC, there are limited resources designed specifically to help communities participate in the FPIC process or to guide assessors in verifying whether FPIC has been achieved.

Since 2017, EO, COICA and the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB) have been working to develop a framework for monitoring Free, Prior and Informed Consent: [FPIC-360°](#). We conducted workshops with indigenous communities in Ecuador, Colombia, and Peru to

inform the development of the FPIC-360° Tool and we lead a Community of Practice consisting of ISEAL members, indigenous representatives, financial institutions, assurance providers and independent experts who are following and informing the development of the tool.

The FPIC-360° Tool seeks to enable consultation and consent processes that allow communities to meaningfully participate in, and take ownership of decision-making processes that impact their territories, resources, livelihoods and wellbeing. The Tool provides a mechanism that guides and facilitates these processes while also generating data that can be used for verification and assurance purposes.



Key Partnerships

Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin (COICA)

Since its inception ten years ago, EO has maintained a close partnership with the Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin ([COICA](#)). Two indigenous representatives from COICA currently serve on our Board of Directors and are actively engaged in determining our program priorities and strategic direction. In collaboration with COICA, EO conducted over 70 workshops and engaged hundreds individual and institutional stakeholders in the



Amazon region as part of our consultation processes to develop the [EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development](#). More recently, we are working together to develop the [Center for Strengthening Indigenous Rights](#) and the [FPIC-360° Tool](#), among other activities.



Tuntiak Katan, COICA's Vice Coordinator.
Photo: André Izurieta.

Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDSESP)

In 2015, the Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana ([AIDSESP](#)) called a press conference to publicly advocate for the creation of an oil development policy [based on the provisions of the EO100™ Standard](#). AIDSESP called for operators to respect Indigenous rights, restore damaged ecosystems, share the benefits of development with Indigenous communities, and minimize deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions.

Later that year, Equitable Origin and AIDSESP co-organized a forum in Lima, Peru: [“Indigenous Communities and Extractive Industries: Standards for Quality and Generation of Opportunities Under Equitable Conditions.”](#) During the groundbreaking forum, government, industry, Indigenous Peoples and international organizations came together for the first time to pursue a productive dialogue on the future of energy development in Peru. The forum also facilitated knowledge-sharing



and cultural exchange between indigenous communities in North and South America.

Most recently, EO [signed a cooperation agreement](#) with AIDSESP to work together to develop programs and training that strengthen the rights of the indigenous communities in the Amazon region of Peru.



Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana (CONFENIAE)

In Ecuador, along with COICA, Equitable Origin has cooperated with the Confederación de Nacionalidades Indígenas de la Amazonia Ecuatoriana ([CONFENIAE](#)). CONFENIAE is a regional indigenous organization that represents about 1,500 communities, belonging to the Amazonian nationalities, Kichwa, Shuar, Achuar, Waorani, Sapara, Andwa, Shiwiar, Cofan, Siona, Siekopai and Kijus. Most recently, [EO delivered communication equipment, computers and furniture](#), as part of



the inauguration of the COICA offices located at the headquarters of the CONFENIAE in Unión Base, Pastaza province.



National Association of Indigenous Peoples from the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC)

In Colombia, Equitable Origin has worked with the National Association of Indigenous Peoples from the Colombian Amazon (OPIAC), to organize workshops on the development of the EO100™ Standard and on [Free, Prior and Informed Consent \(FPIC\)](#).

OPIAC is a nonprofit organization of indigenous special status that politically represents the indigenous organizations of the Amazon territories in front of international, national and local authorities. Its main objective is the protection and promotion



of the collective and individual rights of the indigenous peoples of the Colombian Amazon.

As part of the 'Indigenous Voices' series on the Resource Hub, OPIAC shared a [message from the Indigenous Peoples of Tarapacá – Amazonas in regards to COVID-19](#).

Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de Xpujil (CRIPX)

The Consejo Regional y Popular de Xpujil (CRIPX) is an intercultural organization that works actively in the State of Campeche, in the Calakmul region of Mexico. CRIPX works with 18 communities and has an area of influence of 24 communities, with approximately 800 members. EO and CRIPX signed a [Cooperation Agreement in April, 2020](#) to support indigenous rights in Mexico. Both organizations are committed to working on initiatives that promote knowledge of the right



to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and providing technical and intercultural assistance in coordination with key actors to support implementation of the [Resource Hub](#).



Red Indígena de Turismo de México (RITA)

The Red Indígena de Turismo de México (RITA) is a network of community organizations with indigenous identity, made up of 100 organizations based in 17 states in Mexico and comprising 17 indigenous communities. RITA works on a variety of programs such as on flora and fauna conservation activities, traditional knowledge, traditional medicine, conservation and appreciation of cultural practices, as well as economic productivity activities. In July 2020, Equitable Origin (EO) and the Red Indígena de Turismo de México Asociación Civil (RITA) [signed a Cooperation Agreement](#) to strengthen indigenous rights in Mexico.



The purpose of this agreement is to identify and develop synergies with respect to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), sharing knowledge and experience, and providing support to the Indigenous Rights and Resource Hub Project.

Academic Partnerships

Anahuac University IDEARSE institute is a research and intelligence center in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability that offers products and services to contribute to the acceleration of companies and the creation of competitive advantages for any organization. Anahuac University supports the Resource Hub Project by sharing university studies and promoting the Hub in Mexico.

In October 2020, Equitable Origin participated in Anahuac's "II University and Business Energy Forum - Compliance with SDG 7: Towards a transition to affordable and non-polluting energies." Equitable Origin's CEO Soledad Mills participated as a panelist and presented



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CENTRO PARA LA RESPONSABILIDAD
Y SUSTENTABILIDAD DE LA EMPRESA

the FPIC-360° Tool and the EO100™ Certification to public, private and non profit organizations working on sustainable energy developments in Mexico.

National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES)

Equitable Origin has worked with the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES) in Mexico for over three years to develop and deliver workshops focused on environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) based on the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development. Between 2017 and 2018, EO [conducted a series of twelve workshops](#) with eleven universities and over 400 participants using practical exercises, and participatory



ASOCIACIÓN NACIONAL DE UNIVERSIDADES
E INSTITUCIONES DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR

methodologies for impact assessments. In addition, EO [co-hosted an industry event](#) in Mexico City on responsible energy development in collaboration with the Institute of the Americas of the University of San Diego.



EQUITABLE
ORIGIN

A higher standard. A better choice.™

EO100™ STANDARD

For Responsible Energy Development



EO100™ Standard Cover

EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development

Overview

The [EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development](#) is the foundation of the EO system. The EO100™ Standard was developed through a three-year, multi-stakeholder consultation process in line with the ISEAL Standard-Setting Code of Good Practice. The Standard provides a framework for implementing and verifying enhanced environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance, greater transparency, more accountability, and better outcomes for local stakeholders in energy development projects. The EO100™ Standard represents leading industry practices and references international standards for evaluating site-level ESG performance of energy projects.

The EO100™ Standard encompasses the following Principles:



Corporate Governance,
Accountability & Ethics



Human Rights, Social Impacts
& Community Development



Indigenous People's
Rights



Health, Safety and Fair Labor
& Working Conditions



Climate Change, Biodiversity
& Environment

Each Principle includes several Objectives that establish benchmarks for measuring and verifying performance of an energy project at the site level. The EO100™ Performance Rating System™ includes Performance Targets for each Objective, which are used to evaluate conformance to the EO100™ Standard.

Following the publication of the EO100™ Standard in 2012, Equitable Origin developed an independent assurance framework based on the ISEAL Assurance Code of Practice that includes assurance and certification procedures, assessment training and protocols, and approval of independent assessors. Companies seeking certification against the EO100™ Standard undergo an independent, site-level certification assessment by an EO-approved assessor.

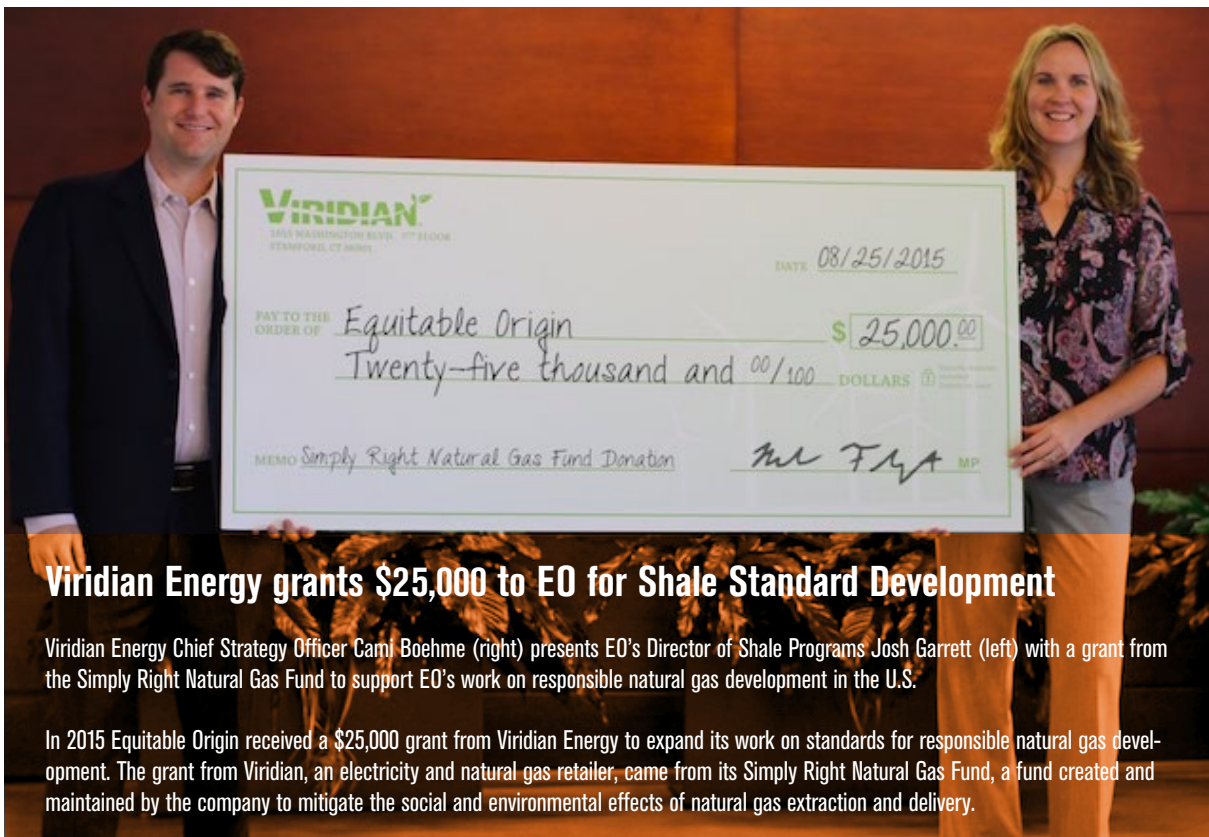
Development of the EO100™ Standard

As part of the initial consultation activities on the EO100™ Standard between 2010 and 2012, Equitable Origin organized over 70 convenings, including workshops in traditional formats and in Indigenous languages to introduce the concept of an independent certification system, solicit input on the design of the system and better understand the specific social and environmental concerns of communities about energy development projects. With the help of The Coordinator of Indigenous

Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) and the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin of Ecuador ([CONFENIAE](#)) we held consultations with representatives of a variety of Indigenous communities including the Achuar, Sápara, Shiviari, Shuar, Secoya, Kichwa, Cofan, Waorani and Siona. Equitable Origin also conducted workshops with Indigenous organizations in Peru, Colombia, Bolivia and Brazil. These workshops, along with national and international outreach efforts, enabled us to receive over 1,500 comments during the public consultation period.

In 2014, Equitable Origin began developing a technical addendum to the EO100™ Standard

to supplement the existing EO100™ Standard and allow for its application to shale oil and gas operations that use hydraulic fracturing (fracking). A working group of experts in shale development drawn from the [Equitable Origin Technical Committee](#) was formed to develop the technical addendum. Equitable Origin sought feedback on the draft of the EO100™ Standard Addendum for Shale Oil and Gas by stakeholders with an interest in or impacted by fracking operations, including residents, community groups, academics, oil and gas companies, oil and gas services firms, academics, researchers, regulators, oil and gas industry groups, activist groups, landowners and leaseholders, NGOs, and socially responsible investors.



Viridian Energy grants \$25,000 to EO for Shale Standard Development

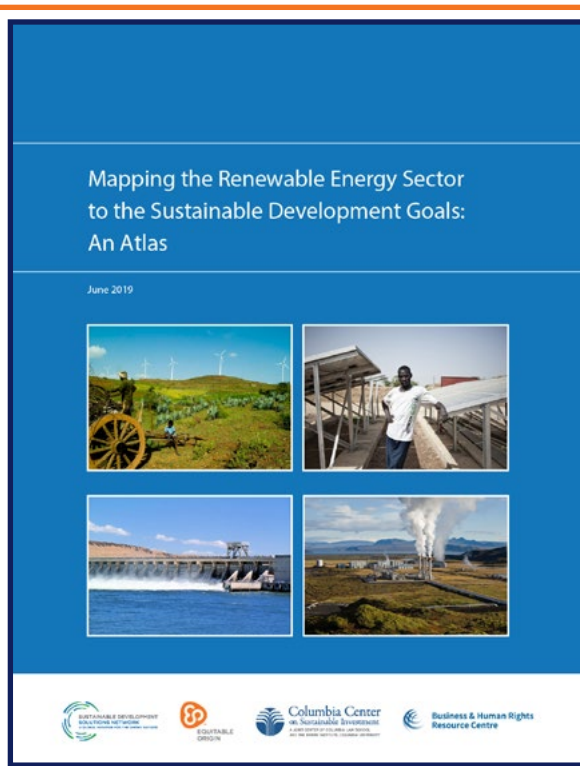
Viridian Energy Chief Strategy Officer Cami Boehme (right) presents EO's Director of Shale Programs Josh Garrett (left) with a grant from the Simply Right Natural Gas Fund to support EO's work on responsible natural gas development in the U.S.

In 2015 Equitable Origin received a \$25,000 grant from Viridian Energy to expand its work on standards for responsible natural gas development. The grant from Viridian, an electricity and natural gas retailer, came from its Simply Right Natural Gas Fund, a fund created and maintained by the company to mitigate the social and environmental effects of natural gas extraction and delivery.

Josh Garrett (EO) and Cami Boehme (Viridian Energy).
Photo: Viridian Energy.

From 2015 to 2017, Equitable Origin reviewed the EO100™ Standard and certification system to ensure that the Standard reflected current industry best practices and stakeholder expectations on social, environmental, and ethical performance of energy projects. As part of the revision process, we sought to expand the EO100™ Standard to be broadly applicable to energy development,

including renewable energy. While the climate benefits of clean energy are clear, large-scale renewables projects are industrial installations that can have profound impacts on surrounding people and ecosystems. We hope that through the application of the EO100™ Standard, we can help companies avoid the mistakes of the past and promote a just and responsible energy transition.



Mapping the Renewable Energy Sector to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Atlas

Joint publication with the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Business and Human Rights Resource Centre, and the Columbia Center for Sustainable Investment

In 2019, Equitable Origin, in partnership with a group of NGOs, published a [guide](#) for the renewable energy sector on how to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For each SDG, the Atlas explores potential opportunities and impacts from renewable energy project development, and provides recommendations for companies to better align conduct to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

EO100™ Certification of Responsible Energy Development

In 2014, Equitable Origin issued the world's first certification for socially and environmentally responsible practices by an oil production operation. The certified site, located in Colombia, consisted of two oil fields, operated by the country's largest private operator, Pacific Rubiales Energy, and represented approximately 25 percent of Colombia's national output at the time. This was a huge milestone for Equitable Origin and a big step forward for improved social and environmental practices in the oil and gas industry.

In 2019, Equitable Origin certified its second site, and the first natural gas site in Alberta, Canada. Seven Generations Energy Ltd. (7G) and Québec's main natural gas distributor,

Énergir s.e.c. (Énergir) entered into a responsible natural gas supply agreement governed by the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development. Globally, this was the first transaction executed under the EO100™ framework and establishes a new standard for transparency across the value chain.

There is a proven market for EO100™ certified responsible production with transactions completed with energy distributors in the U.S. and Canada that have earned a premium price for the producer. Equitable Origin is working actively with partner organizations, including a global environmental credit registry, to further build the market for EO100™ certified responsible production across the energy value chain.





Development of the EO100™ Standard.
Photo: André Izurieta.

The Next Decade

In the coming decade, we expect to expand the EO100™ Standard for Responsible Energy Development and certification to additional natural gas projects in North America to meet increasing demands for low to zero emissions production from investors, utility companies, regulators, NGOs and other stakeholders. As the market for EO100™ certified responsible production grows, we are finally seeing our vision for empowering energy purchasers with a market-based mechanism for recognizing and rewarding responsible producers. Beyond the premium price and market recognition that producers and purchasers can gain from participating in the EO system, as a mission-driven organization, there is the added benefit and social return on investment that comes with EO's commitment to invest certification revenue in our programs to strengthen the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Connectivity

The ability to access information is increasingly contingent on having internet. The UN has [declared access to the internet a human right](#). Having access to the internet means being able to exercise other fundamental human rights and freedoms, such as freedom of speech, as well as access to information and ability to communicate. Lack of access to internet is becoming increasingly detrimental to the ability of Indigenous Peoples to assert their rights. Without internet, Indigenous Peoples face barriers to learning skills; obtaining a degree or diploma; accessing healthcare; communicating their needs, languages and stories; applying for funding; and accessing information about threats to their livelihoods such as incoming resource development or pandemics. The coronavirus pandemic has

exacerbated the impact of the digital divide, creating barriers for people without internet to access information, healthcare, and education. For Indigenous Peoples, who are especially susceptible to COVID-19 due to pre-existing illnesses, lack of access to health services and food insecurity; the need for accurate, timely, and culturally appropriate information is literally a matter of life and death¹.

To expand the reach of the Resource Hub and to address the urgent need for indigenous communities to have internet for communication and access to information during the pandemic, Equitable Origin and its partner, The Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de Xpujil (CRIPX), launched a pilot project to leverage technology to enhance internet access in indigenous communities.

Having internet connection will enable communities to access information on education, health and human rights, which is especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, but is also important for the future in terms of making informed decisions about resource development. This initiative complements the Resource Hub, allowing more communities to access information online and facilitating greater communication and education.

1. The [Pan American Health Organization](#) estimates that Indigenous Peoples in some areas of the Amazon are ten times more likely to contract COVID-19 than any other groups.



We partnered with the satellite internet provider, [HughesNet](#), which has connected over 300 rural communities in Mexico through their [Community Wifi](#) Initiative. To date, the antenna to connect to satellite internet has been successfully installed, and currently CRIPX and Equitable Origin are working on preparing a series of online courses to build capacity of CRIPX's indigenous communicators on a variety of topics including digital literacy.



Following the initial results of the pilot project, Equitable Origin plans to expand this program to additional communities in Mexico, Ecuador and Peru building on our collaboration with HughesNet and our partnerships with indigenous organizations in the Amazon region.

Educational Modules

A key program for 2021 is the development and implementation of online educational modules. These e-learning modules will focus on topics related to Indigenous rights developed in consultation with our indigenous partner organizations. The modules will include content on land rights, FPIC, digital literacy, and communication strategies, among other topics. All of the modules will be uploaded to the Resource Hub in the “Resource Hub College” section that will be created during 2021.

“Mingas”- Workshops

As large-scale natural resource development projects continue their advance throughout the Amazon region, strengthening indigenous rights, in particular, land rights and the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), is critical to enable indigenous participation in development decision-making in order to protect their cultures and livelihoods and to ensure environmental stewardship of the Amazon ecosystem. To promote sustainable development and to safeguard the rights of Indigenous Peoples, a rights-based approach to FPIC led by Indigenous Peoples themselves must be protected and respected by both the public and private sector. Equitable Origin aims to organize and implement in-person mingas in Ecuador, Peru and Mexico in the future, once it is safe to do so.

Annex 1: Board of Directors



Miguel Moyano
Board Chair



Christopher Carlisle
Board Member



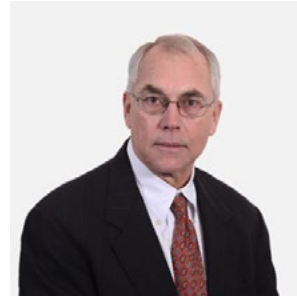
Juan Carlos Jintiach
Board Member



Tuntiak Katan
Board Member



David Poritz
Board Member



Paul Sorensen
Board Member



Hannah Stutzman
Board Member



Tracy Austin
Board Member



Marisol Rodriguez
Board Member

Former Board Members:



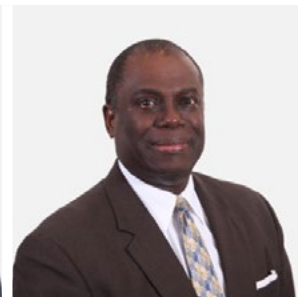
James Anaya
Advisor



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Stephen Newton
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