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09.19.2023

Indigenous
Knowledges

GF23 GLOBAL FUTURES

Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna'i

Managing Director, Flying Geese Pro

Faumuina Felolini Maria Tafuna'i hails from the villages of Fasito'o-Tai, Asaga and Mulifanua in Samoa. An ocean voyager, she - under the guidance of navigator Hoturoa Barclay-Kerr - creates holistic Wayfinding models based to support youth entrepreneurship, suicide prevention, strategic planning, and peace and reconciliation. She is the CEO and Founder of Flying Geese Pro. Her climate change poetry featured at COP 26 and her play, "My Grandfather is a Canoe," based on her poetry book has won multiple awards. She is also an Edmund Hillary Fellow.



Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichka

Territory Coordinator, Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance

Uyunkar Domingo Peas Nampichkai is an Achuar leader from Ecuador. He is the President of the governing board and territories coordinator for the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance. He is affiliated with the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon, which represents 11 Indigenous nationalities from the Ecuadorian Amazon. Most recently Domingo helped found the Indigenous leadership program, Living Amazon School (Escuela Viva Amazonica, EVA) which was inaugurated in March 2023 with 35 students from the 11 Indigenous nations of Ecuador. Domingo is a co-founder of the organization Achuar Nation of Ecuador and previously served as director of communication. He served as the Vice-President of CONFENIAE from 1993-1996. He is the founder of the Achuar community of Sharamentsa, and is one of the co-founders of the Achuar binational organization COBNAEP. He also served as the Vice-President and President of CODENPE from 1998-2002.



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Atossa Soltani

Director of Global Strategy, Amazon Sacred Headwaters Alliance

Atossa Soltani is the director of global strategy for the Amazon Sacred Headwaters, an alliance of 30 indigenous nations in Ecuador and Peru working to permanently protect 86 million acres of rainforests in one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on Earth. She is also the founder and board president of Amazon Watch and served as the organization's first executive director for 18 years. In response to the Amazon fires in 2019, Soltani helped co-found Artists for Amazonia to catalyze global action for the Amazon. In recognition for her life's work as rainforests and indigenous rights campaigner, Soltani was named the Hillary Institute's 2013 Global Laureate for Climate Leadership. Soltani is also a member and contributing author to the Science Panel for the Amazon.



Melissa Nelson

Professor, Arizona State University

Melissa K. Nelson (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) is a professor of Indigenous Sustainability at Arizona State University and chair of The Cultural Conservancy (TCC), a Native-led indigenous rights organization she directed from 1993 to 2021. Her work is dedicated to Indigenous rights. Nelson is the co-founder and leader of the Global Future Laboratory's Indigenous Knowledges Focal Area, is co-producer of Sounds of Belonging storytelling project, and is Principal Investigator for an NSF grant focused on Racial Equity in STEM and Indigenous community and land-based research. Through TCC, Nelson co-founded a Native farm at the Indian Valley Organic Farm and is the founder of Heron Shadow, TCC's Indigenous biocultural heritage oasis and farm in California. Nelson is the co-founder, writer and host of the Native Seed Pod podcast. Nelson is Anishinaabe, Métis, and Norwegian (an enrolled citizen of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians).

