

YUKPA A Semi-Nomad Colombian Community in a Mining and Energy Territory

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I'm from Colombia. I'm a social worker with a magister in sustainable development. I have more than 20 years at experience in impact assessment for different infrastructure projects.



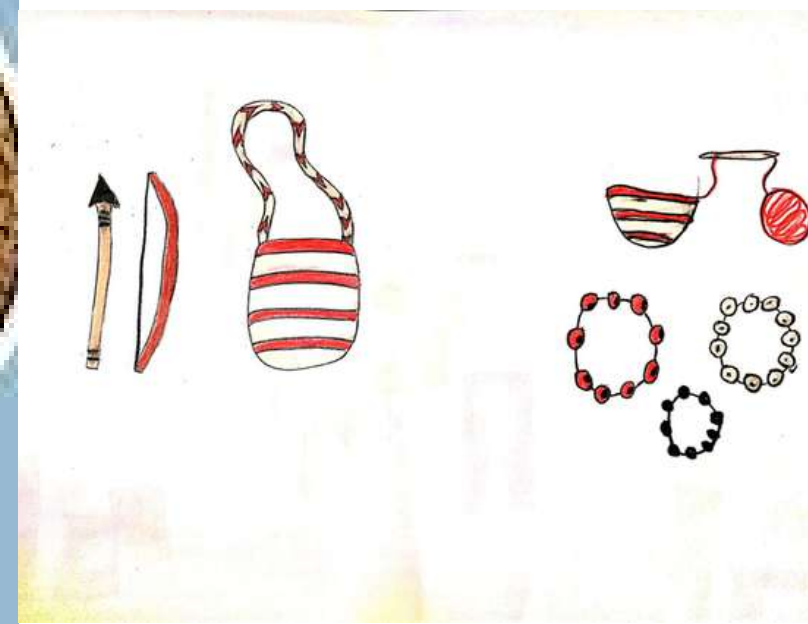
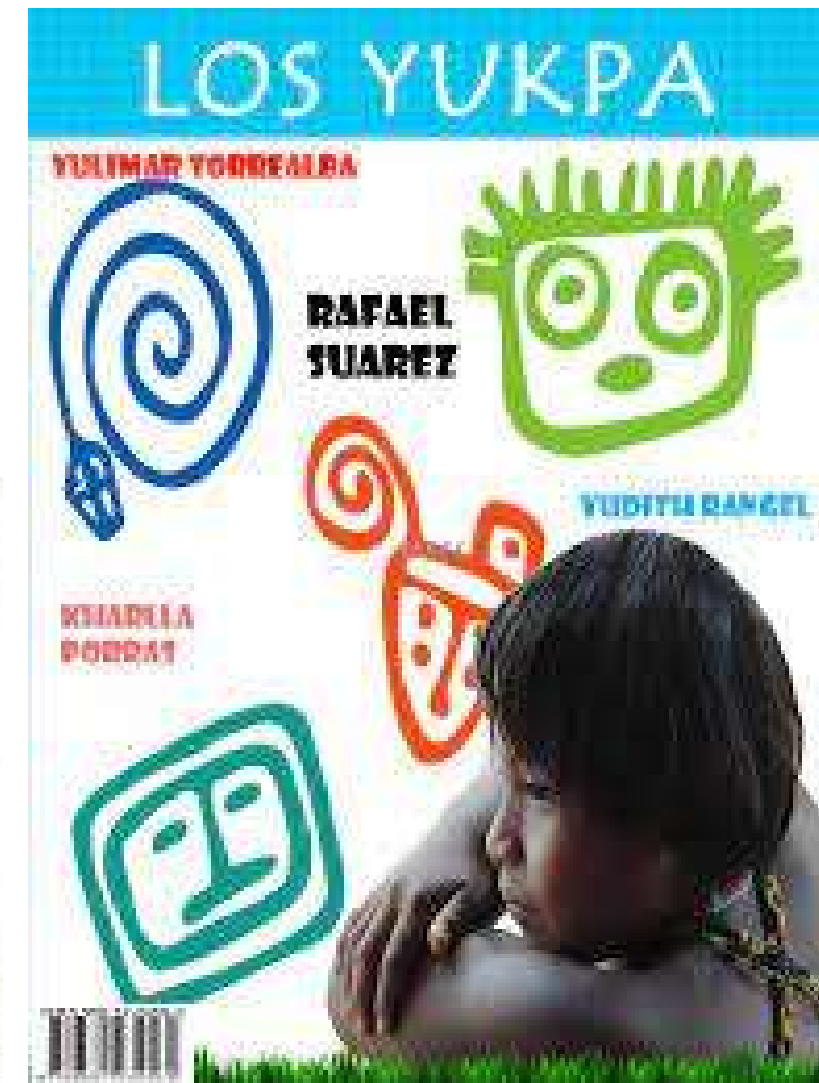
I believe in the diversity and cultural richness of our people

The Yukpas in Colombia are more resilient than other groups that are sedentary. The Yukpas are in constant movement, which has allowed them to survive.

"A culture cannot be static or it disappears"

WHO ARE THE YUKPAS IN COLOMBIA?

"Meek Indian"



They are conformed by 6 indigenous reservations. One language, 7 to 8 dialects identified

- In 2004 the Yukpas were declared at risk of physical and cultural extermination.
- In 2016 the Ministry of Education adopted the Yukpa Education System.
- In 2017, the creation of the dialogue and interlocution table between the national government and the Yukpa people was agreed.



In the census about **4.700** are reported



Men are the providers



Women take care of the home and weave

"The territory is where the Yukpa walks. It's territory reaches there, it is in their memories that drive them to return to those places where they always obtained their livelihood fishing, hunting and sowing. All those worlds are **Owaya**"



- Their ancestral territory was in Colombia and Venezuela.
- Their territory is in a dry tropical and subtropical forest ecosystem.
- Health is managed by the knowledge through medicinal plants and dreams.
- Orality and collective memory are the axes of knowledge.



- They have been victims of the armed conflict by the guerrilla, drug trafficking and paramilitaries, but they have been a community who has defended their autonomy.
- They have high rates of child malnutrition and school dropout.



"Fight for
Territory"
Resilience?

YUKPA TERRITORY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



No!



Why not?



Open pit coal mine projects



They have been in dispute with the mining projects for several years because they do not recognize them as an indigenous community.

Electric transmission lines



- An electric line of 500 Kv will pass through its territory.
- A mixed company was the first to make **prior consultation** in recognition of the collective subject.

Extensive livestock farming



Currently, their ancestral territory is owned by large ranchers.



It is an ancestral territory but they do not have access to the land



HOW WAS THE PRIOR CONSULTATION PROCESS DEVELOPED?

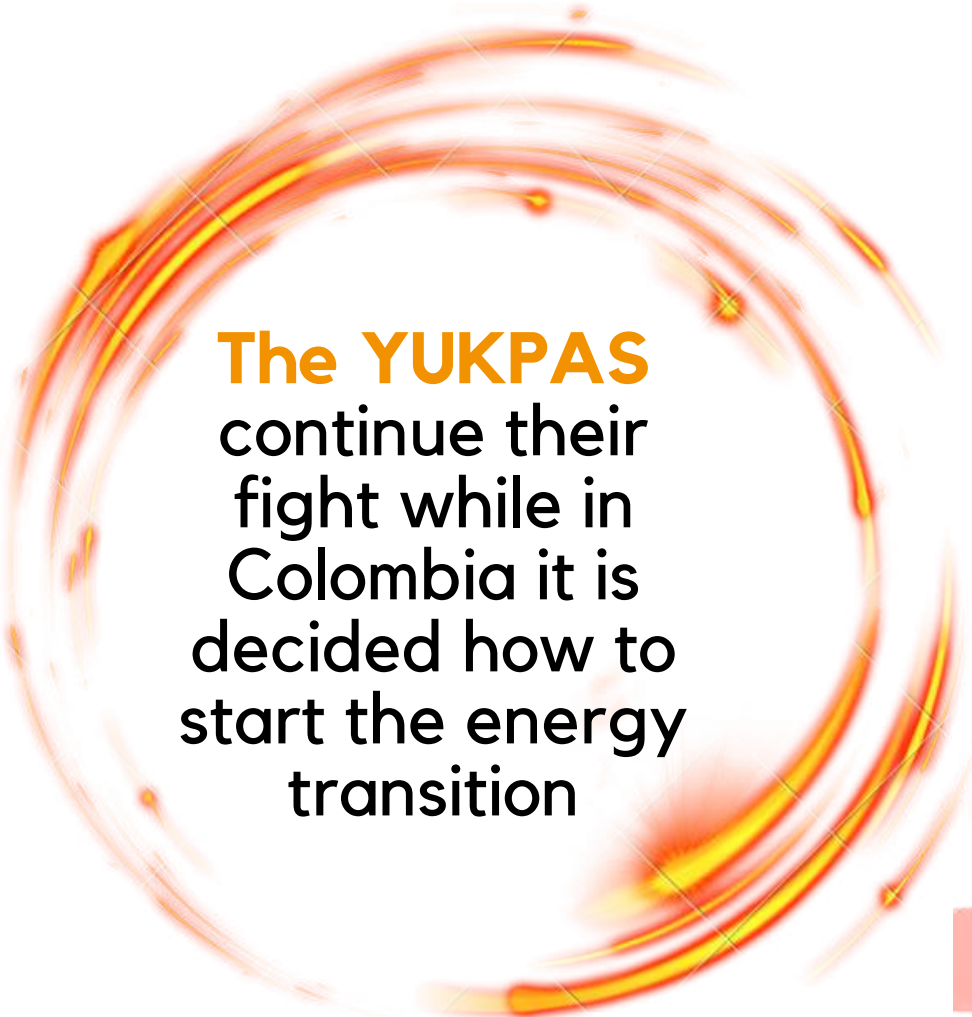


The prior consultation lasted two months in meetings with leaders, national, departmental and local authorities and the community



CONCLUSIONS

It was an intercultural dialogue in which the rights of the YUKPAS were claimed



The YUKPAS continue their fight while in Colombia it is decided how to start the energy transition

- Comply with the obligations of the environmental impact study
- Financing a project for community strengthening
- Installation of an electrical tower allusive to the YUKPA people.
- Design and construction of a water treatment system.
- Financing of a productive agricultural project.
- Financing of harmonization rituals.
- Purchase of land to build his government house.



THANK YOU



By full and comprehensive impact evaluations that recognize cultural diversity!