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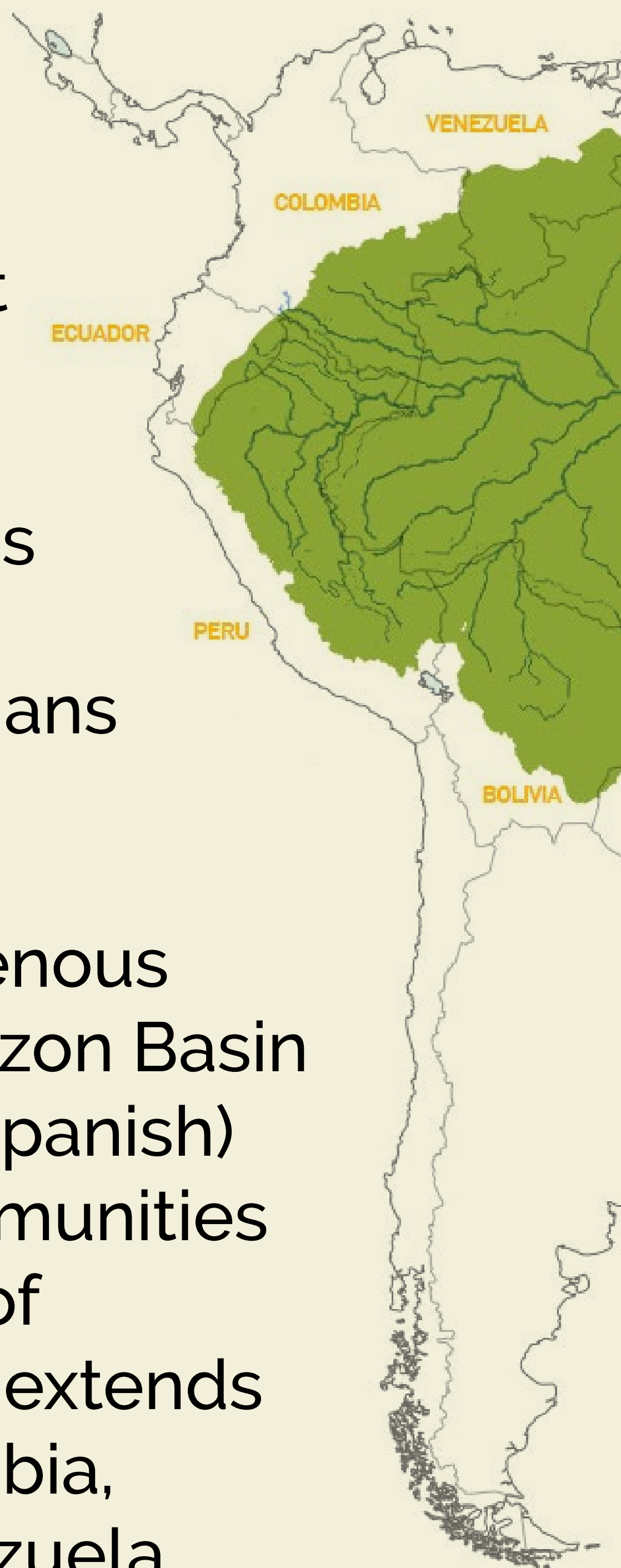
tips from knowledgeable indigenous leaders of the Amazon basin to tell stories

Knowledgeable leaders share reflections to showcase realities, the culture and daily life of the Amazonian indigenous communities.

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The Amazon region is one of the largest biomes in the world. Between 5 and 10 million species of fauna and flora live there, and there is almost 20 percent of the entire freshwater reserve on the planet. In addition, this place is the home of 511 ancestral peoples, guardians of biodiversity.

The Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (Coica by its acronym in spanish) has warned that the communities that inhabit this territory of tropical dry forest (which extends between Ecuador, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname) are





at high risk because of the exploitation of resources, evangelization and the pandemic.

Journalism must narrate and ensure respectful and deep coverage of the peoples that inhabit that territory and coexist with nature.

Here are five **#WordsofCounsel** from the elders and indigenous leaders who share knowledge, resistance, and care for the jungle of the Amazon biome.



1

Respect the fights and
collective rights of
indigenous peoples.

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“

I recommend that the rights of the indigenous and their ancestral committees are to be respected and the outside people have to listen to the voices of the indigenous”.

Shadrack Reuben, counselor and leader of the Arekuna tribe of Guyana.

 [listen to audio](#)



2

Narrate with **dignity** the
worldview, knowledge
and ways of life of the
tribes.

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The mistakes that the mass media make when talking about indigenous peoples are that they speak out of assumptions and demonize the peoples with images where we are barefoot as a meaning of poverty. It is good to show that indigenous peoples have strengths, many principles, and we are the ones who share nature in the Amazon."

Clemencia Herrera Nemerayema, indigenous leader of the Uitoto de La Chorrera tribe of the Colombian Amazon.

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3

Actively listen to the
needs and realities of
indigenous people.

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As leaders and community members, we call on the world of the press, radio, and television to listen to us and not to forget the indigenous peoples. We need health because our indigenous brothers died from covid-19, wise men and leaders also died. That is why we need medical attention and to be listened to"

Robert Velazco Yigio, a Bora indigenous person from the Pucallpillo community, Loreto department of the Peruvian Amazon.

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4

To recognize the
leadership of women.

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They should talk about women's rights and participation in different areas, and at the territory, because with our knowledge we defend and fight against everything that transnational companies and the governments do to us."

Imelda Tapuy, leader and major from the Kichwa culture of the Shuar Consuela community of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

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5

The voices **must return** to the territory: once a report or investigation is completed, any information extracted must return to the communities.

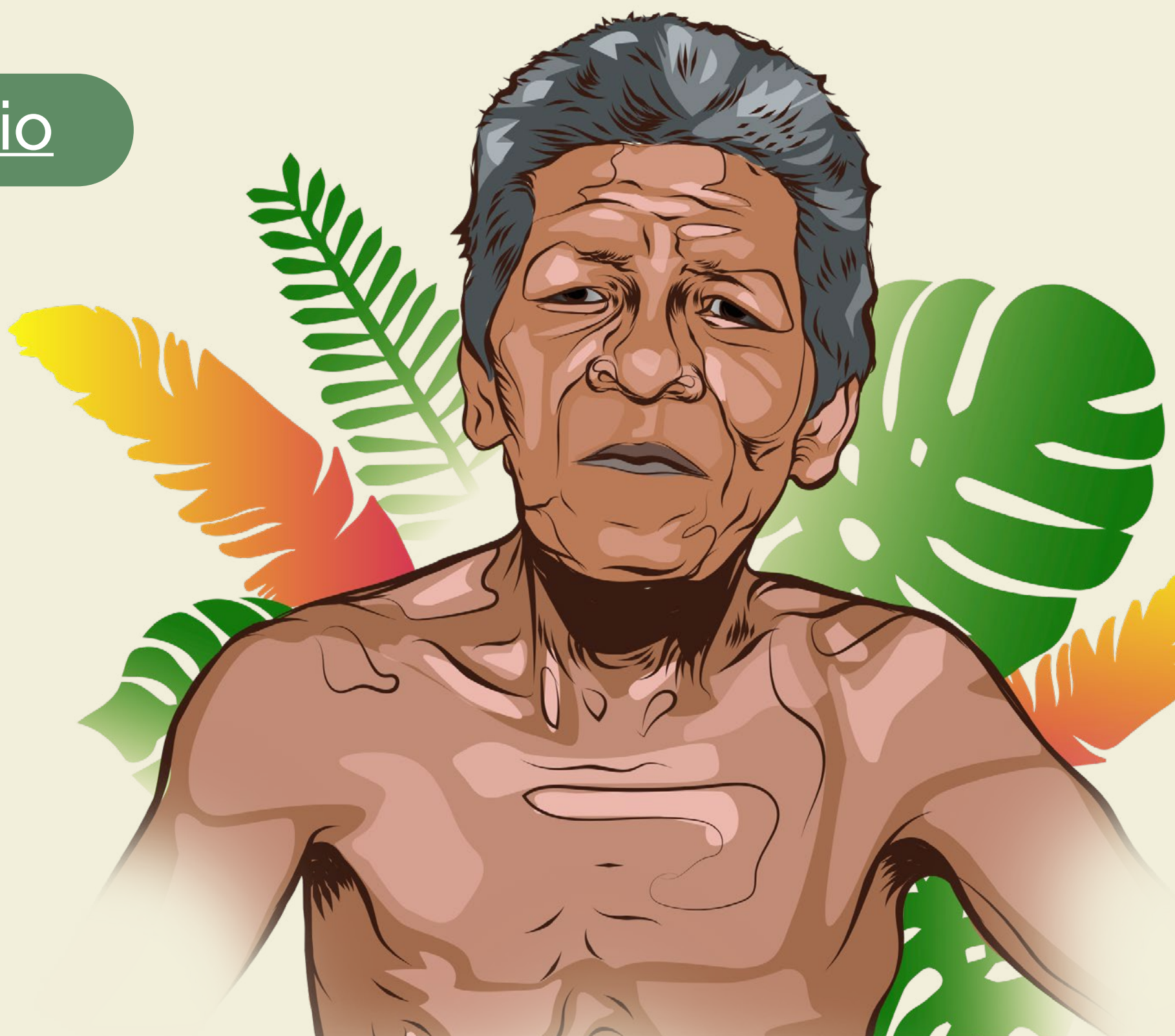
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As indigenous, we always have the thought to defend our territory, both what surrounds us and the subsoil. We believe that from our origin we are the owners of our territory. The media came here and we have told them that they have not given us back (...) what is published in the news and newspapers. That is a mistake they have made so far.”

Manuel Zafama “Ek+ren+”, of the “Ek+raie” clan, traditional authority of the Uitoto people of La Chorrera in the Colombian Amazon.

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