

Photovoice Workshops with Indigenous Communities:

Nature through Images and Words

Project facilitated, designed, and coordinated by:

Daniela Perez Mejia

Implemented in collaboration with Fundación Entropika

Leticia, Amazonas

2024-2025

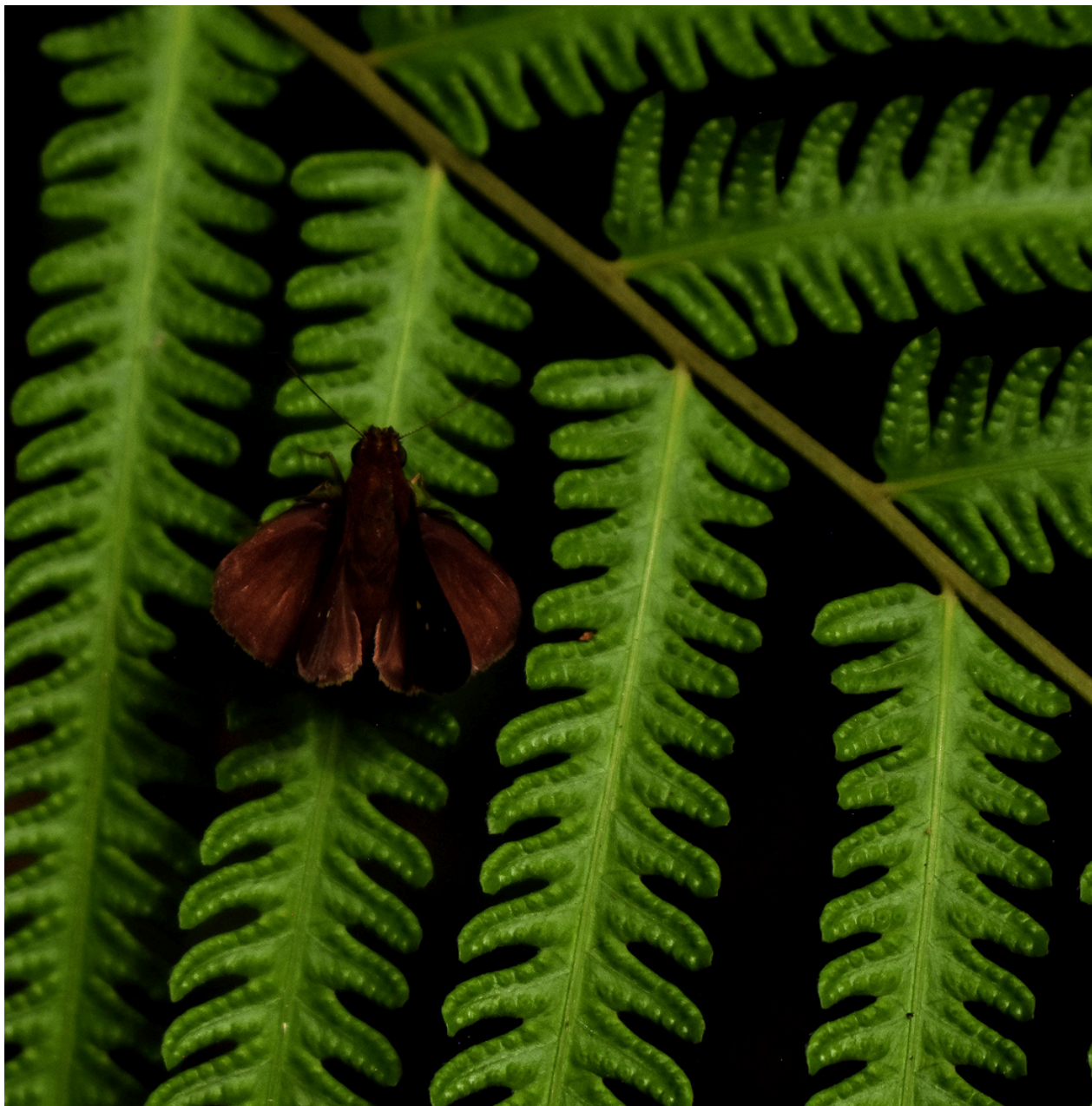
About the Workshops

This booklet gathers photographs and narratives created during a series of participatory photovoice workshops facilitated in Indigenous communities in Leticia, Amazonas, within the framework of my work with Fundación Entropika.

The workshops were conceived as more than an introduction to photography. They were a space for young participants to observe, question, and articulate their relationships with land, culture, and everyday life. Through the powerful blend of storytelling and nature photography, students explored and reflected on the deep ties between ecology, identity, and territory.

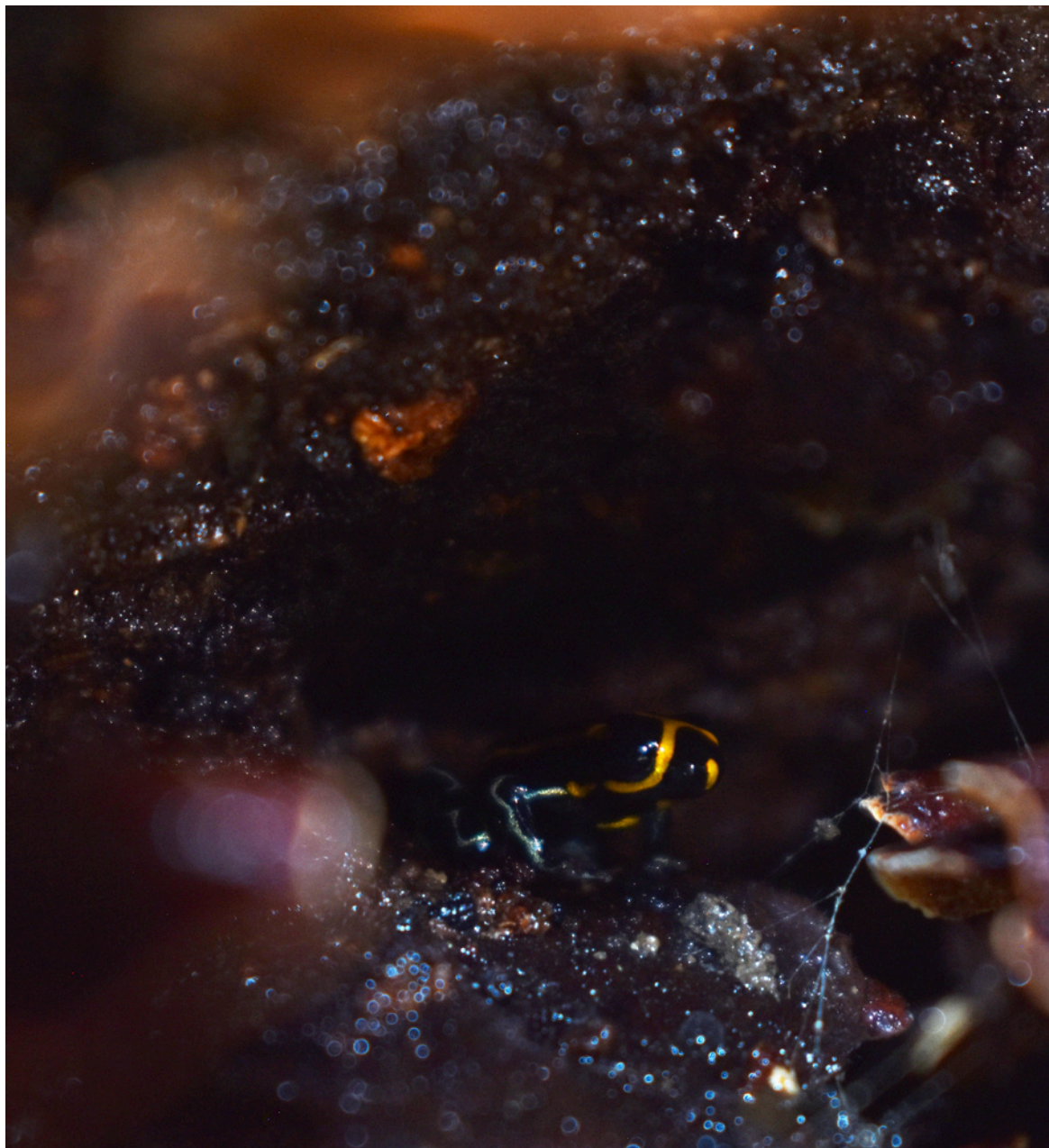
Rather than producing images about the Amazon, the process centered images created from within it. The resulting photographs and texts are personal and grounded, revealing ways of seeing shaped by memory, presence, and connection to place. Together, they speak to the power of participatory visual storytelling as a tool for reflection, dialogue, and cultural continuity.

This process reflects my ongoing interest in participatory visual practices that center local knowledge, youth voices, and place-based storytelling.



Fragility that rests without fear

Nazly Coello



If this photograph could speak, it would tell me that connection with nature is the key to understanding my own purpose.

Juan David Fiagama



*This rose apple is my banquet,
even though for you it is waste.*

*While you walk past, I work
without rest.*

*I am not just an ant, I am part
of the balance.*

Gisselle Alexandra Murillo



*The maloca teaches us to live in
harmony with nature and with
ourselves.*

Astrid Ferrera



He would tell me that it's a shame I can no longer play and leap through the treetops.

He would also be disappointed to see that we have abandoned the customs of our ancestors and the knowledge of plants and fruits.

Elvis Alexander Vento Lorenzo



Through the wings of the Silver-beaked Tanager, nature whispers to us of its astonishing capacity for adaptation—a living testament to life that clings on and thrives against all odds.

Yet in the shine of their beaks and the flight of their bodies, a deep fragility is also revealed: a latent vulnerability to deforestation and the disruption of their habitats, threatening to silence their song forever.

These birds become silent messengers, reminding us that the existence of wildlife is a delicate balance, and that their fate is a mirror of our own relationship with the natural world.

Juan Esteban Parra Riobo



That, although I often want to control outcomes, there are natural processes that simply unfold. This reminded me that even in deterioration there is a form of beauty, and that everything in life—even what hurts or seems tragic — can hold meaning within the greater ecosystem.

Jhoyner Santiago Narváez Apraez



The Black Nun (Monasa nigrifrons) appears perched and gazing at the sky; captured from below, it looks proud and somehow emboldened. This makes me feel the presence it can evoke—often unnoticed and unheard, yet when it is finally seen, I come to appreciate its deeply distinctive essence.

Favier Andrés Rojas Gallego



Butterflies often appear along the corridor during lunchtime, but they are fleeting and difficult to capture. This was the last image I took, caught spontaneously when I lifted my gaze. In that moment, I felt joy — I managed to document what I had been hoping to see.

Sharon Alejandra Gantiva Briceño



I had been hoping to photograph a primate for some time. Weeks earlier, I missed the chance to capture another one on campus that was searching for fruit, simply because I didn't have my camera with me. That frustration stayed with me, and this image of the small monkey comes from that moment of longing finally resolved.

Sharon Alejandra Gantiva Briceño



I am not a caged animal; my freedom is the most valuable thing I have. I need to spread my wings from tree to tree—I do not need to be in captivity to show the majesty and beauty of my wings.

Geber Benitez



If I were to disappear, one of the most valuable birds in nature would be lost. Without me, the art of seed dispersal would not be as effective.

Geber Benitez



In every orchid, the art and beauty of nature bloom. Do not let anything or anyone cause you to wither or dim your shine, for beauty is not based on following stereotypes, but on your own nature.

Fernando Almeida Sales



*This tree teaches me to endure, even
when everything seems to be falling
apart.*

*Its trunk and its shade remind me that
I can be full of life,
even when surrounded by the remains
of what once flourished.*

Paula Andrea Suárez Rodríguez



It's incredible how nature can camouflage itself, to the point of resembling an ordinary tree trunk.

Jesús Camilo Cano



*Be calm and take a breath,
take a leap and sing—
here comes the cheerful cricket.*

Dailer Parente



*If the ant could speak, it would say—
“Hello, nice to meet you, Moli.”
It truly is an extraordinary species.*

Michelle Jordan



*This flower has a unique beauty and would
ask me to help care for the ecosystem.*

Michelle Jordan



“Hello! I’m a fuzzy caterpillar and I’m here to chat with you. I’m glad to be able to speak with someone who takes an interest in my underground world.”

Fuzzy caterpillars are able to survive in harsh environments and adapt to changes in their surroundings. The extinction of yet another species would diminish the planet’s biological richness.

Valentina Parente



*A wonderful species would be lost,
the food chain would be disrupted,
and other beings would be thrown
out of balance.*

Nina Mosombite



Moreover, the color of this fungus is striking—it seems to radiate light, bringing color to nature. It serves as a refuge for other beings and is also like a labyrinth.

Nina Mosombite



*The first thing the world
would lose without fungi is
the ability to quickly
decompose trees and other
matter.*

Luis Jose Parente



*A world without butterflies
would make no sense, because
butterflies transform the
environment and help
pollinate flowers.*

Luis Jose Parente



*Protect me with your
beautiful hands, which will
help me feel safer with you.*

Casilda Parente



If dogs were to disappear, there would be several impacts on society. Many people would lose their most faithful friends, causing sadness and loneliness.

Andrés Riaño



*If birds were to disappear,
there would be several
consequences for nature.
Without them, pests would
spread and damage crops and
forests.*

Andrés Riaño



Although I am small, my voice is a whisper in the forest. Do not ignore me—just observe me, and remember that I am also part of this world we share.

Ivone Lizeth Eimenekene

To observe is to recognize that we share this world