

Cristina, Tahiana, Eliza - article submitted to the school newsletter

American School of Antananarivo

The Tree Stooges

Link to instagram post: https://www.instagram.com/p/DPoG_iPDEWn/?img_index=1

Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari - Leader of a River Revolution



Seeing her community suffer health challenges ranging from fevers to miscarriages, Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari decided to step up and take action to protect the Marañón River, a major river home to a rich and diverse ecosystem in Perú. Mari Luz grew up in the village Shapajilla and is Kukama, an Indigenous group along the Marañón River. The Kukama are among the many Indigenous groups along the river, and are stewards of the river and not only depend on it for their livelihoods, but view it as sacred, believing the bodies of their ancestors rest at the bottom.

(Image source: [earthlawcenter](#))

The river fish are one of their primary food sources and make up much of their diet, but with frequent and deadly oil spills due to the major oil industry in the river, the fish were dying. The people had no choice but to consume the contaminated river water. The ecosystems and the villages were being threatened, so Mari Luz used her voice.

Mari Luz founded Asociación de Mujeres Huaynakana Kamatahuara Kana (HKK) and is its current president. Empowering women in leadership positions and working to protect the Marañón River, the HKK have been fighting for years to guard their river from further harm. In

March of 2024, after years of legal proceedings, the HKK succeeded in their quest to seek legal personhood for the Marañón River, recognizing its right to flow freely and without contamination. While working on this case, the HKK led several protests against the oil spills that happened during the proceedings in both the Marañon and the Amazon. They gained much media and international attention, further pressuring the government.



(Image source: [Climática](#))

Mari Luz is an inspiration and a reminder to us all that our voice is powerful and change is possible. We can learn so much from her story. Climate solutions will come as we unite our



voices and work with the communities being affected. Mari Luz reminds us that our culture is another key aspect when we discuss climate solutions. We can't forget those who are suffering the most because of climate change change, and we can't

(Image source: [Mongabay](#)) discount their voices, opinions, and views.

To learn more about Mari Luz:

<https://www.goldmanprize.org/recipient/mari-luz-canaquiri-murayari/#recipient-bio>