TRIBAL TRUST FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



Celebrating 30 Years!

ABOUT

MISSION

The Tribal Trust Foundation carries on a 30-year history of supporting Indigenous-led projects and programs that preserve and uplift ancient wisdom ways and make them accessible across generations and geographies through education, grantmaking, storytelling, and community engagement.

VISION

At the Tribal Trust Foundation, we envision a thriving and vibrant world where all peoples live in balance together, guided by the traditionally-Indigenous values of reciprocity, kinship, and care for future generations.

THEORY OF CHANGE

At the Tribal Trust Foundation,
we believe that by reconnecting with Nature and learning from Indigenous wisdom, we can:

- Protect biodiversity and promote land stewardship
- Preserve languages and ancestral traditions
- Shift systems from extractive to regenerative
- Raise global consciousness through relational learning
- Together build a thriving future for all beings.

Celebrating Three Decades of Indigenous-Led Collaboration

Letter from the Founder & Executive Director

Dear Friends of Tribal Trust,

On behalf of the Tribal Trust Foundation Board of Directors, I'm honored to share our 2025 Annual Report with you.

This year marks the Tribal Trust Foundation's 30th anniversary. It's hard to believe three decades have passed since I founded the organization in 1996. While many organizations started back then have long since shuttered their doors, we are still here — and growing stronger than ever." Together with our Board and volunteers, I remain committed to our mission to support Indigenous-led projects that preserve and uplift ancient wisdom ways and make them accessible across generations and geographies, supporting a thriving future for all.

2025 was a year of deep relationship, responsiveness, and tangible impact. Together, we supported Indigenous-led education and cultural preservation efforts that reached children, families, and community leaders — while also helping raise broader awareness in the Western world through storytelling, documentation, and publications.

In 2025, our partners called on us — and with your generosity, we were able to respond and provide support around the world.

Reflecting on 30 years of this work, I want to offer heartfelt gratitude for the generous donors who have long believed in our work, as well as the new TTF donors and community members who have joined our TTF family in the past year.

As we step into 2026, it is even more evident that Indigenous wisdom, values, and knowledge are needed now more than ever. Our partners are already reaching out with requests and invitations to collaborate. Thank you for walking with us — and for helping ensure that living wisdom traditions continue to thrive, not only for Indigenous communities, but for the benefit of all beings and future generations.

With deep gratitude,

Barbara Savage
Founder and Executive Director, Tribal Trust Foundation



TRIBAL TRUST

Letter from the Board President

Dear Friends and Partners,

As Board President, I am grateful to share the Tribal Trust Foundation's 2025 Annual Report and to thank you for the many ways you strengthen this circle of impact.

What stands out most about 2025 is the integrity of the work: our partners lead, we listen, and together we respond. In alignment with our mission and vision, Tribal Trust Foundation exists to support Indigenous-led projects that preserve and uplift ancient wisdom ways through education, grantmaking, storytelling, and community engagement.

In 2025, your support helped carry forward two-eyed education that honors both Indigenous ways of knowing and the realities of the modern world; documentation and storytelling that preserves cultural practices for future generations; and Indigenous-led initiatives rooted in self-determination and local priorities.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for believing in a worldview anchored in reciprocity, collaboration, and interconnection, and for helping TTF strengthen our roots for the future.

With appreciation,

Téana David
Board President, Tribal Trust Foundation



TRIBAL TRUST

Our Team

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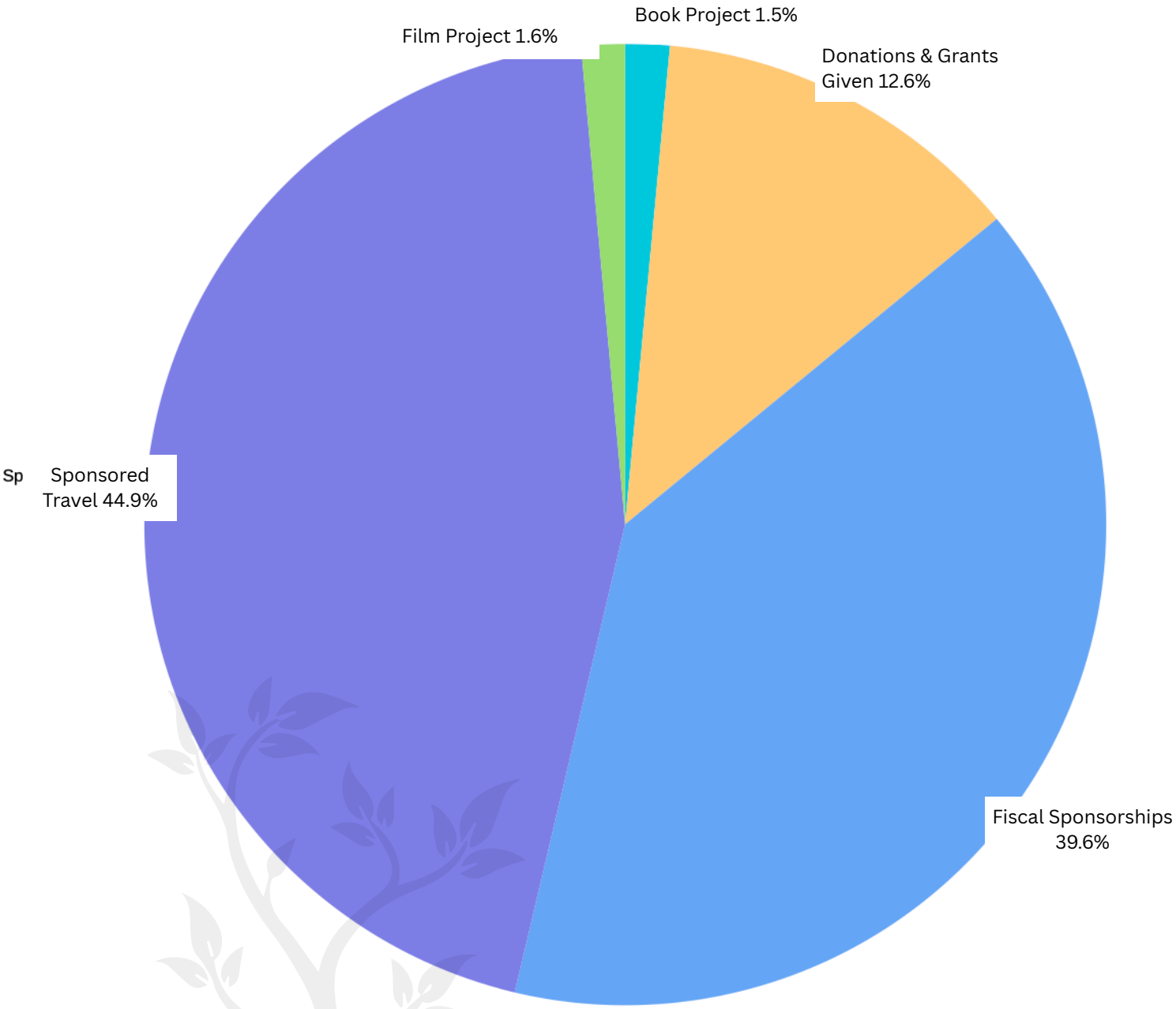
A Year In Review

For over twenty-five years, the Tribal Trust Foundation operated as an all-volunteer organization, working in reciprocity with Indigenous partners while keeping operations lean so that the vast majority of donations could flow directly to projects. As our work expanded, we recognized that sustaining long-term, multi-year partnerships would require a paid Executive Director and regular consulting support to ensure continuity, strong stewardship, and responsive communication with partners and donors alike.

In 2025, with renewed commitment, much prayer, and hard work, **we reached our capacity-building and overall fundraising goals *and* kept operating expenditures under 22%.** For 2026, we've already raised funding for operations (with plans to again stay under 22%), allowing us to focus even more on growing Indigenous-led programming and deepening impact.

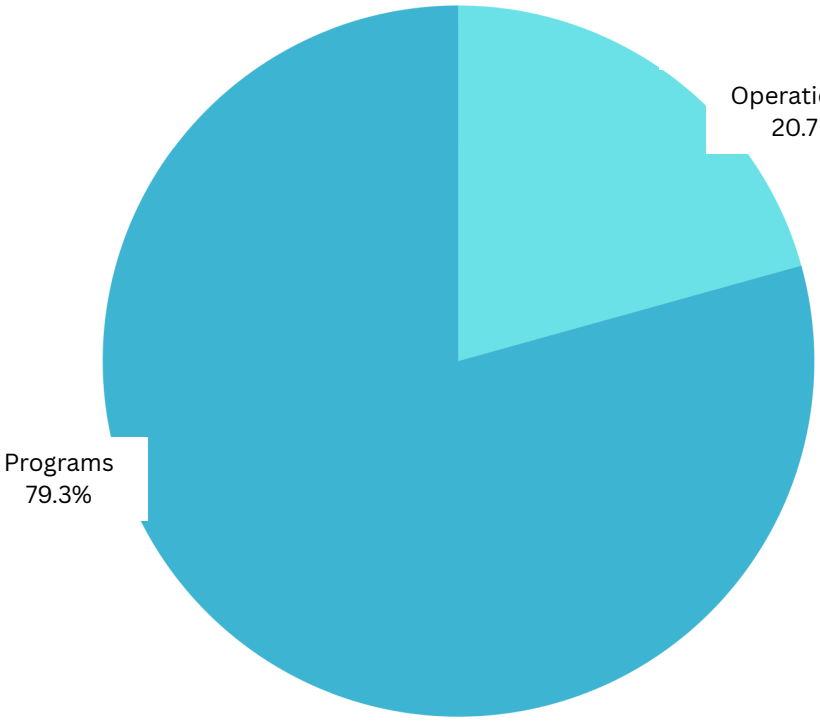


Program Expenses

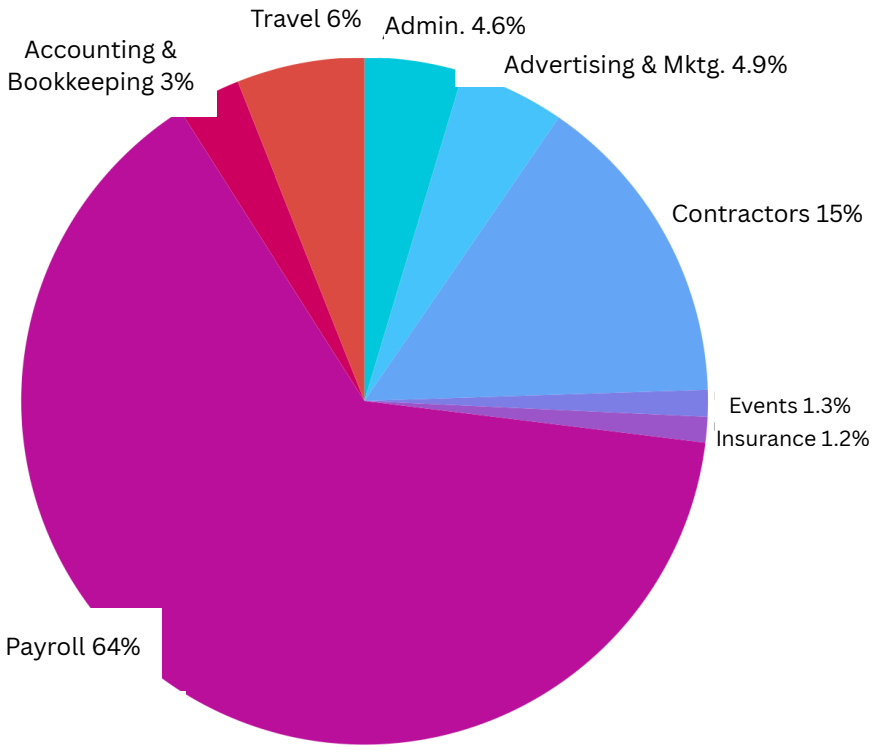


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Operations to Programming



Operating Expenses



Impact

Key Partners & Program Highlights

Hadzabe of Tanzania

Tribal Trust Foundation responded to urgent requests for clean water access, education, and ongoing advocacy as the Hadzabe community of Tanzania faced aggressive land grabs and displacement pressures. We collaborated with The Olanakwe Community Fund to provide support. In addition to immediate relief, our partnership, **anchored in two-eyed seeing** (Indigenous wisdom and contemporary education), enabled **26 Hadzabe children in Northern Tanzania to continue their education**

Inspired by one of our Travel Trips, 10 TTF community members made donations that provided full educational support for 26 children to continue their formal education.

A Historic Milestone

"This was the first time Hadzabe secondary students received sustained educational support. Thank you for opening pathways that had previously been inaccessible for Hadzabe youth."

— Nesphory Thabity,
Endamagha School





Monpa of Jangbi and Wangling, Bhutan

In 2014, the government of Bhutan marked the Monpa, the First Peoples of Bhutan, for assimilation into the dominant society. At the request of the Monpa, Tribal Trust Foundation began a campaign to raise awareness of, and help protect and preserve, their traditional wisdom ways.

In 2025, twenty-one years of TTF film, photography, and publications later, King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck declared the Monpa's teachings critical to both general education in the country and the building of Gelephu, the world's first mindfulness city, integrating traditional ecological knowledge into a new vision for the future. This year, TTF also:

- Completed filming for the documentary we have been working on for over 12 years, centered on Sonam, a Monpa youth navigating "two worlds" — boarding school life in the city and her heart's home in the mountain village. Preview at: https://vimeo.com/806486885
- Supported the publishing of an anthropological book Monpas : Guardians of the Black Mountains by Seeta Giri;
- Provided scholarships for two Monpa students to attend a private boarding school and one to complete a university nursing program in India;
- Collaborated with Mountain Crafts Bhutan to launch the Nettle Heritage Conservation Project to preserve the natural Nettle habitat near Monpa villages, safeguard an ancient tradition, and introduce a sustainable business model for future generations;

"On behalf of the Jangbi community, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your continuous support of our community. We are deeply grateful."

— Chiwog Tshokpa, Head of the Village in the Black Forest

TRIBAL TRUST



"For more than a decade, Tribal Trust has stood beside the Monpa people with unwavering dedication — not merely as a benefactor, but as a true partner in preserving and strengthening an ancient Indigenous culture.

Through generous support for education, the organization has opened pathways for young Monpa students to access learning opportunities while remaining rooted in their identity and heritage. This investment in education is not only an investment in individuals, but in the continuity of a fragile and irreplaceable way of life."

— Karma Lotey, President
Yangphel Adventure Travel



Shipibo-Konibo, Peruvian Amazon

In partnership with Bari Wesna, Tribal Trust Foundation helped nourish intergenerational learning by supporting traditional singing and medicinal plant workshops for children — while also helping advance the vision for a dedicated home where Elders can share teachings with younger generations.

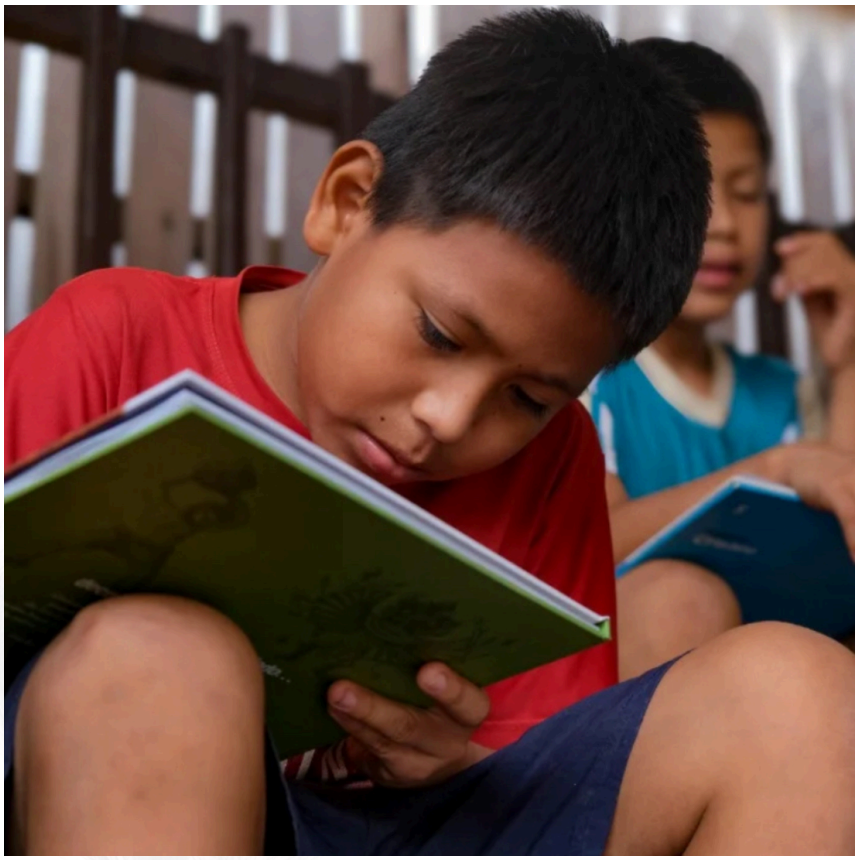
Together, we strengthened cultural identity among children, honoring their essential role as carriers of tradition by providing support for:

- continued improvements to the community school we helped build;
- workshops and ongoing classes in ancestral language, the use of medicinal plants, traditional songs, and other living cultural practices.

Through these experiences, children deepen their connection to their roots and grow a lasting sense of belonging and pride — ensuring that cultural knowledge is not only preserved, but carried forward in ways that meet the challenges of the present.







“TTF has been a beacon of hope for Bari Wesna and the families with consistent support, providing not only resources, but also confidence and motivation to keep on going during difficult times. Thanks to the backing. Today, more Indigenous children have the opportunity to dream, learn, and build a future with greater dignity and hope.”

— Gilmer Yuimachi Castro,
Shipibo-Konibo Founder &
Program Director, Bari Wesna
Intercultural Association

TRIBAL TRUST

San Ju/'hoansi, Kalahari Desert, Namibia

In Namibia, we continue our collaboration with the San Ju/'hoansi people to bring a two-eyed seeing education model into the village through the community-named school /Xoa-//He, meaning "life together." This school supports children staying close to family, language, and culture while learning in a way that honors Indigenous knowledge in its fullness.

"We, the community of Nhoma, are very happy with your assistance to us and we are very grateful to work with you and for your understanding of what you are doing with the community since you support us during all these years. ***Here is us at the new school!*** *Thanks again and hope to work together with you for more years."*



“The /Xoa-//He school helps sustain daily life in Nhoma by providing dignity and safety through improved shelter, equipping our children with essential learning tools, and ensuring the continuity of our school development. Your support will also allow the school’s project team to remain present and fully engaged with the community.

We see this school as a lifeline for preserving endangered language and culture.”

— Kate Matzopoulos, Namibian PhD candidate and teacher at /Xoa-//He



Tribal Trust Foundation also continues to provide fiscal sponsorship for mission-aligned organizations such as Circle for Change, Illuminate Film Festival, One Thread Collective, and UNCI (Uniting Natives Culturally and Inter-tribally).

WAYS to GET INVOLVED

With the many challenges of our time, joining in Tribal Trust Foundation's 30-year history of bridging cultures and peoples in support of Indigenous-led programming is hope in action. Here are some ways to get involved:

- **Donate** to support Indigenous-led programming and rapid-response.
- **Become** part of the Tribal Trust Legacy Society's planned giving.
- **Travel** with us on immersive journeys that build reciprocal learning across cultures. In 2026, we are leading trips to Bhutan, Tanzania, and the Hopi (*Hopitutskwa*) Land in Arizona.
- **Share** TTF's work by forwarding newsletters, following us and our partners on social media, and sharing our stories.
- **Host** a small gathering to introduce friends and community to TTF.
- **Offer** in-kind support (materials, educational resources, professional services) when relevant to partner needs.

FOLLOW TTF on Facebook and Instagram @tribaltrustfoundation

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SEND a LETTER to TTF at P.O. Box 5687, Santa Barbara, CA 93150

30 Years
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Platinum Transparency 2025
Candid.

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