

## **Job Announcement**

**Date Posted:** January 27, 2005

**Position Title:**

U'wa Project Coordinator

**Deadline for Applying:**

position open until filled

**Target start date:**

March 1, 2006

**Location:**

San Francisco, CA



**AMAZON WATCH**



**U'wa Defense Project**

### **Organizational Overview:**

Founded in 1996, Amazon Watch ([www.amazonwatch.org](http://www.amazonwatch.org)) works to protect Amazon basin ecosystems and the rights of the region's indigenous peoples. We are looking for an experienced Project Coordinator who excels in a variety of circumstances—from meetings with oil company shareholders, to traveling in remote indigenous areas of Colombia, to analyzing information “on the ground” and producing strategic reports and alerts, to speaking to the press. The U'wa Project Coordinator will take the lead on a key program area, serving as a bridge between the U'wa people in Colombia and the U.S.-based campaign to defend U'wa lands against oil and gas interests. This is inspiring work that needs a spirited individual to work in close coordination with the U'wa tribe in Colombia while leading effective campaign strategies from the U.S.

Amazon Watch's current staff consists of eight people based out of three offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. The U'wa Project Coordinator will work closely with the Executive Director and the campaign team from Amazon Watch's headquarters in the San Francisco office.

### **Position Details:**

The U'wa Project Coordinator is a new full-time position at Amazon Watch, as we join forces with the U'wa Defense Project (UDP). Since 1997, UDP has worked to provide legal assistance, community development, advocacy, and research support to the Indigenous U'wa people in Colombia. In recent years, UDP has been directed by the U'wa people to take a stand against oil exploration and militarization in Colombia by strengthening the U'wa's tribal leadership through women's leadership, education, legal action and international solidarity-building as the tribe resists impending oil exploitation on their lands.

Today, the U'wa people have asked UDP to prioritize the International Campaign opposing oil extraction on their lands. To most effectively do this, UDP's work is becoming one of Amazon Watch's central projects. The U'wa Project Coordinator will work closely with Amazon Watch campaign team, the U'wa leadership, former UDP Executive Director and the UDP Advisory Committee to coordinate the U'wa program.

### **Job Responsibilities Include:**

- Work closely with the U'wa people, especially their leaders, to understand their needs and help them devise and carry out effective local and international campaign strategies to support their goal of preventing oil exploration on their sacred lands
- Build strategic links with allies and grassroots activists, mobilize key U.S. constituencies and implement campaign strategies in the U.S.
- Organize and accompany U'wa leaders on occasional U.S. speaking tours
- Travel to Colombia as necessary, and when possible, to coordinate closely with the U'wa leadership
- Garner frequent media attention about the U'wa and their struggle to defend their land
- Help raise funds for Amazon Watch with the fundraising and development staff with U'wa-specific programs/ Help prepare reports and keep donors updated and informed
- Administer direct funding (pass-through grants) to the U'wa
- Participate in organizational planning meetings and weekly staff meetings

- Assist with organizational fundraising events on occasion
- Assist the U'wa leadership with their [www.uwacolombia.org](http://www.uwacolombia.org) website
- Translate documents for the U'wa tribal leadership (English – Spanish) and written statements from the U'wa to Amazon Watch and/or the international community (Spanish – English)

**Required skills and experience:**

- Minimum 3 years in environmental or human rights campaigns, advocacy and/or grassroots organizing
- Strong fluency in Spanish and English
- Strong verbal and writing skills
- Highly self-motivated, organized and visionary
- Excellent interpersonal and intercultural communication skills, especially as this relates to working with traditional indigenous cultures
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team and independently
- Ability and interest in extensive travel to U'wa territory in Colombia (also some domestic travel)
- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to manage basic budgets and accounting
- Understanding of Colombian conflict and current realities
- Strong commitment to Amazon Watch's mission
- Heart, humility and humor
- Desire and ability to make a minimum 2 year commitment

**Highly desirable skills and experience:**

- Prior experience working with indigenous peoples and organizations
- Prior experience working with organizations from the global south
- Experience living abroad, preferably in Latin America
- Familiarity and experience in the region, specifically in Colombia
- Experience with organizing and activism
- Prior experience and aptitude for media work (writing news releases, pitching and speaking to the media)
- Understanding of oil geopolitics and impacts of extraction
- Familiarity with Colombian governmental institutions and politics

**Salary:** Low 30s, plus benefits

*Amazon Watch is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate based on race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, political belief, age, gender, sexual orientation or class. People of color and indigenous people strongly encouraged to apply.*

Please send résumé, three references, and cover letter about why you would like to join our team and why you are the best candidate for the job to:

Jennifer DeLury Ciplet, Managing Director  
 Amazon Watch  
 One Hallidie Plaza, Suite 402  
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Or by email to: [jobs@amazonwatch.org](mailto:jobs@amazonwatch.org)