

## TAKING ACTION! Inspired by *Tree of Dreams* by Laura Resau

After you read *Tree of Dreams*, you might feel your own heart growing... and you might want to *do something* to make a difference! Here are ideas for taking action to protect our environment and help indigenous people defend their ancestral lands and culture.

**Plant a tree** with friends and family or raise money to have trees planted. One dollar plants one tree. <https://onetreepanted.org/>

When possible, try **walking or biking** instead of taking the car, to limit gasoline use.

**Sign a petition online** from a trusted organization. Here's one that takes a stand against oil drilling on Huaorani (Waorani) land. <https://waoresist.amazonfrontlines.org/action/>

**Write a letter** asking government officials to respect indigenous people's right to protect their rain forest in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

You can send your letter (in Spanish or English) to the Ambassador of Ecuador. This will cost the regular postage rate for a letter in the U.S.

Francisco Carrión Mena  
Embassy of Ecuador  
1990 M St. NW  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Ste. 310  
Washington DC, 20036

Email: [embassy@ecuador.org](mailto:embassy@ecuador.org)

You could also send your letter (in English or Spanish) to the Minister of the Interior of Ecuador. This would cost a few dollars postage. (You can find the postage rate online through USPS.)

César Navas Vera  
Ministro del Interior  
Benalcázar N4-24 y Espejo  
C.P. 170401  
Quito, ECUADOR

Email: [cesar.navas@mdi.gob.ec](mailto:cesar.navas@mdi.gob.ec)

### Letter-writing Instructions

- Start your letter with "Dear Minister" or "Dear Ambassador."
- In your first paragraph, tell him something about yourself. Maybe you could talk about what natural areas you enjoy near your home. Make sure to mention you are a student writing from the U.S.
- Next, explain your concern about how companies are threatening the environment in the Amazon that indigenous people depend on for their survival. You might also talk about the need to protect indigenous leaders from threats and attacks.
- In your last paragraph, ask the minister or ambassador to respect indigenous people living in the rain forest, and help them protect their land from threats like oil drilling, mining, and deforestation.

**Thank you for taking action!**

Please share your actions and ideas with #growyourheart.  
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