WITH GRATITUDE:
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

In a year that challenged the world in unimaginable ways, we at the Morpho Institute turned our attention to helping our Amazonian partners survive a year in which their income vanished and their lives and livelihoods were at stake. With heartfelt gratitude to our generous donors, we present this summary of the second year in the life of our young nonprofit.

Kelly Keena, PhD
President

Nancy Trautmann, PhD
Secretary

Christa Dillabaugh
Treasurer/Director

Blue Morpho Butterfly (Morpho menelaus). Photo by Frances Gatz
Cover Photo: Where we work: Northern Peruvian Amazon. Photo by Phil Kahler
Girl: Supporting tomorrow’s conservation leaders via the Amazon Binocular Project. Photo by Phil Kahler
OUR WORK

MISSION:
To support the key role of education in realizing the global goal of Amazon conservation and sustainability.

VISION:
A world in which the Amazon – its forests, rivers, biodiversity, and people – is treasured and protected as a vital global resource for generations to come.

View of Maijuna ancestral lands, Peruvian Amazon. Photo by Scott Sprengel
We partner with scientists, educators, and people who live in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon to provide profound educational experiences for teachers and students. Our work encompasses three strategies:

**PROVIDING** U.S. teachers with opportunities for transformative professional development,

**CREATING** and sharing effective teaching resources within a collaborative network of educators, and

**SUPPORTING** conservation education in the Peruvian Amazon.

“The Morpho Institute is a source of community, engagement, inspiration, and hope. The Morpho Institute gives me the opportunity to convert scientific theories and data into inspiration for conservation actions and global engagement with school teachers and their classrooms.”

- Katie Feilen, PhD, Miami University
AN UNUSUAL YEAR

The COVID-19 pandemic hit just as we were concluding an Amazon workshop for a group of U.S. teachers and students. With further travel impossible, we pivoted toward supporting our Peruvian collaborators who were facing dire medical conditions, no income, and no safety net in this critical time when their ecotourism income had vanished. The $20K in donations that we raised enabled our travel partners, naturalist guides, and Indigenous conservation leaders in Peru to obtain badly needed medical supplies, food, and other essentials.

“The Morpho Institute is more than a partner, more than a collaborator. We work together to make the Amazon Rainforest accessible to everyone who wants to learn here, but the leaders of the Morpho Institute took a step further during the pandemic. Their Amazon Friends and Family Relief Fund helped more than 120 families find hope as COVID-19 raged through Iquitos and the surrounding river communities. That is a connection that goes above and beyond. It touched the hearts of every one of us.”

- Pamela Bucur, Amazon Explorama Lodges, Peru
On the home front, we turned our attention to enriching web-based connections that make the Morpho Institute a treasured network among our alumni, faculty, and friends. Actions included:

**CREATING** a monthly webinar series led by scientists and educators, with the first 6 sessions attracting a total of 172 participants.

**EXPANDING** our Amazon conservation curriculum to include three case studies focusing on the Maijuna indigenous people, written by a teacher and piloted by 11 others.

**FORMING** a taskforce to guide efforts to make our field experiences available to a more diverse range of educators and students.

**COLLABORATING** with faculty from Haskell and Sinte Gleska Universities on ways to engage their Native American undergraduates in our programming.

“The Morpho team is all in when it comes to helping support the Maijuna in their fight for their ancestral lands and cultural survival. We couldn't hope for more committed and dedicated partners. We are filled with gratitude for the passion, energy and commitment that Morpho brings to the table.”

- Dr. Michael Gilmore  
  George Mason University and OnePlanet
2020 FINANCES

2020 REVENUE
$31,235.00

2020 EXPENSES
$25,465.00

Restricted Contributions ........ 66%
Unrestricted Contributions ...... 34%

Contributions to Peruvian Partners .... 79%
Operations .................................. 17%
Fundraising .................................. 2%
Program Services ......................... 2%

NOTE ON THIS UNUSUAL BUDGET YEAR:

Founded in 2019, the Morpho Institute’s planned budget was based on fee-for-service field experiences for K-12 educators in the Peruvian Amazon. Although this income was nonexistent in 2020, we are grateful that by combining extremely low operating expenses with generous donations we have been able to provide badly needed assistance to our Amazonian partners in this crisis year.

“It is rare as an educator to be fully engaged with like minded professionals over an extended time. The Morpho Institute gathers outstanding professionals to facilitate thinking, doing, planning, collaborating, and meditating on science manifested all around us. Together we are committed to helping the students in our classes, the peoples of the forest, and the scientists who continue to campaign for its survival.”

- Janet Ort, Hoover High School, Alabama
A LOOK AHEAD

Once travel restrictions are lifted, we plan to host our Educator Academy in the Amazon in July 2022. We eagerly anticipate resuming field experiences with Explorama naturalist guides and Indigenous Maijuna partners and continuing to support their rainforest conservation initiatives. We will seek to expand our scholarship fund to enable a more diverse group of educators to engage in these transformative experiences.

“Love for the Amazon and for the Indigenous Maijuna are at the root of the Morpho Institute’s success. In the midst of the pandemic, the Morpho Institute’s incredible monthly webinars focused on intersections between education, conservation, ecology, and human rights. Top-notch engagement and determination to do Good even in the adversity of this year!”

- Seth Buddy, The Asheville School, North Carolina
DONORS

We are deeply grateful to donors at every level, all of whom are supporting conservation of the Amazon rainforest through education initiatives in the U.S. and Peru. The following individuals donated $100 or more to the Morpho Institute’s 2020 Annual Fund and/or Amazon Friends and Family Relief Fund set up to help our Peruvian partners in this pandemic year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>$500 AND ABOVE</th>
<th>$100 - $499</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Beil-Morgan &amp; Randy Morgan</td>
<td>Renee Larson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Col</td>
<td>Cathy Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christa &amp; Scott Dillabaugh</td>
<td>Judy Logan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Gatz &amp; Roger Telschow</td>
<td>Margaret Lowman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Keena &amp; Shannon Whitehead</td>
<td>Raymond Ludwig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David &amp; Sandy Longhofer</td>
<td>Stephen Madigosky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikki Mitchell</td>
<td>Carol Malek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russ Moore</td>
<td>Eloise Malinsky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duncan O’Brien</td>
<td>Dave Mangus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Tracy</td>
<td>Elaine Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy &amp; Charlie Trautmann</td>
<td>Rachel Martinez-Finn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dick &amp; Bonnie Wilson</td>
<td>Megan McDaniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underwriters Laboratories</td>
<td>Rob Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Ruth Morton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Janet Ort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Roger &amp; Anita Palmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deborah Prestridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawrence Randle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patricia Redden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kelly Riddle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christine Rohal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jo-Anne Sawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>George &amp; Anne Sly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allen Stenstrup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Suzanne Stromberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lindsey Swierk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Herb Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monica Ventrice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Walker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kendyl Warren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judith Whalley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rebecca Rehder Wingerden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gary and Nancy Wolber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patricia Woods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anonymous (13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our main study site, Explorama’s Canopy Walkway. Photo by Rebecca Schroeder
TRIBUTES

We are honored to share the names of these individuals who were recognized by family and friends through donations to the Morpho Institute.

**IN MEMORY OF**

James E. Mitchell  
Courtney R. Wilson  
Mildred Zehr

**IN HONOR OF**

Clinton Patrick Beatty  
Laura Branch  
Christa Dillabaugh  
TB Hebert  
Kelly Keena  
Janet Ort  
Deborah Prestridge  
Nancy Trautmann

**SPECIAL THANKS** to our Advisory Council, who helped launch the Morpho Institute in 2019 and guide our online initiatives during the 2020 pandemic year.

Laura Branch  
Kirsten Franklin  
Phil Kahler  
Colleen McDaniel (*Vernier Software & Technology*)  
Megan McDaniel  
Chanda Jefferson  
Janet Ort  
Jordan Wolf  
Christi Paulson  
Deborah Prestridge  
Anne Marie Radke  
Jo-Anne Sawyer  
Michelle Watkins  
Rebecca Wingerden

**WITH GRATITUDE** to these key partners who play vital roles in rainforest conservation and education in the Loreto Region of the Peruvian Amazon:

Amazon Explorama Lodges  
OnePlanet  
The Maijuna community of Sucusari
HELP GROW THESE VITAL INITIATIVES!

The Morpho Institute is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are tax deductible.

CONTRIBUTE ONLINE HERE:
https://morphoinstitute.org/donate/

OR MAIL A CHECK TO:
P.O. Box 7257
Kansas City
MO 64113

For more information, contact director@morphoinstitute.org or (913) 214-6126.

https://morphoinstitute.org/

https://www.facebook.com/morphoinstitute/
https://www.instagram.com/morphoinstitute/
https://twitter.com/MorphoInstitute
https://www.linkedin.com/company/36016317/admin/

Transformational Professional Development for K-12 teachers. Photo by Kelly Keena