

# Kamëntsá Language Revitalization Project

*Preserving a Sacred Language. Reviving a Living Culture.*

July 2025 – December 2026

## A Sacred Language on the Brink

The Kamëntsá Nation of Colombia's Sibundoy Valley—guardians of the sacred plant Yagé (Ayahuasca) and carriers of ancient ecological wisdom—stand at a pivotal crossroads. With only 6% of the population still fluent, their ancestral language is at risk of extinction within the next decade.

When a language dies, a world dies with it: songs, prayers, medicine, and the very map of how to live in harmony with nature.

## Our Response

In collaboration with the Indigenous organization OIOC and the Circle of Sacred Nature (CSN), and with seed support from Chacruna's Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative, we have launched a two-phase revitalization program centered on education, community empowerment, and cultural expression.

## What We're Building (2025–2026)

### - Formal School Integration

Weekly Kamëntsá language instruction is provided for over 280 children, incorporating elements such as signage, storytelling, music, and theater in local schools.

### - Community Immersion Schools

: 6 interactive village-based schools (serving children, youth, and elders) with weekly language gatherings led by trained facilitators.

### - Living Curriculum Creation

: Illustrated workbooks, oral tradition modules, ceremonial chants, and co-created music/theater rooted in Kamëntsá cosmology.

### - Facilitator Training & Mentorship

14+ new facilitators trained through intergenerational models, monthly workshops, and peer exchanges.

## Impact by December 2026

- 340+ direct participants (students, elders, teachers)
- 1,500+ community members reached through performances, signage, and shared materials
- 4 learning centers equipped with Kamëntsá-language visuals and tools
- 1 full-year curriculum, 7 modules, and original artistic content archived for long-term cultural use

## Funding Need

Phase	Dates	Total Budget
-------	-------	--------------

Pilot Phase	Jul–Dec 2025	\$13,000 USD
Full Expansion	Jan–Dec 2026	\$26,000 USD
Total (18 months)	–	\$39,000 USD

Your support will directly fund instruction, cultural content creation, youth-elder training, and long-term sustainability.

### Why It Matters

Revitalizing the Kamëntsá language is an act of healing, sovereignty, and resilience. It is not only about saving a language—it's about amplifying a worldview that cherishes balance, reciprocity, and harmony with the Earth.

### Join Us

We invite visionary funders and allies to support this movement and ensure that the Kamëntsá voice continues to echo for generations.

Contact:

Celina De Leon | Erika Salazar

Program Mag., OIOC | Circle of Sacred Nature

[info@oioc.co](mailto:info@oioc.co) | [www.oioc.co](http://www.oioc.co)

# Full Proposal (5 pages)

## Kamëntsá Language Revitalization Project

*July 2025 – December 2026*

### **Preserving a Sacred Language. Reviving a Living Culture.**

The Kamëntsá people of the Sibundoy Valley in southern Colombia are among the few remaining Indigenous communities of the Piedemonte Amazónico. Guardians of the sacred plant Yagé (Ayahuasca) and carriers of ancestral ecological wisdom, their culture is a vital contribution to humanity's global heritage.

Today, this legacy faces an urgent threat.

Only 6% of the Kamëntsá population still speaks the ancestral language. Without immediate and community-led intervention, this sacred language could disappear within a decade, taking with it an entire system of spiritual, medicinal, and ecological knowledge.

### **Who We Are**

For the past ten years, the Organización Indígena OIOC and the Circle of Sacred Nature (CSN) have collaborated closely with Kamëntsá elders, youth, and leaders to defend and revitalize their territory, language, and cultural identity.

Through initiatives in reforestation, food sovereignty, traditional medicine, and intergenerational healing, we have created a strong foundation for this next step: restoring the Kamëntsá language through formal education, immersive community schools, and the creative arts.

### **Program Overview**

In early 2025, with support from Chacruna's Indigenous Reciprocity Initiative (IRI), we successfully launched a pilot phase that included:

- A four-week immersive school with 12 children in Vereda El Ejido
- Integration of Kamëntsá language classes into the Champagnan Public School, reaching 280 children aged 6 to 15

Building on this success, the next phase will expand and formalize a year-long program across the Kamëntsá territory. From July 2025 through December 2026, we will:

- Strengthen formal language instruction in the school system
- Launch three interactive community schools with weekly gatherings
- Develop a living curriculum rooted in Kamëntsá cosmology
- Empower a new generation of language keepers, educators, and cultural leaders

## **Program Components**

### **1. Formal Language Education**

- Weekly Kamëntsá language classes for 280 students at Champagnan Public School
- Culturally integrated activities including storytelling, music, and theater
- Installation of Kamëntsá-language signage throughout school facilities

### **2. Community Immersion Schools**

- Establishment of three interactive language schools in Kamëntsá villages
- Each school will serve 20 participants (children, youth, and adults)
- Weekly gatherings led by trained facilitators, with participation from elders
- Programming includes theater, music, oral tradition, and language games

### **3. Curriculum and Materials Development**

- Creation of seven foundational language modules
- Design of illustrated workbooks, flashcards, and interactive tools
- Co-creation of original songs and theater pieces with community participation
- Audio recording of key vocabulary, chants, and ceremonial phrases

#### **4. Facilitator Training and Empowerment**

- Recruitment and training of local facilitators and language speakers
- Intergenerational learning models that pair elders and youth
- Monthly training sessions, cross-community exchanges, and mentorship

## **Projected Reach**

By December 2026, the program will directly serve:

- 280 children through formal education
- 60 participants through three weekly community immersion schools (20 per village x 3 villages)
- 7+ local facilitators, cultural leaders, and knowledge keepers
- Four learning centers (schools and village spaces) equipped with Kamëntsá signage
- A full-year curriculum, artistic content, and educational materials distributed throughout the territory

**Direct beneficiaries:** 340+

**Broader community impact:** 1,500+

---

# Budget Overview

## Phase 1: Pilot Implementation

July – December 2025  
6-month Budget: \$13,000 USD

Category	Amount (USD)	Description
Curriculum & Materials	\$2,800	Development of seven modules, visual design, and basic audio
Formal School Program	\$3,000	Weekly instruction, teacher stipends, signage
3 Community Immersion Schools	\$3,600	Weekly sessions, snacks, materials, transport (3 x \$1,200)
Music & Theater Creation	\$1,000	Community co-creation of songs and performances
Facilitator Training	\$1,200	Preparation of youth and elder instructors
Coordination & Monitoring	\$1,400	Local project management and reporting
Total	\$13,000	6-month budget - July- December 2025

---

## Phase 2: Full Program Expansion

**January – December 2026**  
**Yearly Budget: \$26,000 USD**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount (USD)</b>	<b>Description</b>
Advanced Curriculum Development	\$1,000	Finalization, printing, and module upgrade
Music & Theater Expansion	\$3,000	Full production of cultural content
School Signage	\$2,800	Kamëntsá-language signs in four educational centers
Formal Education Program	\$5,500	Weekly instruction, teacher support, and class facilitation
6 Community Immersion Schools	\$7,200	Weekly sessions, snacks, materials, and transport (6x1200)
Transportation & Outreach	\$1,000	Travel for facilitators and outreach to remote areas
Training & Capacity Building 7 more Kamentsa facilitators	\$2,300	Ongoing facilitator training and community exchange
Project Management & Monitoring (12 months)	\$3,200	Local coordination and impact measurement

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>	12-month budget January - December 2026
--------------	-----------------	---




## Why It Matters

The Kamëntsá language is a living vessel of memory, prayer, healing, and place-based knowledge. Revitalizing it is not only a matter of cultural survival—it is a pathway to healing and self-determination for a people whose worldview honors the balance of life and nature.

This project is more than education. It is a movement of renewal, dignity, and resistance.

We invite you to walk with us—to help restore a language, strengthen a culture, and ensure that the voice of the Kamëntsá echoes into the future.

## The OIOC Team

 Kamëntsá Territory, Sibundoy Valley  
 [www.oioc.co](http://www.oioc.co) |  [info@oioc.co](mailto:info@oioc.co) | IG: [@oioc\\_org](https://www.instagram.com/oioc_org)