Indigenous Sustainability Solutions: Leveraging Indigenous Languages to Enhance Amazonian Biocultures (3 Credits)

You will support Language 4 Sustainability (L4S), a solution-oriented initiative led by the instructor in Ecuador. We are working with Waorani, Quechua and Achuar to enhance biodiversity, while disseminating indigenous culture and knowledge worldwide through the Sustainability Field School model. The L4S solution is scalable across indigenous lands.

Over 300 million Indigenous Peoples from about 5,000 ethnic groups represent over 90% of global cultural diversity. Indigenous Peoples control about 18% of the world's lands, roughly estimated to contain 80% of the planet's biodiversity. While they have historically been effective ecological stewards, exposure to modern lifestyles combined with limited access to global economy raises concerns about overexploitation of their environment and natural resources as well as loss of their knowledge and cultural heritage.

You will:
- Design & implement a webinar (to be registered as an event of the UN Year of Indigenous Languages) on success factors of biocultural projects with participation of the NGO “Weaving Ties”.
- Continue building a database of biocultural initiatives already started by students and Faculty members at Leuphana.
- Learn about the Sustainability Field School model and the instructor’s experience in Ecuador.
- Learn about program-based evaluation and contribute to a collectively authored manuscript on the database and the analysis of initiatives’ success.
- Work on submitting proposals seeking funds to scale the Sustainability Field Schools model.
- Contribute to dissemination of Sustainability Field Schools through our webpage, TED-style talks, promotional materials, and other means TBD collectively.

For further details contact Dr. David Manuel-Navarrete (Assoc. Prof. Sustainability) at davidmn@asu.edu (open to any credit-seeking graduate student at ASU)