



## STRATEGY 1: PARTNER

We remain committed to the principles of mutual trust, reciprocal learning, and deep partnership.

In our grantmaking, we will:

- Continue to partner with visionary grassroots groups, organizations, and movements in Africa, Asia, and Latin America working on the interdependent issues of [food sovereignty](#), [alternative economies](#), and [climate justice](#).
- Prioritize groups led by and/or working with youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples.
- Continue to offer core, flexible, long-term support and to grow the size of our grants and partnerships over the next three years.
- Provide a wide range of supplemental support, including emergency, alliance building, and innovation grants and work with our partners to increase their visibility, awards, and sources of funding.

## STRATEGY 2: WEAVE

We will facilitate dialogue and interconnectedness between grassroots groups, networks, and movements.

We will:

- Hold regional, cross-regional, and thematic learning exchanges to connect our partners to each other and additional aligned groups and movements in their countries, regions, and around the world.
- Support strategic campaigns that work to advance systemic change in policy and practice.
- Seek and create opportunities to support national, regional, or global networks, movements, and research institutes whose work complements and aligns with our partners' work.
- Use our position and influence in affinity groups to amplify our partners' work by engaging them as speakers, sharing their work and strategy, and connecting them to new allies, partners, and funders.

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## STRATEGY 3: AMPLIFY

We will use online and in-person communications and community engagement strategies to amplify our partners' transformative solutions to our shared global challenges.

We will:

- Develop and implement amplification projects including campaigns and storytelling initiatives that center the strategies and voices of our partners.
- Build internal capacity to help staff communicate our work with confidence and clarity.
- Promote books featuring Thousand Currents partners and staff to engage audiences and raise the visibility of our partners' work and solutions.
- Organize panels, workshops, and gatherings that feature partners and the issues we work on at funder affinity groups and sectoral conferences.



## STRATEGY 4: GROW

We will focus on organizational growth that is reflective, experimental, nimble, and balanced, cultivating an organizational culture that emphasizes joy and well-being, builds robust financial and operational systems, and ensures our financial sustainability.

We will:

- Grow Thousand Currents' funding base so that we may channel additional resources to grassroots groups and movements by deepening our relationships with and organizing our existing donors.
- Cultivate new relationships with individual donors, with diaspora groups, and with institutional donors in the Global North.
- Strengthen and expand the Thousand Currents Academy, the Grassroots Climate Solutions Fund (GCSF), and the Buen Vivir Fund (BVF).
- Grow our influence among young people and diasporans in the Washington, D.C. and New York region by using communications and media platforms.



## STRATEGY 5: TRANSFORM

We will work to influence the philanthropy and impact investing sectors to adopt practices built on mutual trust, learning, and accountability, such as directly supporting grassroots groups and movements through core, operating support.

In our philanthropic advocacy work, we will:

- Organize donors through targeted programming to strengthen knowledge, practice, and community around relational philanthropy.
- Use the Thousand Currents Academy and strategic donor organizing to train philanthropists, influencers, young professionals, diaspora donors, impact investors, and other actors in philanthropy to exercise social justice philanthropy and investing practices.
- Model giving alternatives that demonstrate how philanthropists and impact investors can reimagine their work through BVF and GCSF.



**Thousand  
Currents**

# RISING CURRENTS 2018-2020

## ABOUT THOUSAND CURRENTS

*Grassroots organizations and movements led by women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples are cultivating rooted, effective, and transformative solutions to global challenges.*

They do all the work, we provide the funding. [Thousand Currents](#) is a public foundation funding grassroots work that addresses the interdependent issues of [food sovereignty](#), [alternative economies](#), and [climate justice](#).

We have invested in over 750 community-led initiatives in 37 countries for over 30 years. Through [our grantmaking program](#), we partner with organizations and movements — led by women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples in the Global South — that are creating lasting solutions to our shared global challenges.

Thousand Currents works with its grassroots partners to scale their successes. We provide support that strengthens partners' programs, leadership, and emerging approaches that build self-determined, thriving communities; linking them to broader social change movements at the regional, national, and global

levels. Through our Philanthropic Partnerships program, we work with donors to adopt transformative practices that dismantle injustice and inequity. We are a vocal and visible advocate for grassroots-led social change, bridging emerging approaches and learnings from the Global South with philanthropic models and practices in the Global North.

Our partners resist government and corporate abuses of human and natural resources that perpetuate inequality, poverty, and injustice. They reimagine wealth, power, and well-being to offer solutions that draw from ancestral wisdom. Through their innovations, they reflect the needs of today and the possibilities of tomorrow. They move with steadfast dignity, resolve, and courage to build new sources of power through ingenuity and vision. They leave a lasting impact.



**FOOD SOVEREIGNTY**



**ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIES**



**CLIMATE JUSTICE**

## VISION

Thousand Currents envisions a world in which self-determined and connected peoples share and uphold the abundance of life. There is enough...for all and for future generations.

## VALUES

### Courage

We confront injustice and inequality with love, strength, conviction, and integrity.

### Humility

We are part of a greater whole. We are one among many currents. We recognize our place among many forces for good and change that exist in the world.

### Creative collaboration

We share power, practices, and resources to reimagine new ways of living.

### Experimentation

In order to take principled actions together, we prioritize learning, commit to self-reflection, embrace trial by error, and honor multiple ways of knowing.

### Interdependence

With our futures intertwined, we respect all beings and build authentic relationships to move forward together.

## GOALS

From 2018-2020, Thousand Currents is committed to using its resources, access, and influence to deepen the core and turn up the volume through more funding, stronger partnerships and initiatives, streamlined communications, and bolder philanthropic advocacy. Explore our strategies for change on the other side of this document.

### We will:

- Build a stronger, more interconnected, and better-resourced ecosystem of partners in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- Elevate our partners' work, strategies, and solutions as exemplars and beacons of our better future on a global stage.
- Cultivate a just, equitable, and inclusive philanthropic sector that centers local solutions, forms learning partnerships with grassroots groups and reimagines wealth, well-being, and giving.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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