



Wampís of Guayabal & Aboutface - *Los Bosquesinos* (People of the Forests)

An intercultural collaboration with the Indigenous Wampís forest community living in the Peruvian Amazon: exploring soundscapes and ancient Nampet songs to support conservation, and initiatives against illegal deforestation and ecocide

100% of all sales revenues from the LP will go directly to the Wampís to protect their rainforest territory

Release date: 6th June

Label: [Coordinates](#)

Format: Vinyl, Digital, Streaming

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The Peruvian Amazon is home to more than 51 Indigenous groups including the Wampís, who have over millennia, developed a way of life that is entirely connected to their rainforest territory. With a population of roughly 15,000 who live dispersed over an area covering nearly 1.4 million hectares, they confront continuous threats driven by extractive industries that are central to global capitalism. Illegal gold mining is currently the most pressing issue. Meanwhile, for them, prosperity is achieving a state of profound ecological harmony between humans, plants, spirits and animals. Leaning into the latter, they've long embraced their traditional, ancient songs called Nampets which are sung from the perspective of animals living in the rainforest.

Set to be a pivotal event for the Wampís, for the first time ever their Nampet songs will be heard outside of their community through a collaboration with Brighton-based conceptual artist and musician **Aboutface (Ben Kelly)**. Spending a month living in one of the 85 community settlements across the Wampís' rainforest territory, he readies **new album *Los Bosquesinos*** for release through his label Coordinates. Collaboratively capturing field recordings, music instrumentation and their Nampets, the recordings informed four improvised performances to articulate the stories of the animal protagonists in each song (parrots, fish, grasshoppers and hawks). These songs speak to their sacred belief that nature and culture are inseparable. The message is that humanity is not exclusive to humans, but is a multi-naturalist characteristic available to all living organisms.

100% of sales revenues from *Los Bosquesinos* will go directly to fund Wampís-led eco-initiatives to preserve their rainforest territory. The funding will also support eco-cultural initiatives that help preserve their cultural heritage, as embedded in their songs, crafts, and traditional knowledge, such as their Sharian leadership school. Unlike state-provided education, this school teaches Wampís eco-cultural identity and Indigenous knowledge to best equip young Wampís as future stewards of their rainforest territory. Fund distribution will be determined by a panel of Wampís leaders, led by Shapiom Noningo Sesen.

This is the second fundraiser that Aboutface has organised for the Wampís, with the first coming off the back of a live performance piece for [NTS in 2018](#). A crowdfunding campaign raised over £1,000 which was used to compensate unpaid teachers and help build a new school for indigenous arts and crafts.

Those familiar with his performances and discography, including debut LP °s on revered experimental **London label AD93**, will be moved by this captivating experimental electronica and ambient piece. Best experienced through the non-stop mix, listeners will feel that they're being transported from one part of the Wampís rainforest territory to the next, between the environments of the four animals. The LP is also an archival piece as sections of where these recordings were taken have since been destroyed.

He connected with the community through highly-regarded members-only festival **Freerotation** and their Cardiff-based partner charity **Size of Wales**, which works with Indigenous and local people worldwide to grow trees and protect at least 2 million hectares of tropical forests – an area the size of Wales. The Wampís' territory is a world-renowned hotspot for biodiversity, with their forests making a significant contribution to climate mitigation globally. Vital custodians of these precious ecosystems, they're up against ongoing deforestation and habitat destruction as illegal logging, goldmining, and oil and gas exploitation wages on, as well as the threat of a proposed mega-dam and a highway. These destructive actions constitute ecocide - deliberate or negligent human acts that severely harm essential ecosystems vital to global biological health. Ecocide threatens the cultural heritage, livelihoods, and biodiversity of the Wampís Nation, which is inherently linked to the stability of Earth's climate and global ecological balance.

Aboutface has taken on other creative projects that aestheticise environmental themes. *Los Bosquesinos* follows *The water that glows like dancing glass cuts crimson*. Concerned with glaciology and rising sea levels, he merged poetry collected from his dreams alongside sound recordings captured during polar expeditions to Antarctica's most vulnerable areas c/o the Alfred Wegener Institute - a centre for polar and marine research.

An Anthropology PhD student in his first year at Sussex University, Aboutface is the first artist and musician to receive the SEDarc scholarship award, which provides funding for postgraduate researchers in the social sciences, and will fund a new co-research with the Wampís in 2026, collaboratively mapping the soundscapes and songs of their ancestral territory called *The Iña Wampisti Nunke*, alongside paraecology– locally trained ecological research to determine the

impact of ecocide in their rivers.

This album has been funded by Help Musicians. Advised by Shapiom Noningo Sesen – Wampís leader and advisor to the Gobierno Territorial Autónomo de la Nación Wampís (GTANW), and supported by charities Size of Wales & Forest Peoples Programme. Project partners Rubadub, Dubplates & Mastering and Deepgrooves have kindly provided their services with substantial subsidies to contribute to the project and ensure this release is financially accessible and effective in its fundraising aims.

TRACKLIST

- A1. Kutir (Parrot)
- A2. Wancha (Fish)
- B1. Manchi (Grasshopper)
- B2. Pinchichi (Hawk)

CREDITS

Nampet songs:

Kutir, Wancha and Pinchichi by Elizabeth Huampankit Najamtai.
Manchi by Fernando Ijisam Tsakim.

Acoustic Percussion by Wampís band Guayabita:

Fernando Ijisam Tsakim, Edilberto Ijisam Tello, Larry Tello Huampankit, Jose Luis Cahuata Pipa, Tedy Tello Cahuata, Heyner Tello Cahuata, Eli Artista Antonio, Never Tello Huampankit

Violin by Taro. Peruvian bamboo quena, classical flute, acoustic guitar, electronics, composition and arrangement by Aboutface.

Original portrait painting of Fernando Ijisam Tsakim by Nyran Loomcal.

All other artworks, analogue photography and design by Aboutface.

Rainforest field recordings were identified and collected by The Wampís of Guayabal and Aboutface.

