



**To:** Kualama Foundation

**From:** Tiamoeg Steele, CEO of Sun Nation

**Date:** 08/30/2025

**Re:** Installation of the Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta

---

Dear Kualama Foundation Board,

Enclosed is the **official English translation** of the foundational minutes from the **Installation of the Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta**, held on **August 25, 2025**, in Nabusimake. This Regional Table marks a historic and sacred milestone—a legally recognized, high-level dialogue between the Colombian State and the Indigenous authorities of the Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa, and Kankuamo peoples.

This document was originally delivered by the Colombian government and Arhuaco authorities. I translated it verbatim into English so that Sun Nation, and trusted partners like Kualama, could be fully informed of the event's outcomes and legal implications. The original Spanish version remains private though I have included a referencing screenshot for your insight.

Importantly, **this milestone could not have happened without Kualama's important financial support.**

Your contribution was instrumental in enabling critical logistics that facilitated the convening of this moment. Ni'kuma—the representing organization of the Arhuaco Authorities—expressed sincere gratitude, noting that although some expected leaders were absent, the presence of key mamos, the summoning of registered cabildos, and the legal recognition from the National Land Agency (ANT) together created a breakthrough moment in territorial defense and ancestral governance.

The result is not only the formal installation of a Regional Table—but also a **new resolution process that directly advances Indigenous territorial reclamation across the Sierra Nevada**, aligning with the sacred Law of Origin and the principles of Peace with Nature.

We recognize **Kualama Foundation** as a pivotal ally in this process. Your support rippled through sacred governance and governmental engagement alike, enabling the coalescence of traditional and institutional forces toward a shared vision of sovereignty, ecology, and ancestral justice.

It is now seen that the **4 Original Peoples** are *united* under one front; **reclaiming the land within the Black Line**, the Sierra Nevadas de Santa Marta. —With this monumental and historic advancement, the **Colombian government** can now **officially strengthen** their effort in supporting this mission and communicate the importance of the Heart of the World to the **neighboring Caribbean Nations**.

If there are any questions or desires for deeper involvement, please know you are warmly invited into further conversations.

With gratitude and in sacred alliance,

**Tiamoesg Steele**

CEO – **Sun Nation**

[[tiamoesg@sunnation.org](mailto:tiamoesg@sunnation.org)]



## ACTA DE INSTALACIÓN DE LA MESA REGIONAL DE LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS DE LA SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA

En Nabusimake, a los 25 días del mes de agosto de 2025, siendo las 8:00 am, en las instalaciones del centro ceremonial de pueblo Arhuaco, se reunieron los representantes de la Agencia Nacional de Tierras –ANT–, en compañía de autoridades tradicionales y representantes de los pueblos indígenas Arhuaco, Kogui y Wiwa, con el propósito de instalar de manera oficial la Mesa Regional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

Para los Pueblos Indígenas de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, territorio Sagrado y Corazón del mundo, está regido por dos fuerzas energéticas llamado (Dumeyna y Seykain) que constituyen la bases de todo lo existente, esta ley originaria irradia en todo el universo el cual está plasmado en nuestro territorio sagrado que va desde los picos nevados hasta las profundidades del mar como lo define la ley de origen. Las dos fuerzas energéticas que garantizan la preexistencia de esta ley originaria y custodian la vida del territorio con todos sus elementos está plasmado en toda la geografía de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta y sus pobladores originarios; Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa y Kankuamos, tienen la misión de darle cumplimiento bajo estrictas orientaciones de los mamos desde los espacios de gobierno ancestral (Ka'dukwu Akutu) que cada pueblo reconoce.

La constitución de la abrupta geografía del territorio no ha sido por causa de los tiempos, si no que cada espacio, cada montaña, cada laguna, cada elemento cumplen una misión para el cuidado de la vida universal y por ende Umunukunu - Nabusimake, es el lugar donde se establecen los espacios de gobierno para el cuidado del territorio, por tal razón para el ejercicio de la autoridad de los pueblos originarios, se hace necesario la articulación con el gobierno nacional colombiano creando una instancia de dialogo de gobierno a gobierno para de defensa del Corazón del Mundo llamado "Mesa Regional de los Pueblos Indígenas de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta", para salvar la vida del territorio en desarrollo de las políticas de "PAZ CON LA NATURALEZA" ratificando la consigna que nació en el espacio de Gobierno, Seykúmuke.

Dicho espacio será la instancia de diálogo de alto nivel de gobierno indígena de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta y gobierno nacional, creado por mandatos de los Ka'dukwu originarios de Seykúmuke y Numa'ka donde se da la instalación y sus sesiones ordinarias y extraordinarias, podrán desarrollarse en espacios diferentes definidos por los mamos bajo las consultas tradicionales. Cualquier cuestionamiento a la creación de esta instancia y/o su disolución será definida solo por los ka'dukwu que lo ha originado.

### I. CONTEXTO Y FUNDAMENTOS

La Agencia Nacional de Tierras declara la importancia de generar este espacio en cumplimiento de la orden del Presidente de la República, pronunciada en Nabusimake el 28 de agosto de 2024, consistente en adelantar todos los esfuerzos necesarios para devolverle el territorio ancestral de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta a los pueblos originarios de este territorio (desde la Reserva hasta la Línea Negra).



# **MINUTES OF INSTALLATION OF THE REGIONAL TABLE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA**

---

On August 25, 2025, at 8:00 a.m., in Nabusimake, ceremonial center of the Arhuaco people, the representatives of the National Land Agency (ANT) gathered, accompanied by traditional authorities and representatives of the Arhuaco, Kogui, and Wiwa indigenous peoples, with the purpose of officially installing the Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

For the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Sacred Territory and Heart of the World, this space is governed by two energetic forces called *Dumeyna* and *Seykain*, which constitute the foundation of all existence. This original law radiates throughout the entire universe and is deposited in our sacred territory, which extends from the snowy peaks to the depths of the sea, as defined by the Law of Origin.

The two energetic forces that guarantee the preexistence of this original law and safeguard life in the territory and all its elements are present throughout the entire geography of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Its original inhabitants—the Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa, and Kankuamo peoples—have the mission of fulfilling this law under the strict guidance of the *Mamos*, from within the ancestral government spaces (*Ka'dukwu Akutu*) recognized by each people.

The constitution of the territory's abrupt geography is not the product of time, but rather, every space, every mountain, every lagoon, every element has a mission in the care of universal life. Thus, *Umunukunu - Nabusimake* is the place where the spaces of government are established for the care of the territory. Therefore, in the exercise of the authority of the original peoples, coordination with the national government of Colombia is required, creating a government-to-government dialogue body for the defense of the Heart of the World, called the "Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta," in order to save the life of the territory within the development of the "Peace with Nature" policies, reaffirming the slogan born in the Government Space, *Seykúmuке*.

This space will be the high-level dialogue body between the Indigenous Government of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and the National Government, created by mandate of the original *Ka'dukwu* of *Seykúmuке* and *Numa'ka*, where the installation and ordinary/extraordinary sessions will take place, and which may also be held in other spaces defined by the *Mamos* through traditional consultation processes. Any challenge to the creation of this body and/or its dissolution will be defined only by the *Ka'dukwu* that gave rise to it.

---

## **I. CONTEXT AND FOUNDATIONS**

---

The National Land Agency expresses the importance of creating this space in compliance with the order of the President of the Republic, delivered in Nabusimake on August 28, 2024, consisting of making every necessary effort to return the ancestral territory of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta to the original peoples of this land (from the Reservation to the Black Line).

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, declared by UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve, Man and World Heritage Site, constitutes an ancestral territory of the highest environmental, cultural, and spiritual value for the Colombian Nation. In its snowy peaks, rivers, and valleys, a sacred order of life is preserved, whose ancestral custody has been entrusted to the original peoples.

The Colombian State, in compliance with the provisions of Articles 7, 8, 63, 246, 287, 329, and 330 of the Political Constitution, and the implementation of ILO Convention 169 (Law

21 of 1991), recognizes and protects the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Nation, guaranteeing Indigenous Peoples the exercise of their collective rights, autonomy, and their own jurisdiction. This is in accordance with the *Jimain* Agreement of November 23, 2023.

Additionally, the legal framework includes Decree 1500 of 2018, which redefines the ancestral territory of the Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa, and Kankuamo peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta as a system of sacred spaces of the “Black Line” – *Sheshiza* –, with an integral protection approach: spiritual, cultural, and environmental. This decree, consistent with the Law of Origin, Law 21 of 1991, and Ruling 189 of 2013 of the Constitutional Court, extends the recognition of sacred sites from 54 to 348 and legitimizes the self-government, autonomy, and spiritual relationship of these peoples with their territory.

In jurisprudence, Ruling T-849 of 2014 is highlighted, which consolidated the concept of ancestral territory, including its spiritual and collective dimensions. Ruling SU-121 of 2022 reaffirmed the right to effective participation of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Additionally, Ruling SU-419 of 2024 protected the fundamental rights to autonomy, self-government, and ethnic identity of the Arhuaco people.

In transitional justice, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP), through Case 09, in July 2024, recognized the ancestral territory of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and the Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa, and Kankuamo peoples as victims. This recognition grants them the status of holders of collective rights and fosters their participation in processes of truth, justice, and reparation, within the framework of legal pluralism.

Within this framework, the National Land Agency, as the governing body of land policy in the country, declares the importance of opening a permanent space for consensus-building and intercultural dialogue, as experienced with the Amazon Regional Table, but with specific territorial and cultural relevance for the peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

---

## **II. OBJECTIVES OF THE REGIONAL TABLE**

---

The Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta will be a space created by resolution of the National Land Agency (ANT), as a high-level forum for

consensus-building, political, and technical dialogue, in which the Colombian State and the Indigenous authorities converge to:

- Define joint guidelines and strategies to guarantee, protect, formalize, expand, clean up, and consolidate the Indigenous reserves of the Sierra Nevada, as well as to acquire lands for this purpose.
- Advance the construction of public policies that guarantee the collective rights of the Indigenous peoples in terms of territory, self-government, special jurisdiction, and cultural survival.
- Articulate State efforts with the ancestral governance visions and the Law of Origin that guide the life and worldview of the Arhuaco, Kogui, Wiwa, and Kankuamo peoples.
- Strengthen the protection of strategic ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, in coherence with Indigenous life plans and international commitments related to climate change and biodiversity.

The Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta acquires the character of a decision-making body, with the capacity to guarantee concrete actions aimed at the integral protection of the territory as an indivisible unit, as conceived by the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

In this sense, the Table must jointly define the routes and schedules that allow for progress in the acquisition, formalization, expansion, cleanup, and consolidation of the Indigenous reserves of the Sierra Nevada, and along the same lines, a strategic environmental management plan.

---

### **III. FORMAL INSTALLATION**

---

In this solemn act, the National Land Agency, through its General Director, formally declares the installation of the Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, as a permanent space for dialogue between the State and the Indigenous

peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, guided by the principles of good faith, participation, interculturality, respect for autonomy, sustainability, and historical justice.

It is recognized that the installation of this Table constitutes a milestone in the process of historical reparation by providing an institutional high-level space for the voice of the peoples of the Sierra Nevada, who since time immemorial have sustained the spirituality, environmental balance, and identity of the Nation.

---

## **IV. INITIAL COMMITMENTS**

---

- The Indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta will designate their delegates with full respect for their traditional procedures.
- In its capacity as the governing body of land policy, the National Land Agency undertakes to guarantee the logistical conditions necessary for the proper functioning of the Table, including the appointment of professionals to ensure its operation and follow-up.
- These guarantees will allow the participation of both the representatives of the Indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada and the delegates of the State entities...

...in a framework of dignity, equity, and suitability, ensuring that this state-run and intercultural space becomes consolidated as an operational space with real capacity to produce effective results in terms of protection and consolidation of the ancestral territory of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

The Table shall meet in regular session every six (6) months and in extraordinary session when circumstances warrant. The first session will be held on September 15, 2025, in the city of Santa Marta, with the participation of the four (4) Indigenous peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

## **V. CLOSURE**

---

At 8:00 a.m. on August 25, 2025, this Installation Record of the Regional Table of the Indigenous Peoples of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is formally concluded, and it will be signed in attestation by the representatives of the State and the Indigenous peoples present.

### **BY THE NATIONAL LAND AGENCY (ANT)**

[Signatures of the General Director, Subdirector, and Inspector]

### **BY THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE SIERRA NEVADA DE SANTA MARTA**

[Signatures of traditional authorities and designated representatives]