

For a healthy and sustainable Amazon

Building highways or developing hydrocarbon projects in areas as fragile as the Amazon may bring about effects that frequently are not appropriately anticipated; such as uncontrolled migration, environmental degradation and serious cultural impacts. WWF Peru fosters the implementation of international environmental and social standards within these projects, and works with authorities, financiers, businesses and local communities to prevent and mitigate their impacts while aiming towards a sustainable development.



The Corrientes River in Loreto is part of the largest Ramsar Site in the entire Amazon and a resources source for Achuar, Kichwa and Urarina indigenous communities. However, it has been contaminated by two of the most important oil blocks in the country during 30 years. In 2000, WWF Peru began to work hand in hand with the communities and local partners to strengthen their capacities and promote important research that prompted the Government and involved companies to acknowledge the serious existing contamination for the first time. In 2006, the Achuar population was able to commit the company to reinject 100% of the contaminated water resulting from oil production into the subsoil and since then, the communities personally monitor the water quality of the Corrientes River. On the other hand, in 2003 WWF promoted the adoption of international standards as part of the conditions required by the Inter-American Development Bank to approve the loan to execute the largest gas project in Peru, in Camisea. Also, in 2007 it was part of a group of organizations that successfully demanded the implementation of improvements in the main pipeline, which had already caused six spills. In this sense, WWF has contributed towards the prevention and mitigation of impacts from some of the most sensitive energy projects in the Peruvian Amazon, from the promotion of improved practices to supportive actions with the indigenous communities.

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Quick facts:

- The Amazon River originates at over 5500 m.a.s.l. in the southern Andes of Peru.
- Peru is the second country with the largest extension of Amazon forests (over 70 million hectares).
- The Peruvian Amazon houses over 300 000 indigenous peoples of more than 50 ethnic groups.
- The virgin forests of Peru are the last refuge of approximately 10 000 indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation.

Key information:

- The indigenous populations (Junikuni, Sharanahua, Awajun, Ashaninka, Amahuaca, Yine, Ese Eja, Shipibo Achuar, Kandozi, Quechua, Urarinas and Cocama – Cocamilla, among others) are main allies of WWF Peru in the conservation of the biodiversity in the Amazon and sustainable management of their resources.
- The pink (*Inia geoffrensis*) and gray (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) Amazon River dolphins are key Amazon species that have been prioritized by WWF for their conservation.
- The big leaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) is one of the most valuable and overexploited species, which is why WWF Peru actively promotes a sustainable forest management, while prioritizing diversification of species and respect for the forests.

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AMAZON Programme

biodiversity, indigenous peoples and the source
of the Amazon River

Peruvian Amazon: unique and diverse

The Amazon River originates at 5500 m.a.s.l. in the southern Andes of Peru, which has the second largest extension of Amazon forests (over 70 million hectares). The presence of the Andes Mountain Range has given way to the most extraordinary and biodiverse Amazon ecosystems: from unique clouded forests to vast flooded forests that include the largest Ramsar site (wetland of international importance) in the entire Amazon. There are many record numbers of bird, plant, insect and mammal species, including countless endemic species. This unique region houses 300 000 indigenous peoples of over 50 ethnic groups and represents the last refuge of nearly 10 000 indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation, for whom these forests and rivers are their source of life.

The WWF Peru Amazon Programme promotes biodiversity conservation and the preservation of the environmental services of the Peruvian Amazon alongside indigenous and local communities, facing growing pressures such as hydrocarbon extraction, illegal logging, intensive agriculture and others produced by great infrastructure projects that lack an adequate planning process.

“The presence of the Andes Mountain Range has given way to the most extraordinary and biodiverse Amazon ecosystems: from unique clouded forests to vast flooded forests”

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Important goals

In line with the WWF Amazon Network Initiative, WWF Peru's goal is to guarantee the conservation and integrity of key ecosystems of the Peruvian Amazon, to contribute to the conservation of key Amazon ecosystems and species by 2030, guaranteeing the continuity of their environmental services and of its role as a world climate regulator.



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Protected areas and local participation

The importance of sharing conservation

Participation is the key to the success of conservation. WWF Peru promotes the management of protected areas by indigenous populations and communities, prioritizing their direct participation in the protection and sustainable use of their resources. In this manner, WWF has promoted the creation and management of several of the most important parks and reserves in the Peruvian Amazon, where it works to guarantee biodiversity conservation and improve the living standard of the indigenous population that inhabit this area.

One of the most impressive experiences is the Purus conservation complex – a refuge for the last indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation - in the southern rainforests of Peru. In 2004, WWF Peru promoted the official designation of the Alto Purus National Park and of the Purus Communal Reserve, which together comprise over 2,7 million hectares (an area larger than El Salvador) as part of a joint effort with authorities, local organizations and more importantly, with indigenous communities. The park has evolved from an extensive unprotected area exposed to illegal loggers to being tightly guarded by a team of parkguards organized in seven control posts, the indigenous communities have actively assumed the surveillance of the reserve and their territories, and now monitor their own hunting and fishing activities to guarantee the sustainable use of their resources. Today, Purus is protected by - and in benefit of - its own population.

Sustainable forest management and improved quality of life The forest as a source of resources

Forest management generates incomes and conserves the forests. WWF Peru works in key areas alongside federations and indigenous communities, forest concessionaires, businessmen and authorities, promoting the sustainability of

forestry activities, from the forest itself to the market, as a form of conserving the Amazon and improving the local quality of life.

Since 2002, WWF Peru works with Awajun, Ashaninka, Arahua, Yine, Ese Eja and Shipibo indigenous communities, to develop their technical and commercial capacities. This has enabled them to eliminate illegal logging and consolidate the sustainable management of over 400 000 hectares of communal forests, where they directly produce and commercialize timber and brazil nuts, thus supporting the conservation of their forests. In 2004, WWF Peru contributed towards the first Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for Peruvian indigenous territories in over 35 000 hectares of forests, which guarantees improved practices and greater incomes for the population. In addition, a total of 400 000 hectares - 65% of the national total - have been certified in Peru with supportive guidance from WWF and thanks to the Global Forest & Trade Network, WWF advises the certified concessionaires, linking them with the international market. In doing so, a cycle that promotes improved local living standards and the conservation of the Amazon forests through fair trade is closed.



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Management and conservation of freshwater ecosystems Returning life to our rivers and lakes

It is not surprising that some of the most biodiverse and productive aquatic ecosystems in the world are in the Amazon. WWF Peru works hand in hand with local and indigenous populations to develop tools and capacities to conserve these freshwater ecosystems in several regions of the Peruvian Amazon, through the direct management and monitoring of their own extractive activities and the impacts generated by others (e.g. oil extraction). This is the case of the Abanico de Pastaza, an extensive wetland complex of 3, 8 million hectares in the northern Amazon region of Peru. In 2002 and after three years of work, WWF Peru promoted the designation of this region containing rivers, lakes and flooded forests as a Ramsar site (wetland of international importance), making it the largest in the entire Amazon. Since then, it works with Kandozi communities in areas such as the Rimachi Lake - the most extensive in the Peruvian Amazon and the main food source of over 30 communities – contributing towards improving their

fishing and gathering practices. Today, the communities protect and manage their resources and have become authors of the first indigenous fishing management plan approved by the Government. Furthermore, populations of valuable species such as the paiche or arapaima (the largest fish in the Amazon) and the yellow spotted side neck turtle have recovered and the fishermen have doubled their fish-sale generated incomes, as they have strengthened their market linkages. In addition, the support of WWF has prompted the communities to assert their rights, for instance when facing oil companies, and now they constantly monitor the water quality, becoming guardians of one of the most important wetlands of the Amazon Basin.



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Sustainable productive alternatives and land management New opportunities for local development

One of the best strategies to conserve the forest is to bolster its value as a means to prevent it from being logged. WWF Peru promotes productive alternatives that far from impacting the forest, aid to form barriers to stop other activities such as intensive agriculture and ranching.

In the southeast Amazon region of Peru, exactly on the border with Brazil and Bolivia, the Inter-oceanic Highway poses a great challenge: to mitigate the serious effects projected by this project – such as colonization, ranching and biofuel crops - in some of the most biodiverse and fragile forests in the world. Through local partners, WWF Peru works side by side with hundreds of families that have settled in degraded lands or others close to the highway, promoting agroforestry systems with species such as the Brazil nut, the shiringa – or natural latex - and the copoazu that will simultaneously enable the recovery of deforested lands, generate productive opportunities for the local population and halt other activities that are incompatible with the conservation of the forest. This has made it possible to promote productive and commercial activities that will jointly benefit over 5000 families. In order to guarantee the conservation of the forest, WWF also works with local authorities to consolidate a land zoning scheme that promotes sustainable activities along the highway as a means to incentivize the families that are



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now committed to the forest and prevent pressures such as migration and intensive agriculture from taking root along the highway. This experience is an example of how a combination of safe land use planning and productive alternatives can become a clear Amazon conservation strategy.

Research for conservation

A better knowledge for a better conservation

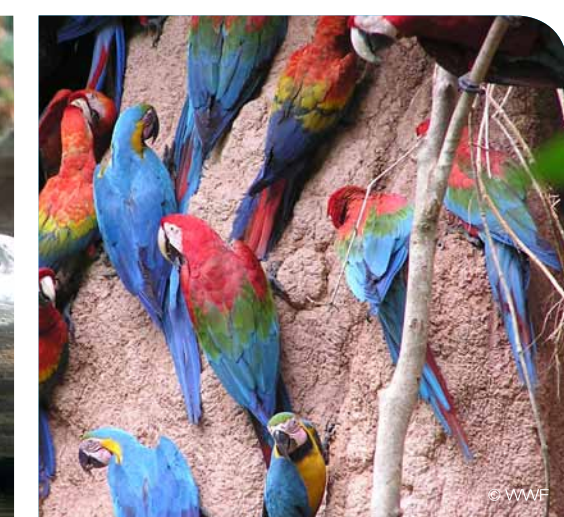
Efficient conservation actions require solid arguments. WWF Peru works to generate firsthand scientific information to design and direct the best conservation and resource management strategies. Whether through the analysis of the most recent geographic and biological information to model the possible advances of the threats against the Amazon, or through direct field work that studies key animals, WWF gathers and produces unprecedented information to sustain successful

tools for the conservation of our biodiversity and to maintain the Amazonian environmental services.

One of the most attractive research experiences in the Amazon is the work carried out by WWF in the southeast region of Peru - in the Tambopata National Reserve and the Bahua Sonene National Park -, where a team of Peruvian and foreign scientists work hand in hand with former parkguards and hunters to carry out the only large scale sustained study involving big cats - and other animals - with radio-transmitters in the region. Through camera traps and the placement of radio-transmitter devices on nearly 20 jaguars and pumas; over 80 macaws and parrots, aside from 40 white lipped peccaries – a kind of wild boar -, the animals are studied to learn about their behavior and determine the minimal areas required to sustain healthy populations of these species. This information provides improved arguments for the creation and management of protected areas and other strategies for the conservation of these species, which aside from being the most charismatic in the Amazon, play a key role in the health of the forests.



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