



Date: November 11, 2024
Subject: **Avoiding the tipping point in the Amazon (IUCN Resolution 129, 2021) by the immediate implementation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).**
For: European Parliament
From: Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), Coordinator of the Initiative "Amazon for Life: let's protect 80% by 2025", avoiding the point of no return.

Introduction:

This memorandum outlines the data, current context, and global, regional, European, and Amazonian frameworks to provide EU MEPs with current information for a favorable vote for an immediate implementation of the Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Objective:

The European Union votes in favor of the immediate implementation of the EUDR as a policy to mitigate current drought and fires in Amazonia as well as deforestation and degradation trajectories that are putting 350 million people in hydric distress.

Relevant Context:

- ❖ After China, the **European Union is the world's second largest importer of tropical deforestation and is responsible for at least 16% of deforestation associated with international trade** in different raw materials. Germany, Italy and Spain are the countries with the greatest impact.¹
- ❖ Data prior to the 2023-2024 fires recorded that combined degradation and deforestation reach 26% of the Amazon.²
- ❖ The [Amazon is on the edge due to drought](#) and extreme fires, which this year break a record by doubling the number of those of 2023, reaching 54,000³ with dire consequences. In Peru, the Amazon River has exceeded its lowest levels in the last 40 years; while in Brazil, the Negro River has reached its lowest level in 122 years.⁴ The drought threatens the food, water, health and energy security of a region that is home to nearly 350 million people in 9 countries⁵ and more than 500 Amazonian Indigenous Peoples.
- ❖ At the energy level, Ecuador suffers blackouts of up to 17 hours in the midst of a serious energy crisis that began in 2023.⁶
- ❖ According to data from the European Parliament, about 137 living species are becoming extinct every day in the Amazon due to habitat loss.⁷
- ❖ The main factor leading to logging in the Amazon is the clearing of agricultural land and pastures. In the first two decades of this century, there was a 50% increase in the expansion of this activity. By 2020, **cattle**

¹ Wedeux, B., Schulmeister-Oldenhove, A., & Jeffries, B. 2021. *Stepping Up?: The Continuing Impact of EU Consumption on Nature Worldwide*. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). <https://www.wwf.es/?56780/denuncia-que-el-consumo-de-la-UE-es-responsable-del-16-de-la-deforestacion-tropical-importada-y-Espana-es-el-tercer-pais-europeo-con-mayor-impacto>

² Quintanilla, Marlene, Carmen Josse, Alicia Guzmán León. 2022. The Amazon against the clock: a regional diagnosis on where and how to protect 80% by 2025. <https://amazonia80x2025.earth/es/amazonia-a-contrarreloj/>

³ <https://www.worldwildlife.org/descubre-wwf/historias/la-amazonia-registro-mas-de-50-000-focos-de-incendios-en-2024>

⁴ <https://ojo-publico.com/5321/el-rio-amazonas-languidece-la-peor-sequia-mas-un-siglo>

⁵ <https://atlas2020.amazoniasocioambiental.org/posts/amazonia>

⁶ <https://elpais.com/america/2024-09-24/ecuador-sufre-apagones-de-hasta-14-horas-en-medio-de-una-grave-crisis-energetica.html>

⁷ Müller, C.R. 2020. Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest— Deforestation, Biodiversity and Cooperation with the EU and International Forums, Indepth analysis for the committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety of the European Parliament, Policy Department for Economic, Scientific and Quality of Life Policies, European Parliament, Luxembourg.



ranching had already reached 122 million hectares of the Amazon's surface, responsible for three-quarters of deforestation in the region.⁸

- ❖ However, the European Commission has announced a 12-month delay in the implementation of [the law on deforestation](#), thus responding to **pressure from global partners and industry**.
- ❖ The Amazon on Europe's plate, how current regulation incentivizes deforestation in the Amazon.⁹
- ❖ A new poll conducted in seven European countries reveals overwhelming public support for the EU's groundbreaking Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which will come into force on 30 December 2024.¹⁰
- ❖ There are global, regional and national frameworks that would underpin a European Parliament resolution.

IUCN Resolution 129: Avoiding the point of no return by protecting 80% of the Amazon by 2025:

- ❖ On September 10, 2021 in Marseille, at the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), IUCN approved [Motion 129 to avoid the point of no return in the Amazon by protecting 80% by 2025](#) presented by COICA on behalf of 511 Indigenous Peoples, Approved on September 10, 2021 with the vote of 541 global civil society organizations and 31 countries. This is the first time that Amazonian leaders have led an IUCN resolution. More than 300 articles in the media recognized the importance of this resolution, which frames the strategy of the Initiative.
- ❖ Resolution 129 is the basis of the "Amazon for Life: Let's Protect 80% by 2025" Initiative.
- ❖ The report "[Amazon against the clock](#)" published by the Initiative on September 5, 2022, establishes that the Amazon has already lost 26% of its ecosystems and that therefore, the point of no return is imminent. The point of no return, or dieback, occurs once deforestation and degradation combined cross the 20-25 percent threshold.¹¹ However, it states that protecting 80% is still possible and urgent with conservation and restoration measures. The report was widely covered by global and national media ([The Guardian](#), [Reuters](#), [Vatican News](#), [Firstfruits](#), among others +/-100 media).
- ❖ In 2022, the Initiative's strategy focused on the insertion of Indigenous Territories (ITs) as a new conservation category in Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. On the planet, about 20% are ITs and more than a third of the Amazon are ITs. With the support of the Global South and the leadership of the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, it was possible to insert the ITs as their own conservation category, thus becoming a historic milestone.
- ❖ In February 2023, we published the analysis of the [Roadmap to the implementation of Target 3](#).
- ❖ In March 2023, at the 22nd Meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples (UNPFII), in New York, the insertion of [Indigenous Territories in Goal 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework](#) and the need to protect 80% by 2025 by the Minister of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil was followed up. Sonia Guajajara, President Petro and other leaders, the [UNPFII approved among its regional resolutions \(numerals 18 and 19\)](#) this year the need to protect 80% by 2025 and urges Amazonian governments to demarcate at least 100 million hectares of indigenous territories as an immediate measure to achieve this goal.
- ❖ In August 2023, at the Amazon Summit in Belém de Pará, [Colombia welcomed the goal of 80x2025 as its official position](#).
- ❖ The [Declaration of Belem](#) (2023) signed by all Amazonian countries, identifies the point of no return as the most crucial challenge for the Amazon.

8 <https://www.raisg.org/en/>

9 <https://elpais.com/opinion/2024-10-16/la-amazonia-en-el-plato-de-europa.html>

10 <https://www.fern.org/fr/publications-insight/overwhelming-majority-of-europeans-surveyed-in-new-poll-say-strong-law-enforcement-needed-to-combat-deforestation/#:~:text=A%20new%20poll%20conducted%20across,force%20on%20December%2030%2C%202024>

11 Lovejoy, T. E., y C. Nobre. 2019. "Winds of will: Tipping change in the Amazon". Science Advances 5: eaba2949.



- ❖ France has repeatedly defined itself as an Amazonian country since [October 2019](#) until it requested in August 2023 to apply for integration into ACTO ([Macron asks the Amazonian countries to integrate France into ACTO through Guyana](#)). In this way, the influence that the European Union has on the legislation and conservation of the Amazon is direct.
- ❖ [Andean Parliament, September 2024: Resolution No. 22 on forest fires in the member countries of the Andean Parliament](#) which states that during the year 2024 all Andean countries will face forest fires and uncontrolled burns, aggravated by the climate crisis, significantly affecting: 1,531,992 hectares of forest and 2,340,506 hectares of grasslands in Bolivia, compromising areas of great ecological importance, including indigenous territories and national parks; 20,000 hectares of forests, moorlands and protected areas in Colombia, according to the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM); Ecuador and Peru have faced an alarming increase in the incidence of forest fires, Ecuador with more than 12,000 hectares of forests and vegetation, 25% more than the previous year and Peru with more than 15,000 hectares of forests and natural areas affected, an increase of 35% compared to the annual average of the last five years;
- ❖ [Andean Parliament, May 2024: Declaration of a state of emergency in the Amazon basin](#) based on the Amazon Report of the Andean Parliament (2024), with technical assistance from the Scientific Panel for the Amazon.
- ❖ The [European Parliament resolution](#) of 7 July 2022 on the situation of Indigenous Peoples' and environmental defenders in Brazil, in particular the murder of Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira (2022/2752(RSP)) "*strongly condemns the brutal murder and harassment of environmental and human rights defenders, as well as indigenous peoples in Brazil*", "highlights that illegal gold mining threatens forests and biodiversity in protected areas and exposes indigenous populations to pollutants; deplores the increase in deforestation rates on indigenous lands", "demands the recognition and protection of lands traditionally occupied by indigenous peoples" and "reiterates the importance of ensuring compliance with ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples", among other related issues.
- ❖ The European Parliament resolution of 13 September 2022 to approve the [Regulation on the placing on the Union market and on the export from the Union of certain raw materials and derived products associated with deforestation](#) and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010. The proposal was presented by the European Commission in November 2021.
- ❖ On September 21, 2022, Ecuador together with Costa Rica, Germany, Colombia, Canada and Bhutan announced a [10-point Plan to achieve higher ambition to reverse biodiversity loss](#). Point 10 of this Plan states the need to "Build Partnerships for Biodiversity: The whole of society, across all sectors, should build partnerships to reverse biodiversity loss."
- ❖ The [World Wildlife Fund's Living Planet Report of October 12, 2022](#) establishes that Latin America and the Caribbean are one of the regions of the planet with the highest regional decline in biodiversity, with a 94% decrease in monitored populations.
- ❖ The Report "[Evaluation of the Forest Declaration](#), October 2023)¹² states that "The world is moving too slowly to meet the promises to end deforestation by 2030. The destruction worsened in 2022, a year in which [the proposed goal was missed by 33%](#) (p.4)".
- ❖ 2020: [Informe del Parlamento Europeo](#): Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest: Deforestation, biodiversity and cooperation with the EU and international forums.¹³

Annex: [Motion for a Motion to the European Parliament](#)

¹² Forest Declaration Assessment Partners. (2023). Off track and falling behind: Tracking progress on 2030 forest goals. Climate Focus (coordinator and editor). Accessible at www.forestdeclaration.org.

¹³ [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOL_IDA\(2020\)648792](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOL_IDA(2020)648792)



Thanks in advance for taking into account these data points for the vote on Thursday, you will be voting for the fate of Amazonia as well,

Sincerely,

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fany Kiuru". To the right of the signature is a circular official seal. The seal contains the acronym "COICA" in the center, surrounded by text in Spanish: "COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA".

Fany Kiuru

General Coordinator

Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin – COICA
Co-Coordinator of the "Amazon for Life: Let's Protect 80% by 2025" Initiative