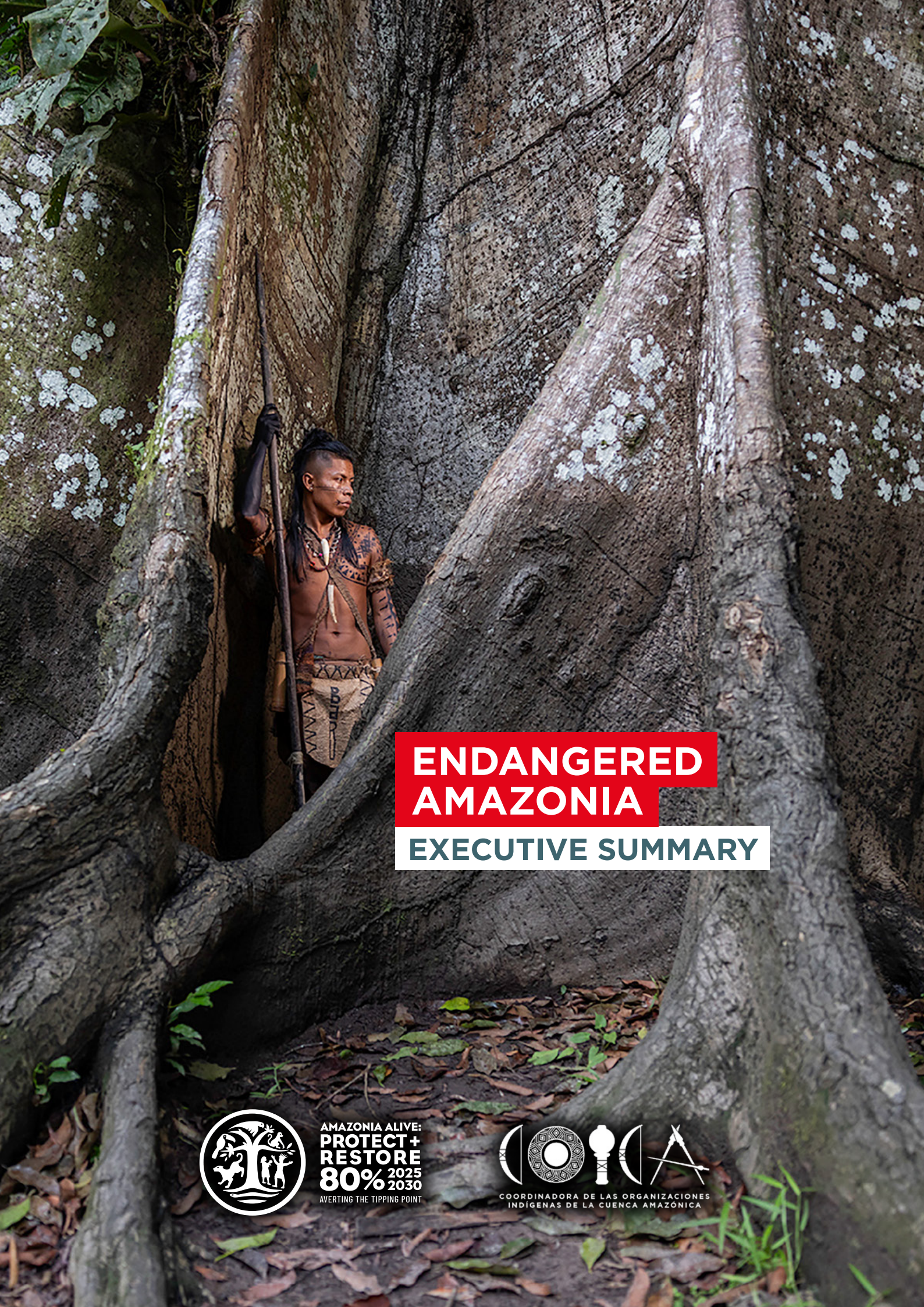

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AMAZONIA ALIVE:
PROTECT + RESTORE
80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

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INDEX

SECTION III: TOWARDS A NEW PARADIGM

PRESENTATION

What does an Endangered Amazonia mean for Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon?

A legacy of colonialism is that it turned Amazonia into an object—of research, observation, and extraction—distant and inhospitable, which, its physical and epistemological remoteness, nonetheless, it is intended to sustain humanity and the modern state. A place that in the collective memory of our countries, it is seen as "empty," and therefore, ready be put at the service of development— an insatiable machine that sustains the market and the State, and must be conquered for this purpose. For Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, Amazonia is our home. The great Amazon River and its more than 1,100 tributaries are sacred and connect our hundreds of cultures, our worldview, mythology, and spirituality.

Our genesis is anchored in the very origin of the Amazon, in the Tree of Life, a giant tree that reached the sky and is known as *Moniya Amena* in the Huitoto tradition (Colombia-Peru), *Samuna Supay* among the Quechua of Peru, and *Lupuna* for the Yaguas of Peru, among dozens of other names. The river was born when the great tree was felled to reach its abundant fruits and quell famine. For other peoples, *Yacumama* (Mother of Water), the primordial anaconda *Roní* (Shipibo-Konibo) or Great Anaconda,governs the aquatic world. She is the mother of all Amazonian waters, emanating from its depths to protect the forest from those who wish to destroy it. For some peoples in Brazil, the great river was born from the tears shed by the Moon, mourning her impossible love with the Sun—who could not embrace her without melting, nor could she approach him without extinguishing his light.

Our relationship with the territory is therefore intimate—it is within us. It is not a polygon on a map nor a resource; it is who we are from the moment we are born until we return to it and to our origins, with our ancestors. Understanding the extinction of water, of the forest, of the peoples who inhabit the jungle, and in turn, who are inhabited by it, requires breaking with the colonial anthropocentrism, where humans

conquer nature,—claiming life for themselves in a logic of possession like any object, destruction, and exploitation, without reciprocity.

Our ancestral mythical systems, like our territories, which are inseparable in unity,,have been traversed by repeated incursions, mostly violent, that have sought to erase our essence. Territory, in the urban logic inherited from Castile during the Colony and still prevailing today in our countries, understands space from the location from the perspective of th eurban eye of the settler: as the location of a dwelling. For us, territory is integral: we are the earth, the water, the forest, the lagoon, the air, the mountains, the subsoil, and all living and dead—human and non-human—who converge in this space, beneath it in the depths of the rivers and in the air, in unity.

There are as many mythologies as there are peoples in the Amazon that remainunknown even within our own States. This intentional omission of our worldview, languages, governance and knowledge systems is the reason why the Amazon, this great maloca, is in grave danger of extinction. Extinction, tipping point, or the point of no return are terms that must be understood as the death of the territory, where the violence of deforestation and degradation prevents the self-generation of the forest, the very foundation of what we call Amazonia. It is a metastasis that devastates the entire territory, its biodiversity, its waters, our ancestors who inhabit it, ultimately resulting in the forced displacement of our peoples, urbanized, and westernized while losing at the same time, the knowledge that has kept the Amazon alive for millennia. What is at risk, therefore, is not only an ecosystem—it is life itself.

Long ago, our elders and wise men warned that the destruction of the territory is the destruction of the webs of life—of the songs fading, of the memories of our grandmothers and grandfathers who no longer recognize the sounds of the forest. Thus, in 2021, amid a pandemic threatening our peoples, we, the Indigenous leaders gathered under COICA took a consensus-driven proposal to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Congress: to avoid a point of no return by protecting at least 80% of the Amazon by 2025. This was the first time in the IUCN's 72-year history that an Indigenous organization proposed a motion—now Resolution 129—grounded in scientific evidence describing the Amazon's dieback.

IUCN Resolution 129 of the IUCN catapulted the initiative "Amazonia for Life: Protect 80% by 2025, Avoiding the tipping point" and positioned Indigenous leaders gathered atCOICA as the governing body in the construction of a vision guiding today's urgent global agenda to preserve the Amazon rainforest as an unavoidable measure to prevent mass extinction. We are not alone, to date over 1,300 organizations worldwide have supported us, including nearly 100 Indigenous Amazonian organizations. The tipping point has been recognized as the greatest challenge in

the Belém Declaration (2023). The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues issued two resolutions in 2023 urging Amazonian governments to protect 80% of the Amazon, prioritizing Indigenous the recognition of indigenous territories. Colombia adopted the goal in 2023, among other milestones. We have shifted narratives and influenced policies—but it is still not enough.

Our work has been to educate humanity about what the collapse of our home means for us, for the governments struggling with droughts have left entire countries without water, and for all of humanity as a whole. In 2021, the "tipping point" or "point of no return" was a scientific term difficult to digest. Our efforts bore fruit at the 2023 Belém Amazon Summit, where civil society unanimously demanded the 80% protection goal by 2025, the tipping point enshrined in the Belém Declaration as the region's gravest challenge. However, we see today that the COPs and the declarations that emerge from each meeting of ministers, presidents, and summits are smokescreens that mask an aimless trajectory toward perpetual drought and death of our Amazonia, and with it, of the planet. It is not just the Amazon that is dying; three-quarters of Earth's life-support systems are in danger. Humanity has surpassed seven of nine planetary boundaries for its survival, and as we write this report, the planet has crossed its first climate tipping point: coral reef degradation is widespread, and without decisive action, great reefs will vanish. COP30 cannot be just another COP.

The severe drought of 2023–2024 and more than 150,000 fires that followed the Belém Declaration and devastated an area larger than Italy—challenge both Amazonian countries and the strategies from the Global North to change this trajectory. If in 2022, combined deforestation and degradation accounted for 26% of Amazonia's 847 million hectares, data confirms that in 2025, 30% has been lost. We are already living a tipping point scenario, with areas in Bolivia and Brazil witnessing the death of their Amazon rainforests. Another important fact for policy is that destruction in one location ripples beyond its location borders. The alarming forest loss in Brazil threatens tipping points in Bolivia and Peru. Hence, we all need to see a single Amazonia; there are not nine Amazon rainforests or nine Amazon rivers; there is a single megasystem called the Amazon.

Our report, "Endangered Amazonia ," confirms that the scars created by repeated fires year after year and degradation culminate in deforestation. The data we present in this report includes and emphasizes degradation as a prelude to total land-use transformation. , Therefore, in 2025, we proposed a new motion to the IUCN Congress to complement Resolution 129: "Emergency Action to Restore 80% of Amazon Ecological Integrity by 2030, Avoiding Cascading Tipping Points." Our findings show that there is not a single, instantaneous tipping point, but rather it will be a prolonged, recurring, asynchronous, and cascading agony unless we act now. COP30 must be a deal breaker, a gateway to a different story.

The expansion of extractive industries—whether agriculture, oil, or mining—puts our peoples on the front lines. The Amazon is the most dangerous region for environmental defenders in the world. Failure to recognize our rights and territories will soon amount to genocide. Our waters and the fish that feed us are poisoned by mercury, pesticides, and thousands of gallons of oil spilled with impunity into the Amazon waters. It's been decades since the rubber boom arrived in the territories, then came the industrial agriculture, oil, large-scale mining, and now illegal logging and mining. Hundreds of Indigenous defenders have been murdered protecting life and territory. We cannot allow the sacrifice of so many to remain invisible or fruitless. We are the seeds of change.

We need binding decisions,no more promises. It is imperative that States adopt the 80% target by 2025 as regional policy and guarantee direct funding for managing the vast areas we call Indigenous territories. While protected areas receive budget allocations, albeit meager, our territories, which equal or register even higher performance in ecosystem conservation, do not receive a single cent of national or international public investment. Indigenous Peoples receive less than 1% of climate finance and still lack guaranteed rights or territories with legal, physical, and financial security. Once again, the 2025 Bogotá Declaration reaffirmed the political will of the Amazonian countries to cooperate regionally to safeguard the survival of the Amazon, its biodiversity, and that of its peoples.However, when evaluating the system that has been implemented so far in the Amazon, we see that it is a failed system, intergovernmental cooperation alone is insufficient. The meetings of Parties, led and decided essentially by States, have failed to stem the encroachment of the planet's ecosystems. We call for a new formula: cooperation with knowledge holders who have preserved the rainforest for millennia. A cooperation among States, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, and scientists. This is the formula we applied in the Initiative and we know it works. It is not a new proposal. The IUCN Durban Accord in2003 initiated this new paradigm for protected areas, explicitly recognizing the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities in their planning and management. Twenty-two years later, it remains an unfinished task, teaching us a moral lesson: the Amazon will be saved by the communities who live in and defend it every day—not from desktops.

At COICA, we raise a collective voice that comes from the roots, from the territories, from the fires of our grandmothers, the songs of our elders, and the daily work of women. This voice joins the global call of the Initiative "Amazonia for Life: Protect 80% by 2025", which is not merely an ecological goal but a historic, ethical, and political mandate. . Protecting 80% of the Amazon means protecting life on Earth. It means reorienting local, national, and international policy toward life. The forest does not need us to save it;it needs us to stop destroying it. The Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon, represented in COICA, demand an immediate commit-

ment that will translate this target into tangible, binding, and funded policies.. The Amazonian States are not the only ones responsible. States hosting banks that finance mining and oil expansion must regulate their financial systems to stop colliding with the planet, and ensure that the human rights their corporations uphold within their borders are the same standards they apply beyond them.

The extinction of the Amazon can be reversed by protecting and restoring the hundreds of ecosystems stretching from the Andes to the Atlantic, its vast biodiversity which remains incompletely documented, but above all, by bringing Indigenous Peoples to the decision-making table with their knowledge and governance systems to reconcile and end a patriarchal, colonial, extractive system par excellence that leaves a trail of destruction, segregation, and death. This report, written by Indigenous experts and leaders from diverse territories and paths, is a first step to open new trails together, to merge with the forest, the waters, the myths, and the peoples. Otherwise, divided, we will face an irreversible tipping point. This is a call and an invitation to join a movement for life that allows no truce and requires everyone's enlistment. Protecting and restoring 80% of Amazonia (2025–2030) is not a mere technical goal—it is a continuous, disciplined action for life, and our most important legacy for generations to come.

Fany Kuiru Castro
General Coordinator
Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

JITOMA MANAYAÏNHÖ
(which means sunrise sun) or
Fany Kuiru

Leader of the Uitoto People of the Jitomagaro clan, the people of the sun from the Colombian Amazon, whose mother tongue is Uitoto Minika.

At the age of 14, she began taking part in collective discussions within her territory, and by 21, she was involved in the struggles to reclaim her land, the Indigenous Reserve Predio Putumayo (Colombia). She was the only Indigenous woman to officially participate in the process of recognition, titling, and transfer of the Great Indigenous Territory of the Predio Putumayo Reserve, covering an area of six million hectares—bringing an end to one of the darkest periods of violence against Indigenous Peoples in Colombia.

A lawyer from the Santo Tomás de Aquino University, she specialized in public administration and holds a master's degree in Political and International Studies.

Expert in legal and political advisory work on matters related to public policy, Indigenous Peoples, women's rights, economic, social, and cultural rights, and gender issues.

Coordinator of the translation of the Peace Agreement summary between the national government and the FARC armed group into 68 native languages spoken in Colombia.

The Colombian Indigenous leader Fany Kuiru Castro is the first woman to serve as General Coordinator of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), which represents more than 500 Indigenous Peoples across nine countries, for the 2023–2027 term.

Fany Kuiru Castro received recognition at the DVF Awards 2025. The Amazonian leader thus underscores a truth her experience has confirmed: economic autonomy is inseparable from social and political autonomy.

INTRODUCTION

Endangered Amazonia

ORIGINS OF OUR JOURNEY: THE 2021–2024 PATHWAY

The Report "Endangered Amazonia" is not the *continuum* of the 2022 report "Amazonia against the clock"; rather, it presents data indicating a significant shift from patterns established over millennia. **Currently, 30% of what we call Amazonia is deforested or severely degraded.** The climate crisis, the tipping points we are already crossing, reflect symptoms of a profound civilizational crisis. As COP30 approaches—marking three decades of voluntary engagement without enforceable decisions— we have been passively observing from afar, through media and networks, the subjugation of our planet, of our forests and rivers, of our fellow citizens, in the name of a model based on destruction.

In 2021, in that feverish context of the pandemic, walled off, we devoted ourselves to focus on work and maintain "virtual" contact as a means of coping with an overwhelming reality shaped by death, a war of unknown origin, whose most lethal weapon was our closest loved ones, our communities. The pandemic revealed the

dismantling of the welfare state around the world, with particularly stark effects in our global south and, in the Amazonian countries, with unimaginable severity. Economic growth metrics—unfortunately still maintained as the beacon that guides public policies despite ongoing climate change, widespread deforestation justified in the name of growth, and those who gave their lives in silence, without rituals or farewells—served the stage as the backdrop for evaluating the situation in Amazonia, a region marked by vitality yet facing alarming future projections. The data we gathered revealed a hidden war.

In 2021, our homes were the trenches from which adaptations of resistance, advocacy, and solidarity emerged. In our nests of terror, we forged in WhatsApp and Zoom conversations of what is today, surely, one of the most disruptive initiatives to create a global vision to save the Amazon: "Amazonia for Life: protect 80% by 2025". With this flag, we arrived in Marseille in 2021, during ongoing border restrictions, and led to the approval of Resolution 129—the first motion submitted by indigenous organizations in the 72-year history of IUCN— to "Avoid a tipping point by protecting 80% by 2025" supported by 541 organizations and 61 ministries. Prior to this, the concept of tipping point was primarily discussed within academic circles.

Over several months, we assembled a select group of organizations and individuals committed to initiating a collaborative endeavor- without a parachute into an adventure informed by the limited data available on the Amazon's current condition. This effort was led by indigenous organizations from the nine Amazonian countries and supported by the comprehensive data provided by the Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information (RAISG). At that time, most existing data primarily focused on Brazil. Rather than engaging in academic debates over definitions of the Amazon—whether in terms of basin or biome—we opted to utilize RAISG's[1] established pan-Amazonian datasets. As a coalition, we resolved to formulate a political strategy rooted in both indigenous and academic scientific perspectives, forming the foundation for our communication and advocacy efforts to pursue a regional target.

The 2021-2024 coalition comprised scientists, Amazonian leaders, and international, national, and grassroots activist organizations. We always recognized that isolated efforts would not succeed. Our initial decisions were instinctive and were guided by the conviction that indigenous and southern worldviews will prevail in our decisions. We baptized the initiative adopting the definition of "Amazonia" defined by the Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-environmental Information (RAISG, 2020, p.11) which refers to an area that includes the Amazon biome, associated drainage basins, headwaters, Amazonian ecosystems and administrative regions of nine countries. Also, the term "Amazonia" was intentionally chosen for its prevalence in both Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese, serving as a lingua franca for indigenous and non-indigenous stakeholders and fostering recognition within this interconnected megasystem.

1 RAISG is a consortium of civil society organizations from Amazonian countries focused on the socio-environmental sustainability of the Amazon.

Protecting 80% of Amazonia is not a slogan. The regional goal we promote aligns with the 20-25% deforestation threshold identified by Lovejoy and Nobre (2019) beyond which the tipping point is triggered. However, it is essential to establish that the authors were referring to the eastern, southern, and central Amazon and not to the entire region defined within the Initiative, nor did it include degradation data. Accordingly, the results included in our first report "Amazonia against the clock" (2022) were unique in terms of geographic scope, temporal data, and analytical depth. Following the occurrence of approximately 150,000 fires during 2023-2024, we emphasize the imperative need of including degradation data in the final statistics.

The percentages reported in 2022 were derived from RAISG's 2020 data, which already showed, three years ago, that combined deforestation, and degradation had already surpassed the reference threshold of Lovejoy and Nobre (2019) by one percentage point, reaching 26% —comprising 20% land use change and 6% of high degradation. Hence, our strategy was to establish that the tipping point was not and is not now a future scenario but a current reality. We exacerbated, however, that we were still on time to protect 74% of standing forests and restore a marginal 6% of severely degraded ecosystems. Our data were disaggregated by country to inform international negotiations at COPs and with Amazonian governments. Our objective was twofold: to facilitate recognition of the Amazonian tipping point as both a regional and global concern, and to advocate for the adoption of a regional target as a preventative strategy. In *Amazonia against the Clock,* we were able to establish that extensive areas in Brazil and Bolivia were already exhibiting multiple indicators of tipping points. This represented a second critical juncture, shifting the discourse from hypothetical futures to observable realities on the ground.

Regardless, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of certain Amazonian countries currently omit indigenous territories, which have been classified as a new category of conservation under the Global Biodiversity Framework (2022). For countries within the Amazon region, many of which possess substantial areas of officially recognized indigenous territories (ITs), incorporating ITs into their NDCs would offer significant advantages. This approach could reduce costs related to identifying strategies for achieving the goal of protecting 30% of land by 2030 and establishing potential protected areas, while simultaneously positioning the Amazon as a pioneer and leader in integrating ITs into national commitments.

Four years later, we are able to reflect on numerous achievements however, a significant challenge remains for COP30: adopting a binding regional target to save Amazonia. The adoption of IUCN Resolution 129 initiated multilevel negotiations. To date, 1300 organizations worldwide have endorsed the target as well as more than 100 indigenous organizations. In 2022, the Initiative's strategy focused on the insertion of Indigenous Territories as a new conservation category within Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. IT encompasses over 20% of the planet and account for more than one-third of Amazonia. With strong support of the Global South and the leadership of Amazonian Indigenous Peo-

The Report "Endangered Amazonia" is not the *continuum* of the 2022 report "Amazonia against the clock"; rather, it presents data indicating a significant shift from patterns established over millennia. Currently, 30% of what we call Amazonia is deforested or severely degraded.

ples Indigenous Territories were officially recognized as their own conservation category, marking a historic achievement.

2023 was a plethoric year marked by significant developments. In March, at the 22nd Meeting of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples (UNPFII), follow-up was conducted to the inclusion of Indigenous Territories in Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Sonia Guajajara, Minister of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, along with other leaders, presented the imperative to protect 80% of these territories by 2025. The UNPFII endorsed this position through regional resolutions (18 and 19), emphasizing the necessity to safeguard 80% by 2025 and urging Amazonian governments to promptly demarcate at least 100 million hectares of indigenous territories as an essential step toward achieving this goal. In July, WWF formally advocated for the conservation of 80% alignment with Resolution 129. In August, the Belém Declaration —endorsed by all Amazonian nations—recognized the region's tipping point as its foremost challenge. During the Amazon Dialogues in Belém, Colombia officially adopted the 80% protection target by 2025.

In 2024, COICA and the IDB successfully established "Amazonia for Life," the first fund dedicated to providing direct financing to Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, thereby challenging traditional models of official development assistance. Through this initiative, COICA has paved the way for the creation of a regional platform that serves as a pioneer in facilitating direct funding to Indigenous Peoples in the region.

Preliminary data collected following the 2023-2024 fires and drought indicate that the Amazon has experienced losses equivalent to the size of Italy, and high levels of degradation In response, COICA and its partners introduced IUCN Motion 068 in early 2025, calling for an "Emergency action to restore 80% of ecological integrity in the Amazon by 2030 avoiding cascading tipping points" as a measure to complement Resolution 129, expanding both its scope and timeline. The current situation requires not only protection but also immediate restoration efforts to prevent ecological tipping points. Since September, Resolution 068 has been enacted with the approval of nearly 800 organizations during the IUCN Congress in Abu Dhabi.

What lies behind the scenes in this period, overwhelmingly intense, is that from the beginning we sought the voices of indigenous and non-indigenous elders. Individuals such as Thomas Lovejoy—among other notable leaders who have passed on but who accompanied us since the beginning—provided valuable guidance throughout this process. In this endeavor, we have woven a web, a network of solidarity among communities, scientists, some governments and/or officials, artists, youth and wise old men and women, technicians, communicators, and all of us who are enmeshed in this ecosystem because we defend it fiercely, both in the North and the South. The Amazon has united us, fostering an extensive epistemic community in a relationship of care, even if this was not originally our primary aim. Collectively, we advance toward the shared goal of safeguarding the region's survival. Today, the Initiative counts several new members among its ranks: the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA), comprising over 300 indigenous and non-indigenous scientists from across the region; AQOCI, a Canadian coalition of 70 organizations , the Pan-Amazonian Social Forum (FOSPA) that brings together Indigenous Peoples, social movements and organizations to defend the Amazon with chapters in every country. This report also acknowledges the contributions of the Amazon Waters coalition—a partnership of 30 organizations—Susana Muhammad, former Minister of Environment of Colombia, and other key contributors who have enhanced understanding of Amazonia's current circumstances. While not all contributors are listed, the initiative remains open to participation by all interested parties in this broad citizens' movement.

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA: INTRODUCTION

*Jitoma Manayaïnh*ö (which means sunrise sun) or Fany Kuiru, leader of the Uitoto people of the Jitomagaro clan, the "people of the sun" of the Colombian Amazon, a native Uitoto Minika speaker and the first woman to serve as COICA´s General Coordinator in its 42 years of existence, begins this 22-chapter conversation by creating an umbilical cord between the territory, the authors, and the reader of this report. She explains that the relationship of Indigenous Peoples with the territory is intimate, it is within themselves, it is not a polygon on a map or a resource, but rather it forms part of who they are from the moment they are born until they are reunited with their ancestors in the afterlife. Fany highlights the role of extractivism in any of its forms—agriculture, oil, logging, mining—as mechanisms that push Indigenous Peoples onto the front lines. The Amazon is the most violent region in the world for defenders. Fany explains that the destruction of 30% of Amazonia has already put the region and all of us who live here on the front line, hopefully not the last. The first article in this collection addresses the methodology that arrives at this percentage and connects Fany's presentation to the statistics that warn of the danger of extinction of ecosystems, biodiversity and the Indigenous Peoples and local communities that inhabit this large region.

The methodology developed by RAISG and specifically by Marlene Quintanilla, as detailed in the first article of this report, outlines the variables incorporated into the Initiative's methodology developed in 2022. Marlene delineates the framework

used to identify Key Priority Areas (KPAs), which are determined through an analysis based on three criteria:

1. **Ecosystem functionality and services:** Refers to the capacity of ecological processes to provide services that contribute to human well-being.

2. **Ecological representativeness:** it is defined by the integration of areas that concentrate greater biodiversity richness of vertebrate species (amphibians, birds and mammals), encompass areas with greater ecosystem complexity defined by their high heterogeneity and high species richness and finally includes the ecosystem singularity defined by their restricted distribution in the Amazon; and,

3. **Symptoms and changes:** represents the current state of ecosystems in terms of the transformation that occurred due to deforestation and land-use change, adding degradation measured by fires, carbon loss, deforestation and land-use change between 1985 and 2020 in the first report, and, with the 2020-2024 data, in this report.

This analysis defines degradation as the sum of fires, carbon loss, and deforestation by intensity into five categories: no degradation or intact, low degradation, high degradation, very high degradation, and transformation of natural land cover. It should be noted that for the "Amazonia for Life" Initiative, the tipping point threshold (20-25% loss) also includes degradation, which, as this new report proves, is the path to deforestation. To explain its impact, I turn to the article presented by Wild Heritage, a member of the 80x 2025-2030 coalition: "Forest degradation is much more widespread than deforestation. In the Amazon, nearly 250 million hectares are degraded, while 10 million hectares of forest are cleared each year. Carbon dioxide emissions from degradation are virtually equal to those from deforestation."

The face of Amazonia today, in 2025, is very different, and the structure of this report reflects this reality. Our data, following the fires and drought of 2023-2024, show the loss of an area equivalent to Italy across the Amazon and high levels of degradation. Between 2020 and 2024, the spiral of fires, degradation, and deforestation has already reached 30%. Carlos Nobre, who leads the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA) and his numerous analyses reaffirm that the tipping point occurs when deforestation reaches 20-25% or global warming increases to 2.0-2.5 °C [above pre-industrial levels]. Our methodology vindicates the role of fires and degradation as defining variables in measurements of Amazonia. This report, however, encompasses the collective efforts of the 80x2025 coalition and beyond. This year, the coalition expanded to include SPA, AQOCI in Canada, FOSPA, and additional organizations aligned with the same objective. We cannot do it alone. It is both necessary and urgent to establish a unified front, as decisions with the potential to significantly impact the core of Amazonia are leaking through the cracks.

The findings in this report reveal that the Amazon region has experienced a significant level of destruction due to multiple contributing factors. These include agribusiness activities connected to fires, il-

legal land tenure and land invasions; illegal mining that leaves rivers dead or in a state of decay due to mercury spills and oil spills. Such environmental hazards create a breeding ground for chronic illnesses and congenital deformities in riverside communities of the entire basin. Additionally, mining, logging, and agriculture are linked to the expansion of drug trafficking and transnational criminal organizations operating throughout the region, thereby undermining the very foundations of Amazonian states. According to Nobre, more than 98% of forest fires were caused by arson[2], highlighting the substantial influence of organized crime on deforestation rates, and how degradation caused by fires and unregulated logging ultimately leads to the complete clearing of the forest.

All contributing factors are intersecting at local, national, and regional levels, where the issue continues to escalate. The occurrence and severity of extreme droughts in Amazonia are rising, accompanied by increasing challenges for national governments in addressing these situations.

The Report "Endangered Amazonia" is structured into three sections. The first part provides an overview of the "Science behind the tipping point", a rapidly developing field in recent years that has exploded that encompasses the analysis of deforestation and degradation, ecosystem integrity, the phenomenon of flying rivers, evidence emanating from the territories, and, in this edition, we include the critical role of water, a crucial aspect in forming a comprehensive understanding of the basin. The interconnections are evident: increased deforestation and degradation result in fewer flying rivers, reduced rainfall, heightened drought, and less food, water and energy security. Perhaps one of the most compelling conclusions is that the aftermath of deforestation is not necessarily felt or confined to the immediate area affected. MAAP offers a unique perspective that highlights the necessity of adopting a pan-Amazonian approach. What happens in Brazil does not stay in Brazil; it can and is already precipitating tipping points in Bolivia and Peru. The testimony of Gregorio Mirabal from the Venezuelan Amazon complements academic data by illustrating how life cycles are disrupted in the territories as forests disappear, and as the ravages of climate change erase traditional practices and ways of recognizing themselves as a nation. The team of the Science Panel for the Amazon further contextualizes the data, emphasizing the historical significance of COP30 as a pivotal opportunity to address the Amazonian crisis. The SPA reminds us that as the first COP to take place in the Amazon, it presents an unprecedented setting for advancing binding political decisions that can alter the current trajectory.

The second section presents the drivers contributing to destruction: the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) reminds us that the expansion of agricultural land use—pastures and croplands—remains as the main driver of deforestation. Through detailed analysis, WWF demonstrates that

2 Watts, J. (2025, June 26). 'We are perilously close to the point of no return': climate scientist on amazon rainforest's future. *The Guardian*. Retrieved November 2, 2025, from https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2025/jun/26/tippping-points-amazon-rainforest-climate-scientist-carlos-nobre.

this commodity production in the Amazon is a major driver behind this trend. This research further disaggregates the drivers of deforestation by subregion, enabling policymakers to address issues with highly targeted local and national policies. Consequently, this article emphasizes that solutions are inherently complex; there is no "one size fits all" formula capable of resolving the array of challenges plaguing these territories.

This perspective is further informed by Earth Insight's examination of state-owned mining and oil concessions, as well as Amazon Watch's assessment of the impact of illicit economies and criminal governance in the Amazon. These analyses highlight significant risks to the territories, the environment, and the global climate. An illegal economy has become entrenched across almost the entire Amazon, increasingly displacing the state authority and drawn transnational investor networks, who have gradually positioned illicit activities as the primary drivers of deforestation, river pollution, and biodiversity loss. Moreover, links between these activities and global legal markets allow local damage to have global repercussions.

The articles and testimonies of Julio Cusurichi, a Shipibo leader from Peru and member of the Board of Directors of the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDESEP), address the impact of extractivism on Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) in Peru. Eligio Dacosta, president of the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Amazonas (ORPIA) -Venezuela, and of Jamner Manihuari, Vice-Coordinator of COICA, further discuss how extractivism place both Indigenous and non-Indigenous defenders on the front lines. These articles aim at communicating that we are engaged in a direct, physical defense of territory and life. In this sense, a significant contribution to this report is the article by the coalition of nearly 70 Canadian organizations, which draws connections between issues in the Global South and the Global North. AQOCI speaks of the shared responsibility of states in the Global North states to regulate Canadian extractive corporations whose operations have been associated with environmental damage, human rights abuses, and violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights. The article specifically highlights non-compliance with free, prior, and informed consent in 26 projects and notes incidents of violent conflict at 16 sites operated by Canadian companies.

The third and final section is a collection of disruptive contributions with the potential to radically alter the trajectory "Toward a new paradigm" of coexistence in Amazonia. It is not philosophy nor theoretical concepts; rather, they are realities currently being implemented, which can be replicated, scaled, disseminated, re-invented, or adapted for training purposes to influence public policy through alternative perspectives, notably those emerging from the periphery. In this context, the article by IRD and COICA: "Dialogue of Knowledge systems to protect and restore Amazonia" is key to understanding the need for a new knowledge architecture —one that transcends viewing the Amazon as a "green void" managed exclusively by external experts. It underscores the significance of acknowledging Indigenous Peoples' long-standing systems of knowledge, which

possess the capacity to guide efforts to protect and restore the Amazon. Indigenous ancestral knowledge systems are intrinsically linked to life, governance, health, spirituality, and land stewardship.

Thus, it is crucial to recognize the interdependence between development models and knowledge systems. An extractivist model relies on supporting knowledge frameworks that supply its machinery. Therefore, the future of the Amazon is contingent upon the effective integration of indigenous knowledge systems and an openness to the scientific insights embedded within local territories, to facilitate paradigm change. This is an act of resistance. Understanding that conservation should be viewed not merely as legislative action or the establishment of protected areas, but as the outcome of distinct worldviews and another way of life will force us to rethink the colonial consumerism that fuels devastation. Meaningful change requires integrating conservation into every aspect of our actions, ensuring that preservation of life—both human and non-human—becomes central to our collective mission.

In this sense, the proposal developed by the Kichwa Sarayaku people of Ecuador "From Kawsak Sacha to Chaska Kausay: policies from the territory for the Amazon and the planet" by Sarayaku leader Patricia Gualinga, represents an important outcome of decades of struggle against the extractivism entrenched in their territory. The text reveals that extractivism is frequently accompanied by persistent violations of indigenous and human rights. Additionally, it notes the absence of binding enforcement mechanisms for national and international decisions and rulings, which has become a modus operandi that enables forums such as the COPs, the decisions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the judgments in national courts to consolidate an extractivist model. This model is only accountable in international courts where transnational corporations normally win millionaire arbitrations against our States, who are required to compensate them despite the environmental damage left as a legacy in the territory. The Sarayaku people propose another way of life, the Kawsak Sacha, and in that dialogue, advocate to for elevating this model to a global scale as Chaska Kausay or living planet.

The article " Economic accounts beyond the tyranny of GDP: a mechanism to save megadiversity" provides insights into developing national public accounting systems that more accurately reflect reality by addressing limitations inherent in conventional national accounts. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fails to account for the environmental costs of economic growth, which can result in misguided public policy decisions. In contrast, the Net Ecological Domestic Product (NEPI) incorporates environmental costs, presenting a more comprehensive and sustainable assessment of national income for megadiverse countries. GDP is a tyrannical measure since it is a partial indicator that is presented as if it were the whole, it offers an incomplete perspective on economic history and encourages extractivism by focusing solely on growth grow, without recognizing that natural resources are finite.

Mexico, identified as a megadiverse country alongside Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, has taken a pioneering role in implementing NEPI, which signifi-

cantly diverges from traditional GDP measures. The article underscores the importance of public accounting for evaluating public policy effectiveness and coherence. Despite ongoing implementation of NEPI—which may yield marginal or even negative GDP—public spending on environmental protection in Mexico has remained below 0.7%. Actual climate-related expenditures range only between 0.15% and 0.18% of Mexican GDP, highlighting a gap between climate commitments and resource allocation. Additionally, the article emphasizes the necessity for multi-level policy approaches.

At the national level therefore, the contribution of Latindadd in the article "A regional look at debt, the climate crisis and extractivism in Amazonian countries" intertwines the financing policies of Amazonian countries with the Paris Agreement and addresses the differentiated responsibilities between the north and the south. These analyses demonstrate that the Amazon region is caught in a cycle involving debt, climate challenges, and resource extraction. Latindadd highlights that those who hold outstanding debts are also among the most historically responsible for ecological degradation. From a climate justice perspective, the article advocates that indebted Amazonian countries should be recognized as creditors regarding climate and ecological debts. COP30 is undoubtedly the political moment to include this conversation in an agenda that is characterized by its secrecy and rigidity.

Within this framework, the "Amazonia for Life" Fund, —jointly established by COICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a multilateral organization—, a multilateral entity, is undoubtedly one of the most audacious initiatives to address the direct financing gap faced by Indigenous Peoples. This pioneering fund is part of an ongoing dialogue to tackle the climate crisis with equitable solutions. Currently, less than 1% of international climate finance is allocated to land tenure and forest management of indigenous communities worldwide. The core principles of this proposal include co-creation and autonomy, as essential elements for ensuring sustainability through cultural relevance and alignment with local priorities. This article examines the significance of such novel mechanisms in preventing an irreversible tipping point.

Susana Muhammad, former Minister of Environment of Colombia, puts in black and white a central challenge, how to move Amazonian politics "from paper to action"? For Susana, this implies rebuilding state capacities, strengthening intercultural research and education systems, reconnecting diplomacy with territorial realities, —ultimately fostering a renewed framework for environmental cooperation and a shared Latin American sovereignty. Susana proposes a pact, a continental and global alliance for the Amazon to avert a tipping point. This proposal also requires the ability to communicate with each other, with governments, with Indigenous Peoples and civil society.

While communication is often regarded as a fundamental element, it remains one of the least thoroughly addressed challenges in efforts to avert a tipping point. Articles authored by Rhett Butler, CEO of Mongabay, along with contributions from

the teams at COICA and COIAB, highlight the critical importance of developing effective multilevel, intercultural, and global communication strategies to save the Amazon. Furthermore, they provide key practical guidelines for effectively communicating, influencing, and safeguarding the Amazon.

Rhett reminds us that pessimism demobilizes, paralyzes us, and therefore, leaves us disarmed and otherwise apathetic in the face of Dantesque realities. He reminds us that the task of communication is to keep the whole truth visible, reducing part of the problem to a human scale where action feels plausible. Rhett also emphasizes the role of indigenous leaders as essential stewards and credible narrators of what works in their territories; they must be present at the editorial board, with budgets, authorship and languages of their choice. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) should be an element of the timeline, not a footnote. Safety, credit, and compensation are part of the plan, not afterthoughts. This article which includes a set of recommendations on "How to communicate to save the Amazon" serves as a central element in political strategies in the region, especially when it comes to communicating from and with Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples in our countries experience disproportionately high rates of poverty, as well as high rates of murders of defenders in the world, accounting for more than half of the total worlwide. The communicators of COICA and COIAB emphasize that communication is not simply procedural or strategic; it also represents resistance and self-governance by decolonizing narratives, reshaping perspectives, and reaffirming Indigenous worldviews. In this context, communication in the Amazon is both a political and epistemological practice that defends life, territories and ancestral knowledge in the face of the climate crisis and the coloniality of knowledge. Networks of indigenous communicators are territories of thought that articulate climate justice, collective healing, and and the restoration of relationships with nature. Thus, establishing collaborative communication with various stakeholders in the Amazon should be regarded not merely as a goal, but as a continual and principled effort, guided by protocols that ensure equity and respect. Indigenous Peoples are active participants in environmental governance, contributing substantive proposals and leveraging historical practices to preserve the Amazon biome (COIAB 2024). Engaging with Indigenous Peoples through networks fosters collective growth and supports shared stewardship of something bigger than all of us: Amazonia.

Alicia Guzmán León, PhD
Fundadora y Coordinadora Técnica de la Iniciativa "Amazonía por la Vida: protejamos 80% al 2025"

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holds a Doctorate in Public Policy from ITESM (Tecnológico de Monterrey), Mexico. She earned a Master's degree in Latin American Studies and International Relations from Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar, was a Fulbright Scholar in Public Policy and Sustainable Business at UNC Chapel Hill, and received her Bachelor's degree from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE).

Recognized as one of the 100 Latinos most committed to climate action in 2025, I emphasize that bridging local realities with policy frameworks is essential for meaningful progress. As an environmental diplomat and senior researcher, I am dedicated to addressing the climate crisis through collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, traditional communities, governments, and other critical stakeholders. As a member of the Science Panel for the Amazon and Technical Coordinator of COICA's global initiative "Amazonia for Life: protect and restore 80% 2025-2030", I have built a close relationship between research, communication, negotiation and policymaking. Recent accomplishments include advancing IUCN Resolution 068 (Sept 2025), the inclusion of Indigenous Territories as an independent conservation category in the Global Biodiversity Framework (2022), securing two UNPFII Resolutions to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025 (2023), advocating for the recognition of the tipping point as the most urgent threat to the Amazon (2023), and contributing to the adoption of Resolution 129 at IUCN (2021), among other achievements.

SECTION I

THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE TIPPING POINT


COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA


Science Panel
for the Amazon
THE AMAZON WE WANT


RAISG

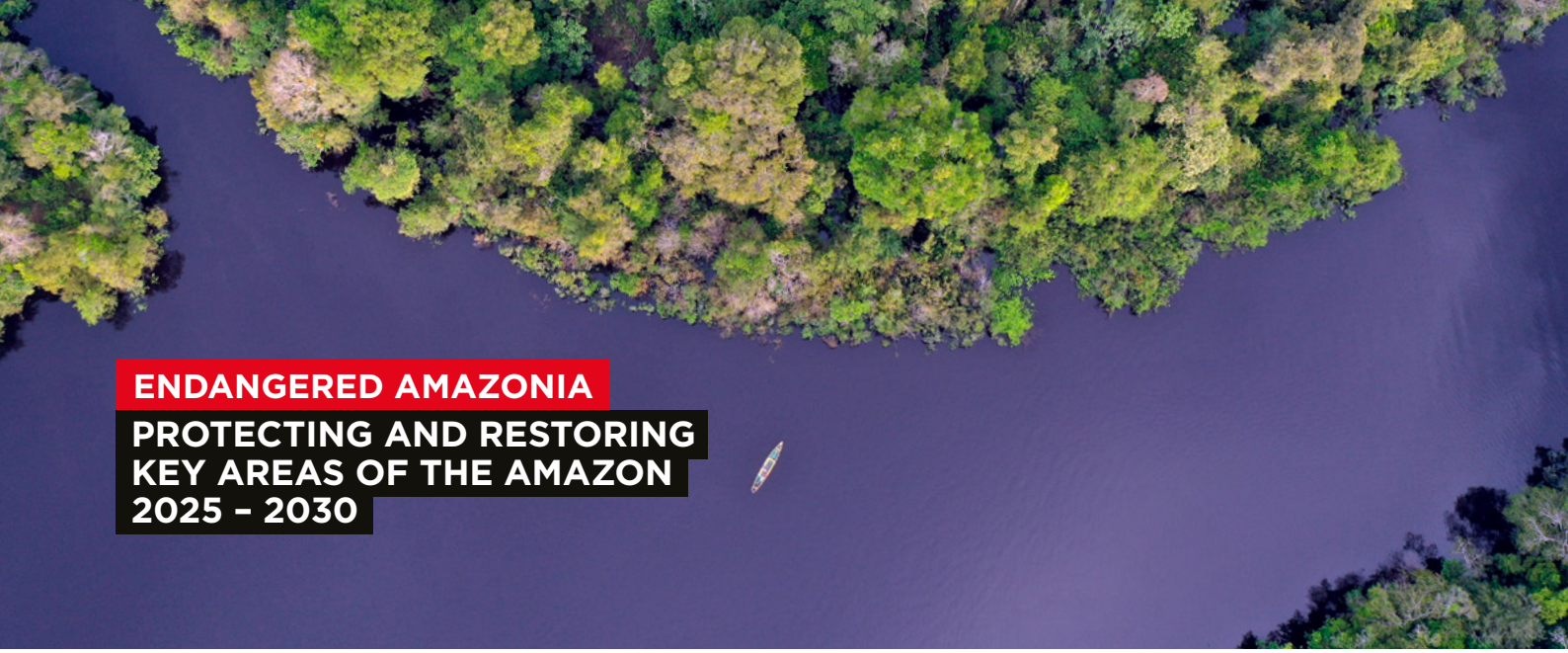

Fundación
Amigos de la
Naturaleza


WILDHERITAGE


AMAZON
WATERS


25 Years
AMAZON
CONSERVATION


Monitoring of the Andes Amazon Program



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

PROTECTING AND RESTORING KEY AREAS OF THE AMAZON 2025 – 2030

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

RAISG

Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza

Technical report: Key Takeaways

1. In total, during the 40 years analysed (1985–2024), the Amazon has lost 136 million hectares of forest, an area equivalent to almost three times the territory of Spain.

2. Between 2021 and 2024, the region experienced an unprecedented acceleration in the loss of its natural cover, with a rate of transformation and degradation of around 8 million hectares per year, equivalent to more than 33 million hectares disturbed in just four years.

3. As a result, while the 2020 data showed a loss of 26% due to deforestation (20%) and high degradation (6%), by 2024, transformed and degraded areas will cover 30% of the Amazon, reducing areas with high ecological functionality to 70%. This trend warns of a real and imminent risk of irreversible loss of resilience in Amazonian ecosystems, threatening the region's climate stability, water availability, and biodiversity.

4. The analysis of the situation of priority conservation areas by country reveals that the regional trend once again positions Bolivia and Brazil as the countries with the highest level of transformation and degradation of Amazonian ecosystems and landscapes, as already evidenced in the 2022 report 'Amazonia Against the Clock'.

5. Bolivia and Brazil lead the way in terms of the extent of fires in the Amazon, and 2024 is taking shape as one of the most catastrophic years, with more than 21 million hectares affected by fire.

6. By 2024, indicators show a moderate increase: 13% in Indigenous Territories (IT) and Protected Areas (PA), and 25% in Ramsar Sites, in contrast to a worrying 47% transformation and degradation outside these areas. The results confirm the fundamental role of Indigenous Territories as effective conservation mechanisms, comparable to protected areas.

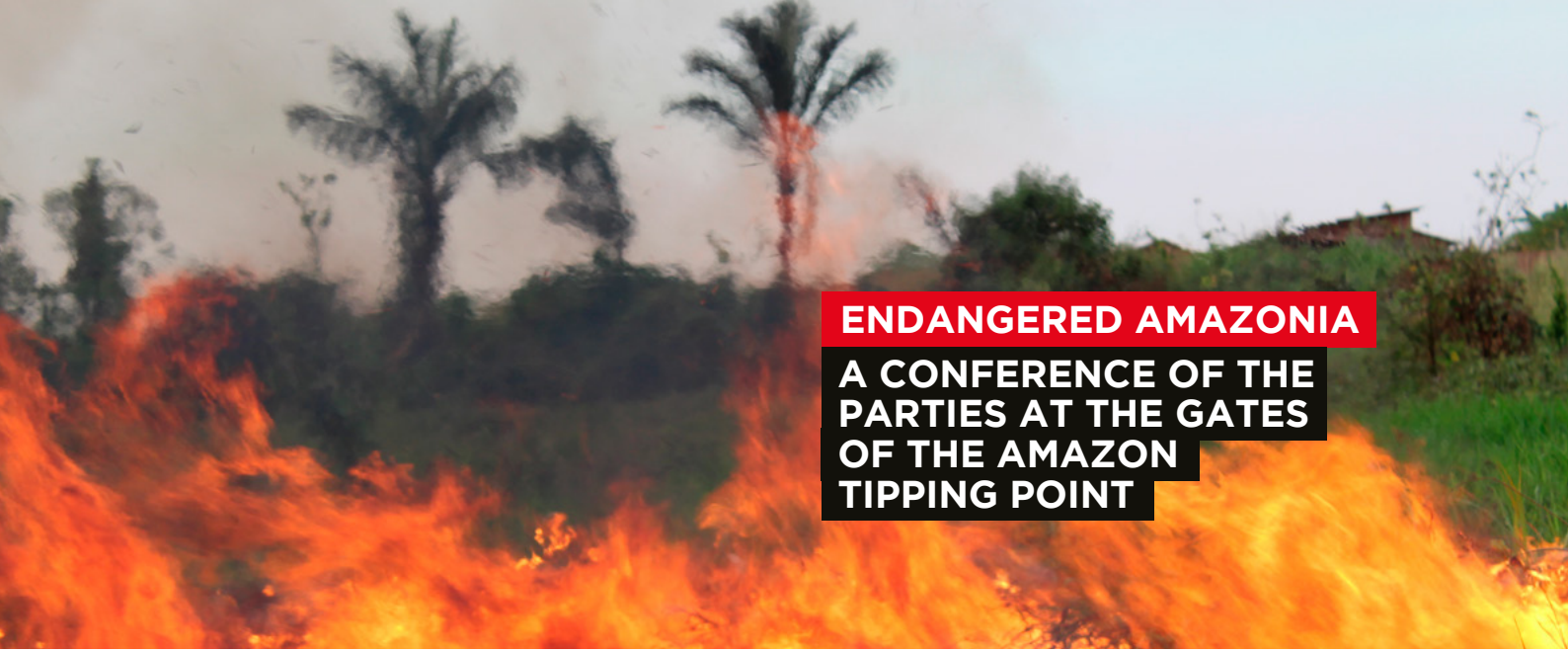
Photo: Zacambu River in Peru. ***Credit:*** *Rhett Ayers Butler / Mongabay*

7. By 2024, the Amazon has more than 538 million hectares of stable forest, meaning that 70% is still standing. Of this total, Indigenous Territories protect 202 million hectares, Protected Areas 174 million, and Ramsar Sites 25 million. In contrast, forests outside these protected areas are the most vulnerable to loss and fragmentation and urgently require effective conservation and restoration strategies (194 million hectares of forest).

Summary

Conducted since 2021 by Red Amazónica de Información Socioambiental Georreferenciada (RAISG) as part of the "Amazon for Life: Protect and Restore 80% 2025-2030" initiative, using its own methodology based on data from 1985 to 2024, this research presents a set of findings aimed at informing and guiding global and national policy to prevent the advance of the tipping-point scenarios that are already occurring in certain Amazonian regions. This report first presents an update of the results included in the 2022 'Amazonia Against the Clock' report, which was conducted using RAISG data from 2020. The aim is to account for the trajectory of deforestation, degradation, and fires and their impact at the regional level at two points in time, 2020 and 2024. Secondly, the data is disaggregated at country level to provide inputs that will enable emergency action to be taken in response to tipping points already present in some territories. Finally, the report analyses the penetration of degradation, deforestation, and fires in Indigenous Territories, protected areas and, on this occasion, Ramsar Sites. The data confirm an accelerated trajectory towards a tipping point in several regions if emergency measures are not taken. However, the final conclusion is that 70% of the Amazon is still standing and that priority areas have been found using 12 variables that can guide immediate regional and national public policies.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Quintanilla, Marlene. "Protecting and Restoring Key Areas of the Amazon 2025 – 2030," in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 23-44. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

A CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AT THE GATES OF THE AMAZON TIPPING POINT

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Science Panel for the Amazon
THE AMAZON WE WANT

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. The Amazon is on the verge of a tipping point. If deforestation exceeds 20% and global warming exceeds 2°C by 2050, about 70% of the forest could self-degrade between 2080 and 2100, releasing more than 250 billion tons of CO_2. Currently, 17% of the forest has already been deforested and global warming is close to 1.5°C (Nobre et al., 2016).

2. The Amazon hydrological cycle sustains rainfall in South America. The "flying rivers" generated by the forest contribute about 50% of the local rainfall and up to 30% of the precipitation in the Plata River Basin (Zemp et al., 2014). This ability of the forest to pump and redistribute moisture maintains South America's climate stability. However, the loss of forest cover weakens this cycle, reduces biodiversity, and threatens the livelihoods of Amazonian populations who depend on forests and rivers for their food, health, and local economy.

3. The frequency and intensity of extreme droughts in the Amazon are increasing. The extreme drought of 2023–2024 caused the temperature of Lake Tefé to exceed 40°C and dissolved oxygen to drop to critical levels. These droughts — also recorded in 2005, 2010 and 2015–2016 — being recurrent, can cause local extinctions of species, alter the availability of food and water, increase thermal discomfort and health risks for Amazonian communities.

4. Wildfires exacerbate the climate crisis. Most fires in the Amazon are caused by deforestation, the use of fire in agricultural practices, and the advance of organized crime aimed at degrading and deforesting the forest. Climate change intensifies the problem by drying out vegetation and soil, making them more flammable. In addition to ecological and economic losses, fires destroy crops and agroforestry systems, and their toxic smoke affects about 140.000 people per year in the Brazilian Amazon (Prist et al., 2023).

Photo: Fires in Bolivia. ***Credit:*** *Rankin, 2017*

5. The 30th Convention of the Parties (COP30) represents a critical opportunity to reverse the Amazon crisis. COP30, which will be held in Belém, Brazil — the first city in the Amazon to host a COP — seeks to reorient global climate policy. The event has a debate agenda focused on nature-based solutions, renewable energy, forest restoration, and climate justice. The integration of Indigenous and Local Knowledge will be fundamental for a regenerative socio-bioeconomy in the Amazon.

Summary

The 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30 - UNFCCC), scheduled to take place in Belém in November 2025, represents a historic meeting: either we advance on real solutions to achieve zero deforestation and regenerate the Amazon — integrating science, technology, local knowledge and political will — or we will witness the breaking of the thresholds that sustain the environmental stability of the largest biological reserve and supplier of rainfall in the Earth's surface. The world cannot fail the Amazon. Protecting the forest and local communities is a global duty and keeping it alive and connected is crucial to the future of humanity. In this chapter, we present the impacts of climate change on Amazonian communities, analyze the risk of the forest reaching a tipping point, and discuss how the main themes on the COP30 agenda can contribute to reducing greenhouse gases, restoring Amazonian ecosystems, and supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the conservation of their territories.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Nobre, Carlos A., Brandão, Diego O., Arieira, Julia, and Peña-Claros, Marielos. "A Conference of the Parties at the Gates of the Amazon Tipping Point", in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 45-56. Quito: COICA, 2025.

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

A LIVING AMAZON: PROTECTING 80% BY 2025: CLIMATE DIPLOMACY WITH IDENTITY

AMAZONIA VIVA: PROTEGER + RESTAURAR 80% 2025 2030
EVITANDO EL PUNTO DE NO RETORNO

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. The Amazon is showing signs of imminent ecological collapse, and its peoples are living with the consequences. With 28% of the Amazon already deforested or degraded—at the very tipping point estimated to be between 20% and 25%—certain parts of the Amazon are already undergoing irreversible transformation. This collapse is not a future projection: it is already manifesting itself in extreme droughts, off-season flooding, and disruptions to the ancestral ecological calendar, affecting the production, spirituality, and survival of the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples.

2. The climate crisis is also a cultural crisis. Environmental degradation erodes the spiritual, linguistic, and social foundations of Indigenous Peoples, threatening their collective identity. Deforestation and climate change are perceived not only as ecological phenomena, but as processes of cultural and spiritual uprooting.

3 COICA has succeeded in positioning evidence-based Amazonian Indigenous diplomacy. Since its creation in 1984, COICA has transformed its role in the COPs from a marginal actor to a leading advocate, combining ancestral knowledge and science to support the defence of Indigenous territories and rights.

4. COICA promotes indigenous Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as a key climate tool: Indigenous NDCs seek to formally include ancestral territorial climate strategies in national commitments to the Paris Agreement, recognising their proven contribution to mitigation and adaptation.

5. Direct climate finance is the cornerstone of a new, fair governance system.

6. Less than 1% of international climate finance reaches indigenous communities. COICA proposes reforming the global financial architecture and consolidating mechanisms for direct, intercultural,

Amazonian tree boa - Corallus hortulanus. ***Credit:*** *COICA*

and unconditional access that recognise indigenous peoples as climate creditors and legitimate financial actors. The Amazon for Life Fund, co-designed and implemented with the Inter-American Development Bank, positions COICA as a pioneer in this financial restructuring. COICA's call for COP30 is clear: the time has come to redesign climate finance governance to move from an extractive and vertical model to shared, intercultural, and direct access governance.

7 Environmental loss and cultural identity are intrinsically connected: deforestation and climate change erode languages, rituals, biodiversity, and ancestral knowledge. This cultural crisis deepens the social and spiritual vulnerability of Indigenous Peoples.

8. Science and ancestral knowledge must engage in dialogue as equals: COICA promotes an alliance between scientific evidence and traditional knowledge as the basis for climate diplomacy with identity. It proposes co-authorship of reports, cultural indicators, and research networks led by Indigenous Peoples as part of the COP30 agenda.

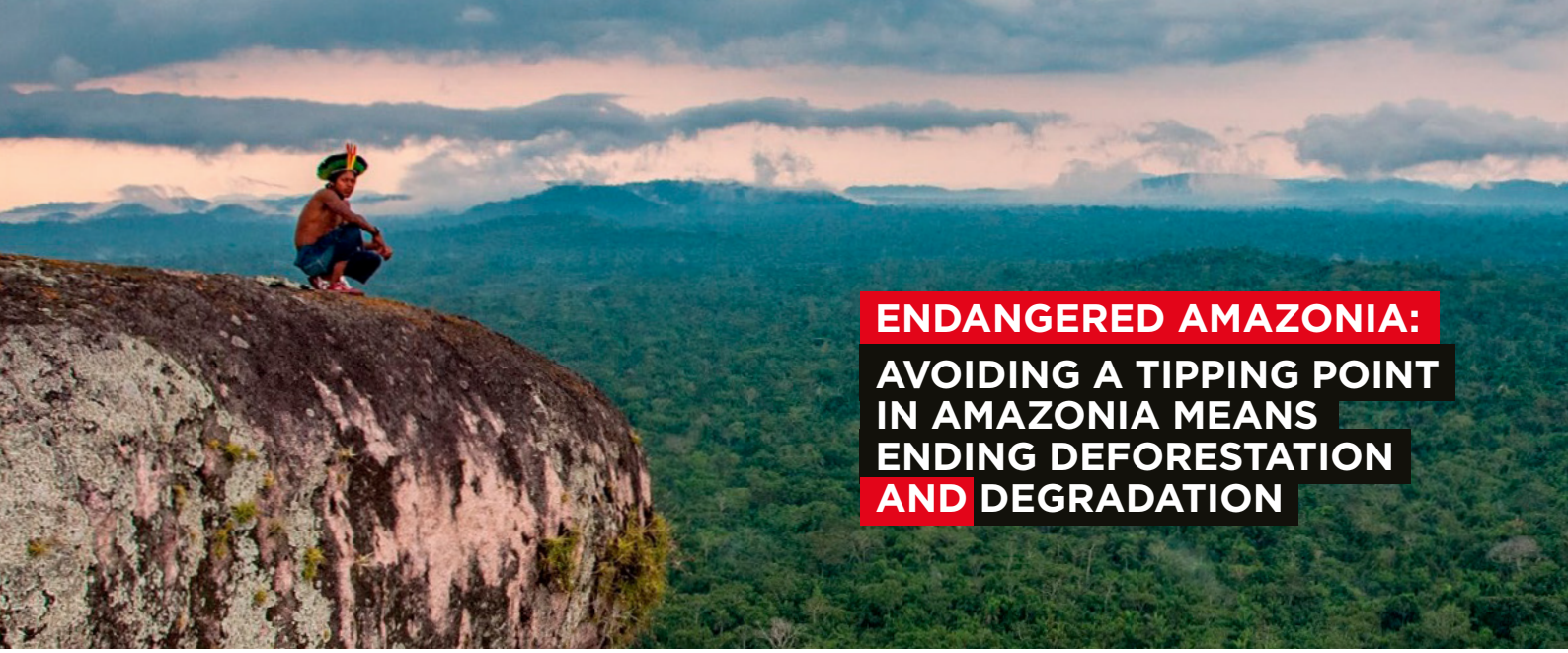
Summary

This is a strategic and scientific reflection by Amazonian indigenous leader José Gregorio Díaz Mirabal, in his role as COICA Climate Change Coordinator, on the critical state of the Amazon and the central role that Indigenous Peoples play in global climate governance.

Structured as an analytical-diplomatic narrative, the text combines scientific evidence and territorial testimony, constructing a comprehensive reading of the Amazonian collapse as an ecological, cultural, and civilisational crisis.

The document concludes with an urgent call for a Pact for the Amazon, bringing together governments, scientists, civil society, and Indigenous Peoples to protect at least 80% of the biome by 2030, articulating climate justice, human rights, and planetary co-responsibility.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Mirabal, Gregorio. "A Living Amazon: protecting 80% by 2025: climate diplomacy with identity," in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 57-74. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA: AVOIDING A TIPPING POINT IN AMAZONIA MEANS ENDING DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT+ RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

WILDHERITAGE

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. Forest degradation has a major impact on tropical forests. Tropical forests are highly sensitive to edge effects. Sunlight penetrating a primary forest can cause tree loss up to a kilometer into the forest and cause impacts to vegetation several kilometers from the forest edge.

2. Forest degradation is far more widespread than deforestation. In Amazonia, almost 250 million hectares are being degraded, whereas 10 million hectares of forest are cleared annually around the world. Carbon dioxide emissions from degradation are about the same as from deforestation.

3. Primary forests and forests with high ecosystem integrity maximize ecosystem services, including biodiversity protection and climate mitigation and adaptation, and are much more stable, including being more resistant to fire, than degraded forests.

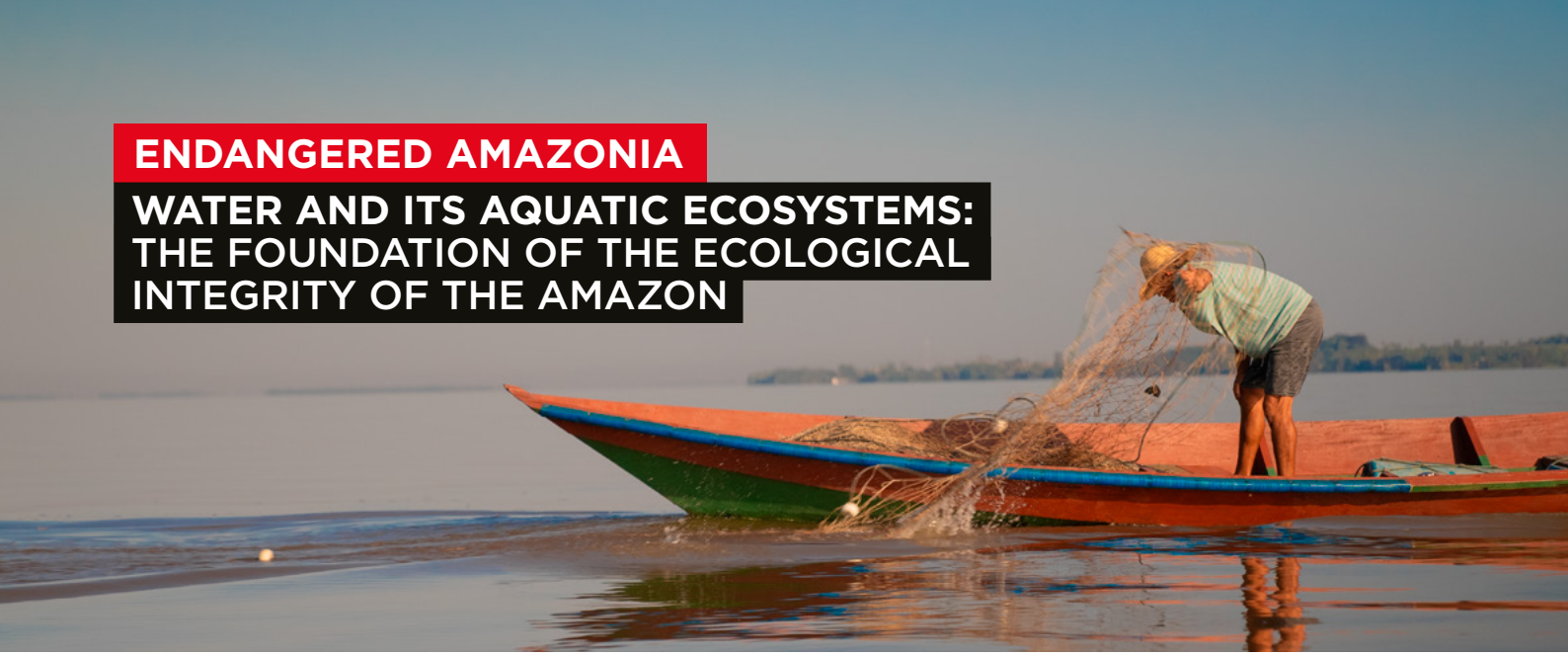
4. Avoiding tipping points in Amazonia means ending both deforestation and forest degradation.

Photo: Kayapo territory in Brazil. ***Credit:*** *Cristina Mittermeier.*

Summary

Forest degradation has received less attention than deforestation because degradation is difficult to measure, and images of forests being burned or cleared by bulldozers are visually powerful and easier to understand than forests being degraded. However, degradation from industrial activities such as commercial logging, mining, or roads is nonetheless a pervasive threat to forests. Almost 40% of Amazonia's forests are subject to degradation, leading to roughly equal carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation. Forest degradation also leads to significant losses of biodiversity, and by extension, of forest ecosystem integrity, resulting in decreased ecosystem services and forest stability, and increased vulnerability to climate change. Fortunately, breakthroughs in satellite imagery are now making it possible to measure and map forest degradation with precision. Preventing large areas of Amazonian forests from reaching tipping points will require addressing both deforestation and forest degradation by 2030.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Kormos, Cyril and Mackey, Brendan. "Protecting 80% of Amazonia Means Ending Deforestation and Degradation", in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 75-86. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

WATER AND ITS AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS: THE FOUNDATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF THE AMAZON

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

USFQ UNIVERSIDAD SAN FRANCISCO DE QUITO

AMAZON WATERS

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. **Aquatic connectivity** sustains life, biodiversity, and the Amazonian climate. Maintaining the natural flow of water and the connection between rivers, wetlands, forests, and communities is essential for ecological cycles, fisheries, climate regulation, and human well-being.

2. **The Amazon is facing accelerated degradation of its freshwater ecosystems:** dams, deforestation, pollution, and climate change are fragmenting rivers and reducing the ecological integrity of the basin, threatening the water, food, and cultural security of millions of people.

3. **Conserving and ensuring the sustainable management of Indigenous Territories, conservation areas, Andean-Amazonian riverscapes, and floodplains is a high priority and urgent.** These ecosystems are sources of biodiversity, water, food, fertility, and carbon storage; their conservation maintains the productivity and resilience of the entire basin.

4. **Indigenous territorial management, community monitoring, and participatory science contribute to exercising sovereignty over territories, lands, and water.** Indigenous and traditional knowledge, community monitoring, and participatory science are essential for better management of territories, aquatic ecosystems, and natural resources. Dialogue and collaboration between local knowledge and accredited scientific knowledge generate reliable information, strengthen adaptive management, and promote evidence-based policies and environmental justice.

5. **Strengthening indigenous and community leadership is key to the governance of territories and water.** Indigenous peoples and local communities play a central role in territorial management, sustainable management of fisheries and other natural resources, and the conservation of free-flowing rivers, contributing essential knowledge for decision-making.

Photo: Artisanal fisher making a catch in Santo Antônio do Içá, Brazil. ***Credit:*** *© Bruno Mello / WCS Brazil*

6. **Joint regional action is essential to preserving the integrity of the Amazon basin.** This requires cooperation among Amazonian countries and between states and civil society, a transition to low-impact energy, pollution prevention, and nature-based solutions that contribute to climate resilience and integrate equity, justice, and sustainability.

Summary

The Amazon basin is the largest and most diverse freshwater system inthe planet. Its rivers, lakes, and wetlands regulate the regional and global climate, support the world's greatest freshwater biodiversity, and are an essential source of food, culture, and well-being for millions of people. However, these ecosystems face increasing pressures: dams, deforestation, pollution, and climate change threaten their ecological integrity and jeopardize their resilience. Maintaining the functionality and connectivity of Amazonian aquatic ecosystems is not only an environmental priority but also an indispensable condition for the region's water, food, and cultural security.

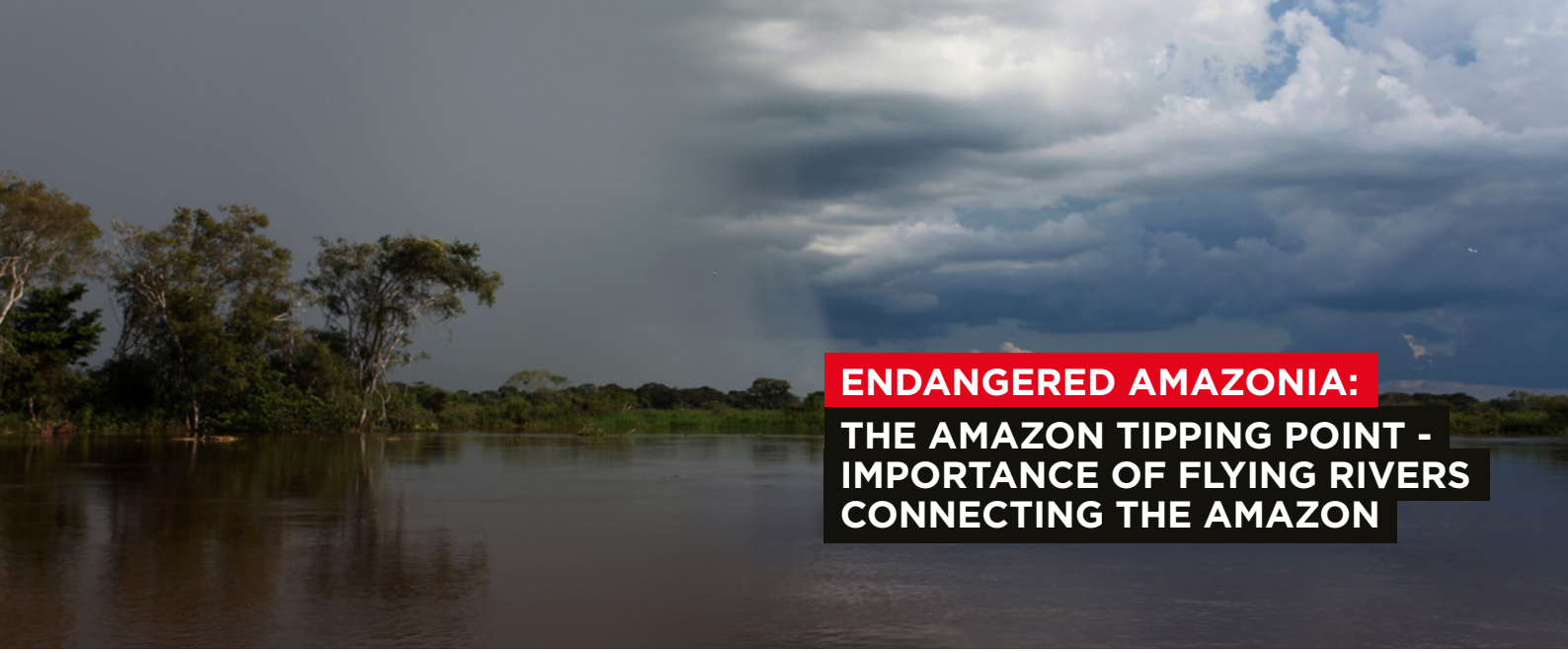
In this article, ecological integrity is defined through an index that integrates information on biodiversity, connectivity, and environmental quality to identify the state of ecosystems and determine whether they are healthy or require urgent conservation, management, or restoration actions. Preliminary analysis of ecological integrity offers a strategic tool for identifying low-impact energy, pollution prevention, and nature-based solutions that promote climate resilience and integrate equity, justice, and sustainability which sub-basins remain healthy, and which require urgent attention. This index reveals significant contrasts: while some areas still retain high biological and productive diversity thanks to river connectivity and forest cover, others show severe deterioration due to fragmentation, habitat loss, and the growing effects of climate change. Complementarily, the proposal for participatory monitoring—with pilot sentinel sites and a dialogue of knowledge between science and communities—will allow for continuous monitoring of the health of ecosystems and guide evidence-based conservation actions.

The recommendations in this chapter are clear: halt new high-impact dams, reduce pollution, restore critical habitats, strengthen shared governance, and recognize the leading role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Only through cooperation between countries, sustained support, and the integration of diverse knowledge will it be possible to ensure that Amazonian rivers continue to sustain life, culture, and resilience for future generations.

Keywords

Aquatic ecosystems, Amazonia, Connectivity, Ecological Integrity, Participatory Monitoring

SUGGESTED CITATION: Encalada, Andrea C., Benítez P., Silvya, y Varese, Mariana. "Water and its aquatic ecosystems: the basis of ecological integrity in the Amazon", in *Endangered Amazonia*, editado por Alicia Guzmán León, pages 87-98. Quito: COICA, 2025



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA: THE AMAZON TIPPING POINT - IMPORTANCE OF FLYING RIVERS CONNECTING THE AMAZON

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. Contrary to the common perception that the tipping point is a single Amazon-wide event, certain parts of the Amazon are more vulnerable than others.

2. Flying Rivers is a natural phenomenon of aerial moisture transport and recycling that flows from the Atlantic Ocean across the Amazon, uniquely facilitated by the rainforest itself.

3. Precipitation tends to increase exponentially as moist air travels over forests, but then drops off sharply once it moves beyond them.

4 The moisture flows change seasonally in the Amazon. During the rainy season (January–February), the moisture flow is both westward and southward, creating a giant arc. Thus, the continental moisture source is the northeast Amazon. In the dry (July–August) and the dry-to-wet transition (September-October) seasons, the moisture flow shifts more directly westward. Therefore, the continental moisture source is the southeast Amazon, and some studies have identified this region as the most important for maintaining overall Amazonian resilience.

5. There is increasing evidence that future deforestation will reduce rainfall downwind. Several recent studies have found that Amazon deforestation has already caused a significant decrease in precipitation in the southeast Amazon, particularly during the dry season. Moreover, deforestation reduces rainfall upwind of the cleared areas, impacting the western Amazon as well. In addition, recent studies have shown that Amazon deforestation delays the onset of the wet season in southern Amazonia.

6. Continued deforestation and forest degradation, will disrupt and diminish the critical east-to-west aerial water flow, inducing a "tipping point" of impacted regions that would transition from rainforest to drier savannah ecosystems.

7. Multiple sources have reported an increase in the length of the dry season in the southern and eastern Amazon in recent decades, with the largest dry season observed in 2023-2024.

8. There are transboundary implications, as actions occurring in an eastern country can have an impact on a western country downwind of the moisture cascade. For example, deforestation in eastern Brazil can negatively impact moisture flow going to Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, including the tropical Andean mountains.

9. Deforestation, additional climatic factors, such as increased temperature and the length of the dry season, are also contributing to the tipping point.

Photo: Flying River, Brazil. ***Credit:*** *Rhett Ayers Butler/Mongabay.*

10. Drier conditions are leading to record-breaking fire seasons, most notably during the El Niño years of 2016 and 2024.

11. The predicted forest-to-savannah change is already happening in places experiencing increased wildfire frequency due to these hot and dry conditions.

12. Sensitive areas that are the most vulnerable to deforestation- caused disruption of moisture recycling from the Atlantic Ocean source are mostly located in the southwestern Amazon (Peru and Bolivia), positioning them as the most vulnerable areas to a possible tipping point.

Sumary

The Amazon biome, stretching over a vast area across nine countries in northern South America, is renowned for its extreme diversity (biological and cultural) and its abundant water resources. Indeed, the major features of the Amazon are linked by interconnected **water flows, both on land and in the air** (Beveridge et al. 2024).

The natural phenomenon of aerial moisture transport and recycling, also known as **"aerial rivers**" and popularized in the press as **"flying rivers,"** has emerged as an essential concept related to the conservation of the Amazon. In short, moisture flows from the Atlantic Ocean across the Amazon, uniquely facilitated by the rainforest itself. As they move westward, these flying rivers drop water onto the forest below. The forest subsequently transpires moisture back into them, thus **recycling water** and supporting rainforest ecosystems far from the Ocean source. For example, the **Intro Map** illustrates the aerial river for the southwest Amazon.

Continued deforestation and forest degradation, however, will disrupt and diminish the critical east-to-west aerial water flow, inducing a **"tipping point"** of impacted regions that would transition from rainforest to drier savannah ecosystems.

In this report, we aim to both summarize the current state of knowledge on the movement of atmospheric moisture across the Amazon and develop novel analyses based on this information. Overall, we aim to show the **critical connections between the eastern and western Amazon** and how these connections change during the major seasons (wet, dry, and transition) of the year.

Our analysis is divided into **three main parts:**

First, we summarize the state of knowledge on the movement of atmospheric moisture across the Amazon, drawing on a review of recent literature and exchanges with experts. **Second**, we identify the sensitive areas that are the most vulnerable to deforestation-caused disruption of moisture recycling. **Third**, we relate these sensitive areas in the west to their respective eastern key source areas for moisture for each of the three Amazonian seasons: wet, dry, and transition.

In summary, we identified the sensitive areas that are the most vulnerable to deforestation- caused disruption of moisture recycling from the Atlantic Ocean source are mostly located in the **southwestern Amazon (Peru and Bolivia)**. For the wet season, much of the moisture flow to these sensitive areas crosses the continuous primary (non-deforested) forests of the northern Amazon. For the **dry and transition seasons**, however, the moisture flow to the sensitive areas must cross several major deforestation fronts located in the eastern Brazilian Amazon.

Thus, an important contribution of this work is to reveal that, contrary to the common perception that the tipping point is a single Amazon-wide event, certain parts of the Amazon are more vulnerable than others. Most notably, the southwestern Amazon (Peru and Bolivia) is **most vulnerable to a possible tipping point**, particularly stressed by disrupted dry season moisture flows over major deforestation fronts.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Finer, Matt, A. Ariñez, J. P. Sierra, J. C. Espinoza, W. Weng, C. Vriesendorp, B. Bodin, and J. Beavers. "MAAP: 232." 2025 Amazon Conservation MAAP Report, reprinted in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 99-110. Quito: COICA, 2025.

SECTION II

DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION DRIVERS


CHALMERS
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY


trase


SEI
Stockholm
Environment
Institute


WWF


AMAZON WATCH

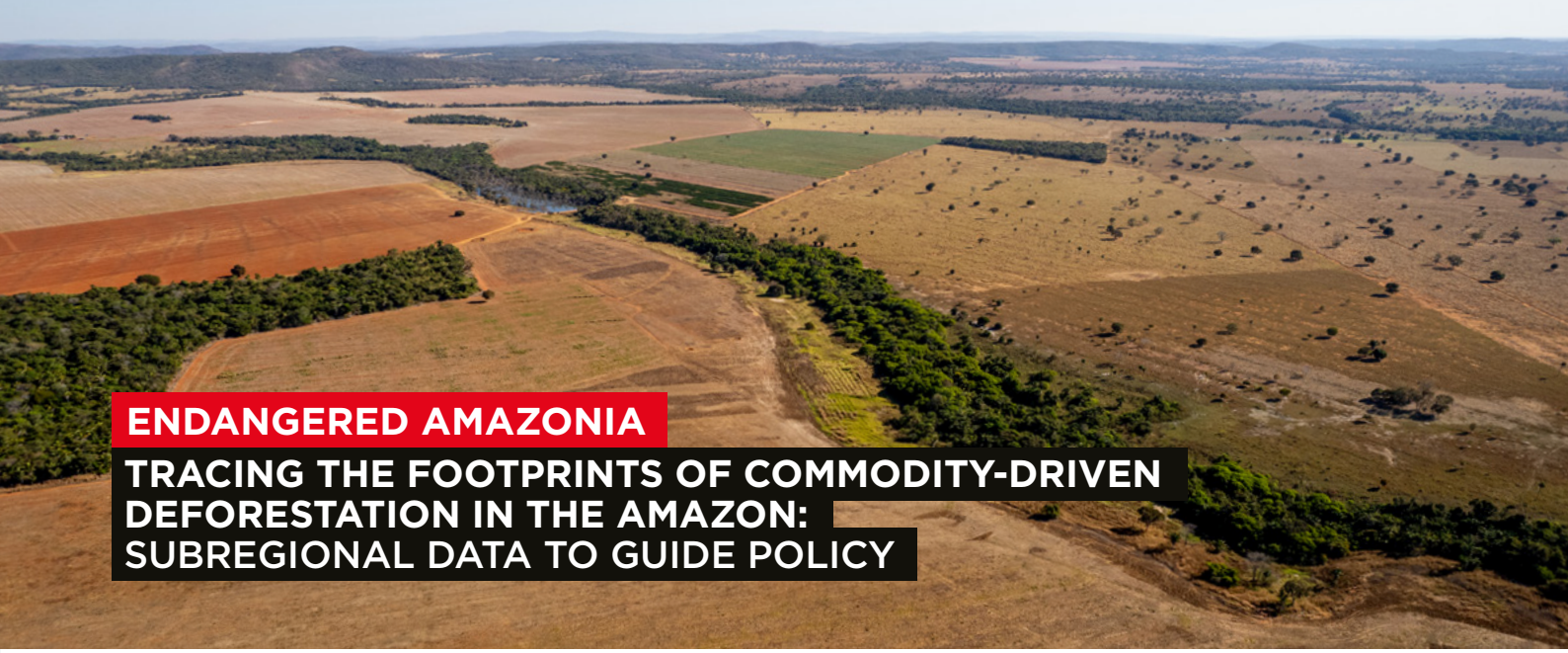

Earth
Insight


aqoci
Association québécoise
des organismes de
coopération internationale


AIDESEP


ORPIA


COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA
TRACING THE FOOTPRINTS OF COMMODITY-DRIVEN DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON: SUBREGIONAL DATA TO GUIDE POLICY

Technical report: Key Takeaways

1. The expansion of agricultural land use—pastures and cropland—is the main driver of deforestation across the Amazon region1. However, the data presented here also show substantial areas of forest degradation throughout the Amazon; highlight the important role of mining in driving deforestation in the Guiana Shield; and indicate that land speculation and indirect land-use change are likely to be prominent drivers of deforestation.

2. Agriculture-driven deforestation shows a declining trend in most Amazon countries in recent years (2017- 2022), with the exception of Brazil—where it is relatively stable—and Ecuador—where it is much higher than historical levels. Despite cropland expansion accounting for only 22% of total deforestation between 2017-2022, compared to 78% from cattle ranching, trends indicate that it is becoming a more prevalent driver of deforestation across the Amazon region, particularly in Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

3. Sub-national deforestation patterns across the Amazon reveal distinct drivers (2017-2021), with pasture dominating in the eastern and central portions of the Amazon—but advancing into the interior of the region,and crop expansion—particularly soy in Bolivia and staples like maize, rice, and cassava in Peru and Venezuela—prevailing in the western, southern, and northwestern subregions. These results highlight the need for targeted strategies and interventions to address deforestation, tailored to specific sub-national contexts.

4. A key limitation in uncovering explicit drivers of deforestation is the availability of high-quality land use data. Such data is crucial for understanding complex land-use change dynamics and for accurate attribution of deforestation to specific commodities. Additionally,

Photo: Mato Grosso, Brazil. ***Credit:*** *Jacqueline Lisboa, WWF*

this data is essential for gaining deeper insights into the impacts of socio-economic factors, such as market dynamics, trade, and finance, on deforestation at a more granular, sub-national scale. Closing this data gap requires active collaboration among state agencies, research institutions, NGOs, and the private sector, ensuring comprehensive data collection, knowledge sharing, and resource coordination to better inform policy actions towards effectively halting deforestation.

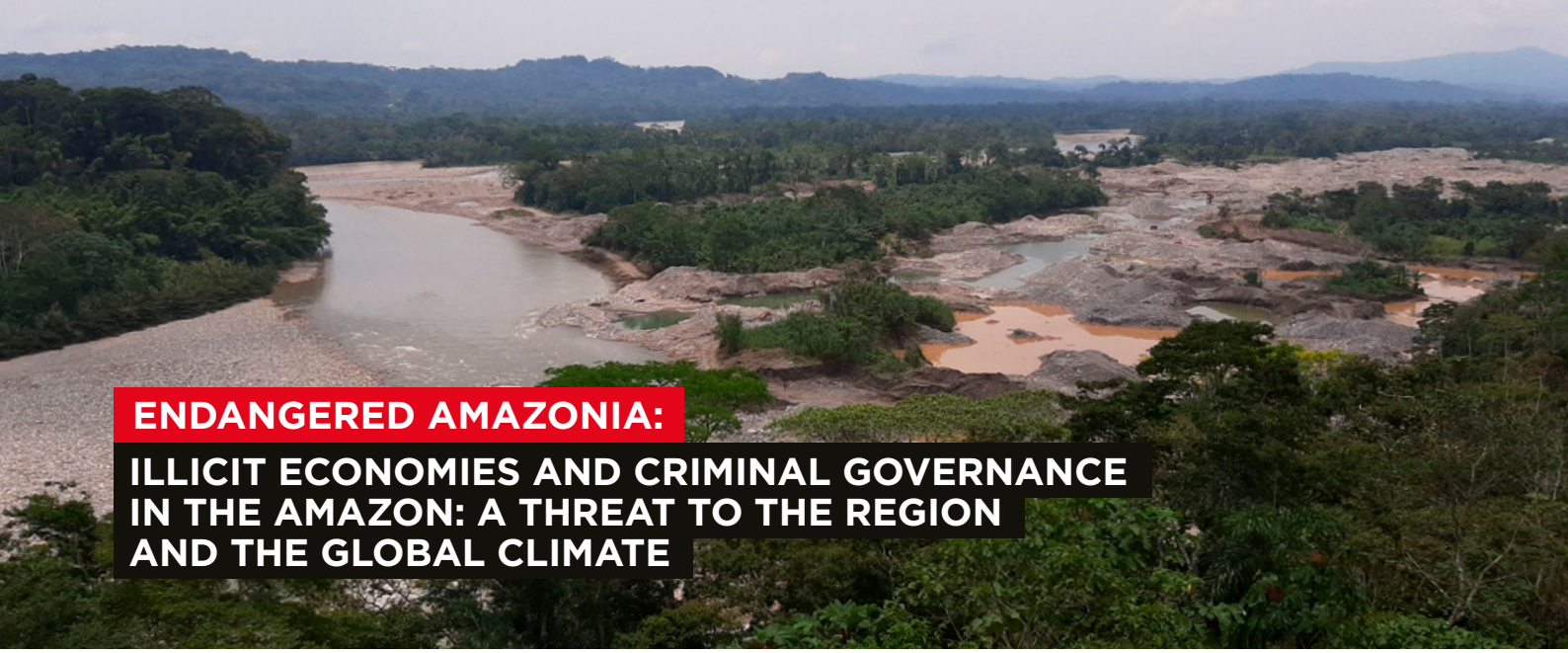
Summary

This article includes sections of the main findings and recommendations from the technical report titled "Uncovering Subregional Drivers of Deforestation in the Amazon: A Tool for Finding Solutions" (Ribeiro wt al. 2024), which was launched by WWF in 2024 during the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) held in Colombia. This report presents the first regional-level analysis of the drivers of deforestation in the Amazon. To achieve this, subnational agricultural production statistics were integrated with satellite data on land use and commodity production in each Amazonian country. By providing a more detailed understanding of deforestation linked to these commodities, the study aims to strengthen the capacity of national and (sub)regional actors—as well as policymakers—to develop targeted strategies tailored to the conditions of each country and territory, in support of sustainable land use and the conservation of the Amazon.

Keywords

Deforestation, land use, agricultural production, regional and subregional analysis.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Ribeiro, R.; Singh, C.; Pacheco, P.; Persson, M.; Vergara, A.; Holle, K.; Flach, R. "Tracing the Footprints of Commodity-Driven Deforestation in the Amazon: Subregional Data to Guide Policy", in *Endangered Amazonia,* edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 113-126. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA:
ILLICIT ECONOMIES AND CRIMINAL GOVERNANCE IN THE AMAZON: A THREAT TO THE REGION AND THE GLOBAL CLIMATE

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

AMAZON WATCH

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. Amazon on the brink of collapse

The combination of accelerated deforestation, intentional fires, agricultural expansion, and mercury pollution is weakening the Amazon's resilience. If it loses its ability to absorb carbon, the region could become a net source of emissions, altering the global climate. Criminal economies are driving this process by promoting the systematic and unregulated destruction of forests.

2. Illicit economies as drivers of degradation

Coca cultivation, drug trafficking, and illegal gold mining generate billions of dollars a year. These economies attract international networks that invest in machinery, logistics, and money laundering. Their scale makes them major drivers of deforestation, river pollution, and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, their connection to global legal markets allows local damage to have global repercussions.

3. Criminal governance displaces the state

In regions with weak institutional presence, armed groups and criminal organizations impose rules of coexistence, collect illegal taxes, and exercise control over strategic territories. This "criminal governance" limits state action, undermines local democracy, and prevents the implementation of environmental protection and human rights policies. For indigenous communities, this means living under constant threat and losing autonomy in their territories.

4. Triple border as the epicenter of Amazonian crime

In the area of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, groups such as FARC dissidents, the ELN, and transnational gangs converge to control strategic cocaine, gold, and arms corridors. This concentration of criminal power disrupts traditional indigenous governance structures and creates an environment of violence that prevents the defense of forests and community culture. The result is a vicious circle where insecurity reinforces the illegal exploitation of resources.

5. Impacts on human rights

Local communities suffer forced displacement, murders of leaders, recruitment of minors, and sexual violence as methods of social control. This violence fragments the community fabric and

Photo: Meeting of tributaries in the Jatunyacu River, Napo Province. ***Credit:*** *Sofía Jarrín - Amazon Watch*

weakens the capacity of Indigenous Peoples to manage their territories and protect them from invaders. The erosion of indigenous governance also opens the door to the expansion of illicit activities that directly affect the climate and biodiversity.

6. Massive environmental devastation

Illegal gold mining releases tons of mercury into rivers, contaminating fish and affecting the health of entire communities. The clearing and burning of forests to make way for coca crops or cattle pastures leads to accelerated deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and greenhouse gas emissions. These dynamics degrade ecosystems that are critical to global climate balance, with impacts that transcend borders.

7. Convergence with legal economies

Illegally mined gold, uncontrolled logging, and meat and soy produced on deforested land are inserted into global value chains. This intertwining blurs the boundaries between legal and illegal, giving the appearance of legitimacy to activities that destroy the Amazon. By normalizing criminal extraction, the agricultural and mining frontier expands into indigenous territories and conservation areas, amplifying the climate crisis.

8. A regional and global threat

The criminalization of the Amazon is not only a national security problem for Amazonian states, but also a global challenge to climate security and biodiversity. The expansion of criminal economies in the rainforest means that the future of the world's largest tropical forest, and therefore the stability of the global climate, is in the hands of transnational illicit networks.

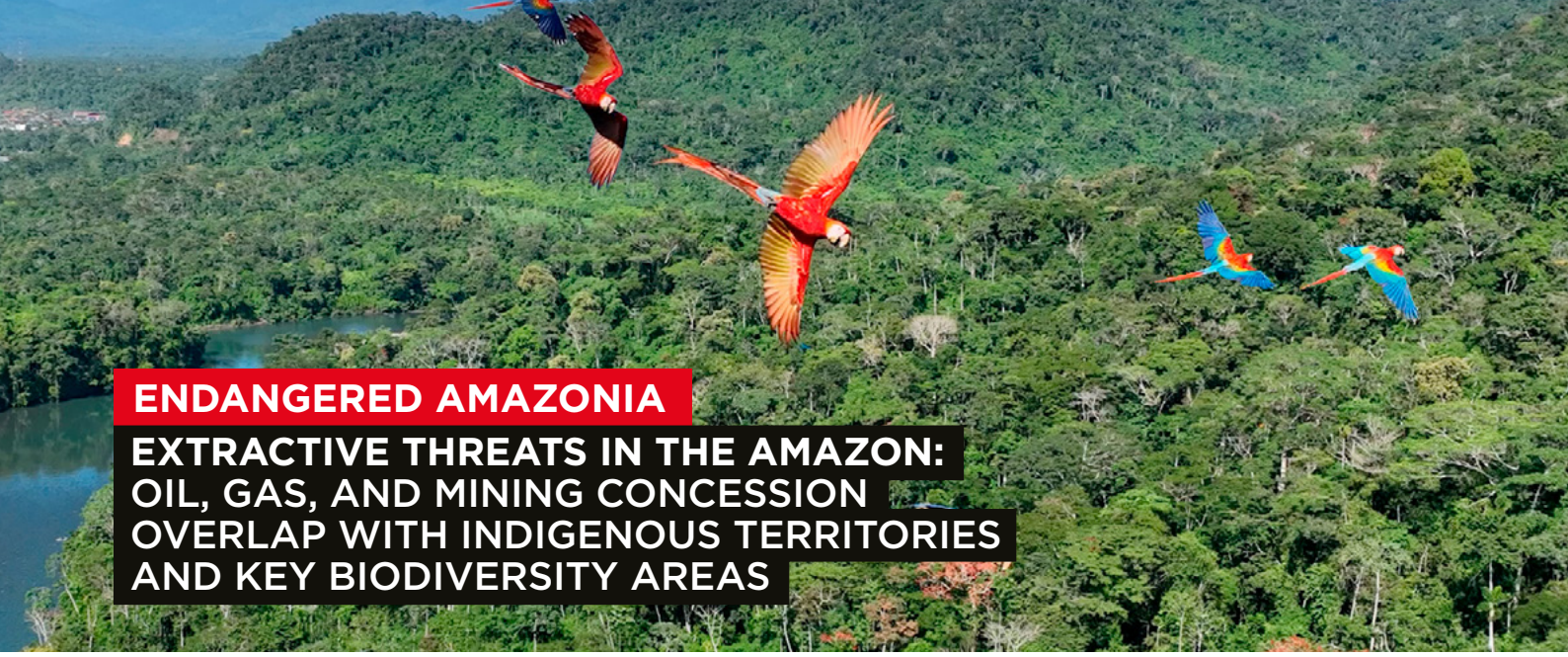
9. Strategic recommendations

Strengthening international cooperation is key: the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) needs to be aligned with the global commitments of the Paris Agreement and COP16 on biodiversity. It is also essential to protect indigenous territorial governance, ensure the safety of leaders and communities, and build sustainable economic alternatives that break the dependence on criminal economies. Without these measures, the Amazon will continue to be captured by illicit networks that threaten the climate, democracy, and human rights.

Summary

Illicit economies, criminal governance, and transnational organized crime networks have become one of the main threats to the Amazon and, by extension, to the global climate. This article explores the historical context and conditions that facilitated the expansion of organized crime, highlighting institutional weakness, porous borders, and the profitability of illicit economies due to high prices and demand in the global market. Through concrete examples from Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Peru, and Venezuela, we illustrate how transnational crime networks and illicit economies have established criminal governance, creating conditions of exploitation in the Amazon and pushing it beyond the point of no return. Finally, we conclude that political responses to this situation must incorporate the perspective of human and climate security, placing indigenous territorial governance and the traceability of global chains at the center of the response.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Hoetmer, Raphael, and Jarrín Hidalgo, Sofía. "Illicit economies and criminal governance in the Amazon: a threat to the region and the global climate," in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 127-144. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

EXTRACTIVE THREATS IN THE AMAZON: OIL, GAS, AND MINING CONCESSION OVERLAP WITH INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES AND KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT+ RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Earth Insight

Key Takeaways: Key Messages

1. **Critical overlap between extractive concessions and Indigenous territories:** more than 30 million hectares of Indigenous territories (12%) are compromised by hydrocarbons and 9.2 million hectares (4%) by mining, undermining the territorial and cultural integrity of Amazonian peoples.

2. **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are under pressure**: around 25.6 Mha (14%) overlap with oil and gas, and 19.7 Mha (10%) with mining, threatening unique habitats and regional ecological resilience.

3. **High-integrity forests at risk**: in the Amazon, 66 Mha (13%) of ***intact*** forests are threatened by oil and gas. Their degradation would compromise rainfall regulation and carbon storage, with regional and planetary impacts.

4. **Cases from five Amazonian countries reveal a systemic pattern**: from mining expansion in Brazil to pressure on PIACI in Peru, overlaps in Ecuador, vulnerability in Bolivia, to oil in Colombia, all Amazonian countries face critical tensions between conservation and extraction.

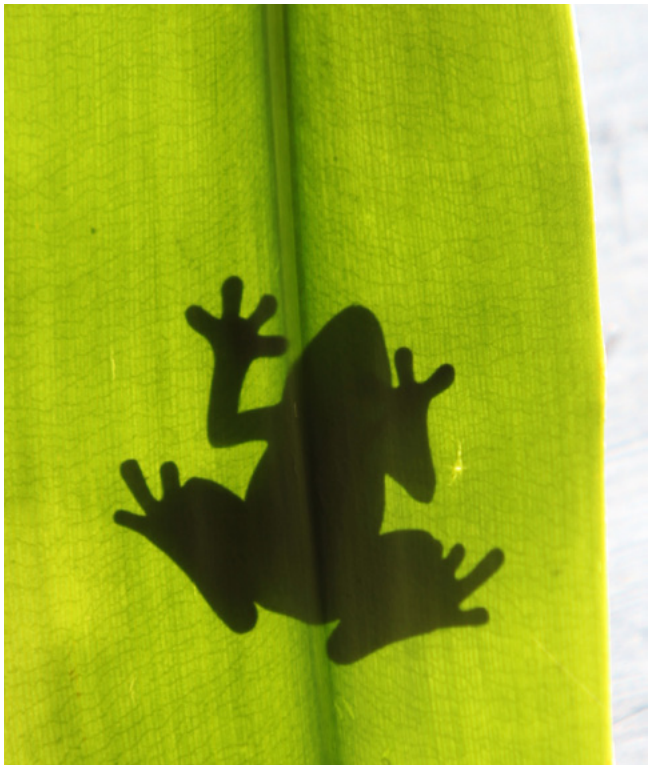
5. **The protection of Indigenous territories is essential to meet global commitments**: without securing rights, strengthening PIACI reserves, and applying moratoriums in critical areas, it will be impossible to achieve the 30x30 Target of the Global Biodiversity Framework or the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

Photo: Macaws flying over the Peruvian jungle. ***Credi:*** *Rhett Ayers Butler/Mongabay*

Summary

This article shows how the expansion of oil, gas, and mining industries in the Amazon directly threatens the territorial integrity, culture, and survival of Indigenous Peoples, as well as Key Biodiversity Areas. Most of the analysis is based on data from Earth Insight (Earth Insight et al. 2024) in the nine countries. However, this analysis presents regional results and specifically those of five Amazonian countries: Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Bolivia. This analysis only covers legal concessions; therefore, it is essential to clarify that the data does not include illegal mining.

More than 30 million hectares of Indigenous territories are overlapped by hydrocarbon blocks and 9.2 million with mining concessions, **weakening their autonomy and ways of life.** This pressure critically affects Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI), whose survival depends on reserves that are increasingly vulnerable to extractive and legislative initiatives. The intensity of the extractive industries' presence varies from country to country. In Ecuador and Colombia, many Indigenous territories coincide with oil blocks, while in Bolivia and Brazil, mining increases this threat. Indigenous Peoples are essential custodians of the forest and stewards of biodiversity, so their protection is indispensable to meeting the 30x30 Target and the Paris Agreement. This article's conclusions make an urgent call to fully recognize their rights, including guaranteeing Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), strengthening their territories, and ensuring direct financing.



Credit: *Rhett Ayers Butler/Mongabay*

SUGGESTED CITATION: Librizzi, M. Florencia, Osornio, Juan Pablo, and Bebbington, Anna. 2025. "Extractive Threats in the Amazon: Oil, Gas, and Mining Concession Overlap with Indigenous Territories and Key Biodiversity Areas," in *Amazonia in Danger of Extinction*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages. 145-162. Quito: COICA, 2025.

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

FROM EXPLOITATION TO RESTORATION: CANADA'S PRESENCE IN THE AMAZON AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

AQOCI Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. **Contradiction in Canada's Image**: A stark contrast exists between Canada's international reputation as a human rights and environmental champion and the destructive reality of its extractive companies' operations abroad.

2. **Environmental and Human Rights Violations**: Canadian extractive companies have caused severe damage in Latin America, with documented evidence of 105 oil spills, violations of Indigenous peoples' right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in 26 projects, and violent confrontations in 16 projects.

3. **Amazon Under Threat**: Canadian mining operations directly affect at least 16 Indigenous ethnic groups in the Amazon region, causing severe damage to biodiversity, forests, and waterways in an ecosystem approaching a dangerous tipping point of collapse.

4. **Need for Binding Legal Frameworks**: While Europe made some progress toward mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence laws, Canada continues to rely on ineffective voluntary measures despite widespread calls for robust legislation from Canadian civil society organizations.

5. **Transformative International Solidarity**: Effective solidarity requires actors from the Global North to support Indigenous-led struggles, influence governments and corporations, advocate for binding accountability frameworks, and build horizontal partnerships that respect the autonomy and knowledge of Amazonian peoples.

Photo: Cerro Verde Copper Mine (Perú). ***Credit:*** *Rankin, 2017*

Summary

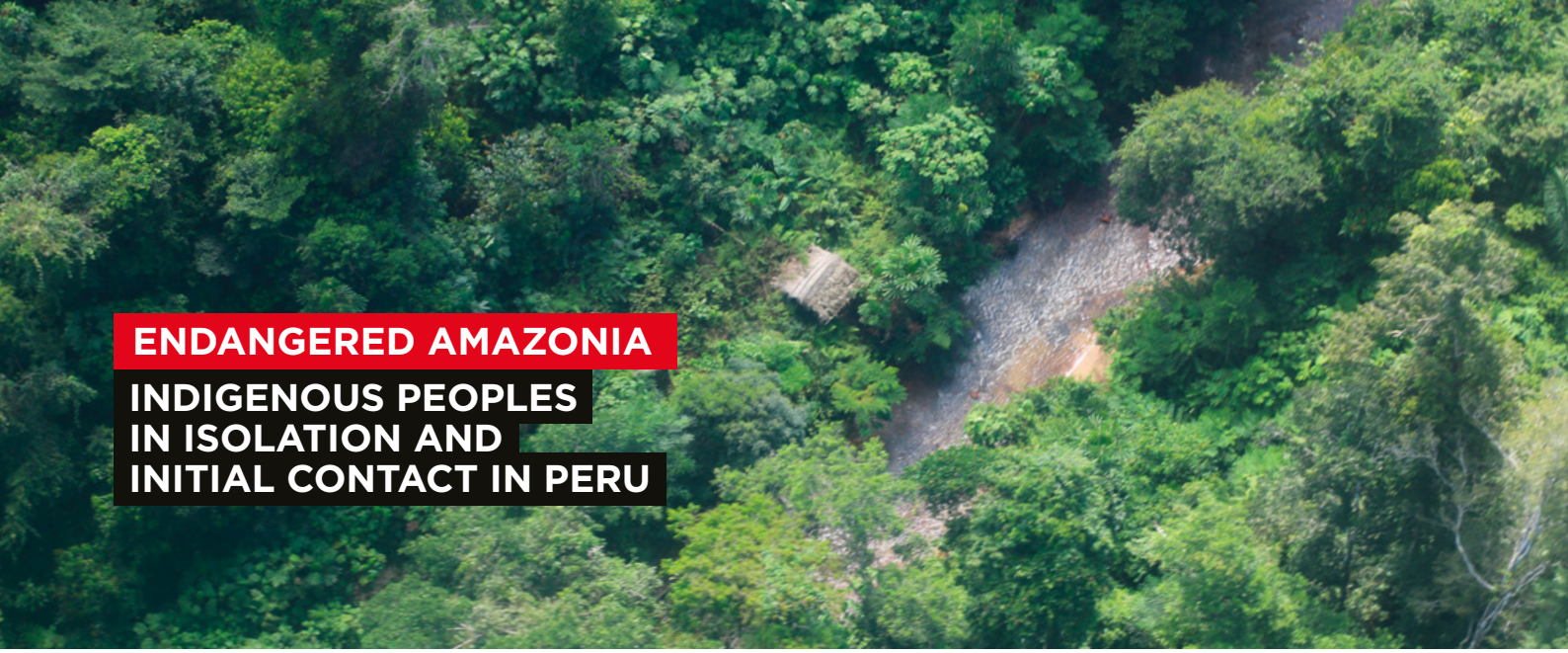
This article exposes the stark contradiction between Canada's reputation as a human rights and environmental champion and the devastating impact of its mining companies in Latin America, particularly the Amazon region. As home to approximately half of the world's publicly listed mining companies operating in 95 countries, Canada provides these corporations with favorable tax incentives and minimal regulatory oversight, creating conditions for corporate impunity abroad. The consequences in Latin America have been severe, with documented evidence of environmental destruction, human rights violations, and violence against local communities. The Amazon rainforest faces particular threat, with Canadian mining operations directly affecting Indigenous peoples and causing severe damage to biodiversity and waterways in a region approaching ecological collapse. Women, especially Indigenous women, bear disproportionate burdens from these operations.

The article concludes by highlighting the transformative potential of international solidarity movements and outlines how actors in the Global North can become better allies to Indigenous communities by supporting their struggles, influencing governments and corporations, and demanding binding legal frameworks to prevent abuses and provide remedies for affected communities.

Keywords

Canadian mining companies, Environmental justice, Indigenous rights, Amazon rainforest, Corporate accountability, Human rights defenders, International solidarity

SUGGESTED CITATION: Côté, Denis and Portocarrero Incio, Martín. "From Exploitation to Restoration: Canada's Presence in The Amazon and the Transformative Power of International Solidarity", in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 163-174. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN ISOLATION AND INITIAL CONTACT IN PERU

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

AIDESEP

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. The Amazon is home to nearly 200 Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) who are disappearing as they are forced into contact with the outside world, mainly due to extractive pressures such as road construction, oil, mining, and legal and illegal logging, among others.

2. Indigenous peoples in isolation must be a priority on climate and human rights agendas, as they inhabit the most remote ecosystems and are the invisible guardians of the Amazon. Protecting them means protecting the planet.

3. In Peru, there has been a setback in the protection of Indigenous rights. Legislative initiatives are currently being promoted in Congress to modify the Law on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI), aiming to block the creation of new Indigenous reserves and to review—essentially dismantle—those that already exist. This puts at risk the lives and territories of the most vulnerable peoples.

4. When Indigenous organizations are strong, they can better influence government action. A solid organization is essential to defend the Amazon, the rights of its peoples, and the environment.

Photo: House in PIACI community in the Yavarí Tapiche headland. ***Credit:*** *AIDESEP* 2015

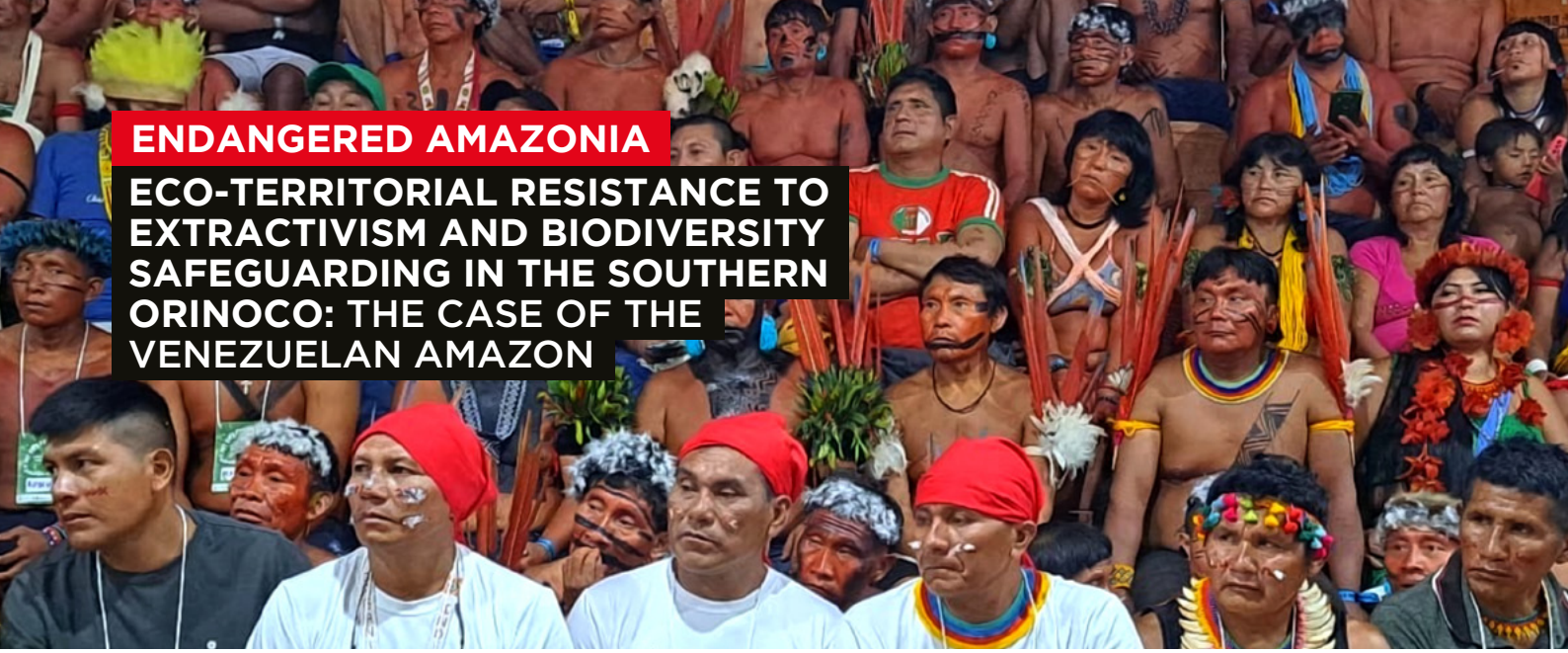
Summary

The Amazon is home to nearly 200 Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (PIACI) who are disappearing as they are forced into contact with the outside world, mainly due to extractive pressures such as road construction, oil, mining, and legal and illegal logging, among others. In Peru, recent policies that have weakened the legal framework for the protection of forests and indigenous organizations, along with several attempts to dismantle the laws that protect PIACI peoples, have created a high-risk environment for the survival of these groups. In this interview, Shipibo peoples leader Julio Cusurichi Palacios explains the current situation in Peru, outlines the main guidelines of the PIACI Law in force in Peru, and finally highlights recommendations that his organization in Peru, AIDESEP, has been promoting for decades to ensure the effective protection of the fundamental rights and territories of PIACI peoples.

Keywords

Indigenous peoples, Amazon, PIACI, Peru, Brazil.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Cusurichi, Julio. "Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact in Peru", in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 175-186. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

ECO-TERRITORIAL RESISTANCE TO EXTRACTIVISM AND BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDING IN THE SOUTHERN ORINOCO: THE CASE OF THE VENEZUELAN AMAZON

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT+ RESTORE 80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

ORPIA

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. The expansion of the extractive frontier in the Amazon in general, and in Venezuela in particular, spread at an unprecedented rate, especially during the pandemic years.

2. The Indigenous Peoples of the Venezuelan Amazon south of the Orinoco have been containing the expansion of the extractive frontier in their territories to safeguard biodiversity through their organisational forms, ranging from the strengthening of grassroots indigenous organisations to the establishment of women's associations that work on and promote socio-productive projects using non-timber forest products, along with the establishment of forest guardians.

3. The blurring of the nation-state gives way to the transnationalisation of non-state actors. Illegal gold mining, especially in the states of Bolívar and Amazonas, where 60% of the country's deposits are located, has attracted large migratory flows from the interior and neighbouring countries, causing great environmental damage and negative impacts on the Indigenous peoples of these states.

Credit: *ORPIA*

4. Venezuela is one of the world's largest oil producers. Extractivism is a form of energy accumulation based on the overuse of fossil fuels. It is a logic of subjecting the sources of life (water, oxygen, and forests) to economic interests based on the unlimited extraction of natural resources.

5. Our indigenous and environmental rights are not guaranteed as long as they continue to ride on a model of energy accumulation, which is predatory in its very essence.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Dacosta, Eligio and Aguilar Castro, Vladimir. 'Eco-territorial resistance to extractivism and biodiversity conservation in the southern Orinoco: the case of the Venezuelan Amazon,' in *Amazonia Endangered*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 185-190. Quito: COICA, 2025.

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

DEFENDING THE DEFENDERS OF THE AMAZON: CLIMATE JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENERGY TRANSITION

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. Violence against environmental defenders reflects a power structure that criminalises the defence of territory and protects extractive interests.

2. Being a defender of the Amazon involves taking life-threatening risks. The IACHR (2022) has pointed out that Indigenous leaders and environmentalists are subject to threats, judicial persecution, and murder for opposing extractive projects.

3. Of the countries in the Amazon basin, three have so far ratified the Escazú Agreement: Ecuador, Bolivia, and Guyana. Other Amazonian countries (such as Peru and Brazil) have signed the treaty but have not yet ratified it.

4. Protecting those who defend the forest—**and recognising them as legitimate political actors**—is a minimum condition for avoiding the tipping point.

5. In the context of the climate crisis, states are promoting an 'energy transition' towards cleaner sources. However, when this process ignores the rights of Indigenous Peoples or is built on new forms of extractivism, it becomes a 'transition without justice' (Gudynas 2021).

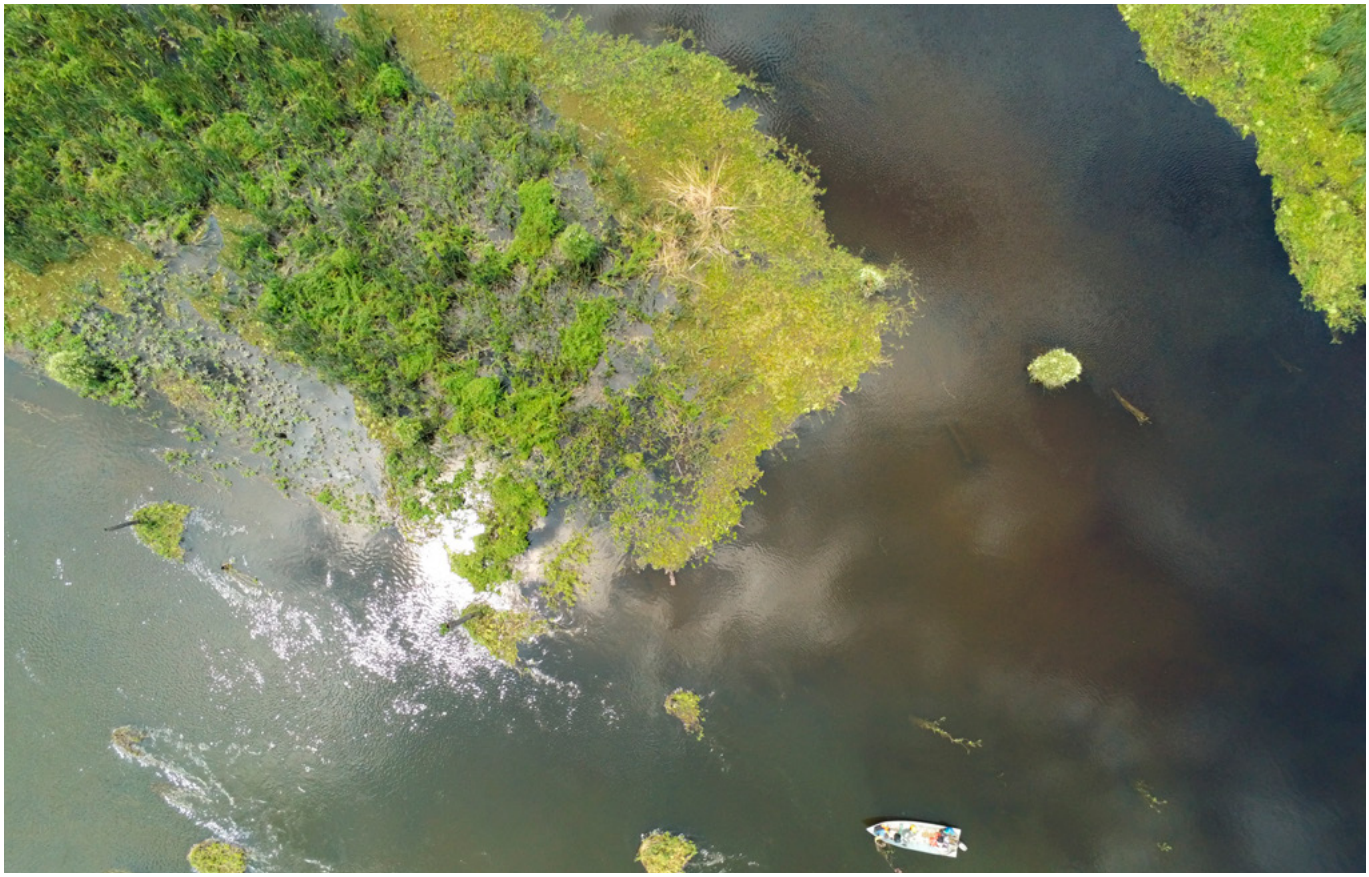
6. It is not just a matter of conserving biodiversity, but of restoring reciprocal relationships between humans and nature. Ultimately, a living Amazon offers the possibility of keeping all of humanity safe, and its loss would be an irreversible wound to the planet.

Photo: Jitogamaro Clan Yadiko Ceremony, La Chorrera, Colombia. ***Credit:*** *Mauricio Granados.*

Summary

Several regions in the Amazon are already facing a tipping point. The expansion of the extractive frontier—driven by mining, hydrocarbons, and illicit economies—is eroding not only biodiversity, but also the rights and lives of those who protect it. Environmental and Indigenous defenders, men and women who function as territorial guardians, face systematic threats, criminalisation, and violence in a context of structural impunity.

Through a review of international human rights frameworks, recent studies on environmental violence, and theoretical contributions from political ecology, it is argued that protecting defenders is essential to prevent the collapse of the Amazon biome and ensure effective climate justice.



Flooded Amazonian forest in the Santa Cruz Amazon of Bolivia. ***Credit:*** *Jan Spickenbom, 2021.*

SUGGESTED CITATION: Manihuari, Jamner. "Defending the defenders of the Amazon: climate justice, human rights and energy transition," in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 191-196. Quito: COICA, 2025.

SECTION III

TOWARDS A NEW PARADIGM


Desplegar la investigación
Compartir la ciencia
Transformar el futuro


COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES
INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA


Coordenação das Organizações Indígenas da Amazônia Brasileira
COIAB


CIEP


IDB Group


Latindadd
Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe por Justicia Económica, Social y Climática


IUCN

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA: DIALOGUE OF KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE AMAZONIA

AMAZONIA VIVA: PROTEGER + RESTAURAR 80% 2025 2030
EVITANDO EL PUNTO DE NO RETORNO

COICA
COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

IRD Deploying research Sharing science Transforming the future

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. Protecting the Amazon requires a new knowledge architecture. We must move beyond the view of the Amazon as a 'green void' managed by external experts and recognise that Indigenous Peoples are diplomats of their own territories.

2. Scientific diplomacy and Indigenous diplomacy must converge: the former provides international legitimacy while the latter provides legitimacy from the territories.

3. The co-construction of knowledge between academia, Indigenous Peoples, and civil society is essential for designing public and community policies capable of protecting and restoring the Amazon. If the dialogue of knowledge aims at having structural effects, it must transcend the symbolic sphere and translate into institutional cohabitation: that is, into the active presence of Indigenous epistemologies within public decision-making frameworks.

4. For the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon, ancestral knowledge and wisdom are not 'cultural inputs' for science, but a living system of life and governance that sustains health, spirituality, and land management. Therefore, dialogue with science is only legitimate when it occurs between epistemic peers and under rules that recognise the self-determination and governance of knowledge by the peoples.

5. It is not a question of integrating Indigenous knowledge into science, but rather of articulating worlds or systems of knowledge on equal terms, with shared responsibilities for the land and life.

6. Indigenous peoples are not repositories of residual knowledge; they are producers of comprehensive knowledge, whose cognitive, ontological, and normative systems have their own logic, validation, and legitimacy. Talking about epistemic parity does not mean a "equalisation" of epistemes, but the establishment of reciprocal relationships of recognition, where each form of knowledge can be sustained without being subsumed under the other.

7. In a genuine dialogue of knowledge, knowledge cannot be the object of extraction, but rather an ethical and continuous relationship between those who

Photo: Indigenous Peoples of Ecuador. ***Credit:*** *COICA*

share it. Epistemic co-responsibility recognises that all research or use of ancestral knowledge must involve processes of consent, co-authorship, return, and community benefit.

8. Strengthening indigenous autonomy is essential to ensure that traditional knowledge is not subordinated but rather recognised on an equal footing with academic science.

9. Epistemic governance refers to the ability of peoples to define the rules for accessing, using, and transmitting their knowledge and wisdom, under the recognition that knowledge is part of the territory and not an abstract resource.

10. Without recognising the autonomy and institutions of Indigenous Peoples, it will be difficult to sustain public conservation policies. Thus, interculturality becomes a principle of epistemic and territorial justice, where Indigenous ontologies are considered legitimate systems of knowledge and not mere complements to Western science.

11. Although interculturality and transdisciplinarity have different origins, in practice they converge. Interculturality contributes to the principle of recognition and redistribution of epistemic power, while transdisciplinarity offers the methods for collaboration between disciplines and with various social and political actors. In the case of the Amazon, this means that climate science, ecology, economics, and anthropology must be coordinated not only with each other, but also with the knowledge systems and technologies of Amazonian peoples. In the Amazon, this convergence is essential to address threats such as deforestation, agricultural expansion, illegal mining, and geopolitical pressures on strategic resources.

12. This approach is not limited to producing diagnoses but seeks to reduce the epistemic gap and co-construct applicable and legitimate solutions capable of inspiring public policies that recognise local realities.

Summary

The article explores the processes of dialogue and co-construction of knowledge and wisdom between Amazonian Indigenous communities and academic actors as a way to rethink the ways of producing, sharing, and validating knowledge and wisdom about the Amazon. In contrast to scientific practices that have historically reproduced colonial relations, it proposes recognising Indigenous knowledge systems as ways of understanding the world that are legitimate and situated and closely linked to systems of governance and ancestral self-determination. Based on concrete experiences of collaboration, the text examines how the encounter between different forms of knowledge can generate spaces for translation, mutual learning, and co-responsibility, contributing to the strengthening of biocultural conservation and the collective rights of Amazonian peoples. More than integrating knowledge, it is about building ethical and horizontal relationships that allow knowledge to be inhabited from a place of reciprocity and respect within the framework of the principles of good living, interculturality, and plurinationality.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Bilhaut, Anne-Gaël, Guzmán, Alicia, Merino, Tito, Murgueytio, Sofia, Tanguila, Ayme. 'Dialogue of Knowledge systems to protect and restore Amazonia,' in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 199-216. Quito: COICA, 2025.

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

FROM KAWSAK SACHA TO CHASKA KAUSAY: POLICIES FROM THE TERRITORY FOR THE AMAZON AND THE PLANET

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. The existence of Amazonian Indigenous Peoples is at risk. We have shown that we can live with dignity by growing our own food, fishing, and hunting for our sustenance. However, we stand now at the front line of defense against deforestation, pollution, and extractivism.

2. The case of the Sarayaku people at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) demonstrates the ongoing resistance to extractivism in the territory. Indigenous Peoples activate their governance systems and rely on existing national legal frameworks to defend their rights and territories. Vis-à-vis noncompliance, the Sarayaku people have forged a path beyond national borders to defend their rights. Nonetheless, the lack of mechanisms to enforce national and international decisions and rulings leaves a landscape of subjugation and destruction. The reverse is also true: the Resolutions from the UN Permanent Forum (UNPFII) urging governments to protect at least 80% of the Amazon have remained merely on paper. These two examples illustrate the breakdown in the chain of decision-making from the territory to the national, regional, and global levels, and from the global level back to the territory.

3. While the rulings of the IACHR, the Constitutional Court of Ecuador, and the UNPFII resolutions to protect 80% of the Amazon remain unenforced, Ecuador seeks financing through debt to compensate the companies that violated the rights of the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples and polluted the water, soil, and air of vast Amazonian territories in Ecuador.

4. The Ecuadorian State's response to the Sarayaku people's case remains insufficient and fails to meet international standards. Despite more than two decades of litigation and the binding ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) in 2012, the Ecuadorian State has not fully implemented the ruling in favor of the Sarayaku people. Meanwhile, international arbitration awards are strictly enforced against oil and mining companies.

Photo: Sarakayu children playing soccer at Sarayaku's central square. ***Credit:*** *Heriberto Gualinga.*

5. **Free, prior, and informed consultation must be carried out on the terms of Indigenous Peoples and in co-creation with them**. Its purpose is consent, although this may or may not be granted. **Consent must be understood as an ongoing negotiation, subject to the conditions and compliance of those seeking to intervene in the territory.**

6. **The Kawsak Sacha or "living forest" concept of the Sarayaku People offers an alternative to** commodified **conservation models and can be scaled up to the planetary level as Chaska Kausay or living planet.** It is a plan based on self-organization, internal consultation, and comprehensive defense of the territory. Amid ecological collapse and climate emergency, this approach reminds us that Amazonian nature is a vital condition of our existence and must be expanded into a way of life, a holistic vision for Pachamama (Mother Earth).

7. **Resolutions 18 and 19 of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2023) urge Amazonian states to protect 80%** of the Amazonian territory **by 2025** and to prioritize the legal recognition of 100 million hectares of indigenous territories. These resolutions are not being implemented as quickly as international arbitration awards and remain only on paper.

8. Just as individual rights and the rights of peoples can only be exercised within the framework of the same rights of other human beings and all peoples, individual and collective rights can only be exercised if governments commit to taking the decision that in 2025, at a historic COP30, 80% of the Amazon will be protected and restored to guarantee life and cultural and biodiversity heritage as a mechanism for the survival of humanity.

Summary

The intention behind the presentation of the process and the 2012 ruling of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in favor of the Sarayaku People, along with the 2023 ruling of the Constitutional Court of Ecuador, serve to illustrate how international bodies are neither activated nor binding when the petitioners are civil society and, in this case, Indigenous Peoples. On the other hand, where oil and mining companies exploit resources and pollute our territories, international awards are strictly enforced. Similarly, the 2023 UNPFII Regional Resolutions to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025 are included as examples of policies adopted within a global body that are also non-binding. Both examples contrast with the amounts of international arbitration awards imposed on the Ecuadorian State, which compromise a large part of our national budget. Finally, the proposal is to scale up the Kawsak Sacha (living forest) initiative of the Sarayaku people to Chaska Kausay (living planet), grounded in their own worldview, and through the implementation of the UNPFII Resolutions.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Gualinga Patricia. "From Kawsak Sacha to Chaska Kausay: policies from the territory for the Amazon and the planet," in *Amazonia in Danger of Extinction*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 217-232. Quito: COICA, 2025.

ENDANGERED AMAZONIA: HOW TO TALK ABOUT SAVING AMAZONIA

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. In an information ecosystem shaped by parasocial relationships and partisan cues, who says something often matters as much as what is said. This is not an aesthetic point; it is a theory of change.

2. Doom demobilizes. The communications task is to keep the full truth in view while shrinking part of the problem to a human scale where action feels plausible.

3. Indigenous leaders are essential stewards and credible narrators of what works on their lands; they must be at the editorial table, with budgets, authorship, and languages of their choice.

4. A differentiated approach is therefore necessary: match messages and messengers to the audiences with the greatest leverage in each context, while ensuring that Indigenous voices remain central to legitimacy and design.

5. If the constituency must widen, the production table must widen too. Co-production is not a workshop at the end; it is a budget line at the start. Contract Indigenous and community media houses to co-design series; hire editors and translators

6. Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) must be a schedule item, not a footnote. Safety, credit, and compensation are part of the plan, not afterthoughts.

7. Borrow reach by partnering with creators and organizations whom target audiences already trust, across ideologies.

8. Choose a few plain themes that can be spoken credibly by many messengers, then repeat them across a network until they become common sense. So that wherever people turn, they encounter the same logic expressed in voices they trust.

Photo: Yadiko Ceremony, Jitogamaro Clan, La Chorrera-Amazonas, Colombia. ***Source:*** Mauricio Granados

9. Governments are tightening enforcement; markets are moving toward deforestation-free supply chains; science and technology have lowered the cost of seeing what is happening; and Indigenous leadership is more visible than ever. These are not guarantees of success. They are clues to strategy.

10. For every investigative piece on a land-grab, plan a companion story on an Indigenous-led restoration, a municipal enforcement model, or a market reform that works.

11. Protecting and restoring Amazonia is not a boutique moral project but basic self-interest—words, maps, and well-told stories do not merely describe power. They move it.

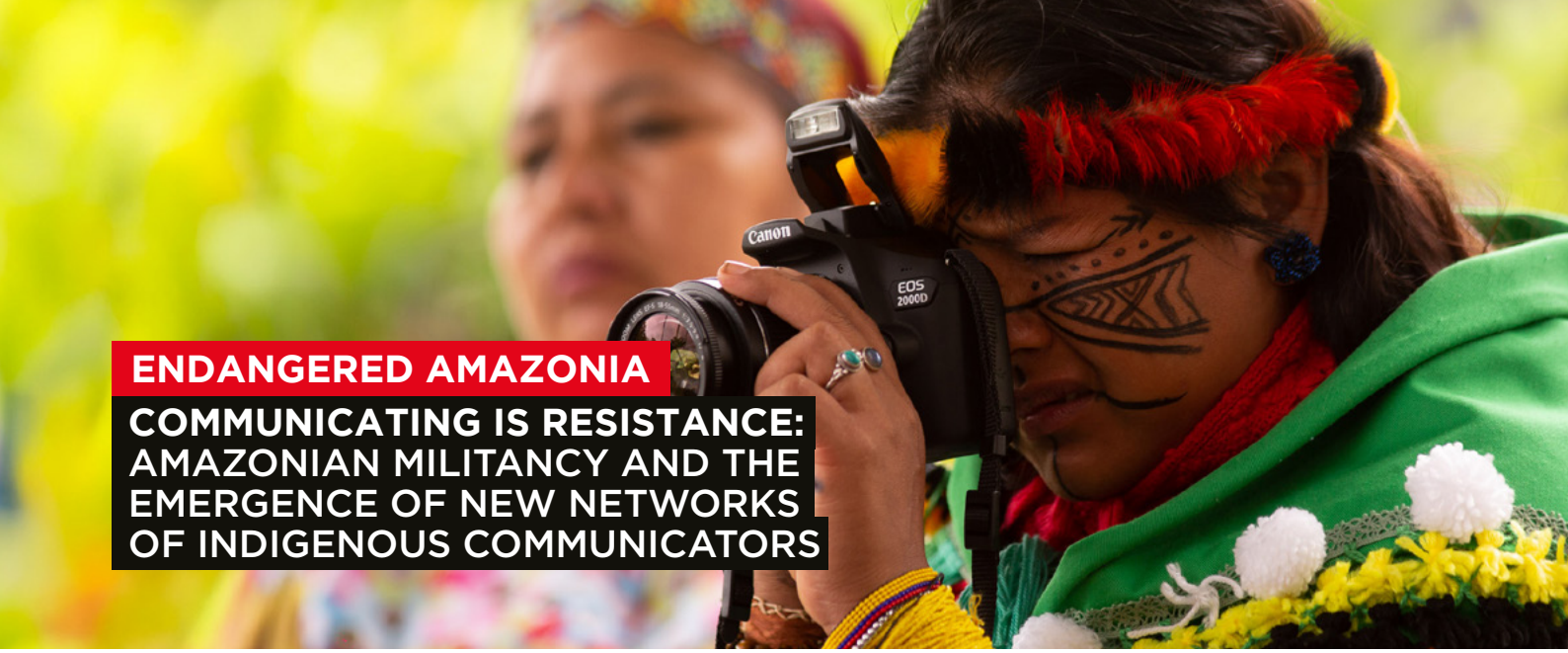
Sumary

The Amazon is not only a forest; it is a communications problem. Four years after Indigenous organizations helped carry a landmark motion through the world's largest conservation congress—an appeal to protect 80% of Amazonia by 2025—the region has endured its worst drought in more than a century and fires on a continental scale. Given the current scenario, the coalition behind that regional target now argues for an emergency pivot that also includes restoring ecological integrity by 2030 as well as protection in a new IUCN Resolution 068. The science is urgent. So, increasingly, is the storytelling. If the world is to act at the speed physics demands, the message—and the messengers—must change.

This essay makes four arguments about how communications can help save Amazonia.

First, communications must move from broadcasting at people to co-creating with them—especially with Indigenous Peoples whose territories hold much of what remains intact. Second, the work must replace doom with disciplined optimism, pairing problems with usable responses. Third, it must elevate trusted, local voices and languages across the channels that matter, from community radio to WhatsApp to policy briefings. And fourth—most important for political reality—it must broaden the constituency for Amazonia beyond its traditional champions. Farmers, traders, truckers, urban consumers, mayors, nurses, clergy, and small-business owners need to hear, in their idiom, how the forest keeps crops viable, cities livable, and economies stable. The task is not to make everyone an environmentalist. It is to make the forest relevant to people's daily calculations.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Butler, Rhett Ayers. "How to talk about saving Amazonia", in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 233-246. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

COMMUNICATING IS RESISTANCE: AMAZONIAN MILITANCY AND THE EMERGENCE OF NEW NETWORKS OF INDIGENOUS COMMUNICATORS

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

COIAB

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. Amazonian communication is a political and epistemological practice that defends life, territories, and ancestral knowledge in the face of the climate crisis and the coloniality of knowledge.

2. Communicating from the Amazon is an act of resistance and self-government: it decolonizes the word, reorders the gaze, and reaffirms the indigenous worldview.

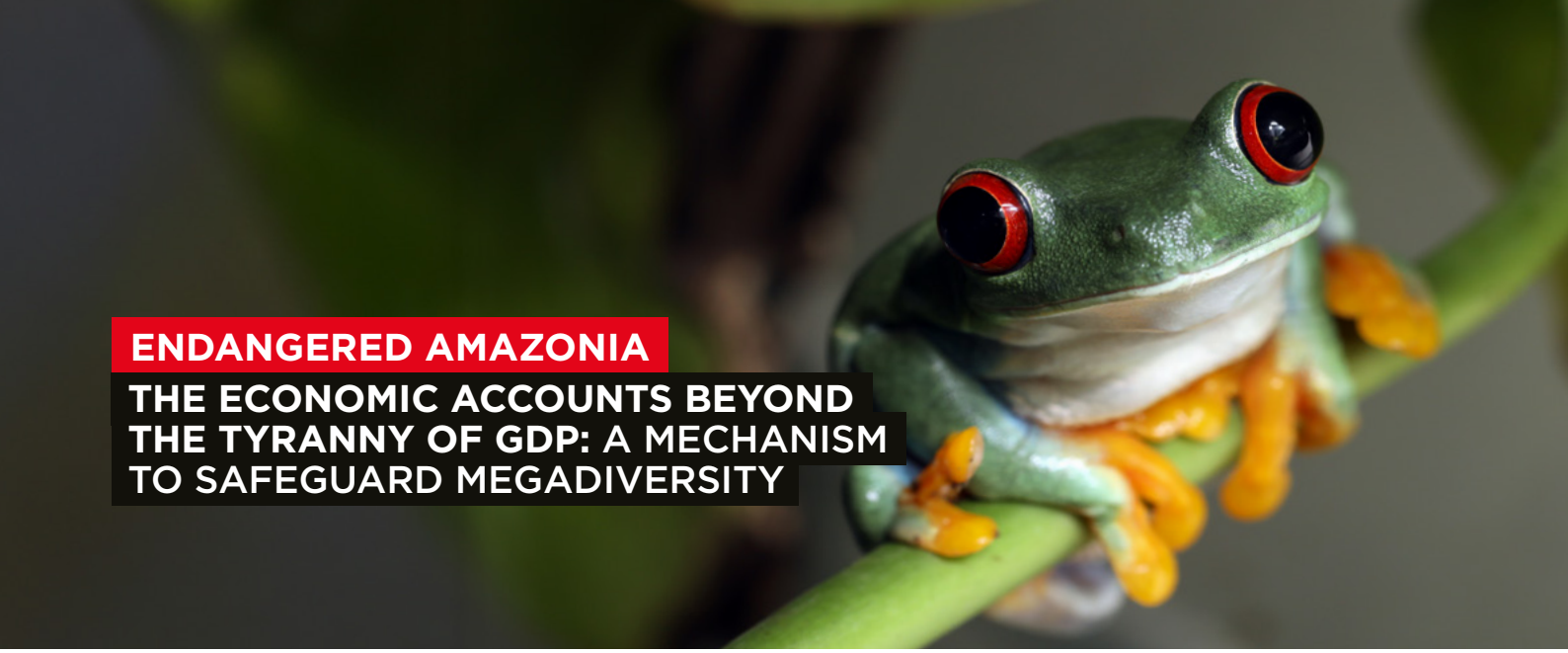
3. Networks of indigenous communicators are territories of thought that articulate climate justice, collective healing, and rebuilding the bond with nature.

Photo: Amazon Basin Women's Summit - Cundinamarca, Colombia. ***Credit:*** César David Martínez.

Summary

Communication in the Amazon transcends the simple act of informing: it is a tool for resistance, self-determination, and social transformation. In the face of the climate crisis and media hegemony, indigenous peoples communicate in order to exist, claiming their knowledge and worldviews. The word becomes a territory and a political act, expressing a living relationship with nature. Networks of indigenous communicators—especially those led by women—emerge as spaces for healing, climate justice, and defence of territory. Although they face technical limitations, their credibility and territorial roots allow them to dispute global narratives and build alternatives to the dominant media paradigm. Campaigns such as *Amazonia for Life: protect 80% x2025* show that indigenous communication not only makes struggles visible but also redefines the meaning of the world and promotes a new pact between peoples and the Earth.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Ludeña Bryan and Kamaiurá, Kaianaku. "Communicating is resisting: Amazonian militancy and the emergence of new networks of indigenous communicators," in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 245-252. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

THE ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS BEYOND THE TYRANNY OF GDP: A MECHANISM TO SAFEGUARD MEGADIVERSITY

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

CIEP

Technical report: Key Takeaways

1. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ignores the environmental cost of economic growth, which can lead to erroneous public policy decisions. In contrast, the Net Ecological Domestic Product (PINE) discounts environmental costs, offering a more realistic and sustainable measure of the national income of megadiverse countries.

2. Between 2018 and 2023, the CTADA in Mexico ranged between 4.1% and 4.6% of GDP, with air emissions as the main component. These data reflect considerable environmental damage that is not reflected in the traditional economic metrics of several megadiverse countries.

3. Although the CTADA exceeds 4% of GDP, public spending on environmental protection has remained below 0.7%. Moreover, actual climate spending is barely 0.15 -- 0.18% of GDP, revealing a disconnect between the climate discourse and actual allocation of resources. Although the CTADA exceeds 4% of GDP, public spending on environmental protection has remained below 0.7%. Moreover, actual climate spending is only 0.15–0.18% of GDP, revealing a disconnect between climate discourse and actual resource allocation.

4. Despite methodological advances and the implementation of tools such as georeferencing, CEEMs are still not used effectively in fiscal planning and evaluation, which limits their transformative impact.

5. The accounts allow for valuing ecosystem services and quantifying the impacts of climate change by region. This is essential for guiding adaptation investments, evaluating energy subsidies, and aligning the budget with the commitments of the Paris Agreement.

Photo: *Rhett Ayers Butler/Mongabay*

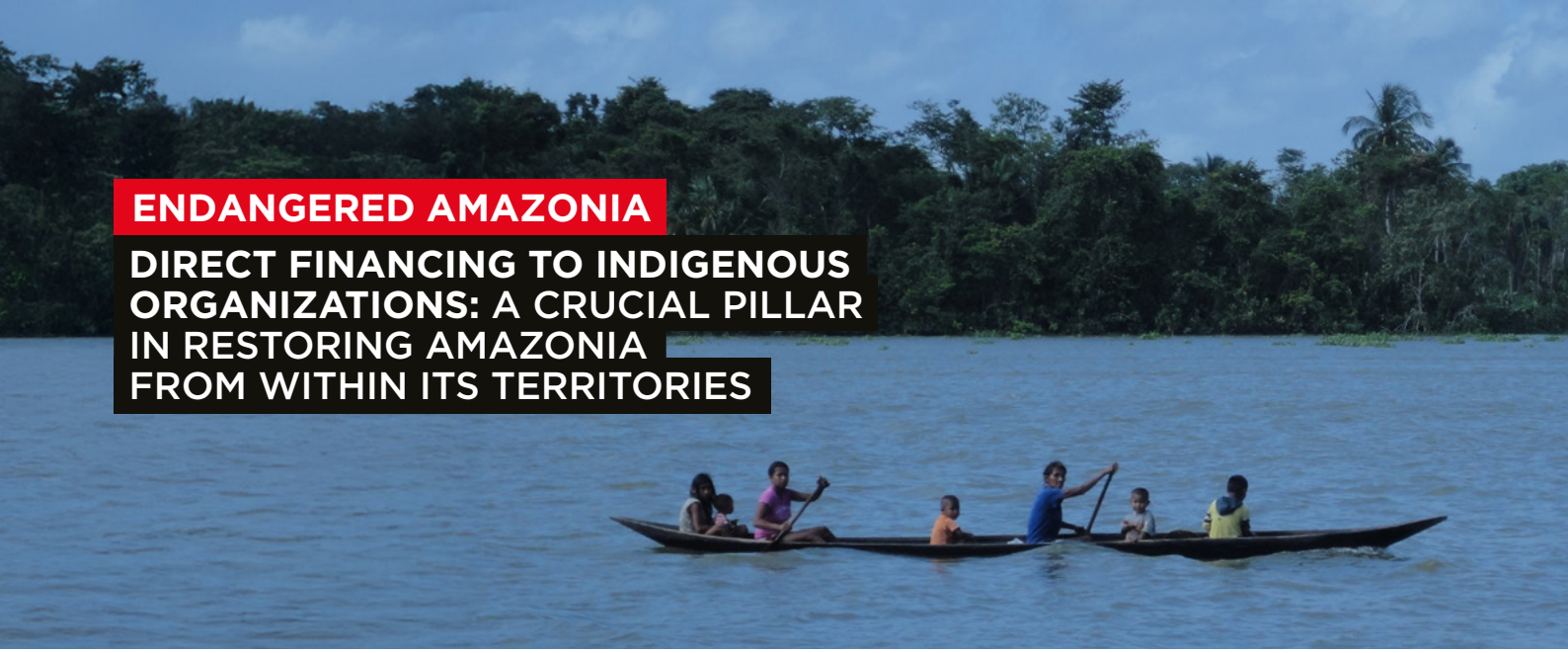
Summary

This paper analyzes the evolution and relevance of the Economic and Ecological Accounts of Mexico (CEEM) as an instrument for integrating environmental information into macroeconomic analysis. The methodological framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), promoted by international organizations, as well as its adoption and application by INEGI in the Mexican context, is presented as a basis for understanding its operation and potential scaling in Amazonian countries. Through the review of the main indicators published between 2018 and 2023, trends are identified in the costs of environmental depletion and degradation (CTADA), as well as public spending on environmental protection. The results show that while the CTADA has remained between 4.1% and 4.6% of GDP, government spending on environmental protection remains low, averaging less than 0.7% of GDP. In addition, the inadequacy of effective climate spending, which accounts for less than 0.2% of GDP, despite significantly higher labeled budget allocations, is discussed. The text concludes that, although Mexico has been a pioneer in Latin America in the incorporation of environmental statistics in its national accounts, important challenges persist in terms of effective investment, design of sustainable public policies and strengthening budget labeling for climate change

Keyword

Climate Change, National Accounts, Climate Finance, Ecological Accounts, Mexico, megadiverse countries, GDP

SUGGESTED CITATION: Macías, Alejandra. .“The Economic Accounts Beyond the Tyranny of GDP: A Mechanism to Safeguard Megadiversity”, in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited por Alicia Guzmán León, pages 253-266. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

DIRECT FINANCING TO INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS: A CRUCIAL PILLAR IN RESTORING AMAZONIA FROM WITHIN ITS TERRITORIES

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT+ RESTORE 80% 2025 2030 AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

IDB Group

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. **Direct Financing Empowers Communities.** The Amazonia Forever program introduced a transformative approach by channeling funds directly to Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and traditional community organizations.

2. **Co-Creation and Ownership are key for sustainability.** Co-design projects with indigenous communities and implement their own projects, ensure cultural relevance, autonomy, and alignment with local priorities.

3. **Bioeconomy and Organizational Strengthening Are Central.** The current portfolio of projects focuses on promoting sustainable bioeconomy initiatives and strengthening the institutional capacities of grassroots organizations.

4. **Fondo Amazonia para la Vida sets a New Standard.** Fund is the first regional co created fund exclusively for Indigenous Peoples in Amazonia, supporting self-determined development through direct project design and implementation.

Photo: River in Venezuela's Amazonia. ***Credits:*** *Juan Carlos Amibilia/PROVITA*

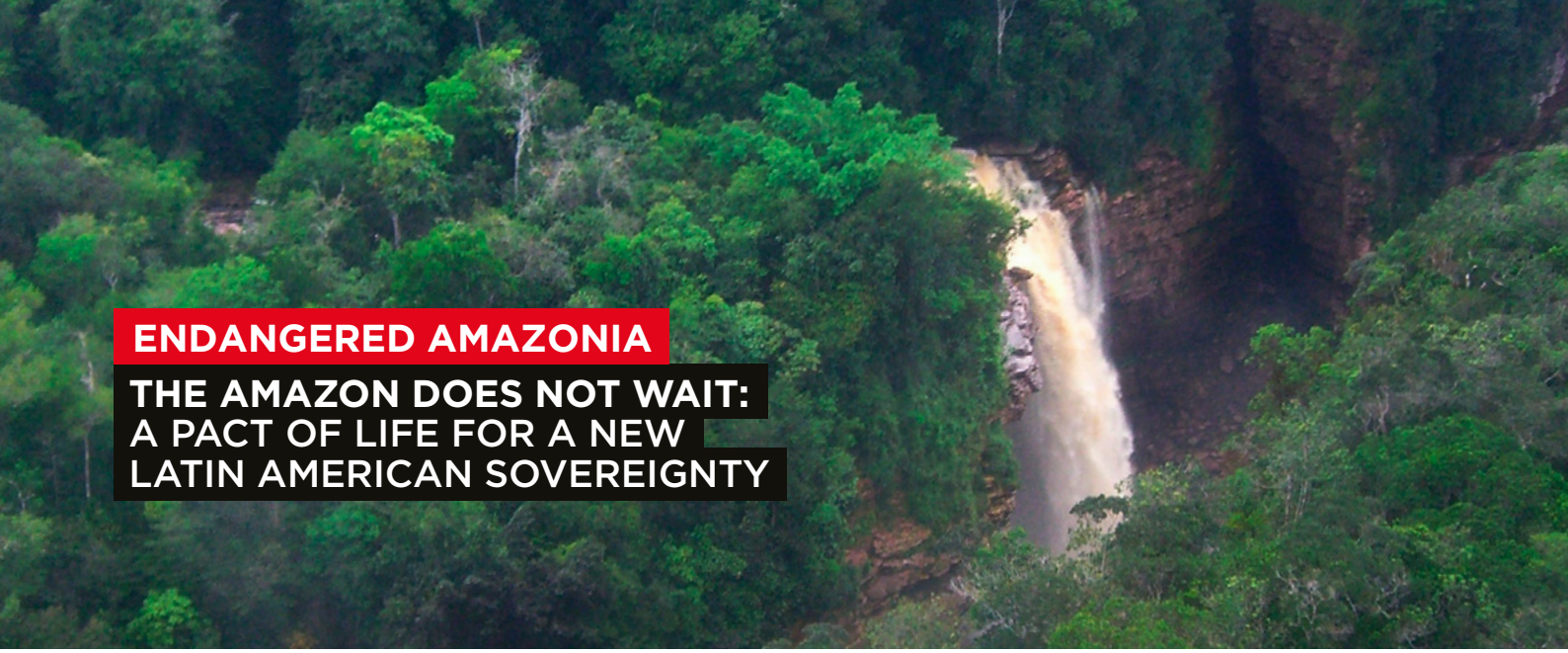
Summary

One of the main challenges for inclusive and sustainable development in the Amazon is ensuring that financial resources reach the communities that live in the forest. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched Amazonia Forever, a program built on five pillars: fighting deforestation, promoting bioeconomy and creative industries, supporting local communities, developing resilient cities and infrastructure, and advancing sustainable agriculture. The program emphasizes inclusion of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, women, and youth.

A key innovation of the program is a strategy for direct financing to Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and traditional community organizations (IP.AD.TC). The strategy enables grassroots organizations to co-design, implement, and manage projects directly, ensuring relevance and community ownership. The IDB–MINGA team supports these organizations throughout the project cycle, from design to evaluation, promoting transparency, efficiency, and autonomy.

Additionally, the IDB, in collaboration with COICA, launched Fondo Amazonia para la Vida, the first regional fund exclusively for Indigenous Peoples in Amazonia. With an initial pledge of $10 million, the fund supports projects in bioeconomy, territorial management, institutional strengthening, and entrepreneurship. These projects are designed and implemented directly by Indigenous organizations, reinforcing self-determination and cultural relevance. The fund also integrates gender and generational perspectives, highlighting Indigenous youth leadership.

SUGGESTED CITATION: Schor, Tatiana, Tejerina, Verónica, Conde, Amancaya Briseida."Direct financing to indigenous organizations: a crucial pillar in restoring Amazonia from within its territories", in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited por Alicia Guzmán León, pages 267-274. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

THE AMAZON DOES NOT WAIT: A PACT OF LIFE FOR A NEW LATIN AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT + RESTORE 80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. The Amazon biome is one of the most complex and strategic ecological systems on the planet.

2. From an ecological perspective, the biome cannot be understood as fragmented by state boundaries. Their sovereignty lies not only in governments, but in the collective capacity to safeguard their vital functions.

3. The contemporary panorama reveals a triple threat that erodes the future of the Amazon: the advance of organized crime, the expansion of extractivism, and the dispossession of communities.

4. The political process that we began with the Declaration of Belém do Pará (2023) and that we reaffirmed in the Declaration of Bogotá (2025) represents, for me, a determined effort to revitalize the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACTO) as a true instrument of regional integration.

5. The challenge is to transfer Amazonian policy "from paper to action", which implies rebuilding state capacities, strengthening intercultural research and education systems, and reconnecting diplomacy with territorial realities.

6. The fate of the Amazon is the fate of Latin America. In the midst of a global context of climate crisis and geopolitical reconfiguration, the region has the opportunity to build a new architecture of environmental cooperation and shared sovereignty.

7. Time is running out. Avoiding the point of no return requires a continental and planetary alliance for the Amazon, an agreement of immediate action that transcends governments and is sustained by the moral strength of the peoples. The Amazon needs an immediate global response: scientific cooperation, fair climate financing, and binding decisions in international forums.

Photo: Paragua, Venezuelan Amazonia. ***Credit:*** *Franklin Rojas/PROVITA*

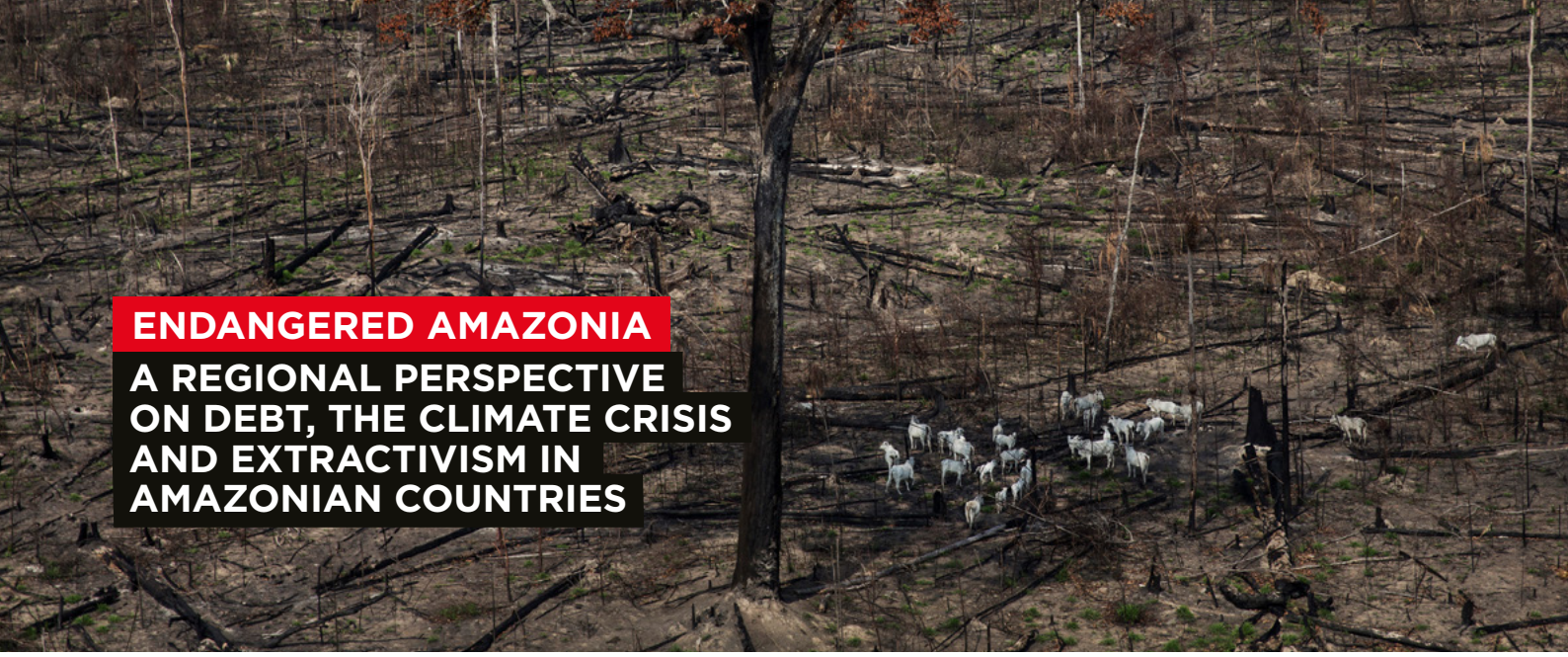
Summary

The Amazon is facing a civilizational crisis that puts at risk its ecological integrity and the survival of the peoples who inhabit it. The combination of extractivism, organized crime, and territorial dispossession has eroded the foundations of environmental sovereignty in the region. Based on the political and ecological reflection developed within the framework of the report *Amazon in danger of extinction* of the 80x2025 Initiative promoted by COICA and RAISG, this article proposes to rethink the Amazon biome as a living, cross-border, and political unit. It addresses the challenges of regional governance, the urgency of restoring "flying rivers" as arteries of the climate, and the centrality of indigenous, peasant, and Afro-descendant peoples as guardians of the territory. Finally, the need to build a Latin American social and political front for the Amazon is raised, capable of translating the defence of the biome into a new pact of cooperation, sovereignty and environmental justice.

Keywords

Environmental sovereignty, tipping point, Amazon biome, Amazon Cooperation Treaty

SUGGESTED CITATION: Muhammad, Susana. "The Amazon does not wait: A pact of life for a new Latin American sovereignty," in *Endangered Amazonia*, edited by Alicia Guzmán León, pages 275-284. Quito: COICA, 2025.



ENDANGERED AMAZONIA

A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON DEBT, THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND EXTRACTIVISM IN AMAZONIAN COUNTRIES

AMAZONIA ALIVE: PROTECT+ RESTORE 80% 2025 2030
AVERTING THE TIPPING POINT

COORDINADORA DE LAS ORGANIZACIONES INDÍGENAS DE LA CUENCA AMAZÓNICA

Latindadd

Technical Briefing: Key Takeaways

1. The Amazon region faces a vicious cycle of debt, climate crisis, and extractivism, which deepens the vulnerability of its peoples and ecosystems. Breaking this cycle requires comprehensive solutions, systemic reforms, and political will.

2. A new model of climate finance is needed that is fair, agile, debt-free, and directly accessible, especially for indigenous and vulnerable communities.

3. Bilateral and multilateral creditors, dominated by countries in the North, are also historically responsible for the climate and ecological crisis. From a climate justice perspective, indebted Amazonian countries should be recognised as creditors of climate and ecological debt.

4. Governments are urged to halt fossil fuel and extractive investments in areas of high biodiversity and to promote alternative economies based on agroecology and sustainable forest use.

5. The regional call is to build an Amazon free of debt and extractivism, with fair financing, climate reparations, and respect for the rights of peoples.

Photo: Cattle under a burned chestnut tree in a stretch of forest that was illegally exploited near the city of Novo Progresso, Pará State, Brazil. ***Credit:*** *Lalo de Almeida, 2014.*

Summary

The climate crisis is accelerating, and although almost 30 years of international negotiations have elapsed, the crucial issue still pending is who will finance the necessary transition in low- and middle-income countries. This is complicated by the high levels of debt in the South, the failure of countries in the Global North to meet their climate finance commitments, the limitations of existing financial mechanisms, the United States' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and the little time humanity has left to halt the climate crisis.

Therefore, different solutions are needed that respond to real needs, are agile, and guarantee access to FAIR FINANCING. This means demanding that COP30, to be held in Brazil in November 2025, promote a clear path for increasing climate finance flows from the Global North to the Global South, but also for reforming the current climate finance architecture by prioritising the provision of public finance that is debt-free and offers direct, simple, and agile access, mainly for populations that are most vulnerable to climate change.

It must also be recognised that there is a vicious circle between debt, the climate crisis, and extractivism, which affects many countries in the region, for example in the Amazon. Breaking this vicious circle will require comprehensive solutions and systemic reforms, as well as political will.

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IUCN RESOLUTION 129:

Avoiding the point of no return in the Amazon protecting 80% by 2025

REGRETTING the deaths of thousands of indigenous people and their leaders in the Amazon during the pandemic, and those defenders consistently killed for protecting their territories and their livelihoods;

RECOGNISING the on-going legacy of dispossession of indigenous peoples and local communities through the imposition of some protected areas without their free, prior and informed consent;

AWARE that there have been claims by indigenous leaders that the dismantling of environmental policies and/or violations of indigenous rights amount to either crimes against humanity or ecocide;

RECALLING Resolution 5.097 Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Jeju, 2012), which calls for ensuring that the principles of UNDRIP are observed in the work of the Union;

CONSIDERING that fires in the Amazon in 2019 and 2020 alone burned at least 3 million hectares of forest, causing serious damage to the integrity of the ecosystems;

DEEPLY CONCERNED about the increase in deforestation since, during the 2020 pandemic, at least 2.3 million hectares of primary forest were lost in nine countries in the Amazon Basin, which means a 17% increase in deforestation compared to 2019;

RECOGNISING that the latest scientific consensus established the point of no return for the Amazon within a range of between 20–25% of deforestation and degradation combined;

OBSERVING that the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (IPCC 2018, IPBES 2019, IPBES-IPCC 2021 and IPCC 2021) emphasise the fact that the climate crisis and biodiversity loss are accelerating rapidly and are closely interlinked;

CONSIDERING that the IUCN Programme 2021–2024 recognises that the trends in biodiversity loss are still reversible through urgent transformative change;

RECOGNISING that maintaining the ecosystem integrity of the Amazon biome is vital in order to prevent catastrophic biodiversity loss and climate change;

REITERATING that over half of the Amazon Basin is subject to some kind of pressure – fixed or continuous – on land-use change, direct or indirect, including, inter alia, as a result of top-down industrial development, road and energy infrastructure, the expansion of extractive industries and the agro-industrial frontier, as well as illicit and criminal activities;

RECOGNISING that the Amazon is home to at least 178 indigenous groups living in isolation, whose territories of life include some of highest biodiversity areas on the planet, some of which are categorised as protected areas or legally recognised indigenous territories; that some states in the Amazon have already established national policies that confirm their duties to protect their isolation, respect their integrity and well-being; and that these groups are high-

ly vulnerable and increasingly threatened by many pressures. It is urgent that the measures, policies and actions throughout the Amazon Basin are introduced to e ectively protect their rights in full;

CONSIDERING that the data published in the peer-reviewed study "A Global Safety Net" indicate the need for a regional target of 85% for the protection of the Amazon biome by 2030; HIGHLIGHTING the fact that in 2007 WWF projected for 2030 that "Current trends in agriculture and livestock expansion, fire, drought and logging could clear or severely damage 55% of the Amazon rainforest by 2030", making the 2030 horizon too late for the Amazon; and

RECOGNISING that the UN-backed Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA), which included 200 scientists, has found that 18% of the Amazon Basin's forests has been deforested, with an additional 17% undergoing degradation; that the SPA warns that in crossing the 20–25% threshold of deforestation and degradation the system will reach an irreversible tipping point that can translate into the dieback of the entire ecosystem; and that this would result in massive carbon dioxide emissions with rapid and catastrophic consequences for global climate stability; **The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, at its session in Marseille, France:**

CALLS ON the Director General and Members to support the area-based conservation targets, inorder to protect, conserve and sustainably manage at least 80% of the Amazon by 2025, in partnership with and recognising the leadership of indigenous peoples in the Amazon, ensuring their free, prior and informed consent, and with the full recognition of their rights, as set out in UNDRIP, to their lands, territories and waters, as a measure to ensure ecosystem integrity, halt deforestation, biodiversity loss and land-use change, and prevent the point of no return being reached;

1. **URGES** State and Government Agency Members to ensure the full implementation of the DurbanAccord adopted by IUCN in 2003 and the Promise of Sydney adopted by IUCN in 2014, in particular its recommendations on quality and diversity of governance of protected and conserved areas;

2. **CALLS ON** State and Government Agency Members in the Amazon to work with indigenouspeoples' authorities and governance structures to fully recognise and delimit all the ancestral land and territories belonging to indigenous peoples and local communities, and recognising their local governance authorities by 2025;

3. **ENCOURAGES** State and Government Agency Members in the Amazon to promote e orts to restore at least half of the degraded forest areas in the Amazon Basin by 2025;

4. **FURTHER CALLS ON** State and Government Agency Members to enact moratoria on industrialactivities that are carried out in primary forests;

5. **ENCOURAGES** governments, the funding agencies, and other resource mobilisationmechanisms, to increase support for direct, sustained and equitable financial and technical support, at least at a level equal to that invested in protected areas, to indigenous peoples to conserve and sustainably manage their territories, including for indigenous-led initiatives for forest protection and just ecological transition such as the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative; and

6. **CALLS ON all IUCN** Members to support e orts to achieve the actions described above.

IUCN RESOLUTION 068:

Emergency action to restore 80% of ecological integrity in Amazonia by 2030, preventing cascading tipping points

RECALLING IUCN Resolution 7.129 Avoiding the point of no return in the Amazon protecting 80% by 2025 (Marseille, 2020), endorsed by 1,200 organisations globally, adopted by the Government of Colombia, included in two resolutions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and mentioned in the Declaration of Belem as the utmost regional challenge;

REITERATING that Amazonia's tipping point unravels between 20 and 25% of combined deforestation and degradation, and 4° y 5°C;

ACKNOWLEDGING that deforestation and degradation are rapidly advancing;

NOTING that, in 2024 alone, fires burned 46 million hectares and that, in 2023-2024, Amazonia suffered the worst drought in 122 years, affecting water, food and energy security; extreme droughts spurring massive migrations are expected by 2030;

WHEREAS protected areas and recognised Indigenous territories comprise nearly 50% of Amazonia, exceeding the 30x30 target, and yet these areas amount to 30% less than the threshold needed to prevent a tipping point;

HIGHLIGHTING the comparable environmental performance of protected areas and Indigenous territories in Amazonia despite the fact that less than 1% of climate finance goes to Indigenous peoples;

ALSO RECALLING IUCN Resolution 5.097 Implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Jeju, 2012), which seeks to ensure that the principles of that Declaration are observed in the work of the Union;

FURTHER RECALLING Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF);

WHEREAS the resolutions of the 22nd session of the UNPFII urged Amazonian countries to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025, prioritising the recognition of 100 million hectares of Indigenous territories;

STRESSING that legal or illegal pressures covering two thirds of Amazonia threaten Indigenous peoples and Local communities (IPLCs), intact forests and priority areas;

ACKNOWLEDGING ALSO the groundbreaking mechanism of the Inter-American Development Bank and the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon River Basin to directly finance Amazonian Indigenous peoples;

WELCOMING debt swaps and other mechanisms to protect Amazonia;

CONSIDERING the imminent implementation of the European Union Regulation on Deforestation-free Products to stop deforestation-derived exports; and

CONVINCED that solving the climate and biodiversity crises requires equilibrium in Amazonia;

THE IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS 2025, AT ITS SESSION IN ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:

1. **URGES** the Director General and IUCN Members to support emergency action in Amazonia to restore at least 80% of ecological integrity, to prevent cascading tipping points, to end deforestation and forest degradation by 2030, to restore and protect priority areas, including Key Biodiversity Areas when information is available, to guarantee the legal security of Indigenous and traditional territories, their financial sustainability and that of protected areas;

2. **REQUESTS IUCN** Members to endorse a geographical exclusion of all extractive industries in intact and high integrity areas;

3. **CALLS UPON** States and Government Agencies to fully implement the KMGBF Target 3 by including Amazonian Indigenous and traditional territories in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the free, prior and informed consent of IPLCs;

4. **URGES** States and Government Agencies to fully implement the regional resolutions of the 22nd session of the UNPFII, to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025, and to implement the Belém Declaration goal to achieve zero deforestation by 2030;

5. **FURTHER CALLS** on States to prioritise legal frameworks to protect water and food security, biodiversity, and the lives, the rights and livelihoods of IPLCs instead of extractive industries;

6. **ENTREATS** Amazonian States to export deforestation-free products and to develop bioeconomy alternatives involving IPLCs;

7. **ALSO URGES** strengthening existing funds by creating a Pan-Amazonian mechanism that includes IPLCs in the decision-making process, as well as direct funding for restoration, conservation and the bioeconomy, ensuring equitable access to all Amazonian stakeholder, in particular women and youth from IPLCs; and

8. **ENCOURAGES** international financial institutions to implement debt swaps and other financial mechanisms to protect Amazonia.

The image titled “Water Line” is a photograph of a Ticuna man standing next to a 500-year-old ceiba tree in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest. The tree has a waterline that marks the water level during the rainy season, from April to May. This photograph was taken in May 2024, and by then the water level should have reached its peak; however, rainfall had been scarce. The 2024 drought broke historical records on the Amazon River, with devastating consequences for wildlife and local communities. This photograph by Mateo Borrero won the 2025 Earth Photo contest

Mateo Borrero

A Colombian photographer and engineer, he holds a Master’s degree in Artistic Photography and won the 2025 Earth Photo - Forest Ecosystem award from the Royal Geographical Society and Forestry England. His photographs have been featured in the British newspaper The Guardian, GEO magazine, Vogue, and Frontiers Magazine, where he was named Photographer of the Year. His work has been exhibited in various galleries, including the Royal Geographical Society in London and the Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest in the UK.