



AMAZONIA
POR LA VIDA:
PROTEJAMOS
80% AL
2025
EVITANDO EL PUNTO DE NO RETORNO

Darío Mejía Montalvo

President of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Members of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 2023–2025¹

Your Excellencies,

In 2023, Amazonian Indigenous leaders from several countries participated in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) requesting in each of their interventions the support of the members of the Forum to protect 80% of the Amazonia. The Minister of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, Sonia Guajajara, joined this call, and the resolutions derived from the Regional Dialogues reflect the urgency of the situation in Amazonia, where certain priority areas have begun a process of regressive death or tipping point. With them, our Great Maloca dies as well. In a context where the Amazonia is going through the worst drought in its history and the vertiginous advance of fires has deprived hundreds of Indigenous communities of minimum vital conditions – such as access to water and food security derived from the loss of thousands of hectares of forests and their biodiversity – a minimum advance is not enough for us as a planet.

Studies reveal that, between 2021 and 2023, there was a rather timid advance in the recognition of Indigenous Territories (ITs), approximately 7 million hectares, which is at the core of the resolutions of the UNPFII 2023 and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Resolution in 2021. However, reversing the tipping point in the Amazonia requires a strong commitment from the States, and we, Indigenous Peoples, must be vigilant. The Amazonian countries have not only failed to prioritize this task, but incongruous frameworks have buried the possibility of achieving systemic changes. The result is that the Amazonia has been taken over by organized crime, to grab and devastate the natural resources of the Amazonia with the complicity of some governments. The inaction of States to guarantee the legal security of indigenous territories is complicit in the crisis in which the region finds itself. The UNPFII must become the entity that pressures the international community to defend the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples and of Amazonia as a subject of law.

As the General Coordinator of the Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), which represents more than 500 Indigenous Peoples, and as the Co-Coordinator of the "[Amazonia for Life: Protect 80% by 2025](#)", together with the Coalition² that bears the same name and with the support of more than 50 Amazonian leaders from the nine countries of the basin, through this communication we follow up on regional resolutions 18 and 19 adopted in the [Regional Dialogues corresponding to Central America, South America and the Caribbean of the UNPFII in 2023](#) with a report on the current state of deforestation and degradation in Amazonia, its impact on Amazonian Indigenous Peoples, and the rather timid progress regarding the recognition of Indigenous Territories. Therefore, I urge Amazonian countries and the international community to unite to save the Amazonia with urgent and real actions.

¹ Members of the Permanent Forum 2023–2025: Mr. Vital Bambanze (Burundi), Ms. Tove Søvndahl Gant (Denmark), Mr. Ali Hajilari (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Keith Harper (USA), Ms. Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim (Chad), Ms. Aluki Kotierk (Canada), Ms. Nan Li (China), Mr. Suleiman Mamutov (Ukraine), Mr. Bornface Museke Mate (Namibia), Ms. Hannah McGlade (Australia), Ms. Naw Ei Ei Min (Myanmar), Ms. Hanieh Moghani (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Rodrigo Eduardo Paillalef Monnard (Chile), Mr. Dario Mejia Montalvo (Colombia), Mr. Geoffrey Roth (USA), Ms. Valentina Sovkina (Russian Federation).

² COICA, Stand.earth, RAISC, AVAAZ, Earth Insights, Wild Heritage, RE:wild, Amazon Watch, One Earth. ORPIA, AIDSESP, CONFENIAE.



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Therefore, the request to this Forum is to integrate the urgency of protecting 80% of the Amazonia by 2025 adoption it as a formal position of the UNPFII in 2024, by launching a [Global Pact for the protection of the Amazonia](#), a region on which the climate balance of the planet depends. The role of Indigenous Peoples, their territories, knowledge and governance systems are vital for the survival of our cultures, the integrity of ecosystems and the survival of biodiversity not only in the Amazon but on the planet.

We attach a report with three sections. The first covers the status of deforestation and forest degradation and the impact on Indigenous Peoples in Amazonia in 2023. The second section presents the progress of the Recognition of 100 million hectares of ITs throughout Amazonia. Each section includes relevant data at the regional level and from countries whose deforestation and degradation rates have impacted Indigenous Peoples. It is worth noting that the Amazonia is experiencing the worst drought in 120 years. Even though forest loss fell drastically in Brazil and Colombia, high rates of deforestation persist and the forest continues to burn at an alarming rate. The third section is our call for a [Global Pact for the Amazonia](#) with proposed actions to reach the protection of 80% by 2025, for which we call on the support of the Forum.

We appreciate your attention, Mr. Chairman, and the Members of the Forum. We also request the dissemination of this communication to all Members of the Forum as a mechanism of transparency and accountability of the resolutions taken in this, our space. Finally, we request the members of the Forum to support our urgent call for a global pact to save the Amazonia, prioritizing the recognition of ITs and the need to reiterate last year's resolutions. It is urgent and necessary to communicate to the Amazonian countries about the UNPFII resolutions that will serve as a beacon for the COP16 and COP 29 this year and the fulfillment of the goal of 80% by 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Fanny Kuiru

General Coordinator

Coordinator of the Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA)

Co-Coordinator of the Initiative "Amazonia for Life:

Protect 80% by 2025"



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Report on the Progress of Resolutions 18 and 19 of the Regional Dialogues UNPFII 2023

Resolution 18: “The Forum acknowledges the call to action by Brazil in response to the increasing degradation and deforestation of the Amazon rainforest which has pushed it to a tipping point and thereby endangering the livelihoods and territories of Indigenous Peoples, biodiversity and aggravating the global climate crisis. **The Permanent Forum supports Brazil’s proposal of protecting 80% of the Amazon as a step towards reaching zero deforestation and in securing Indigenous Peoples-led protection and conservation efforts.** The Permanent Forum also supports the proposal for a dialogue among Member states in the region towards **closing the gap of over 100 million hectares of Indigenous Peoples’ territories in the Amazon that still remains to be declared, recognized, and titled.**”

Deforestation, Degradation and the impacts on Indigenous Peoples in Amazonia - 2023

Recognizing the need to change the trajectory of deforestation and degradation in the Amazonia, we include the following data³ to inform the UNPFII on the progress of deforestation and degradation in the region:

At regional level:

- According to data from 2023 and compared to 2022, tropical forest loss fell sharply in Brazil and Colombia, but high rates persist in general⁴.
- Despite the optimistic data, a severe El Niño phenomenon, climate change and other adverse factors have resulted in the Amazon region experiencing **the worst drought recorded in the last 120 years**^{5,6,7} and – as cause and consequence in a logic where both phenomena feed back on each other – fires have soared due to the drought, which has disastrous consequences for the water and food security of the populations that inhabit the region, including more than 500 Indigenous nations and a population of more than 40 million individuals, as well as ecosystems and biodiversity in general. The fires were mainly located in Bolivia and Brazil, affecting several territories and Indigenous populations.
- While deforestation in the Amazonia decreased significantly last year, the forests continued to burn at an alarming rate. For the first time since 2018, the rate of forest loss was less than 10,000 square

³ Los datos de deforestación y degradación que se incluyen se derivan [del informe anual](#) realizado por la Universidad de Maryland y Global Forest Watch (GFW). “Tropical Forest Loss Drops Steeply in Brazil and Colombia, but High Rates Persist Overall.” Global Forest Review, updated April 4, 2024. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. Available online at

<https://research.wri.org/gfr/latest-analysis-deforestation-trends>.

⁴ Pulso forestal: Lo último en los bosques del mundo.

<https://research.wri.org/gfr/latest-analysis-deforestation-trends>

⁵ Rodrigues, M. (2023). The Amazon’s record-setting drought: How bad will it be? *Nature*, 623(7988), 675–676. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-023-03469-6>

⁶ [WRI 2024](#).

⁷ Hegarty, S. (2023, December 25). Amazon drought: “[we’ve never seen anything like this.](#)”

⁸ Osorio, K. (2024, January 8). “[The river is gone](#)” communities in the Amazon struggle through worst drought in recent history. Rainforest Foundation US.



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kilometers in 12 months, until July 31. Even more encouraging is that tree cover loss in Indigenous territories fell by 73%⁹.

- Rainforests managed by Indigenous Peoples have lower fire occurrence and lower temperatures, meaning they are better able to withstand forest loss. The data also shows that rainforests managed by Indigenous Peoples contain a higher carbon density than state-managed forests and foster higher levels of biodiversity¹⁰.
- Most fires are observed outside the Indigenous territories and usually stop at their boundaries.
- Illegal gold mining is both a major direct cause of deforestation and a source of water pollution (especially mercury) throughout Amazonia, affecting both primary forests and rivers, often in remote and critical areas, such as protected areas and Indigenous Territories¹¹. According to MAAPBiomass data¹², there are 36 socio-environmental conflicts: 16 in protected areas and 20 in Indigenous territories. The Indigenous territories affected are: Kayapo, Menkragnoti, Yanomami and Mundurucu in Brazil; Shuar Arutam People in Ecuador; the Kakataibo Indigenous Reserve of uncontacted peoples and several communities in southern Peru.
- Estimates indicate that protecting Amazonian Indigenous territories could prevent more than 15 million respiratory and cardiovascular cases each year, and save -\$2 billion in health costs alone¹³.
- The IACHR states that 2023 closed with high rates of violence against defenders in the Americas. This violence was particularly directed at those who defend the environment and territory and people with indigenous and Afro-descendant leadership¹⁴. INDEPAZ states that 188 social leaders and human rights defenders were murdered in Colombia in 2023¹⁵.

Brazil:

- Brazil lost 36% less primary forest in 2023 than in 2022, reaching its lowest level since 2015. It translates into a dramatic decrease in Brazil's share of total primary forest loss in the tropics: from 43% of the global total of tropical forests in 2022 to 30% of the total globally in 2023¹⁶.
- However, it is important to note that not all biomes in Brazil experienced the reduction in forest loss mentioned above: both the Cerrado and Pantanal biomes experienced greater forest loss in 2023¹⁷.
- In 2023, a staggering 26.4 million acres (10.7 million hectares) of the Brazilian Amazonia burned in 2023, an area comparable in size to the U.S. state of Tennessee, according to MapBiomas Fire Monitor, an increase of 35.4% comparing to the previous year¹⁸.

⁹ [Amazon Rainforest fires](#). Rainforest Foundation US. (2024, February 26).

¹⁰ Veit, P., Gibbs, D., & Reytar, K. (2023, January 6). *Indigenous forests are some of the Amazon's last carbon sinks*. World Resources Institute.

<https://www.wri.org/insights/amazon-carbon-sink-indigenous-forests>

¹¹ Finer M, Mamani N, Arinez A, Novoa S, Larrea-Alcázar D, Villa J (2023) Minería ilegal de oro en la Amazonía. [MAAP: 197](#).

¹² [MAAP: 197](#).

¹³ Prist, P.R., Sangermano, F., Bailey, A. et al. Protecting Brazilian Amazon Indigenous territories reduces atmospheric particulates and avoids associated health impacts and costs. *Commun Earth Environ* 4, 34 (2023).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-023-00704-w> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43247-023-00704-w>

¹⁴ CIDH. (2024, March 5). [CIDH: 2023 cierra con altos índices de violencia contra Personas Defensoras en las Américas](#). La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH).

¹⁵ DDHH, P. O. de. (n.d.). [Líderes Sociales, Defensores de DD.HH y firmantes de Acuerdo Asesinados en 2023](#). Indepaz.

¹⁶ [WRI 2024](#).

¹⁷ [WRI 2024](#).

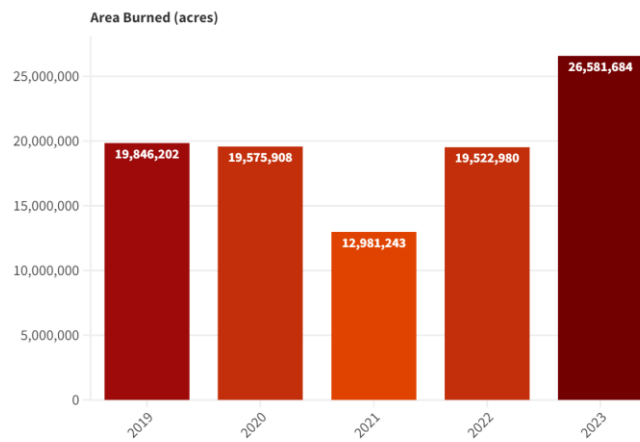
¹⁸ [Amazon Rainforest fires](#). Rainforest Foundation US. (2024, February 26).



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- In the face of the drought, the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil at the end of 2023 asked the Brazilian government to declare a climate emergency, as their villages have no drinking water, food or medicine as the severe drought is drying up rivers vital for travel in the rainforest.

Graph 1: Burned areas in Brazil 2019–2023 (per year in acres)



Source: National Institute for Space Research (Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais – INPE)

Source: [Rainforest Foundation US](#)

- As of February 2024, at least 251 fires have been recorded on Yanomami lands, causing new suffering to the Indigenous community already facing a humanitarian crisis due to the presence of illegal miners on their lands. The Yanomami IT, Raposa Serra do Sol, community communities in the São Marcos Indigenous territory are the most affected so far this year¹⁹.
- The number of hotspots in the state of Roraima last February alone (2024) reached an all-time high of 2,057. According to IBAMA, Brazil's federal environmental agency, 23% of the fire outbreaks recorded in Roraima are in Indigenous areas and affect at least 13 territories²⁰.
- About 700,000 Indigenous Peoples live in Indigenous territories (ITs) in Brazil²¹, and more than half of the ITs are within the Brazilian Amazonia. ITs are home to more than one million square kilometers of rainforests²². Deforestation has increased 129% within ITs since 2013, followed by an increase in illegal mining areas. In 2019–2021, deforestation was 195% higher and 30% further away from borders into the interior of Indigenous territories than in previous years (2013–2018). By guaranteeing the territorial rights of Indigenous Peoples, these territories in the Brazilian Amazonia could reduce deforestation by up to 66%. Therefore, ITs are not only essential to maintain Indigenous livelihoods, playing a key role in guaranteeing human rights, but are also a cost-effective strategy for conservation²³.

¹⁹ Schröder, A. (2024, March 18). [Fanned by el niño, megafires in brazil threaten amazon's preserved areas.](#) *Mongabay*.

²⁰ Idem

²¹ Institute of Environment and Sustainability, University of California Los Angeles – UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA. Citado en Silva-Junior, C. H., Silva, F. B., Arisi, B. M., Mataveli, G., Pessôa, A. C., Carvalho, N. S., ... & Melo, M. (2023). [Brazilian Amazon indigenous territories under deforestation pressure.](#) *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 5851.

²² Programa de Pós-Graduação em Biodiversidade e Conservação, Universidade Federal do Maranhão – UFMA, São Luís, Brazil. Citado en Silva-Junior, C. H., Silva, F. B., Arisi, B. M., Mataveli, G., Pessôa, A. C., Carvalho, N. S., ... & Melo, M. (2023).

²³ Silva-Junior, C. H., Silva, F. B., Arisi, B. M., Mataveli, G., Pessôa, A. C., Carvalho, N. S., Reis, J. B., Silva Júnior, A. R., Motta, N. A., e Silva, P. V., Ribeiro, F. D., Siqueira-Gay, J., Alencar, A., Saatchi, S., Aragão, L. E., Anderson, L. O., & Melo, M. (2023).



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Colombia

- Compared to 2022, Colombia also experienced a dramatic decrease in primary forest loss in 2023, with a 49% reduction.
- It should be noted that to date, [Colombia is the only Amazonian country that has adopted the goal of 80% protection of its Amazonia by 2025](#).
- The forest loss is concentrated in a “deforestation arc” surrounding numerous protected areas (such as Chiribiquete, Tinigua and Macarena National Parks) and Indigenous reserves²⁴.
- In Colombia, the main direct driver of deforestation is cattle grazing, but this expansion is largely due to land grabbing as a critical indirect driver. Coca plantations also remain an important direct driver in certain remote areas²⁵.

Bolivia

- In Bolivia, primary forest loss increased 27% in 2023, breaking its record for the third consecutive year. Bolivia is the third tropical forest country with the highest primary forest loss, despite having less than half the forest area of the Democratic Republic of Congo or Indonesia²⁶.
- In 2023, fires accounted for more than half (51%) of primary forest loss in Bolivia²⁷. The department of Beni experienced more than double its rate of primary forest loss since 2022 due to fires. Nearly 3 million hectares of forest were affected by fire²⁸.
- In the Bolivian Amazonia, four Indigenous territories belonging to the Central de Pueblos Indígenas de La Paz (CPILAP) were severely affected by forest fires²⁹.
 - Of the 23 communities in the Tacana territory, 11 had to fight the fires.
 - In Buena Vista, the intensity of the fire exceeded the capacity of community members, firefighters, volunteers and park rangers, who were unable to prevent the fire from reaching residential areas and consuming five houses. Children and the elderly had to be evacuated as the situation worsened.
 - In the following days, the residents of Altamarani and Tres Hermanos also had to be evacuated by river.
- The Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous territory has 23 communities of the Tacana, T'simane and Moseten Peoples, accessible via the Rurrenabaque-Yucumo highway and the Beni and Quiquibey rivers. At least 19 of these communities were affected by the fires.
- The San José de Uchupiamonas territory, located in the heart of the Madidi National Park and Integrated Management Natural Area, has only one community whose population was very close to being affected by the fire.

[Brazilian Amazon indigenous territories under deforestation pressure](#). *Scientific Reports*, 13(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-32746-7>. Disponible en: [consultado el 7 de abril de 2024].

²⁴ Finer M, Mamani N, Novoa S, Ariñez A (2023) [State of the Amazon in 2023. MAAP: 200](#).

²⁵ [MAAP: 200](#).

²⁶ [WRI 2024](#).

²⁷ [WRI 2024](#).

²⁸ Paredes Tamayo , I. (2023, December 18). [Balance ambiental de Bolivia en 2023: el país pierde patrimonio natural por avance de la deforestación, incendios y minería](#). *Mongabay*.

²⁹ Vidal, D. (2023, December 1). [Living and surviving among ashes: fires in the Amazon of Bolivia](#). *Debates Indígenas*. <https://debatesindigenas.org/en/>



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- The T'simane people living in the area between the municipalities of Rurrenabaque and San Borja claim Ya'cama territory. They are considered a high-risk population. Since 2016 they have been fighting to consolidate their ancestral territory, which they dispute with the intercultural sector (as the Altiplano peasants settled in the east since the 1980s are called). There are 14 communities facing legal insecurity ranging from conflicts over their lands. The T'simane lost their crops and forests due to uncontrolled fires that started in neighboring properties and spread to their territory. The situation of the T'simane in the Yacuma River sector is alarming because the fires left nothing behind: they were left with no forests to hunt, dry rivers, no fish, and no crops.

Perú

- Peru is the third largest source of Amazonian deforestation ([MAAP #187](#))³⁰.
- While in the central Amazon there is rapid deforestation by new Mennonite colonies that went from zero in 2016 to 3,400 hectares in 2021, to 4,800 hectares in 2022, to 7,032 hectares in 2023³¹; in the south, gold mining continues to be one of the main causes of deforestation, mainly in Indigenous communities, buffer zones of protected areas and within the official Mining Corridor. Gold mining has led to the deforestation of almost 24,000 hectares between 2021 and 2023 alone ([MAAP #195](#)).
- Peru opened 2023 with a bill to eliminate the Reserves of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact that represented 9 million hectares of primary and low degradation forests. The law did not pass but the year closed with the approval of modifications to the Forestry and Wildlife Law that weaken actions to combat deforestation.
- It is estimated that approximately 7,500 Indigenous Peoples in isolation live in Peru, distributed among at least 25 Indigenous Peoples in isolation and in initial contact officially recognized by the State, and the Peruvian State has created seven Indigenous and territorial reserves for them. However, the process to declare the rest of the reserves (in total, there are six other reserves still in the process of being created) has been pending, some for more than 20 years. In Loreto, where there are currently five requests for the creation of Indigenous reserves, the regional government has illegally granted dozens of forest concessions in territories where Indigenous Peoples in isolation and in initial contact live. These illegal forest concessions granted by the regional government of Loreto cover approximately 3,000 square kilometers of the living territory of the peoples in isolation and have continued to exist illegally and with total impunity over the last eight years to date.
- The company Perenco Peru has a concession for Block 67 and Block 39 within the territory requested for the Napo Tigre Indigenous Reserve³². In June 2022, this company filed an injunction action against the Ministry of Culture³³, the entity in charge of declaring the Indigenous Peoples in isolation and in initial contact reserves, to annul the favorable qualification for the creation of the reserve, a few months later it gave up from continuing with this process³⁴. Days later, Congressman Jorge Morante presented the

³⁰ [MAAP: 187](#).

³¹ [MAAP: 200](#).

³² Pérez, R. (2022b, August 30). [Petróleo en la Amazonía Peruana: Ganancias Obscenas Mediante Estrategias Inmorales](#). Amazon Watch.

³³ Olmo, G. D. (2022, October 4). [Napo-Tigre. El Santuario de indígenas en aislamiento que enfrenta a Perú con una gran petrolera Franco-Británica](#). BBC News Mundo. <https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-62923206>

³⁴ Selibas, D. (2022, October 31). [Napo-tigre: la creación de una reserva indígena para pueblos aislados en Perú se enfrenta a los intereses de una petrolera](#). Mongabay.



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aforementioned bill (known as the “PIACI genocide bill”), which was recently shelved³⁵. However, a small Indigenous federation that groups three communities that would receive economic support from the aforementioned oil company also presented three other lawsuits against the Ministry of Culture, which are currently in process and with them they intend to annul the recognition of the existence of the officially recognized peoples in isolation in the Napo Tigre reserve³⁶, leading to the disappearance of their very existence and thus culminating in their extermination³⁷.

- In the Kakataibo North and South Indigenous Reserve, a reserve in favor of the Kakataibo Peoples in isolation officially created in 2021, after almost 30 years of paperwork, a flyover organized by Indigenous organizations and the Ministry of Culture revealed the presence of clandestine trails, hundreds or even thousands of hectares of illicit crops linked to drug trafficking, illegal logging, illegal cattle ranching, illegal forest roads and highways, illegal deforestation on a massive scale, invasions by colonists, illegal loggers and drug traffickers, etc., all within the supposedly “intangible” reserve area³⁸. This shows that, in addition to the declarations, a system of direct financing is required for the effective protection of the reserves and other mechanisms to strengthen the Indigenous Peoples and Native Communities in order to protect and manage their territories. Due to the extremely serious and imminent threats present in the Kakataibo North and South Indigenous Reserve, in March 2023, AIDSESEP, ORAU and FENACOKA filed a Request for Precautionary Measures before the IACHR (MC-236-23-PE S) in order to guarantee the fundamental rights of the Kakataibo peoples in isolation who are currently at serious risk of extermination. However, the requested Precautionary Measures have not yet been granted.
- Peru is among the top 10 most dangerous countries for human rights defenders, including Indigenous leaders and environmental defenders, in their struggle to secure the life of the land, especially in the Peruvian Amazonian region³⁹.

Suriname

- The Suriname government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, has made plans to appropriate a huge tract (365,704 hectares, or 903,674 acres) of the Amazon rainforest for agriculture (354,836 hectares) and cattle ranching related projects. If finalized, the deal could allow unprecedented deforestation and challenge a campaign by indigenous communities to gain rights to ancestral territory⁴⁰.
- The Amazon rainforest covers 93% of Suriname's total land area. Because Suriname is one of the only countries in the world with a negative carbon economy, meaning it absorbs more CO₂ than it emits, conservation groups and indigenous communities are keeping a close eye on where the government is expanding.

³⁵ [Archivan Proyecto de Ley Que Amenazaba la vida de los indígenas en Aislamiento](#). SPDA Actualidad Ambiental. (2023, June 26).

³⁶ [Decreto Supremo que declara el reconocimiento de los pueblos indígenas Aewa, Taushiro, Tagaeri, Taromenane y Záparo en situación de aislamiento, correspondientes al ámbito de la solicitud para la creación de la Reserva Indígena Napo, Tigre y Afluentes](#), 1 de septiembre, 2022, DECRETO SUPREMO N° 010-2022-MC, Diario Oficial El Peruano.

³⁷ Nelsen, A. (2022, August 23). [Anglo-French Oil Firm Threatens Amazon Reserve for Isolated Indigenous People](#), *The Guardian*.

³⁸ Sierra Praeli, Y. (2024, March 25). [Fotografías confirman presencia de pistas clandestinas y cultivos ilícitos en la reserva indígena Kakataibo en Perú](#). *Mongabay*.

³⁹ Blume, D. V. (2024, January 1). *Líderes Indígenas asesinados Este 2023: Muertes Injustas de Defensores Ambientales sin protección del gobierno peruano*. infobae.

⁴⁰ Radwin, M. (2023, December 14). [Suriname preparing to clear Amazon for agriculture, documents suggest](#). *Mongabay Environmental News*.



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- However, Suriname has not recognized Indigenous rights or their territories. Some areas proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture overlap with lands occupied by Indigenous communities who have spent years trying to obtain ancestral rights to their territories.

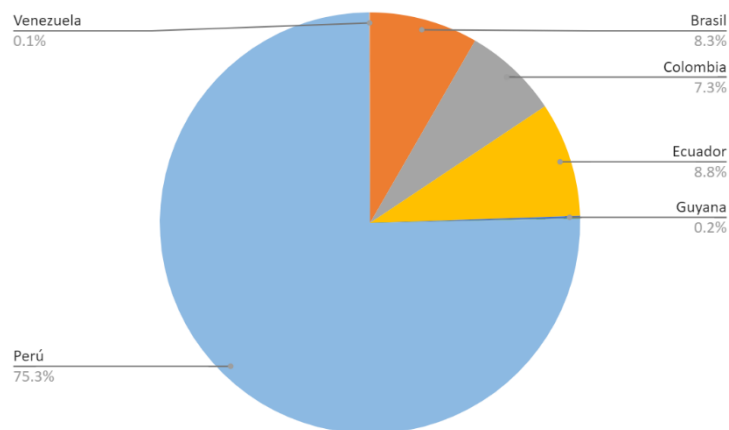


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Resolution 19: “The Permanent Forum urges all the nine Amazonian States to **legally recognize the ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples, covering 100 million hectares, through the expansion, regulation and collective titling in meeting the target of protecting 80% of the Amazon by 2025.** The Permanent Forum underscores that such actions are essential for ensuring immediate mitigation measure to stop the destruction of the Amazon. The Permanent Forum invites the Amazonian States to inform the Permanent Forum at its 23rd session on the progress of these vital actions.”

Recognition of 100 million hectares of Indigenous Territories

Until 2020, Indigenous territories (ITs) and the overlap with protected areas represented 27.5% of the total Amazonia, equivalent to 237.6 million hectares⁴¹. According to RAISG data (2024), between 2020 and 2023, 7 million hectares of Indigenous territories (7,041,507.52) were registered. 76% corresponds to ITs that were extended, i.e. their surface area increased, and 24% corresponds to new recognized territories. 57% of the ITs were recognized in 2023. Graph 2 shows the distribution of the total area.



Source: RAISG, 2023.

- In hectares, between extended and new ITs, Peru is the country that has made the greatest effort to recognize Indigenous Territories with 3,840,903.62; followed by far by Brazil (586,527.94), Colombia (515,033.56) and Ecuador (357,970.06).
- When comparing the new demarcated areas to the size of the Amazonia in each country, the countries that have included the largest areas of ITs in the Amazon are Peru (5.4% of the total), Ecuador (4.5%) and Colombia (1%).
- The demarcation effort of IT achieved between 2021 and 2023 represents 0.83% of the entire Amazonia, as per the boundary defined by RAISG and adopted by the Initiative, which covers 847 million hectares. In other words, there is still 30% of Amazonia to be protected and recognized.

⁴¹ [RAISG 1010, p. 16.](#)



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Results of the analysis by country

Recognized territories

Only Ecuador and Peru registered new recognized territories:

Ecuador (Indigenous Territories)

- In Ecuador, three nationalities – Cofán, Kichwa and Shuar – had their territories recognized: 4 Cofán communities, 64 Kichwa communities and 17 Shuar communities. The sum of these territories is 262 thousand hectares (261,886.62).

Peru (Indigenous Reserves and Native Communities)

- In Peru, under the umbrella of two categories: Indigenous Reserve and Native Community, 1 million 460 thousand (1,459,661.08) hectares were recognized during this period. However, it is important to note that the territories that were extended totaled 5,300,564.71 as will be detailed later.
- The Indigenous Reserves recognized in this process are: Kakataibo – Northern Zone, Kakataibo – Southern Zone and Yavari - Tapiche.
- Native communities included: Capanahua (4 communities), Cocama-Cocamilla (Kukama-Kukamiria-17 communities) and Huambisa (Wampis-1 community).

Territories that were extended

- A total of 5,319,959.82 representing 1,073 communities were annexed to existing Indigenous territories between 2021 and 2023 in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Guyana, French Guyana and Venezuela.
- It is important to emphasize that despite the insistence of the Indigenous Peoples of Suriname, in this period there are no territories recognized or extended by the government of that country.

Bolivia (Indigenous Territories)

- In Bolivia, under the category of Native Indigenous Peasant Territory, 4 Indigenous groups have benefited from the expansion of their territories by 700 hectares: Itonamas, Joaquinianos, Mores and Yaminahuas, Machineris.

Brazil (Indigenous territories)

- There are 78 communities that benefited from the expansion of Indigenous lands in Brazil. The data below includes geographic adjustments with an extension of less than one meter to large extensions that add up to an increase of 586,527.93 hectares of Indigenous lands in Brazil, being those with recognized extensions over 1000 hectares:

○ Kayapo:	356,352.04
○ Pueblo Sawre Ba'pim Total:	147,716.5
○ Yanomami:	51,590.6
○ Kaxuyana/Tiriyó/Aparai/Wayana:	12,729.56
○ Wari':	5, 594.1
○ Wapichana:	3,460.94
○ Ingarikó/Wapichana/Taurepang/Macuxi/Patamona	2,985.48
○ Isolados do Alto Jutái/Isolados do Jandiatuba/Isolados do Quixito/Isolados do São José/Isolados Kanamari/Isolados Korubo/Kanamari/Korubo/Kulina Pano/Marubo/Matis/Matsés/Tsohom-dyapa:	1,174.15



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Colombia (Indigenous reserves)

In Colombia, the following Indigenous reserves have had the largest number of hectares recognized during this period. However, 84 Indigenous Reserves have had their surface area increased:

1. Resguardo Indígena Andoke de AdIndígena Andoke	131,677.73
2. Inga	66,050.61
3. Kamëntsa Biya De Sibundoy	39,548.50
4. Resguardo Indígena Yucuna and othes	22,314.67
5. Witoto Ticuna	23,335.29
6. Nukak - Maku Resguardo Indígena	24,957.97
7. Cubeo and 18 groups	14,511.79
8. Kofan	19,329.64
9. Kamentsa Inga	17,497.98
10. Murui Total	12,889.09
11. Pastos Total	16,014.14
12. Pijao Total	13,905.97
13. Sikuani Total	13,590.42

Indigenous Territories: Summary of national IT incorporation data 2021-2023

Country	Total IT 2020	IT that were extended 2021-2023 (in hectares)	Recognized IT 2021-2023 (in hectares)	Total IT 2023 (in hectares)	Variation 2020 and 2023 (in %)
Bolivia	24,292,800	669.57		24,293,469.57	0.00
Brazil	125,881,000	586,527.94		126,467,527.94	0.47
Colombia	30,198,800	515,033.56		30,713,833.56	1.71
Ecuador	9,159,400	357,970.06	261,886.62	9,779,256.68	6.77
Guyana	3,266,800	12,354.49		3,279,154.49	0.38
French Guyana	1,335,700	2,261.82		1,337,961.82	0.17
Peru*	36,009,100	3,840,903.62	1,459,661.08	41,309,664.70	14.72
Suriname	S.i.				
Venezuela	49,526,700	4,208.75		49,530,908.75	0.01
Total IT region	279,670,300	5,319,929.81	1,721,547.70	286,711,777.51	2.52
% Total TI 2020	33.02		% Total IT 2023	33.85	2.52

Source: RAISG 2023. *According to 2024 data, the extension could exceed this reference.



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URGENT CALL FOR A GLOBAL PACT TO PROTECT 80% OF THE AMAZONIA BY 2025

The Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin, through their ancestral knowledge and wisdom, have protected the Amazonia for millennia. In 2021, the coalition “Amazonia for Life: Protect 80% by 2025” proposed a global pact for the permanent protection of 80% of the Amazonia by 2025 as an urgent measure to prevent the tipping point and address the triple planetary crisis⁴². Approximately 60 indigenous organizations and more than 1200 organizations across the world have joined our call. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [Resolution 129](#)⁴³ in 2021 has served for Amazonian countries and the [UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#) (UNPFII)⁴⁴ to recognize the tipping point as the main threat in the region⁴⁵. However, [only Colombia has adopted the goal as an official position](#).

The international community has not yet taken measures congruent with the vertiginous evolution of the warming that the Amazonia and the planet are experiencing. Therefore, we see the need to make governments and humanity aware of the crucial moment we are living and to raise again the call of 2021 expressed in the IUCN Resolution 129 and UNPFII Resolutions 18 and 19 with a roadmap towards a global pact that includes the following points:

1. **A Pan-Amazonian regional vision: peoples, ecosystems, rivers, forests are not governed by national boundaries.** The national plans should result in a regional protection of at least 80%⁴⁶ of the Amazonia, a minimum threshold to avoid the tipping point⁴⁷. The basin begins in the Andes, flows down through the Andean Amazon, which holds the greatest biodiversity on the planet, and bathes 847 million hectares until it reaches the Atlantic.
2. **Create a regional observatory that harmonizes data, methodologies, and indigenous knowledge** to support the formulation of binding regional policies. The first step is a regional diagnosis that gathers Peoples’ livelihood plans and national plans that lead to a regional plan with guidelines to the Amazonian States.
3. **Ensure that the adoption of the 80% by 2025 strategy is the beginning of a just transition** in the Amazonia, respecting national policies and international commitments for the protection of human rights, Indigenous rights and environmental rights.
4. **Include Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making processes** for the construction and implementation of public policy in the Amazonia.

⁴² Climate, pollution and waste, and loss of biodiversity.

⁴³ On September 10, 2021, at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Congress in Marseille, 547 organizations from around the world and 66 ministries voted in favor of Motion 129, whose *raison d'être* is to avoid the tipping point by protecting 80% of the Amazonia by 2025, currently the initiative Amazonia for Life: Protect 80% by 2025.

⁴⁴ Resolutions 18 and 19.

⁴⁵ Belém Declaration, <https://otca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Declaracion-de-Belem.pdf>

⁴⁶ The initiative Amazonia for Life adopts a more comprehensive concept of Amazonia that includes all the ecosystems that are part of this mega-system (biome and associated drainage basins, headwaters, Amazonian ecosystems and administrative regions) present in 9 countries.

⁴⁷ T. E. Lovejoy, C. Nobre, Winds of will: Tipping change in the Amazon. *Sci. Adv.* 5, eaba2949 (2019).



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5. **Create a Pan-Amazon Fund:** In the same way that ecosystems are interconnected and policies taken in one country influence the entire region, the ravages will also be felt throughout the region and at all levels. Amazonian countries cannot compete with each other for international funds but must go together as a block to ensure regional impacts. A fund governed by the principles of equity and transparency will allow a common vision of regional priorities, emergencies and solutions.
6. **Ensure direct access to financial and technical resources to Indigenous Peoples and local communities** to enable the implementation of their own territorial management models and livelihood plans. Generate capacities for them to exercise their territorial rights while respecting their knowledge and governance systems. To this end, the Amazon Indigenous Fund for Life will be created.
7. **Establish mechanisms for social control, enforcement and institutional strengthening** to guarantee the integrity of the territories, the rights of their inhabitants, and compliance with the 143 priorities established in the Belém Declaration.
8. **Accelerate the processes of legal recognition, demarcation and sustainable financing of 100 million hectares of Indigenous territories**, as well as the territories of traditional communities, as part of the immediate solutions against an imminent tipping point, the climate crisis, the presence of criminal groups, drug traffickers and other illicit groups, and the accelerated loss of biodiversity.
9. **Prioritize the recognition of the territories of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact** throughout the basin to guarantee their survival and due respect for human rights and the integrity of the ecosystems they inhabit.
10. **Guarantee the ecosystem integrity of at least 80% of the Amazonia through an immediate moratorium** on intensive and extractive industrial activities that affect all primary forests in the Amazonia (255 million hectares), at least until their legal protection is effective through a declaration of permanent protection.
11. **Define a territorial management regime for non-designated areas** aimed at conservation, as well as establish incentives and legal frameworks for the protection of ecosystem integrity by individuals or private and public legal entities.
12. **Immediate restoration of degraded ecosystems** using Indigenous knowledge systems to restore ecosystem functionality and integrity and improve the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
13. **Promote the co-management of designated and undesignated protected areas** by Indigenous Peoples and local communities⁴⁸.
14. In the framework of the exercise of the right to self-determination and autonomy of the Peoples and of Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of the Amazonian countries must include the Indigenous territories after a process of free, prior and

⁴⁸ TICCA: Territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities; also known as Territories of Life, [WWF, 2021](#).



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informed consultation where the differentiated benefits between the State and the Peoples and communities are specified in detail.

15. **Industrialized countries must guarantee a predictable flow of resources and legal frameworks** that prevent value chains involving their financial institutions and extractive companies from extending their operations to affect ecosystem integrity in the region: agribusiness, fossil fuels, mining, logging, among other industrial activities.
16. Prioritization by **multilateral banks** of the transition from current development models to a new one that allows the preservation of 80% of the Amazonia, through debt mechanisms, such as conditional debt cancellation.
17. Commitment of the **financial sector** to ensure the respect of Indigenous Peoples' rights and to end deforestation in all the supply chains the sector finances.
18. **Generate mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability** in the financial sector and value chains, States and climate finance, protected areas and Indigenous territories.

The Amazonia is the largest tropical rainforest on the planet, one of the largest carbon and mercury sinks⁴⁹, and the most bio-culturally diverse region in the world. It is home to **511 Indigenous Peoples, including 66 groups living in voluntary isolation and initial contact**⁵⁰. The Amazon Basin is home to one-third of the Earth's plant and animal species and holds 20 percent of freshwater. It functions as the biological heart of our planet: it sequesters and stores large amounts of carbon, regulates continental and global climate, produces oxygen and rainfall, drives weather systems, among other benefits for humanity and life on the planet.

For millennia, Indigenous knowledge and governance systems have sustained the survival of the Amazonia and the integrity of other ecosystems that are vital to life on the planet. Only recently has science recognized the role of Indigenous Peoples, and their knowledge and governance as effective measures for the conservation of life. The irrefutable proof is that 80% of the planet's biodiversity is in the Indigenous territories, which represent 22% of the globe.

Indigenous territories and protected areas are vital to protect the Amazonia. Together they cover about **50% of the region**. Global targets fall short in the Amazonia. The region requires an **additional 30%** to avoid a regional and planetary debacle. In order to achieve this, there must be an unwavering commitment from the States so that their political will crystallizes into resources. Indigenous Peoples and other traditional communities receive less than 1% of climate change funding⁵¹; their territories have been excluded from national budgets despite maintaining conservation levels comparable or higher than those of protected areas; the same protected areas have been dismantled with budget cuts and concessions to mining and oil sectors. A just transition is needed so that the Amazonian countries can develop from conservation and not from extractive industries. There is no room for more rhetoric. **Nearly half (45%) of the intact forest in the**

⁴⁹ Aryeh Feinberg, Martin Jiskra, Pasquale Borrelli, Jagannath Biswakarma, Noelle E. Selin. Deforestation as an Anthropogenic Driver of Mercury Pollution. *Environmental Science & Technology*, 2024; DOI: 10.1021/acs.est.3c07851

⁵⁰ <https://coicamazonia.org/>

⁵¹ Rainforest Foundation Norway-RFN- 2021



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[Amazon is in indigenous territories](#), an area larger than France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Norway and Spain combined⁵².

Science shows that 26 percent of the Amazonia has already been transformed, and irreversible loss is around 20 percent. Scientists have defined the **tipping point as the threshold where deforestation and degradation combined add up to more than 20 percent**, a stage that can translate into the **death of the entire ecosystem or metastasis**. This would result in massive carbon dioxide emissions and bring rapid and catastrophic consequences for global climate stability. Symptoms of the tipping point in the Amazonia may interconnect in cascading dynamics in other ecosystems accelerating other tipping points. There is an identified teleconnection propagation pathway between the Amazonia and other ecosystems, such as the Tibetan Plateau and the changing boreal forest of West Antarctica⁵³ and other 16 points.

It is not a theory – since 2023, the symptoms have worsened. We are experiencing the [worst drought of the Amazon River in 120 years](#); between 2001 and 2020, at least 120 million hectares of Amazonian forests were affected by fire, an extension equivalent to the size of Spain⁵⁴; the fires have not stopped; we are experiencing a heat wave in all Amazonian countries, among many other symptoms that evidence an advanced state towards the tipping point.

There are regions in the Amazonia where the tipping point is a sad reality, and the 63 Celsius degrees recorded in Rio de Janeiro, in March 2024, confirm that we have entered an unknown scenario for which we are not prepared. Our actions in the coming years will determine the fate of our planet for millennia. Ensuring the integrity of hydrological systems, biodiversity and **guaranteeing the fundamental role of the Amazonia as a global climate regulator requires that at least 80 percent of its forests remain intact.**

This is a call to establish a global pact for the permanent protection of 80 percent of the Amazon rainforest by 2025, agreed upon by all Amazonian governments, and endorsed by Indigenous Peoples and the international community.

We urge the Amazon Basin countries to declare a state of emergency and immediately halt the expansion of destructive industrial activities, government policies and harmful public subsidies that enable further forest destruction. A state of emergency would address the drivers of deforestation while leaving room for the design and implementation of strategies aimed at lasting transformational change.

Industrialized nations must recognize their role in climate change, as well as the transcendental role of the Amazonia in its mitigation, and channel all the necessary resources to guarantee a just transition for those of us who inhabit the biome and for their own citizens. **The time to act is now.**

⁵² FAO -FILAC 2021, p.12-13.

⁵³ Liu, T., Chen, D., Yang, L. et al. Teleconnections among tipping elements in the Earth system. Nat. Clim. Chang. 13, 67–74 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41558-022-01558-4>

⁵⁴ <https://es.mongabay.com/2023/07/incendios-forestales-afectan-millones-de-hectareas-de-bosques-amazonicos/>



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The Indigenous Peoples of the nine Amazonian countries invite governments, scientists, cities, financial institutions and all sectors that are willing to act for the planet to join and support this initiative. Signing this declaration is a first step to avoid the tipping point and protect 80% of the Amazonia by 2025.

The Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), together with more than 60 Amazonian Indigenous organizations and nearly 1200 civil society organizations around the world, call for a declaration of a state of emergency in the Amazonia and the prioritization of actions at all levels.

In solidarity with the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazonia, the **Executive Committee** of the initiative Amazonia for Life: Protect 80% by 2025: **COICA, Stand.earth, Re: Wild, AVAAZ, Amazon Watch, Wild Heritage, RAISG, One Earth, Earth Insights, CONFENIAE, AIDSEP, ORPIA, COIAB.**