



Photo: Musuk Nolte

PERU / SECTOR FACT SHEET

ENVIRONMENT

OVERVIEW

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical forest in the world, encompassing over 2,300,000 square miles (6,000,000 square km), two-thirds the size of the contiguous United States. The Amazon houses at least 10% of the world's known biodiversity, including endemic and endangered flora and fauna, and its river accounts for 15% of the world's total river discharge into the oceans. Over 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest is within Brazil, and the 13 percent of the Amazon that is within Peru covers nearly 60 percent of the country. The Amazon rainforest also covers parts of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, and Venezuela. In recent decades, legal and illegal logging, mining, and agriculture have expanded to threaten the future of this important biome.

USAID/Peru's Environment Office (ENV) supports two programs: Peru Bilateral and the Amazon Regional Environment Program (AREP) which responds to transboundary conservation threats across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname. Through these two geographic approaches, USAID/Peru ENV partners with host governments, indigenous groups, civil society, and the private sector, to conserve biodiversity, increase resilience to climate change, develop sustainable economic opportunities, increase water security, and combat environmental crimes.

GOALS

The Environment Office has **three main overarching technical themes**:

FORESTS AND CLIMATE

USAID supports efforts to develop and implement sustainable forest management policies and practices and increase efficient use of forest resources by the private sector and civil society. In an effort to better promote economic growth while reducing carbon emissions, USAID works with indigenous peoples, private enterprises, and forest dwelling communities to support sustainable forest management, reduce deforestation and improve land management – improving conservation of some of the world’s most important forests and supporting international commitments for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

The Amazon rainforest has experienced increased rates of deforestation over previous years and more severe forest fires. USAID/PERU ENVe is working in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, host governments and institutions, and civil society across the Amazon region to improve forest management and decrease threats to forest resources. This includes strengthening regional satellite monitoring capacity to detect deforestation and forest fires, supporting the development of regional agreements for sharing resources and mutual aid, training of local firefighters, as well as improving South American government response to destructive wildfires.

Peru has seen a sharp increase in flooding, prolonged droughts and water scarcity during dry seasons, negatively impacting agriculture, migration, conflict and economic growth. To help vulnerable communities adapt to changing conditions and increasing climate risks, USAID invests in climate and water security research and implementation of innovative approaches to secure consistent water resource availability for the future.

OCEAN AND WATER

The Humboldt Current, which is a cold-water current flowing north along Chile and Peru to southern Ecuador, is one of the most productive fisheries in the world. In Peru, the export of fishmeal, oil, and canned and frozen fish is estimated to be worth \$3 billion per year (10 percent of global fish consumption). The fishing industry supports around 700,000 jobs in Peru, and the Peruvian artisanal fisheries employ at least 67,000 fishers and contribute approximately \$1.5 B to the country’s economy. This ecologically and economically important ecosystem is threatened by illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. USAID/PERU ENV is working with the governments of Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia, artisanal fishers and their organizations, civil society, and the private sector to decrease IUU fishing and improve the management of this globally important fishery.

Peru faces an acute water crisis that is intensifying with climate change. Natural infrastructure (like forests and wetlands) help to manage this crisis, both for upstream rural communities and downstream water users. USAID is working to scale-up efforts to protect and restore natural infrastructure for water security and climate resilience while closing gender gaps in natural resources management.

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Illegal mining and intrusion of illicit crops into forested areas are primary drivers of deforestation in the Amazon. These activities also threaten human safety, biodiversity, and rule of law. Since 2014, the region has seen a disturbing increase in threats and attacks against environmental defenders who work to protect their lands from these illegal activities. USAID works with host governments in Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia, Suriname, and Guyana through their respective ministries and prosecutors offices, as well as indigenous communities and civil society to support actions to combat conservation crimes across the Amazon region.

The active and meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in development planning and decisions impacting the Amazon is the foundation for long-term conservation of the world's largest tropical rainforest. USAID works to safeguard indigenous peoples' rights and resources to help conserve irreplaceable biodiversity and promote cultural survival and self-determined development

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Over \$200M in public funding leveraged to support natural infrastructure.
- Increased transparency for timber products.
- Peru's climate change policies strengthened.
- Enhanced capacity for Indigenous Communities to monitor their forest lands.
- Expanded economic opportunities for indigenous communities and women led enterprises.
- Continued collaboration with the Government of Peru to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions to combat climate change.

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