



**USAID**  
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## USAID AMAZON REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

USAID envisions a healthy and resilient Amazon Basin that is valued by society, ensures human well-being and safeguards our global climate. The Amazon Region hosts one third of the world’s known species of plants and animals – many of which do not occur anywhere else and is home to the largest river system in the world, representing 15 percent of the freshwater feeding the world’s oceans. Increasing economic development and unsustainable extraction in the Amazon is leading to the over-exploitation, contamination and degradation of the Amazon’s precious resources.

The Amazon forests, and the 1.6 million indigenous people living within the Amazon basin, face uncontrolled expansion of agricultural frontiers, large-scale infrastructure development, small and large-scale mining, petroleum extraction, and unsustainable logging (both legal and illegal). Greater climate variance is increasing destructive forest fires, which further devastate Amazon ecosystems.

As the Amazon region’s fourth largest conservation donor, USAID plays an important role collaborating with the governments of the region, global and local environmental organizations, civil society groups, and corporations.

The vision of a healthy Amazon depends on achieving four goals: 1) decreasing deforestation, forest degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions; 2) fostering an environmentally friendly economy; 3) protecting key landscapes and species; and, 4) securing the rights, resources and health of forest-dependent communities.

To achieve this vision, USAID promotes sustainable natural forest management, including the creation and improved management of protected areas and indigenous territories. We also help strengthen local, national and cross-border governance systems to support conservation and sustainable development, combat conservation crime, and to generate the scientific evidence base needed to understand and address environmental challenges.

To reduce threats to the Amazon's forests, waters, and peoples, USAID's Amazon Regional Environment Program (AREP) implements activities across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname to complement bilateral work in these countries. AREP has four strategic approaches:

- Support improved representation of indigenous peoples in the governance and conservation, and in efforts to promote their rights, livelihoods and resources.
- Address drivers and threats by developing strategic approaches to conserve biodiversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Use science to monitor, improve decision-making, and address the effects of global climate change.
- Promote information sharing and communications among internal and external audiences to build regional knowledge and awareness about the importance of the Amazon's forests and waters, and to inform strategic approaches for their conservation and sustainability.

## **AMAZON REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM ACTIVITY SUMMARY**

### **SERVIR AMAZONIA**

SERVIR is a joint initiative of USAID and NASA to develop Amazon nations' capabilities to improve environmental management and resilience to climate change, through geospatial technologies. This activity has established an Amazon Hub in Latin America as part of the SERVIR Global Network.

Total Project Investment: \$9 million

Duration: December 2018 – December 2023

### **AMAZON INDIGENOUS RIGHTS AND RESOURCES**

The Amazon Indigenous Rights and Resources (AIRR) activity aims to incorporate the rights and interests of indigenous peoples into public and private sector development planning to balance human welfare and environmental conservation. The project also promotes existing indigenous enterprises and helps them grow, through a combination of grants, loans and market analysis.

Total Project Investment: \$17,962,505

Duration: August 2019 – August 2024

## **STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AMAZON**

By providing grants and technical assistance to indigenous peoples' organizations in the Amazon region, this activity helps them improve their financial resources management and their ability to lead development planning and priorities.

Total Project Investment: \$2.4 million

Duration: February 2018 – September 2021

## **ACCELERATING INNOVATION FOR ARTISANAL AND SMALL SCALE MINING**

This activity partners with Conservation X Labs, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Microsoft, and ESRI, in identifying and supporting innovations to mitigate the negative effects of artisanal gold mining in the Amazon basin. Grant winners will show how the innovation will help reduce artisanal mining threats to biodiversity and demonstrate commercial demand, and a plan to ensure financial stability

Total Project Investment: \$2.25 million plus \$5.5 million leverage

Duration: July 2020 - July 2022

## **CONTACTS**

### **MISSION**

Jene Thomas, Director USAID/ Perú  
Av. La Encalada 17, Surco, Lima, Perú

Telephone number: +511-618-1200

Email: [wusaidperu@usaid.gov](mailto:wusaidperu@usaid.gov)

Website: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)