



Our Goals:

The Amazon rainforest is home to 30% of the plant and animal species on Earth. It is also a vital force shaping the world's weather and climate patterns. Moreover, 20% of all fresh water on Earth flows through the basin's rivers, and these forests are the source of countless foods, fibers, and potential new medicines to benefit humankind.

Unfortunately, these forests are facing increasing threats from slash and burn agriculture, wildlife poaching, mining, illegal logging, oil prospecting, and large infrastructure projects. At current rates, more than half of the Amazon rainforest may be destroyed or severely damaged by 2030. ACA is working together with local communities and partner organizations throughout the region to protect these precious forests for local inhabitants and future generations. Our principal goals are to:

Goal 1: Protect vital ecosystems. To this end, we support the creation and management of alternative conservation areas (such as community or civil-society managed conservation concessions), promote ecosystem-based land use planning, and develop and support the creation of conservation corridors.

Goal 2: Support communities' abilities to earn a living while protecting their natural resources. For example, ACA's Brazil nut program supports over 500 Brazil nut harvesters to ensure a sustainable livelihood while protecting over 800,000 acres of rainforest through technical support and training. We also support conservation-appropriate reforestation, microenterprise, carbon projects, and community-based ecotourism.

Goal 3: Train the next generation of land stewards. We aim to build the technical capacity of local citizens for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, to strengthen the regional capacity for environmental governance, and to ensure that the scientific results generated in our research stations reach decision-makers and the public.

Our Strategy:

Using cutting-edge science and innovative conservation tools, ACA is creating models for others to follow. We aim to protect critical forests by creating a network of state, community, and private lands managed for conservation and sustainable use of resources. We work by forging ties with governments, nonprofits, and people who depend on the rainforests for their livelihood, with the goal of saving rare species and habitats and learning from the land. Scientific research guides our approach, which strives for concrete, measurable achievements. We concentrate our resources in the field, where they have the largest impact on conservation.

Because long-term conservation depends on active and informed participation by local stakeholders, we collaborate with people who make a living from the forest and are working to

improve their management of resources. The organization has a long history of working at the interface of cultural conservation and natural resource conservation in the Andes-Amazon. In this region, cultural diversity and biodiversity resources overlap, and successful conservation requires action on both fronts. In contrast to the bigger conservation organizations that focus on parks, we have chosen to work in indigenous and public landscapes with alternative mechanisms.

Our Capacity:

ACA was founded in 1999, and since its inception, has been one of the most active and leading organizations focused on preserving the Amazon rainforest. Initially starting with a program to support Brazil nut harvesting as a method of preventing rainforest deforestation through economic incentives, ACA has become one of the foremost research and conservation organizations in the world. In 2001, ACA established the world's first conservation concession in Peru, the very first of its kind, which preserves 360,000 acres in the lowland Los Amigos watershed. The associated Los Amigos Biological station is one of the most productive research stations in the entire Amazon. In 2005, ACA created Wayqecha, the first permanent research station focused on Andean cloud forest ecology in the entire world. They also helped establish the first Indigenous Conservation Concession in the world with the Querós tribe of Peru.

ACA's programs are implemented by an experienced staff of tropical ecologists and conservationists based in Washington, DC and La Paz, Bolivia and through our Peruvian sister organization, Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA).

Peru's National Council for the Environment (CONAM) granted ACCA its 2004 Award for Sustainability. The Award for Sustainability is given every year to civil society organizations in recognition of their efforts and actions for sustainable development in the country. ACCA was awarded the first place in recognition of its Brazil nut program success in integrating conservation with social and community development. In 2008, ACCA won an award for "Environmental Management" from the regional government of Cusco for its work supporting the Haramba Querós Wachiperi indigenous community in establishing an Ecological Reserve. The prize is awarded annually in celebration of World Environment Day by Cusco's Natural Resources and Environmental Management Agency.

Measuring Progress:

ACA's projects are designed to achieve measurable gains in the following areas:

Conserving forest

Direct protection (conservation concession and land purchases)	362,993 acres
Brazil nut forest concessions established	876,000 acres
Indigenous conservation areas supported	300,000 acres

Training a new generation of conservationists

Field courses hosted at ACA research stations (2002-2009)	58
Scholarships awarded to date (Los Amigos)	120
Scholarships awarded to date (Wayqecha)	22
Researchers and students visiting the Wayqecha since 2000	>1,000
Researcher-days accounted for by Latin Americans (2008)	70%
Grad and undergrad degrees from work at CICRA:	52

Monitoring ecosystem health

Overall species diversity (species recorded to date – Los Amigos)	4,304
Increase in primate along the Los Amigos river (2004 -2007)	67%
Increase in capybara sightings along the Los Amigos River (2004-2007)	131%
Increase in reptile sightings along the Los Amigos River (2004-2007)	108%
Carbon dioxide equivalent stored in forest at Los Amigos	79.4 mill. tons
Miles of trails at Los Amigos established for habitat monitoring	60

Expanding scientific understanding

Research projects hosted to date (Los Amigos)	> 160
Research projects hosted to date (Wayqecha)	53
Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals from work at Los Amigos	97
Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals from work at Wayqecha	28

Creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local people

Families with Brazil nut concessions	420
Members of the Ecoagricultural Sacha Inchi Producers Association	30
Brazil nut trees mapped and included in a comprehensive database	120,000
Tree seedlings growing in 6 ACA created communal nurseries in Cusco region	600,000

We know we are being successful if the forests in our target area are protected, communities have opportunities to thrive through sustainable enterprises, and stakeholders are trained and motivated to continue to conserve the living landscape.

Some Accomplishments:

1. ACA established the world's first "conservation concession" - a long-term contractual partnership between the national government and a non-government actor, whereby the civil society actor manages state-owned lands for conservation purposes. ACA protects these 360,000 acres from illegal loggers and slash-and-burn farmers.
2. Since 1999, the Sustainable Brazil Nut Management project has grown to protect over one million acres of tropical forest through community-based conservation. ACA has provided technical support to more than 420 Brazil nut harvesting families and helped obtain voluntary Forest Stewardship Council and organic certifications for 48 concessions.
3. ACA's flagship field station CICRA at Los Amigos extended its run as the most active research site in the Amazon basin. More than 100 researchers representing 39 different research projects visited the station and seventeen researchers received \$75,000 in scholarships from the station in 2008. More than 450 researchers have studied at Los Amigos since its inception.
4. Wayqecha, our state-of-the-art biological research station in Peru's cloud forest hosted 41 active research projects in 2008, and continued to protect 1,450 acres of cloud forest. In 2007-2008, 239 species of orchid were inventoried at Wayqecha, making it likely that orchid diversity in this area is much higher than predicted.
5. Establishment of the first indigenous conservation concessions managed by the Haramba Queros Wachiperi nation. ACA provided technical support to the Wachiperi throughout the process of applying for the concession, designing its management plan, and preparing the concession application for the Peruvian forest service.
6. Approval by the Peruvian government for the first REDD deal in Peru and continued management of the project area, the Los Amigos Conservation Concession.