



# **AMAZON CONSERVATION**

## **2019 IMPACT REPORT**



# Making Strides For A Thriving Amazon

For 20 years now, Amazon Conservation has worked on the ground in Peru and Bolivia, where the Andes Mountains meet the Amazon Rainforest. Countless species call this place home, many of which are yet to be discovered by science, making it the most biodiverse place on the planet. Indigenous groups - including some of the last known uncontacted tribes - have depended on these forests and rivers for their food, water, medicine, and livelihoods for millennia. As key headwaters of the Amazon and a refuge for species impacted by a changing climate, **the conservation of this region is crucial for nature and people.**


As local conservation organizations in Peru and Bolivia, we have a direct stake in the region. And our Conservation Hubs place us directly in the field where conservation, research and nature-based tourism meet. Our unwavering commitment to the area and the people who depend on it have made us a part of the local community and a trusted advisor to governments. We have accomplished a lot, but there is so much more to do to save the Amazon as we build on our successes and lessons learned. **We are here to stay.**

Last year saw the culmination of years of work with major

successes ranging from the permanent protection of a wide range of ecosystems through helping establish two key protected areas; supporting sustainable, family-driven enterprises with practical tools; and aiding the Peruvian government as they took sweeping actions against rampant illegal gold mining. We also took our satellite monitoring technology to scale in five countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru - enabling us to detect and report deforestation and fires in real-time across 83% of the Amazon basin.

We also took an important step this year to develop our 2020-2030 strategy that will strengthen, grow, and innovate the protection of this forest, its people, and its biodiversity. We look forward to sharing our ambitious strategy with you in 2020, as it will shape the future of our work in the Amazon for years to come.

This report highlights the breadth and the depth of our conservation impact, thanks to the unwavering support of our donors and supporters. The next decade will decide the fate of the Amazon and, in turn, the health of our planet. **Join us in the fight to protect the “lungs of the planet.”**

A photograph of several blue and yellow macaws perched on a tree trunk. The birds have vibrant blue heads and backs with bright yellow chests. They are in a natural forest setting with blurred green foliage in the background. The image is framed by a blue border at the top and bottom.

“Working as an Alliance of three local organizations means we can bring impact to forest communities on the ground, governmental policy at national levels, and Amazon-wide conversation initiatives.”

*–Eduardo Forno, Conservation International,  
Bolivia Executive Director and Amazon  
Conservation Board Treasurer*

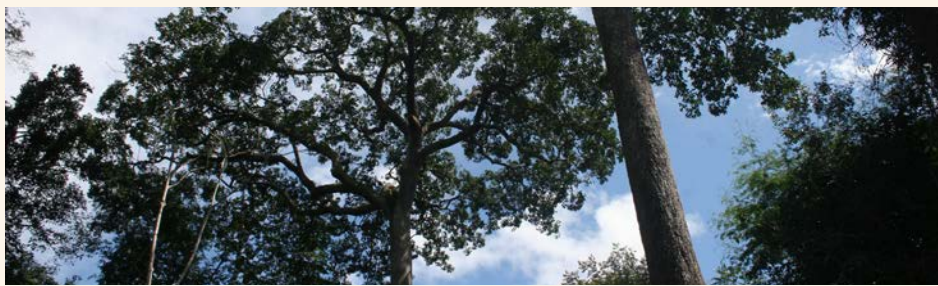
# 2019 Major Achievements

**Protect Wild Places** **Empower People** **Put Science and Technology to Work**



Helped establish two new protected areas in Bolivia and Peru, conserving **4 million acres** of Amazon headwaters, forests and grasslands

**Identified over 53,000 Brazil nut trees** with drone and satellite technologies, helping community-based producers assess the potential sustainable production capacity in Bolivia.



Aided the Peruvian government in achieving a **92% decrease in illegal gold mining** in La Pampa as part of Operation Mercury



(Photo shows eradication of major gold mining camp)

**Covered 83% of the Amazon** through real-time satellite monitoring that informed policy makers and the public





Invented and patented new safety harness that now helps **100+ Bolivian families**

harvest Brazil nuts and açai safely and more productively

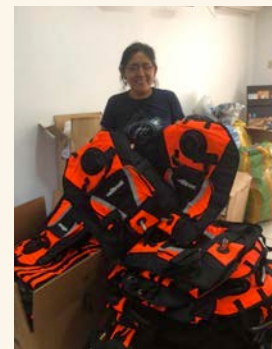


Trained **27 local people** to use drones to monitor their forests, **1/3 of which were women**, bringing the **total forest monitored** by local people in the Peruvian Amazon to **7.6M acres**



Exposed **thousands of acres** of **illegal deforestation** activities in real-time across **5 countries** through **49 satellite monitoring analysis reports**

Through our **annual technology and policy forum - AmazonTec** - Peruvian officials, conservation organizations, and scientists advance their understanding and commitment to new conservation innovations



Outfitted and supported **100 Bolivian firefighters** during the worst of the fire season, including with protective gear, tools, food and water

# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Amazon,

My first year in this great organization has reignited my hope for the future of the Amazon and reminded me of why I got into conservation in the first place. From the camera trap specialist in the Bolivian wilderness excited about every photo that reveals the next glimpse of life under the canopy; to the policy expert in Cusco steadfastly navigating through countless meetings and complex legal and political processes to declare a new protected area; to the finance person in Washington, DC passionate and concerned about making us no less than the most efficient and cost-effective NGO going – it's great people working together that make conservation happen. The team's commitment and energy for our mission, and the results that we have achieved over our first 20 years, reinforce my feeling that this is the right organization to achieve a thriving Amazon. I hope that you feel that way too.

Never has the realization of Amazon Conservation's vision been more urgent. Major fires in the Amazon this year drew the world's attention to the plight of the lungs of

the planet, and experts are warning about a tipping point where the ecological integrity of the Amazon will be lost beyond recovery. It compels us to take more transformative action to achieve enduring results at scale.

You will notice in this year's report that our efforts contain three key ingredients for doing just that – perseverance, innovation, and a focus on the people who depend directly on nature for their wellbeing.

Some of our results that reflect this include our support for the declaration of two protected areas, conserving over 4 million acres. This is the culmination of years of work with local communities and governments – ten years in the case of the Ausangate Conservation Area in Peru, home to the largest remaining tropical glacier in the world, the Quelccaya Ice Cap. We also patented and are producing a unique safety harness for açai producers in Bolivia who needed a safer way to climb the 60-foot palm trees that produce the berry. This is just part of our work that bonds peoples' economic wellbeing with the health of the forest, by helping increase their incomes through sustainable



forest-based production.

Also in 2019, we began developing a new strategy to scale our efforts to meet the needs and challenges of the Amazon. The full launch of our strategy is coming soon and I hope you will join us for what comes next.

Finally, and most importantly, it has been humbling to receive support from the many donors that share our passion for conserving the Amazon. Whether it was a donation, hands-on work, spreading the word, wisdom or enthusiasm, you elevated our impact. We are grateful to have committed people like you at our side whose support makes conservation possible.

Thank you!



A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John Beavers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**John Beavers**  
Executive Director





# Boots on the Ground, Eye in the Sky

When we created the first conservation concession in the world 20 years ago, our goal was to keep 360,000 acres of lowland tropical forest intact through an innovative new conservation model and unique public-private partnership between the Peruvian government and Amazon Conservation. Since then, our on-the-ground efforts have grown to directly protect over 8.3 million acres of forests, savannas, wetlands, glaciers, and other irreplaceable habitats in the southwest Amazon.

Every acre of the Amazon we protected in 2019 provides local communities with a more sustainable path for utilizing their forests, maintains the flora and fauna in one of the most biodiverse places in the world, as well as helping regulate the climate through carbon sequestration. As we expand our conservation impact across 124 million acres over the next decade, we'll be building on what we have learned and tailoring our holistic approach to the unique attributes and needs of this area (See map on the right).

As the threats to the Amazon grow in the form of illegal logging, poorly-planned infrastructure projects, illegal gold mining, fires, and agricultural expansion, we are also scaling our efforts to address them. This year we also made a big stride in advancing our real-time satellite monitoring program by expanding beyond Peru and Bolivia and building partnerships in Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil. By working with other conservation organizations like us, we are building the local capacity that supports communities to protect their lands and resources, and helping governments to make better policy decisions and take action against environmental crimes. As of this year, we are able to successfully monitor deforestation across 83% of the Amazon in real-time through the latest in satellite technology, our “eyes in the sky.”



# 124 Million Acres to Protect

BRAZIL

## PRODUCTIVE FORESTS

Endowed with an abundance of valuable, renewable natural resources where sustainable forest enterprises can support long-term biodiversity conservation and improved human well-being.

| 35 Million Acres

## UNCONTACTED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HOMELAND

In this area, Peru is honoring its commitment to protect the traditional territories of uncontacted tribes to safeguard their well-being and the natural resources on which they have relied for millennia.

| 14 Million Acres

## AMAZON SAVANNAS

One of the largest savanna complexes in South America and the largest lowland wetlands complex in the world sits in this area of the Amazon basin.

| 29 Million Acres

PERU

## ANDEAN LIVING WATERS

These highland wetlands and cloud forests are key headwaters of the Amazon, providing crucial natural resources for people and nature and safeguarding highland biodiversity.

| 22 Million Acres

Cobija

Riberalta

Manu National Park

Los Amigos Conservation Concession

Puerto Maldonado

Machu Picchu

Cusco

Madidi National Park

Trinidad

Lake Titicaca


La Paz

## MANU-MADIDI BIODIVERSITY CORRIDOR

This chain of diverse protected areas interspersed with other lands is anchored by Manu National Park in Peru and Madidi National Park in Bolivia, offering the opportunity to protect the most biodiverse landscape in the world.

| 24 Million Acres

BOLIVIA

A man wearing a light-colored cap and a blue shirt is seen from the side, looking out over a vast, dense green forest. A drone is flying in the sky above the forest. The scene is set during the day with a clear blue sky and some trees visible in the foreground.

“Our innovative approach brings together the best of conservation, science, and technology to an area of the Amazon basin vital for climate adaptation and for piloting new methodologies that can be models for tropical conservation everywhere.”

*-Pedro Solano, Executive Director of the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA) and Amazon Conservation Board Member*





# Implementing a Holistic Approach

Unchecked deforestation is taking the Amazon closer to its “tipping point,” where it will no longer be able to sustain its rainforest ecosystems. To achieve a thriving Amazon, we seek a sustainable balance that supports the development needs of its people while maintaining the conservation of its irreplaceable biodiversity and vital ecosystem services. Our holistic approach builds on both through:

## PROTECTING WILD PLACES

Safeguarding threatened ecosystems and the wildlife and plant life that inhabit them is at the core of everything we do. Together with governments and communities, we create, manage, and strengthen conservation areas that keep forests standing, help prevent species extinction, mitigate the effects of climate change, and provide vital resources for all who call them home.

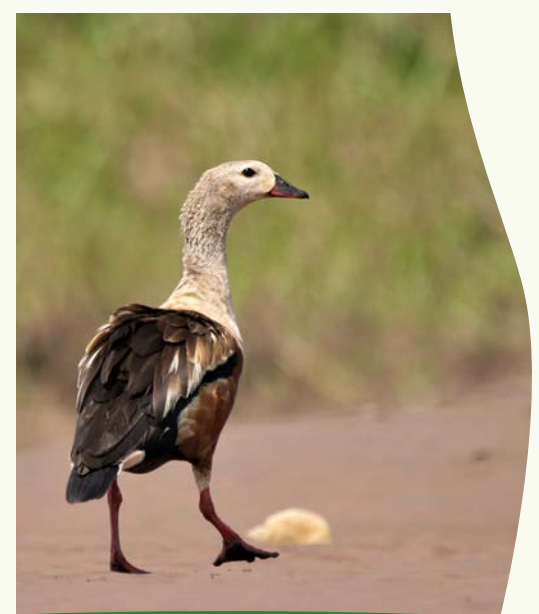
## EMPOWERING PEOPLE

People are the key to ensuring the long-term protection of nature. By partnering with local communities, indigenous groups, and other NGOs, we help build sustainable and fire-free economic alternatives that reduce dependence on destructive practices that degrade and destroy forests. We also empower communities and support governments to protect their lands and resources from environmental crimes through employing the latest satellite and drone technology and improving capacities to apply the law.

## PUTTING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO WORK

Science is in our DNA. Our network of Conservation Hubs, located in the altitudinal gradient where the Andes Mountains meet the Amazon Rainforest, are living laboratories where we carry out and host robust scientific research as well as facilitate learning opportunities for the next generation of conservationists. And, we pilot and apply the latest technology that can revolutionize forest conservation.

Over the next pages we highlight how these mutually reinforcing approaches have made a difference for the Amazon.





## PROTECT WILD PLACES

# ESTABLISHING BOLIVIA'S LARGEST CONSERVATION AREA

**Supporting local government and communities to protect 3.7 million acres of pristine forests, savannas, and wetlands.**

In 2019, we helped the local government of Ixiamas, Bolivia establish the Municipal Conservation Area of Bajo Madidi, an area spanning 3.7 million acres (1.5 million hectares). Three times the size of the Grand Canyon, this conservation area is the largest in Bolivia and one of the largest in the world. It hosts a variety of ecological landscapes including wetlands, lowland rainforests, and savannas.

Throughout the long and complex creation process, we provided the technical expertise and assistance to both the government and local communities that was needed to officially declare the area. We also helped them gather and understand key environmental data on the conservation needs of this landscape to develop the plan to protect it for the long-term. This conservation plan now guides the sustainable use and management of natural resources in Bajo Madidi.

This area's value lies in its major biological significance. While many savannas in Bolivia have been transformed by

cattle ranching or road construction, the savannas within Bajo Madidi remain some of the most ecologically-intact savannas in the world. They are home to more than 20

*"...The savannas within Bajo Madidi remain some of the most ecologically-intact ones in the world."*

endangered species such as the maned wolf, Orinoco goose, marsh deer, black-faced spider monkey, and the giant anteater, all categorized as "vulnerable" or "threatened" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The protected area will also protect the six rivers that flow through Bajo Madidi, safeguarding critical watersheds and aiding migration of birds, fish, and other animals that contribute to the overall rainforest health. Additionally, it will help maintain local communities' sustainable harvesting of herbs, fruits, and nuts. This forest alone contains nearly 10% of the world's Brazil nut trees under production. It also connects nearby nature reserves, creating an important biodiversity corridor of protected lands in the region.

The establishment of this area was a massive undertaking with contributions by local peoples and support from over 800 stakeholders. Successes like these are the foundation of our conservation efforts that have helped protect over 8.3 million acres of forests to date.



## PROTECT WILD PLACES

# PROTECTING THE WORLD'S LARGEST REMAINING TROPICAL GLACIER AND HEADWATERS ESSENTIAL FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION

**A decade of research, outreach, and negotiations pays off, as Ausangate is officially declared a Regional Conservation Area.**

After a decade leading negotiations and building political will in the region, we celebrated a major success: the Peruvian Ministries Council approved the creation of the Ausangate Regional Conservation Area, safeguarding 165,000 acres as an officially designated protected area.

This area's incredible environmental significance is due in part to the Quelccaya Ice Cap of the Ausangate mountain range. Miguel Ángel Canal, Cusco's Regional Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, stated it best when he said the area, "is considered a global thermometer where the relationship between global warming and glacier melting can be studied."

The declaration of Ausangate this year was timely, as there was continued pressure from mining companies petitioning

the government to create mining concessions (leasing government land to explore precious minerals) in key parts of this conservation area. The majority of local communities have strongly opposed mining exploration due to the mercury contamination caused by the extraction process.

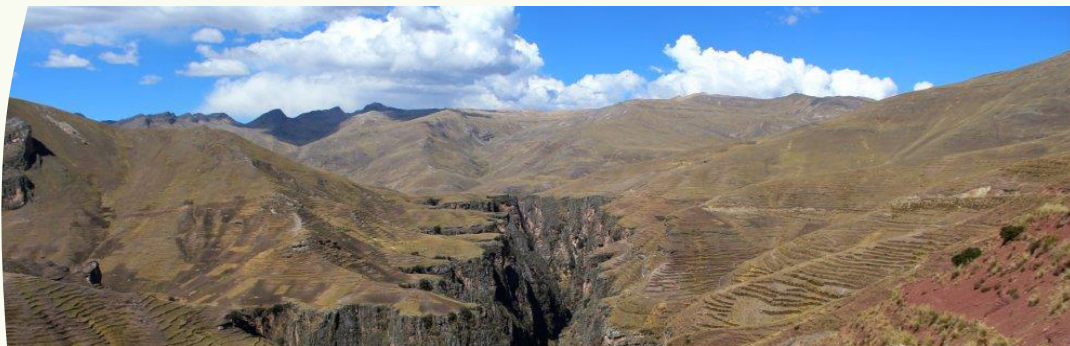
"In the case of Ausangate, I think that the best thing is that the people and the authorities have understood the importance of conserving strategic sites such as this mountain range," says Marlene Mamani, an Amazon Conservation

expert who brings in-depth understanding of the area's importance from both a climate and cultural perspective. Marlene, a native

of the nearby Valle Sagrado community stresses that the city of Cusco gets its water from the mountains and that "people must realize that these snow-capped mountains are vital for our survival."

With financial support from individuals, foundations, and partners, we were able to help local communities improve their quality of life and incomes by engaging them in sustainable economic activities including managing alpacas and vicuñas for wool production and managing wetlands and pastures that protect their way of life and natural resources from the impacts from climate change.







## EMPOWER PEOPLE

### OPERATION MERCURY: MAJOR SUCCESS IN REDUCING ILLEGAL GOLD MINING IN PERU

**Building the technology, infrastructure and government capacity needed for authorities and local communities to win the fight against illegal deforestation.**

Early in 2019, the Peruvian government declared a state of emergency in the southern region of Madre de Dios. The culprit was a familiar one, as the region has been plagued by the illegal gold mining that has disrupted the region for decades. The unmanaged and illegal extraction process turned once thriving habitats into wastelands and left behind only toxic fumes and mercury-contaminated lands and rivers. But not all was lost. The government launched Operation Mercury, a series of highly-coordinated military interventions that apprehended illegal gold miners and destroyed the mining camps that not only destroy thousands of acres of forests but were the breeding ground for human trafficking, child labor, sex slavery, and hired hit men. The result was immediate: a 92% decrease in deforestation caused by illegal gold mining in the region.

This intervention was a culmination of years of work. For the past five years, our deforestation satellite monitoring program has given the Peruvian government real-time reports on illegal

deforestation. We applied our satellite monitoring expertise to build the government's capacity in understanding and using this high-tech information within the judicial system, by training judges, prosecutors, and government officials, as well as creating specialized offices to conduct their own satellite monitoring. Since often the complexity and bureaucracy inherent in governments makes it difficult for agencies to step out of their own silos to effectively work together on fighting complex environmental crimes, we also worked to establish the formal intra-governmental relationships necessary for action to take place. Now the government has a working system - called the National System for Control and Monitoring - that uses high-tech information and is able to coordinate large-scale interventions like Operation Mercury.

The National System provides the government with the framework to combat forest crimes, as well as a way for local people to get involved, as they can send evidence of illegal activities taking place in their forest homes. Recognizing the important role of everyday forest users in stopping illegal deforestation, we trained 27 people this year in the use of drones...adding to the 73 we had trained in previous years.

the important role of everyday forest users in stopping illegal deforestation, we trained 27 people this year in the use of drones and smartphone apps to remotely monitor their forests for invasions and illegal activities, adding to the 73 we had trained in previous years. Using our



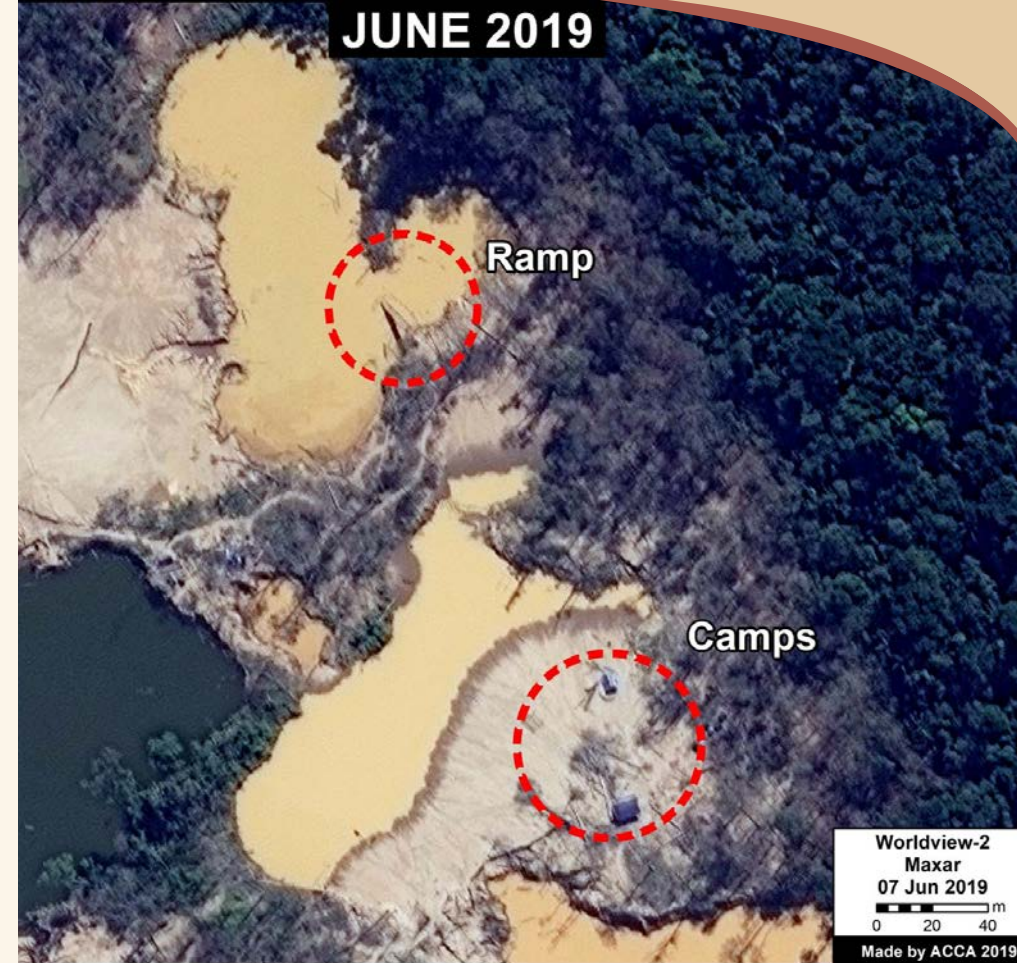
JUNE 2019

technology protects them from potentially life-threatening, face-to-face confrontations as they gather needed evidence. Marcelina Gamarra (picture below) is one of the drone pilots we helped certify. “Now that I can fly drones, I can make sure people don’t illegally enter my forest...so others don’t destroy our forest for their gain.”

“Now that I can fly drones, I can make sure people don’t illegally enter my forest...so others don’t destroy our forest for their gain.”

our forest for their gain.” Marcelina is now working together with the government as a front-line guardian of the Amazon.

Much of this progress has been made thanks to the collaborative work of governments, local communities, international supporters like the Norwegian Agency for Development Corporation (Norad), and local conservation organizations nonprofits like us. We will continue to strengthen Peru’s successful monitoring model and help transport it to other areas of the Amazon.









## EMPOWER PEOPLE

### **BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FOREST-BASED ECONOMY FOR THE AMAZON**

**By strengthening community-based enterprises and improving safety through innovation, we help grow local economies and advance conservation.**

The Amazon's ecosystems provide an array of vital services to the region and the world as a whole, and they are home to millions of people who rely on the forest for their livelihoods. In Bolivia, we have been working closely with communities in and around the 420,000-acre Santa Rosa del Abuná conservation area who rely on harvesting Brazil nuts and açai from their forests. Through improving their capacity to sustainably manage these highly productive forests and building the business side of their harvesting activities, we are helping the people of Santa Rosa and nature thrive.

For the last few years we have helped Santa Rosa communities grow their sustainable production to 3 tons of açai berries. These communities derive income from the açai berry, the popular “super food” often found in juices and smoothies. Açai is harvested each year from April to November, complementing the harvest of Brazil nuts that takes place from December to March. Mario Aguada, one of our local experts, heads the economic importance of harvesting both products: “If one of the two has a poor season, families don’t lose their income for the year. It will be a harder year, but they can still earn some income harvesting the other.”

This year, we helped improve the processing and storage of açai,

which is increasing incomes and giving these small producers more control in the market. By improving the capacity to efficiently and sanitarily process the berries and then freeze them, they are able to sell directly to buyers instead of middle-men, leaving more money with the community.

This achievement has required innovation. To make harvesting safer and more efficient, in 2019, we provided 100 new climbing safety harnesses to five Santa Rosa communities. These were based on a prototype that we invented, tested and patented with community members to meet the rigorous needs in the field. To harvest açai, harvesters need to climb up to 65 feet, scaling 10 to 15 trees daily to gather bundles of fruit weighing 20 to 30 pounds. Carefully balancing the heavy fruit laden branches while safely lowering themselves to the ground, makes this a difficult and dangerous job.

These harnesses have already proved their value. Omar Espinoza was using the new harness when he made a misstep coming down a tree with a heavy branch of açai in hand, falling from a height of over 40 feet, head first. Thanks to our safety harness, he was stopped from hitting the ground where he would have faced severe injuries, or possibly death, without it.

Our progress this year has reinforced our hope that we can take this system to production across millions of acres across the Bolivian and Peruvian Amazon, and that it’s possible to build a true forest-based economy for the Amazon. This forest-friendly enterprise provides families an alternative to clearing and burning forests, instead working to improve their quality of life through sustainable means.





PUT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO WORK

## AMAZON FIRES: PROVIDING HELP ON-THE-GROUND AND FROM SPACE

**Cutting-edge technology and our supporters' generosity aided firefighting efforts.**

A cloud of thick smoke covered hundreds of major cities all over Latin America in August as fires devastated over a million acres in the Amazon basin. The fires were so fierce that they became front-page news and went viral on social media.

Employing the latest in satellite technology that we have been using to detect deforestation in the Amazon in real-time - through our Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP) - we created 12 timely, fact-based analyses

*We created 12 timely, fact-based analyses of the nature and location of the fires, as they happened.*

of the nature and location of the fires, as they happened. These reports gave local authorities the information needed so they could take action, and provided the general public and the media up-to-date information on what was actually happening on the ground.

Our analysis was especially helpful in Bolivia, which was hit the hardest as standing forests within protected areas and critical habitats were burned, including the iconic Chiquitano dry forest. In Brazil, we discovered the fires

*These fires were a sign of a much bigger problem: rampant, unchecked deforestation.*

were of a different nature, as they burned through forests that had been previously cleared for agricultural activities, and not standing forests as it was widely thought. These fires were a sign of a much bigger problem: rampant, unchecked deforestation.

However, we were able to go far beyond monitoring. Thanks to the overwhelming support of concerned donors, we provided firefighting gear, tools and supplies, as well as water and food, to more than 100 Bolivian firefighters to battle the fires in 6 protected areas covering 17 million acres that were directly affected by the widespread fires. Since many of the fires were in remote locations, adding to the challenge, we also provided crucial support to mobilize firefighting brigades.

The fires have served as a reminder to us of the increasing threat fires bring to the Amazon's forests. We have since started working more closely with governments and communities to increase fire prevention efforts and scale our approach to support fire-free development of the Amazon.



PUT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO WORK

## PILOTING INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY TO BETTER UNDERSTAND ECOLOGY OF TERRESTRIAL BIRDS

**How a young researcher used automated listening devices and machine learning techniques to advance avian science.**

Since our founding, in partnership with hundreds of scientists and universities, we have supported scientific investigation that leads to better understanding of the Amazon and informs decisions and actions to protect it. The centerpiece of these efforts is our network of three Conservation Hubs in Peru. Each hub is a premier research station, ecolodge, conservation area, and training center. One way we advance science at our hubs is by supporting the next generation of biologists with scholarships and guidance for them to carry out field research.

Reid Rumelt, a student from Cornell University, is one of our 255 scholarship recipients to date. Funded by our Jonathan Franzen Fellowship aimed at supporting young avian researchers, Reid carried out a research project in 2019 at our Los Amigos Conservation Hub, piloting innovative acoustic monitoring technology and artificial intelligence to understand bird life and their habitats.

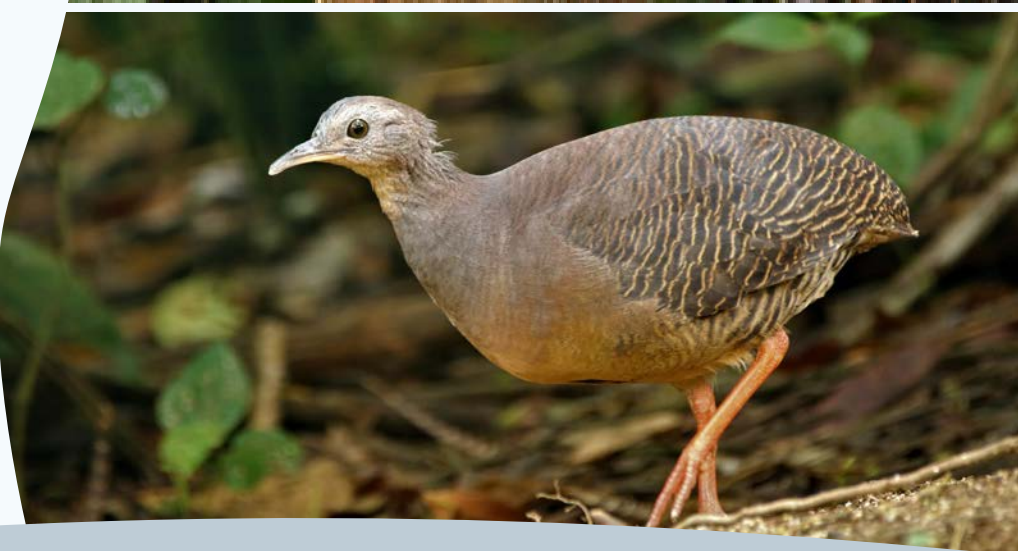
Using a cutting-edge audio recording device, Reid is studying

Tinamou birds, which are notoriously hard to detect by sight, even though our Los Amigos Hub is renowned for its presence of a whopping 11 species of tinamou, some of which are endangered. “They are far more often heard than seen,” Reid comments. “The use of emerging technologies [like electronic listening devices] to better detect tinamous will be critical to conservation of these forest habitats.”

Reid’s recordings and his creation of a novel artificial intelligence model to distinguish the songs of tinamou resulted in him finding a total of 13,702 tinamou vocalization events over 1,200 hours of audio. Of all these vocalizations, he was able to identify 9 species of tinamou, and, thanks to our hub’s large variety of ecosystems, identify which type of species live in each type of habitat. This approach and data analysis piloted at Los Amigos will serve as a springboard for future studies, advancing the field of avian research and better informing conservation solutions to protect this species.

Also at our hubs this year, in partnership with the Andes Amazon Fund, we hosted a Technology for Conservation workshop, where experts from private and public sectors met to exchange ideas and develop new ways to use the latest in technology to protect nature. By testing and piloting novel technologies at our hubs, we can also gain a deeper understanding of the conservation needs of the Amazon and all species who call it home.





# Thank you, Changemakers

Our donors and supporters went above and beyond in 2019 to make our conservation work possible. The changemakers below (listed alphabetically) contributed \$500 and above to protect wild places, empower people, and put science and technology to work for conservation. We are eternally grateful for each and every one of them, whose generosity is helping us make strides towards achieving a thriving Amazon.

Leia Adkisson  
AHB Foundation  
AHS Foundation  
Amy Allshouse  
Tyler Alt  
Stephen Altschul  
Natalia Alvarez  
Andes Amazon Fund  
Arium Botanicals  
Arlo Technologies  
Frances Armstrong  
Edward Arrieta  
Asociación Solidarista de Empleados (CITI Bank of Costa Rica)  
Aspen Business Center Foundation  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)  
Sasha Astrakhan and Leigh Ann Johnson  
Autumn Communications and Mayflower Enterprise, on Behalf of Jennifer Lawrence  
Ayudar Foundation  
Bruce and Harriet Babbitt  
Ryan Bailey  
Ann-Clark Bailey  
Bernadette Baker and Family  
Adam Balazs  
Amy Balcerak  
Victoria Barber  
Serena Bardell  
Michael Barrett  
Andrea Barthels

Ashley Beall  
Lisa Belden  
K. Belt  
Grace Berestecki  
David and Nicole Berger  
Michael Berger  
Erika Berman  
Berro Family Foundation  
Betty Giles Charitable Foundation Inc.  
Rebecca and Phillip Birkholz  
Daniel Blinkoff and Tamlyn Tomita  
Peter Boerma  
Craig Bowman  
Catharine Braun  
Brevard Nature Alliance  
Brinker Family Foundation  
Britton and Elizabeth Neilsen Charitable Fund  
Chadwick Brown  
Claire Brugnoletti  
Jim and Yuko Brumm  
Thomas Bryson  
Budget Bytes Giving Fund  
Brooke Burdon  
Maria Burke  
Carli Bybel  
Allen Byrum  
Elizabeth Cadwalader and Eugene Baron  
Patrick Caffrey and Margaret Zappen  
Jean-Luc Callahan  
Carlos Callejo

Calm  
Elisabeth Camp  
Pascal Campion  
Cantino Family Fund  
Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation  
Amelia Carpenter  
CFSG Community Financial Services Group  
Charles and Emily Breitenbach  
Charitable Fund  
Samuel Chen  
Wynn Chen  
Mark Chestnutt  
Kathy Chetkovich  
Dmitry Choklin  
Christopher Donor Advised Fund  
Phillip Chung  
Kayde Clemans  
CMR Foundation  
John Cobey  
Vita Coco  
Adam Cohen  
Cohen Family Fund  
Alexandria Colella  
Kathryn Collard  
Deborah Colton  
Laurie Conley  
John Conway  
Paul Corliss  
Alex and Nicole Cornell  
Joel Cox

Crossroads Foundation  
Kristen Cruise  
Curtis Kossman Foundation  
Alex Cuthbertson  
Nicole Daghighian  
Peter Dale  
Harriet Damesek  
Diane Davidson  
Dayton Foundation  
Cody Deane  
William Deck  
Matthew Del Giudice  
Johnna Desantis  
Andrew Deveson  
Patricia Diamond  
Danay Diaz  
Luong Doan  
Donald and Rebecca Wall  
Dorothy Batten  
Charitable Lead Trust  
Christine Dougherty  
Thomas and Melanie Doyle  
Robert Dreher  
Zendyn Duellman  
Camille Dull  
Charles Duncan and Laura Blutstein  
Ruby Dyer  
Richard Edmondson  
Eitel and Mcshea Families  
Peter and Mery Elder  
Riana Elnaggar  
Thomas Emory  
Elena Escobedo  
Andrew Fairley  
Emma Fale-Olsen  
Somers Family  
Sandra Farkas  
Farmburger LLC  
Brandon Farris  
Denise Gwyn Ferguson  
Jason Ferrari

Adrian Ferrer  
Candice Filippi  
Eric Finzi and Brie Van Widenfel  
Dennis Fisher  
Norman Fluet  
Andre Foerster  
Antonia Fondaras  
Fondation Ensemble  
Fondation Erol  
Kevin Foster  
Francisco Family Fund  
Robert Frang  
Debra Frank  
Jonathan Franzen  
Suzan Frecon  
Fuller Family  
Foundation  
Gary Gallagher  
Anthony Garcia  
Camila Garcia-Hernandez  
David Garrison  
Paul and May Gauvin  
Sarah Geal  
Tatiana Gehlen  
Brad Gelineau  
Leslie and Cliff Gilbert-Lurie  
Laura Glickman  
Global Forest Watch  
Ann Goldenberg  
Daniel Goldstein  
Damon Gorrie  
Brian Gross  
Jose Carlos Gutierrez-Ramos  
Erica Hamilton  
Yaju Han  
Kimberly Haren  
Drew Harper  
David Harrison and

Joyce Millen  
Robert Hart  
Taylor Haynes and Laura George  
Philip Hazelton  
Cory Heitz  
Elizabeth Henderson  
Jeffrey Hepper  
HermanMiller Cares  
Emily Hildebrand  
Allison and Duncan Hill  
Neeraj Hingorani  
Elizabeth Hirt  
Asher Holy  
Wei Hon  
Thomas and Marsha Hopkins  
Daniel Hore  
John Hower  
Sonya Hughes  
Olivia Humphrey  
Cory Hussain  
Daniel Iacono  
Charles Irvin  
Karen Jain  
Mark Jenne  
Robert Johnson  
Margaret Jones and David Linton  
Harry Josh  
James Joslin  
Timothy and Rust Jost  
Eric Jung  
Matthias Kaehlcke  
Mehran Kamari-Bidkorpheh  
Michael Kappas  
Renato Kaufmann  
Alexandra Keenan  
Jacqueline Weck Kelly  
Robert Kemp  
Kim Seong Choo and Myung Hee



Foundation  
 Marjorie Klayman  
 Calvin Knight  
 Paul Kohout  
 Elizabeth Kolbert  
 and John Kleiner  
 David Krinsky  
 Vinay and Raminder Kumar  
 Stephen Kunkel  
 Melinda Kurtz  
 Sammy Kwok  
 Angel Lance  
 Leaves of Grass Fund  
 Lester Poretsky Family  
 Foundation  
 Joel Lichty  
 Michael Lidell  
 Nisha Ligon  
 Elizabeth Lillianfeld  
 Jonathan Lippincott  
 Eileen Lofgren  
 Thomas Lovejoy  
 Lunarity X Rutherford  
 Amazon Conservation  
 Extravaganza  
 Therese Lundin  
 Leila Lurie  
 M. Green Family Fund  
 Sophie Macks  
 Magnificat High  
 School Students  
 Shane Mancigli  
 Sarah and Hank Mansbach  
 Marc Skid LLC  
 Jill Mares  
 Ruben Margolis  
 Kevin Mashburn  
 Declan Masterson  
 Brendan McCarthy  
 Shane McDaniel  
 Christine McGavran  
 Bruce McKinney  
 McNeely Foundation  
 McNeill Charitable  
 Foundation

Yahira Melgard  
 Torkel Mellingen  
 Metabolic Studio  
 Kris Miller  
 Edward and  
 Joyce Miller  
 Susan Minger  
 Minneapolis  
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 Maria Mishina  
 Eugene Monnier  
 Pat and Nancy  
 Monsarrat  
 Reverie Moon  
 Sarah Moore  
 Christopher Morris  
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David Rader  
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 Evelyn Reitz  
 Rolfe Renvyle  
 Alisha Riemenschneider  
 Jenny Rigby  
 Rip Yuki Giving Fund  
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 Adam Rosenberg  
 Amy Rosenthal and  
 Jason Funk  
 Frederick Routt Jr.  
 Rust Family Foundation  
 Hifza Saleem  
 Paul Santoro  
 Doug Sarno  
 Benjamin Schachter  
 Zachary Schiller  
 Randall Schmidt  
 SEE Fund  
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 Greg and Susan Sickal  
 Timothy Simmons  
 Karkirat Singh  
 Slow Food  
 Perth County  
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 Software Gmbh  
 Janette Smart  
 and Family  
 Stephen and Lyle Smith  
 Gordon Smith  
 Matt Smith  
 Sprinkles Cupcakes  
 Susan and Kurt Sroka

Marc Starr  
 Barry Stell  
 Strategic Advice Network  
 Judith Stucki  
 Sara Studt  
 Phyllis Stutzman  
 Karen Suzukamo  
 Madeline Swaim  
 Daniel Swift  
 Jin Tan  
 Melissa Tan  
 Igor Tandetnik  
 Jessica Tarrant  
 Cocokind Team  
 The Arena Energy  
 Foundation  
 The Bloomfield/  
 Graettinger  
 Family Fund  
 The Brewer Fund  
 The Foster Family Private  
 Foundation Inc.  
 The George H. and  
 Juliet S. Milligan  
 Charitable Fund  
 The Gordon and Betty  
 Moore Foundation  
 The International  
 Conservation Fund  
 of Canada (ICFC)  
 The Jeff and Connie  
 Woodman Foundation  
 The John D. and  
 Catherine T.  
 MacArthur Foundation  
 The Jonathan and Becky  
 Klabunde Tomer Fund  
 The Muir House Foundation  
 The Norwegian Agency  
 for Development  
 Cooperation (NORAD)  
 The Reuter Foundation  
 The Robert Owen Bussey  
 and Ellen Levy Bussey  
 Charitable Fund  
 The Saint Paul Foundation

## TITO'S IMPACT

We love it when caring businesses join us to make an impact for nature! Among those many businesses that stepped up to support us during the intense fires across the Amazon this year, Tito's Homemade Vodka made a very generous financial contribution to our cause, enabling us to help park guards and local authorities put out some of the fires in Bolivia. Their contribution will also help us continue to promote forest-friendly and fire-free economic activities for local communities. Thanks, Tito's!

The Scott and Jennifer  
 Care Fund  
 The Sheldon and Audrey  
 Katz Foundation  
 The Tim and Bev  
 Hesterberg Fund  
 The Wiese Family  
 Charitable Fund  
 Tee Thirakomen  
 Camilla Thomason  
 Diane Thompson  
 Cody Thompson  
 Craig and Mary Thompson  
 Tiburon Fund  
 Timothy Wagner and  
 C. Janelle Dombek  
 Charitable Fund  
 Tito's Handmade Vodka  
 Paul Torrence  
 Michele Tropeano  
 James and Theresa Turner  
 Gregory Tyson  
 U.S. Agency for  
 International  
 Development (USAID)  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
 Service (USFWS)  
 United Way of  
 Greater Portland  
 Margaret Urban  
 Lisette van Eenennaam  
 Rebecca Vest  
 Violet Young  
 Charitable Trust

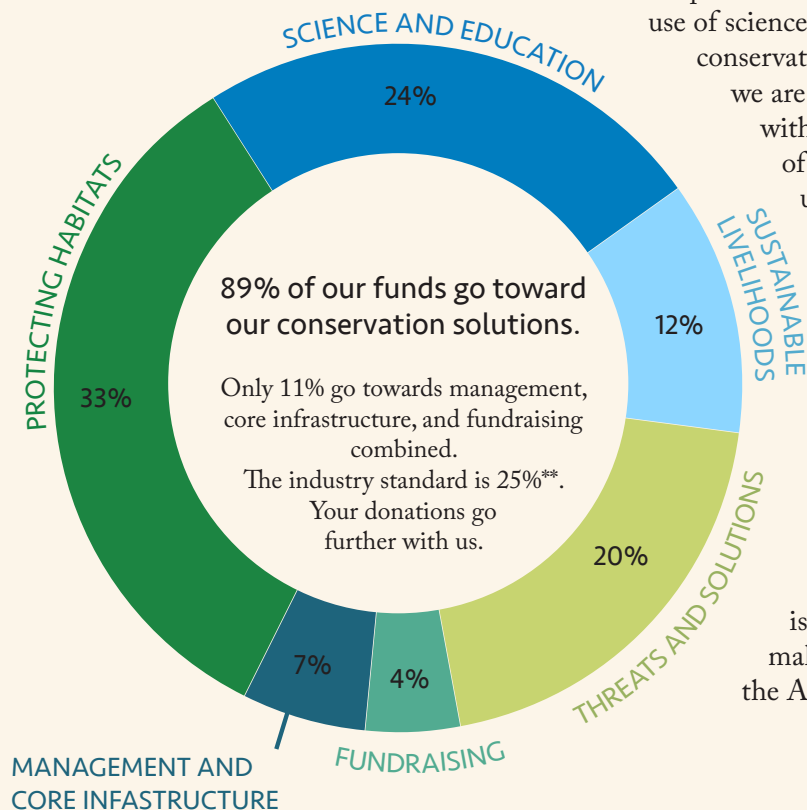
David Von Lehman  
 Stephen Voorhees  
 Michael Ward  
 TJ Warfield  
 Joseph Webster  
 Keith and Julian Weissglass  
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 Jenny Wong  
 Brenda and Victor Wong  
 Peter Woodbury  
 Rosanna Woodhouse  
 Jeff and Connie Woodman  
 Charles and Barbara  
 Woodman  
 World Resources  
 Institute (WRI)  
 Michael Wunderman  
 Elsa Wyllie  
 Sean Wynne  
 Nathan Yost  
 Matthew Youngblood  
 George Yuen  
 Albert Zesiger  
 Gabriel Zimmerman

# Financials

We are humbled by the generous support we have received this year. As fires burned over a million acres of the Amazon Rainforest and the world took notice, our incredible community of individual donors and businesses left us in awe of their commitment to nature by making increased donations, running crowdfunding campaigns, encouraging friends and family to get involved, channeling their companies' employee giving program funds to us, and even donating proceeds of their businesses' sales. To everyone who has made a contribution to our work - thank you.

Your investment in our work is empowering local people, protecting some of the last wild places on Earth, and driving the use of science and technology for conservation. As you'll see here,

we are a lean organization, with only a small portion of contributions being used to support the operations needed to make our conservation work on the ground possible. We are also transparent in our finances, continually earning top ratings by the most respected charity watchdogs (see right). Your investment is much appreciated and making a real impact in the Amazon.



\*\* Source: <https://www.charitynavigator.org/index.cfm?bay=content.view&cid=48>

## REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Contributions and grants - restricted	\$ 2,339,034
Contributions and grants -unrestricted	\$ 2,388,406
Contributed services	\$ 62,549
Rental income	\$ 2,700
Other revenue	\$ 3,968
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,796,657</b>

## PROGRAM EXPENSES\*

Program Expenses	
Protecting habitats	\$ 1,760,233
Science and education	\$ 1,289,781
Sustainable livelihoods	\$ 634,063
Threats and solutions	\$ 1,058,790
Support Services	
Fundraising	\$ 242,934
Management and core infrastructure	\$ 364,509
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,347,310</b>

All information on this page refers to Amazon Conservation's 2019 fiscal year ending December 31, 2019 and includes sub-grants to our sister organizations in Peru and Bolivia (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA and Conservación Amazónica-ACEAA, respectively), as well as our social enterprise Amazon Journeys, an ecotourism-focused funding mechanism for conservation.

\*Please note that expenses appear larger than the organization's income due to Amazon Conservation being awarded multi-year grants that fund activities over the course of several years but that are counted in a lump-sum revenue in the year the grant contract is signed (which may be before the fiscal year reported here). For our complete audited financial information, visit our webpage at [amazonconservation.org/about/financials](https://amazonconservation.org/about/financials). Please contact [info@amazonconservation.org](mailto:info@amazonconservation.org) if you have any questions about our financials or the impact of contributions to our cause.



TOP-RATED,  
GREAT NONPROFITS



4 OUT OF 4 STARS  
CHARITY NAVIGATOR



PLATINUM-LEVEL,  
GUIDESTAR/ CANDID



# Acknowledgements

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### KATHY RUTTENBERG

Honorary Board Member  
Artist  
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*Affiliations are for  
identification purposes only.*

## STAFF

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** John Beavers

**TOTAL STAFF:** 104 (among all Amazon Conservation's Alliance of sister organizations and Amazon Journeys, listed below)

### OFFICES:

- Washington, D.C., USA (Amazon Conservation): 7 staff
- Lima, Peru (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA): 12 staff
- Cusco, Peru (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA): 14 staff
- Puerto Maldonado, Peru (Amazon Journeys' ecolodge management of Wayqecha, Villa Carmen & Los Amigos): 30 staff
- Madre de Dios, Peru (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA) (includes Los Amigos): 25 staff
- La Paz, Bolivia (Conservación Amazónica-ACEAA): 12 staff
- Cobija, Bolivia (Conservación Amazónica ACEAA): 4 staff

## PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Cover: Sidney Novoa

Page 2: Unknown

Page 3: [river] Amy Rosenthal, [gold mining] Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project, [Brazil nut tree] Miguel Moran

Page 4: [Açaí harness photos] Ana Caroline de Lima, [woman flying drones] Alfredo Condor, [AmazonTec] Conservación Amazónica - ACCA, [fire safety vests] Divha Gauntier

Page 6: Ronald Catpo

Page 9: Sidney Novoa

Page 10: [top] Amy Rosenthal, (bottom left) Rick Stanley

Page 10: [Marsh deer] Jhonny Ayala, [Orinoco goose] JL Avedaño

Page 12: [all] Ronald Catpo


Page 13: [all] Ana Caroline de Lima

Page 15: [top right] Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP), [bottom left] Alfredo Condor,

Page 16: [top right, bottom left] Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project [top left, bottom right] Conservación Amazónica - ACCA

Page 18: [top left] Arianna Basto, [top right] Carla Mere, [bottom left] JL Avedaño, [bottom left] Zander Nassikas

Back Cover: Sidney Novoa



Local forest users practice piloting drones during one of our training courses. Last year, Amazon Conservation trained and helped license 27 new drone pilots, adding to the almost 100 pilots certified to use drone technology to protect forests. These frontline forest guardians currently help monitor 7.61 million acres (1.54 million hectares) of rainforest and expose illegal deforestation in one of the last wild places on Earth.



**AMAZON CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION**

📍 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 625  
Washington, DC 20005  
✉ [info@amazonconservation.org](mailto:info@amazonconservation.org)  
🌐 [www.amazonconservation.org](http://www.amazonconservation.org)  
☎ (202) 234-2356  
🐦 @ACA\_DC 🌐 /Amazon-Conservation-Association  
📘 /AmazonConservation 📷 @AmazonConservation



**PERUVIAN PARTNER:**

Conservación Amazónica - ACCA  
(Asociación para la Conservación de la  
Cuenca Amazónica)  
📍 Calle General Vargas Machuca 627  
Miraflores, Lima, Peru  
🌐 [www.acca.org.pe](http://www.acca.org.pe)  
☎ 011 + (511) 444 5431



CONSERVACIÓN AMAZÓNICA

**BOLIVIAN PARTNER:**

Conservación Amazónica - ACEAA  
(Asociación Boliviana para la Conservación e  
Investigación de Ecosistemas Andino Amazónicos)  
📍 Pasaje Flores Quintela (entre calles 13 y 14)  
Zona de Calacoto, La Paz, Bolivia  
Edificio Nro. 7, Oficina 1B  
🌐 [www.conservacionamazonica.org.bo](http://www.conservacionamazonica.org.bo)  
☎ 011 + (591) 2-212-4987