



**AMAZON
CONSERVATION
2017 IMPACT REPORT**

WHERE THE ANDES MEET THE AMAZON RAINFOREST: PROTECTING THE GREATEST WILD FOREST ON EARTH

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friend of the Amazon,

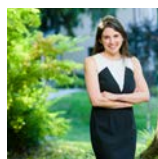
Looking back on 2017, so many moments served as vivid reminders of the important challenges humanity and our planet face, as well as the amazing power we have as a collective force to bring about change.


For me, perhaps the most defining of those moments came as I watched the devastation hurricanes Jose and Maria brought to the U.S. and the Caribbean. They also served as striking reminders of how important and timely our work is: without the forests we protect, the destructive effects of climate change will only worsen. Those effects, including catastrophic events, disproportionately harm the most vulnerable.

Over the past 19 years, Amazon Conservation has worked on the ground to empower people, protect wild places, and put science to work for conservation. Here you'll read about some of what we accomplished together in the past year. Each story in this annual report reflects a moment, person, or project that energized us and proved that your contributions are having real impact.

Despite the chaos these hurricanes ravaged, I was inspired by how we came together to support the victims of these natural disasters and how neighbors were helping neighbors, just like I often see in communities in the Amazon. It gave me hope for the future. Hope that we can continue to work together to fight climate change by keeping our forests standing. The Amazon rainforest might be thousands of miles away from you and me, but its benefits for the quality of our lives and those of local communities are clear and ever-present. Thank you for joining us on our journey to protect the greatest wild forest on Earth for all of our sakes.

Sincerely,




Hannah Stutzman
Executive Director

THE TOP-DOWN VIEW: THIS YEAR'S MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Your contributions helped propel incredible conservation efforts in the Amazon this year. Here are some highlights of our 2017 achievements that you will see throughout this report:



Over 4 million acres of forests protected and 6 massive new conservation areas created in 2017



500 farmers and harvesters trained to implement best practices, earning higher incomes from activities that promote conservation

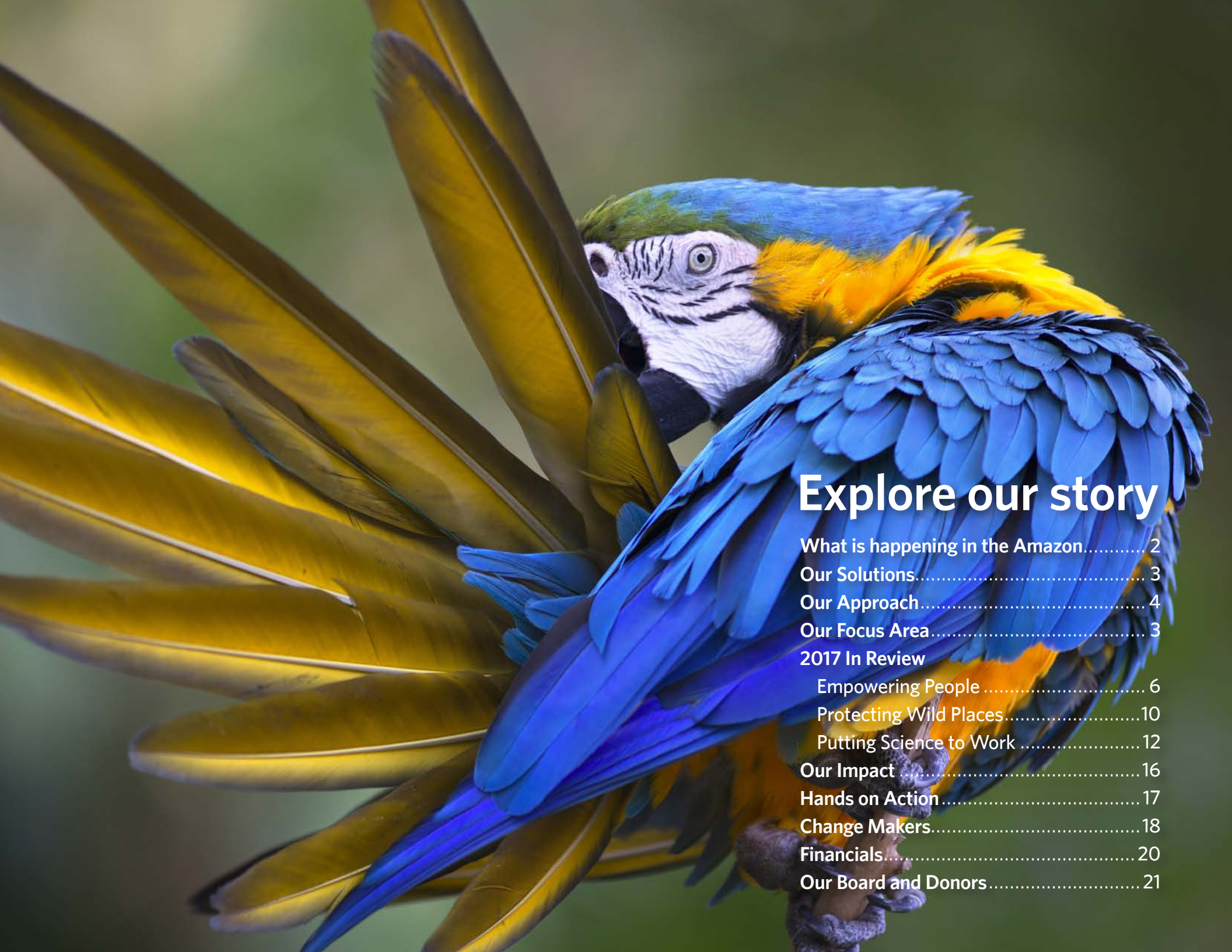


Exposed over 450,000 acres of deforestation using technology (satellites, radar, drones)



Over 20,000 individuals directly impacted by our protection, empowering and training efforts

Learn more at www.amazonconservation.org



Explore our story

What is happening in the Amazon.....	2
Our Solutions.....	3
Our Approach.....	4
Our Focus Area.....	3
2017 In Review	
Empowering People	6
Protecting Wild Places.....	10
Putting Science to Work	12
Our Impact	16
Hands on Action.....	17
Change Makers.....	18
Financials.....	20
Our Board and Donors.....	21

What is happening in the Amazon?

Out of sight, out of mind is not going to cut it when it comes to the Amazon. The Amazon forest represents Earth's largest terrestrial stores of biodiversity and carbon and about 40 percent of the planet's remaining tropical rainforests. Over the past 20 years, deforestation in the Amazon has consumed at least half a million square kilometers. This threatens the livelihoods of the local population, including indigenous cultures dependent on the forest, and the provision of natural resources (including water and oxygen) of vital importance to all of humankind.

A 2007 study estimated that with 40 percent Amazon deforestation, a tipping point could be reached, which would force large swathes of forest to switch to arid savannah. Two newly considered factors in a 2016 study – climate change and fires – have now reduced that estimated tipping point to 20-25 percent. **Current deforestation is at 17 percent.**

Threats from illegal logging, expansion of unsustainable agriculture and mega-projects loom. Our Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP) has exposed deforestation hotspots in the Peruvian Amazon for over 2 years and shown that agricultural expansion, gold mining, illegal coca cultivation, and infrastructure projects are the major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. **If current rates continue, more than half of the Amazon rainforest will be lost or severely damaged by 2030.** If this happens, it will have catastrophic effects not only in the 9 countries the forest covers in Latin America, but in the climate and environment of the entire planet.

But not all is lost. As the Amazon is at a tipping point, NOW is the time to act. Read on to see how we are working to stop deforestation and how you can join the fight for a better future.



WHY WE ALL NEED THE AMAZON



It stores 80-120 billion tons of carbon, stabilizing our planet's climate



Produces 20% of the oxygen we breathe



1/5 of the world's fresh water is found in the Amazon Basin



70% of the plants identified by the National Cancer Institute as useful in the treatment of cancer only grow in the rainforest



Our Solutions

As conservation pioneers since 1999, we work on the ground where the Andes Mountains meet the Amazon rainforest.

In this place of great cultural and biological diversity, successful conservation solutions require collaborative action from governments, foundations, the private sector, the scientific community, and those whose lives depend on the forest.

We collaborate and partner with all these actors to ensure the protection of the greatest wild forest on Earth. Science-guided strategies and innovative conservation are our tools; communities on the ground, our allies. We protect this vital forest by creating a network of public and private lands managed for conservation and sustainable use of resources. Our target is always the most enduring conservation impact.

By concentrating our resources in the field, where they have the largest impact, **we protect more than 4 million acres of forests in the western Amazon** and all those who call it home. We have created replicable conservation models—such as conservation concessions, where a national government relies on a private partner to manage public land for conservation—that have been successfully applied elsewhere in the region and around the world.

We also go beyond land protection to empower indigenous communities to create forest-friendly livelihoods, deploy cutting-edge technology like drones and satellite imagery to detect deforestation and alert authorities, and host hundreds of scientists and students at our three research stations every year to advance our understanding of this irreplaceable habitat.

***We unite science,
innovation and community
to protect the western
Amazon - the greatest
wild forest on Earth.***

A LOCAL, HOLISTIC APPROACH TO CONSERVATION YIELDS THE BEST RESULTS

Planting trees and buying land alone are not enough to address the complex conservation needs of the Amazon. Research studies increasingly show that one-size-fits-all approaches to big environmental problems are not effective. That is why we have been using a multi-pronged, place-based approach to conservation for the past two decades: it enables us to build long-term relationships with local communities and governments and become their trusted experts, as well as allows us to have broader understanding of the unique needs of this region.

Our Approach

Amazon Conservation works for the sole purpose of protecting the Amazon rainforest and all those who call it home. Our unique approach focuses on three strategies: empowering people to become champions for conservation while improving their quality of life; protecting wild places that are home to hundreds of thousands of species of wildlife; and employing the latest discoveries in science and technology into the field of conservation.

Here is how we do it:



EMPOWER PEOPLE

Partnering with local communities, indigenous peoples, and governments to offer the tools and knowledge to implement conservation solutions locally

Promoting forest-friendly enterprises and supporting sustainable businesses through education and funding

Training the next generation of conservationists to understand and be inspired by the Amazon

LEARN MORE ON PAGES 6-9

PROTECT WILD PLACES

Creating new conservation areas that are legally protected safe havens for wildlife and indigenous communities

Managing lands for a changing climate in partnership with communities and governments

Connecting vital areas for species survival, enabling wildlife to move across the land as they need and keeping them safe from threats

LEARN MORE ON PAGES 10-11

PUT SCIENCE TO WORK

Making the world's greatest forests the best understood by managing the best research stations in the tropics and conducting innovative studies

Creating and strengthening conservation best practices that can be translated into real action on the ground

Using cutting-edge technology like satellites, radar, and drones to detect, analyze, and help stop deforestation

LEARN MORE ON PAGES 12-14



Our Focus Area

Protecting the headwaters of the Amazon, where the Andes Mountains meet the rainforest, is a top conservation priority.

This wild place harbors the greatest known richness of species on the planet and offers millions of plants and animals a refuge from climate change. Unlike flat terrain, the altitudinal relief from the Andes mountains to the Amazon allows plants and animals to readjust their distribution as the world becomes hotter and drier.

Most importantly, these areas remain biologically connected by forests spanning tens of millions of acres. This expanse of wilderness is blessed with an absence of roads and low population pressure. Dozens of indigenous cultures that remain in the region live in a largely traditional, low-impact manner. Indeed, this is one of the last areas on the planet where rainforest peoples still live without trade, money or metal, beyond modern society's consumptive reach.

Our on-the-ground focus area in southeastern Peru and northern Bolivia contains 10-15 percent of all the bird and butterfly species known on the planet. Top predators such as harpy eagles, giant otters, black caimans, and jaguars thrive in the region, signaling a healthy ecosystem. The Andean foothills are also the spawning ground for the majority of large migratory fish that feed people throughout the Amazon basin.

In addition to our on-the-ground work in Peru and Bolivia, we also use cutting-edge satellite and radar technologies to detect and stop deforestation in near real-time in other Latin American countries, including Colombia and Ecuador.



EMPOWER PEOPLE

Helping local economies grow through sustainable use of natural resources in turn helps keep the Amazon protected. By creating forest-friendly livelihoods we improve the well-being and economic stability of entire communities while keeping forests standing.

By working together, we empowered over 500 small-scale farmers and harvesters to implement best practices and earn higher incomes from activities that promote conservation. This included helping them market forest oil extracts to gourmet restaurants, manage over 200 sustainable fish farms, create community-based ecotourism enterprises, strengthen their cacao and Brazil nuts family enterprises, and much more.

Our community partners produced over 14 tons of cacao, 150 tons of fresh fish, and over 564 tons of Brazil nuts, sustainably. Through building better market connections and business skills and investing in improved harvest and processing practices, we helped farmers and harvesters increase their incomes by 350%. More income for local families mean they are more invested in protecting the forests they depend on. A big win for everyone!



CHANGING THE WAY YOUTH SEE THEIR WETLANDS

One of the results of having spent almost two decades protecting the western Amazon is that we have forged strong relationships with local communities. An example of that is Japu, a remote rural community in the Andean highlands who are the closest living descendants of the Inca, and with whom we've partnered for years. In 2017 we launched a project to engage the community in the protection of their highland wetlands, or *bofedales* in Spanish, by reducing overgrazing by alpaca. This is vital for conservation as the water from the bofedales and the Andes trickles down to become the Amazon river. **The community worked closely with scientists to conduct research and create a plan for managing bofedales.** Part of the project was to build understanding and pride in this incredible ecosystem, including giving youth access to digital cameras - something most of them had never seen before - to capture the beauty of the bofedales as they saw them. 20-year old Juvenal Apaza used a camera for the first time as part of this project. "It was a great way to understand our bofedales so we can better conserve them," he explained.



Creating a safe space for dialogue to resolve conservation-related conflicts is an often overlooked but vital need for indigenous communities.

The confluence of rich natural resources and governance challenges in remote regions can lead to conflicts involving local communities, governments, and the private sector. Conflicts tend to arise in situations where expectations are not being met, information is not available, stakeholder engagement is not adequate, or where there is an actual adverse impact on the community. In 2017, we completed a three-year project funded by USAID that helped the indigenous communities who jointly manage the 990,000 acre Amarakaeri Communal Reserve in Peru and the government build capacity to transform conflicts and manage natural resources sustainably.

We worked jointly with communities to identify conflict points, build a targeted communications and training plan, and create a structure for dialogue. We also provided technical expertise on crafting conflict-sensitive solutions and creation of natural resources management tools, geared specifically for conservation area managers, government, civil society organizations and indigenous communities.

Today the Amarakaeri Reserve leadership has increased its management capacity, built stronger connections with community stakeholders, and created new avenues to engage others to address conservation-related conflicts. Even better, indigenous and government leadership recently collaborated to create future plans for creating sustainable livelihoods and better protecting forests in communities around the Reserve.



KEEPING HARVESTERS AND THE RAINFOREST SAFE

The communities who helped declare Bolivia's Santa Rosa de Abuná conservation area in 2017 rely entirely on harvesting wild products sustainably from healthy rainforests. We're helping increase their incomes from these products to create incentives to keep this forest protected long-term.



Community members harvest Brazil nuts from deep in the forest each year from December through March, providing the majority of their income. Açaí, a palm fruit, now popular in the US as a "super food", grows wild in Santa Rosa. It provides an essential part of household economies because, if well managed, it can be harvested from April to October, providing a steady income throughout the year.

Traditionally, harvesters climb trees up to 65 feet to harvest açaí and then must lower heavy branches of fruit to the ground without support. These dangerous working conditions are a significant community concern. Due to our program, 100 new climbing safety harnesses will be distributed to harvesters in 2018, right on time to keep locals safe during the harvest season. Communities are enthusiastic because they participated closely in testing prototype designs and tweaking them to create a harness that meets their needs in the fields.

We are also currently conducting a feasibility analysis and site assessments for a processing plant that would allow communities to further improve incomes by selling packaged açaí with a longer shelf life than the raw fruits currently sold.

Developing collaborative, field-based solutions like these are the core of our work with communities, in order to improve wellbeing and increase local investment in conservation.



Bolivia exported \$300 million in fruits and nuts in 2017, (up 155% since 2016) making açaí harvesting a profitable and forest-friendly way for local families to earn a living.

HEAR THE VOICES OF THE AMAZON



"Our conservation area is an opportunity for us to guarantee sustainable ways of life for our population. By taking care of our forests and using its wealth of resources sustainably, we can have a better future. Amazon Conservation is helping us learn how to do that."

GABRIELA FLORES, MUNICIPAL LEADER AT SANTA ROSA DE ABUNÁ IN BOLIVIA



"Our ecotourism property is always threatened by illegal gold mining. By partnering with Amazon Conservation to learn how to use drones, we will be able to patrol our forest without having to risk our lives in a conflict with the miners. This program is essential for us and for conservation."

FLOR RUMAYNA, PERUVIAN ENTREPRENEUR AND FIRST WOMAN IN SOUTHEAST PERU TO BE TRAINED IN DRONE TECHNOLOGY THANKS TO AMAZON CONSERVATION'S DRONE CENTER TRAINING PROGRAM



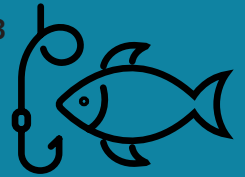
"I'm someone who believes in modern technology, and when you use it to the benefit of mankind and nature. That's why Amazon Conservation's project in partnership with Google is so interesting to me - it'll give us a way to monitor our forests when we are not present, letting us know whenever we need to take action."

SARA HURTADO, BRAZIL NUT HARVESTER IN PERU, MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR CONCESSION-OWNERS (ACOMAT)

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Over 150 tons of fish

produced at the 203 fish farms we helped local communities create, earning them a stable income and a nutritious diet



Provided solar panels and training for 32 families

in highland communities, giving them access to green energy

246 acres

of agroforestry plots maintained, helping farmers live sustainably while stimulating local economies




In 2017 alone, over

564 tons of Brazil Nuts

were produced sustainably by local families in Peru and Bolivia

500 farmers and harvesters trained in

2017 to implement best practices and earn higher incomes from activities that promote conservation.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands weaving a vibrant textile on a traditional wooden loom. The fabric features bold horizontal stripes of red, blue, and yellow, with intricate patterns of smaller colors like green and white woven into the design. The person's hands are visible, wearing a dark sleeve with a white and blue geometric pattern. The loom is constructed from light-colored wood, and the background is a blurred outdoor setting with green grass and a gravel path.

“What will happen if the communities living next to major national parks run out of resources and begin to invade them? By giving people alternatives, we protect the forests.”

- Marlene Mamani,
Project Coordinator for Highlands Resource Management



PROTECT WILD PLACES

By protecting the irreplaceable habitats of the western Amazon, we are protecting the future of humanity. We partner with governments, land owners, indigenous communities, and others to create, manage, and protect the most biodiverse area in the world in order to keep it that way.

Every year, our conservation efforts directly protect over 4 million acres of rainforest, and all the animals, plants and people that call them home. In 2017 we established 6 new conservation areas that cover over 500,000 acres of pristine forests. We progressed in the legal, cultural, and scientific procedures of creating 6 new conservation areas that, once established, will protect an additional 878,000 acres.

In addition to establishing and helping manage these conservation areas, the strategic locations of those areas act as buffers to large national parks and indigenous territories covering and safeguarding 19 million acres of forests. We also provide technical support to local authorities and communities on sustainable management of natural resources within reserves so that their forest will be standing for generations to come.

Over 17,000 individuals directly live in and benefit from the conservation areas we helped create and manage to date. But truly, keeping the Amazon protected is benefiting us all.



"Keeping intact forests standing is a key to turning around three stubborn global trends: climate change, the sixth great extinction crisis and the loss of human cultures."

THOMAS LOVEJOY, ACCLAIMED WRITER & BIOLOGIST,
AND AMAZON CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER

AT A GLANCE



**Over 4
Million
acres** of forests
protected to date

Protecting the home of
**over 22
endangered
species** like
harpy eagles, jaguars, tapirs,
spectacled bears, and more

4,348 species
recorded at our three
research stations
in the Peruvian
Amazon



**More than a
quarter of a
million trees
planted** to date,
restoring damaged forests

**6 New
Conservation
Areas** created in 2017,
protecting over half a million
acres of rainforest



6 New Conservation Areas Established in 2017 = Over Half a Million Acres of Forest Now Protected



TRES CAÑONES, PERU

This vast conservation area covers 97,570 acres of incredible highland forests, archaeological sites, mountains, and more. Rural communities thrive here, with almost 500 individuals currently living from the land. These communities belong to the K'ana indigenous nation, whose mother tongue is Quechua. This protected area includes an important heritage site: the archaeological complex of Mauka Ilaqta, which is believed to have been the capital of the K'ana nation.

SANTA ROSA, BOLIVIA

This conservation area protects a whopping 425,000 acres of primary Amazonian rainforest and makes up a key part of the region's conservation areas network. Declared in 2017, the area links the initiative of 22 communities to maintain a healthy forest with Bolivia's relatively new national level forest policies. Over 2,200 people live in and benefit from the protection of this forest.



MATORIATO COMMUNAL RESERVE, PERU

This small but mighty conservation area of 4,294 acres is home to a Machiguenga indigenous community of over 80 families who live sustainably in their ancestral land. The name Matoriato comes from word "Matori" from the traditional Machiguenga language, which is a species of butterflies that appear only at night. Peru is home to roughly 2,500 different butterfly species, over 10% of the world total.

ALTO PILCOMAYO, PERU

Alto Pilcomayo is a conservation association formed in 2012 by local youth, with 24 partners in the region. We've been working with them since 2013 to create the Qosilloq Llaqta Ccahuanan conservation area, adjacent to Manu National Park. The name literally translates to "Monkey Village Viewpoint," and it is home to 11 species of primates. This area now protects 11,018 acres of irreplaceable habitats for the next 40 years, and we'll continue to help them sustainably manage the natural resources on this land.



TAHUAMANU RESEARCH CENTER AND ABUNÁ RESEARCH CENTER, BOLIVIA

The creation of two conservation areas surrounding the research stations of Tahuamanu and Abuná in northern Bolivia mean that 16,000 acres of forests are not only protected but also open to researchers to conduct field studies. Scientists recently discovered four new species of orchids and two species of fish, which had never been recorded in Bolivia, at these two locations. These forests are also home to over 70 threatened and endangered species, including the Bolivian river dolphin (*Inia boliviensis*).



PUT SCIENCE TO WORK

Understanding the Amazon and putting the latest scientific results to use is essential to achieve the most enduring conservation results on the ground. We use science and technology to inform projects on the ground, promote rational discourse on tough policy questions, and educate and inspire the next generation of conservationists.

One key way that we put science to work for conservation is by managing premier research stations in the tropics. Located in the Peruvian Amazon, our three research stations are strategically located where the Andes mountains meet the Amazon rainforest and host hundreds of scientists, students, and tourists every year. **39 research projects took place at these three locations this past year, and hundreds of students from around the world participated in 16 field courses hosted there.** In 2017 we also expanded our reach by helping establish two research stations in Bolivia, which are located in conservation areas protecting a total of 16,000 acres of forests.

We're also putting science and technology to work in the field. We partnered with Google.org to use an innovative process that combines cutting-edge satellite technology (high-resolution images), field technology (smartphones and drones), and technologies developed by Google and the University of Maryland (GLAD alerts) to empower Brazil nut harvesters to track and expose deforestation in the forests they call home. In addition, we will be providing legal tools and training to help locals understand the rights they have over their territory. **By providing the tools and education to over 11,600 Brazil nut harvesters, we'll help them maintain their forest-friendly way of life while they monitor deforestation on over 2.5 million acres of Amazonian forest in Peru. That is twice the size of the Grand Canyon National Park!** Together, technology, legal tools and training will help locals defend their forests from threats quickly enough to make a difference.

SATELLITE IMAGERY LEADING TO ON-THE-GROUND ACTION!

Our Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP) celebrated its 2nd anniversary in 2017 by continuing to use satellite imagery and radar technology to detect deforestation in near real-time and informing local authorities to take action. To date, we have exposed more than 450,000 acres of deforestation.

HEAR FROM OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

"I was able to discover two new beetle species thanks to this scholarship. It helped broaden my knowledge of the diversity of beetles as I studied them in the field. I'm excited to leave my mark on the scientific community."



MARYZENDER RODRIGUEZ, BIOLOGIST, SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

"Receiving this scholarship was a great honor. It shows Amazon Conservation's commitment to research related to conservation and tropical ecology. The research we do allows us to better understand how humans affect the flora and fauna of a place, as well as how recovery processes are developed, which is key for conservation. This is a direct investment in science."



EMMY MEDINA, GRADUATE STUDENT AT SAN MARCOS UNIVERSITY, SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

CAMERA TRAPS HELP US UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS IN THE AMAZON WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING

Camera trap technology enables us to document wildlife presence, abundance, and population changes, particularly in the face of deforestation and habitat destruction. We deploy camera traps all throughout the western Amazon, at our research stations and at multiple conservation areas we help manage. **Just in 2017, we deployed over 100 new camera traps and gathered over 10,000 photos and videos of more than 40 species of mammals and birds.** Many of the species captured on camera have an endangered status (Near Threatened or Vulnerable) according to the IUCN Red List, including jaguars, giant anteaters, giant armadillos, white-lipped peccaries, tapirs, and pale-winged trumpeters.

In 2017 we launched the Southwest Amazon Drone Center, a training center located at our Los Amigos Research Station geared towards providing local peoples the training and tools needed to use state of the art technology to detect deforestation.

This year the Drone Center hosted its first course, training a dozen members of the community, private sector, and government officials in remote sensing tools, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), to monitor deforestation in tropical forests. The Center will continue to offer training courses as well as technical support to attendees in order to increase legal response to illegal activities such as logging and gold mining.

The Drone Center and related programming is a powerful addition to our deforestation tracking and analysis work through the Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP). **MAAP uses satellite and radar technology to find, analyze, and report deforestation in near real-time, without ever needing to set foot in the rainforest.** We're now working to create the technical and legal ability among key government authorities in Madre de Dios, Peru – a current deforestation hotspot – to integrate remote sensing and drone data as evidence for pursuing action on illegal activities. Technology and capacity building also empower local forest owners to detect, report, and follow up on illicit deforestation. Strengthening governance and participation of both authorities and citizens is essential to reducing illegal deforestation.

Looking forward to 2018, we plan on continuing to use science and technology to protect the Amazon and go one step further - using it to positively shape public policy.



SUPPORTING THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH THAT IS CHANGING WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE AMAZON

Our research stations are hubs for scientific research across the western Amazon. Here are some of the amazing studies currently taking place at these living laboratories:



Climate change effects on cloud forests

If climate change pushes clouds higher into the sky as models predict, what will happen to cloud forests? This year British scientist and long-time Amazon Conservation partner Dan Metcalfe began conducting a study at our **Wayqecha Cloud Forest Research Station** to find out. His experiment is actually trying to physically remove clouds from a portion of the forest using a 164 ft. tower draped with strips of agricultural netting to trap moisture which will leave the forest area behind it dryer, thus emulating conditions similar to what could happen under rising temperatures resulting from climate change.



Frogs adapting to changing temperatures

At our **Villa Carmen Research Station** in the Andean foothills, graduate student Michael Britton, a PhD candidate at Florida International University, is using amphibian physiology to make predictions about how species in the Andes will respond to climate change. His research will examine how different species of frogs are using the elevational gradient of the Andes as a mechanism for adapting to changing temperatures and human land use. The goal is to help future conservation efforts and guide land use planning in the tropics.



Understanding Tinamou diversity and distribution

Our **Los Amigos Research Station** supports an incredible diversity of birds—nearly 600 species representing one-third of the total bird diversity of Peru. To that end, in 2017 we launched the Los Amigos Bird Observatory, which is spreading awareness, building capacity, and enhancing conservation efforts among birdwatchers, researchers, students, and conservationists. We've already begun conducting research on what factors make Los Amigos a center of diversity for tinamous, which harbors 11 of the 47 total species. Through our Jonathan Franzen Fellowship Program, we have also awarded 4 fellowships to ornithologists to conduct a wide variety of conservation-focused field research at Los Amigos.

AT A GLANCE

Over 3,000 individuals trained on a wide variety of conservation best practices

Southwest Amazon Drone Center launched



in 2017, training dozens of local authorities on using cutting-edge fixed wings drones to detect deforestation

39 scientific projects hosted at our research stations in 2017, including 16 field courses from acclaimed universities



45 research articles published in 2017 on studies conducted at our research stations



240+ scholarships awarded to date to students to conduct field research



By The Numbers: Impact Highlights

We support the most enduring conservation solutions. Our holistic approach has enabled us to empower people, protect wild places, and put science to work for conservation in the most amazing ways. We accomplished incredible results together for the environment. Here are some of our impact highlights to date.



**4+ million
acres** of forests
protected to date



**250,000
trees** planted
to date to restore
damaged forests



**4,348
species**
recorded at our
research stations



**203
sustainable
fish farms**
created to date



**80+
deforestation
threat alerts**
sent to date



**450,000+
acres** of
deforestation
exposed to date



**2,500+
visitors** to our
stations every year



**3,000+
individuals** trained
on a wide variety of
conservation practices



554 studies
published from
research conducted at
our stations



**350%
income increase**
for farmers who
worked with us



**240+
scholarships**
awarded to students to
conduct field research



**17,000+
people** living in and
benefiting from the
conservation areas we
helped establish



**5 research
stations** acting
as hubs for science &
discovery



**115
employees** across
6 offices in
three countries



\$50+ million
invested to date to
conserve the western
Amazon



19 years
working on the
ground in the western
Amazon

A photograph of a person standing in a dense tropical forest. The person is wearing a green shirt and dark pants, looking up at the trees. The forest is filled with various types of tropical plants, including large palm leaves and ferns. The lighting is dappled, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. The text is overlaid on the top right of the image.

**“Nature is not a place to visit.
It is Home. What better reason
do we need to protect it?”**

- Gary Snyder, Environmental Activist, Poetry Pulitzer Prize Winner



Take Action

No matter how far you are physically from the Amazon, you can always make an impact to protect it. You know how important the Amazon is for all of our futures. You know that it's still being deforested and exploited. You know we have to stop it. Now you can learn how you can join the fight.

As you can see by the achievements in this report and our lean financials, we are inventive, scrappy, and locally rooted, but we always have an eye to the global impact of this landscape. You can be a part of supporting a small organization with a big impact. Your contribution to Amazon Conservation is an investment in the future. It gets us one step closer to complete protection of the greatest forest on Earth for every animal, every plant, and every human on the planet.



HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP THE AMAZON WILD



MAKE A DONATION

Through your financial contribution, we'll empower people, protect wild places, and put science to work for conservation for the sake of all of our futures. Make your dollar count.



VISIT OUR RESEARCH STATIONS/ ECO-LODGES

Experience all the incredible nature and wildlife that the Amazon has to offer in person, and learn about our conservation projects firsthand. Revenue from trips support conservation efforts.



SPREAD THE WORD

Tell your family. Share with a friend. Inform a colleague. Your voice can help spread the importance and urgency of conserving forests and fighting climate change.



RESEARCH, VOLUNTEER, OR TEACH ABROAD

Teach a course, volunteer, or conduct your own field study in the best conservation-focused, research stations in the tropics. Help progress science while supporting the conservation of the forest you visit.

Join us now at amazonconservation.org

A Special Thanks to our Changemakers

We are incredibly grateful to the many individuals and institutions whose contributions directly support the conservation of the Amazon. This work would not be possible without you. The generous donors listed below (in alphabetical order) contributed \$100 and up in 2017. Thank you.

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention."

- OSCAR WILDE, IRISH POET AND PLAYWRIGHT

Acre Care Amazon
Aid Foundation
Peter Adeney
AHS Foundation
Brian Allen
Stephen Altschul
Andes Amazon Fund
Priscilla Angeles
Alex Artio
Sasha Astrakhan and
Leigh Ann Johnson
Ayudar Foundation
Bruce and Hattie
Babbitt
Justin Bailey
Ryan Bailey
Ramya Ballamudi
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"The battle against climate change is not over. As a Board Member of Amazon Conservation, I know there are good organizations working tirelessly toward creating innovative solutions to this gigantic issue. But we can't do this alone, and we need your help, today more than ever. Support Amazon Conservation's efforts to find and implement local solutions to climate change today. Your contribution is critical to solving this global problem."

MANUEL PULGAR VIDAL, FORMER MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN PERU, CHAIR OF THE 2014 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, AND AMAZON CONSERVATION BOARD MEMBER

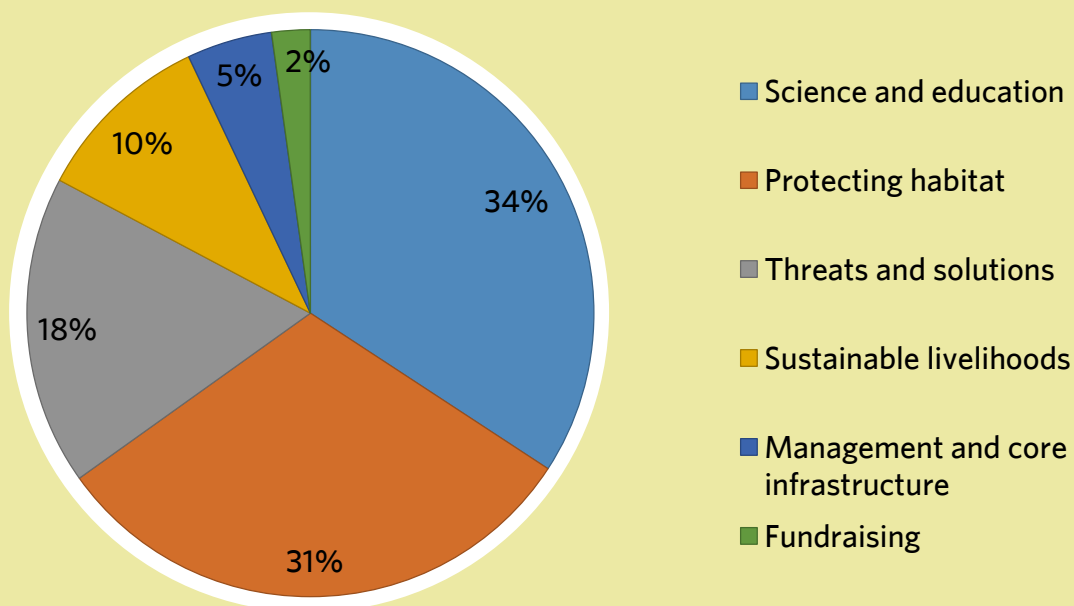


Financials

Transparency and effectiveness are our goals. We are a 501c(3) nonprofit top rated by several independent charity evaluators, including Charity Navigator (4-stars), Guide Star Exchange (Gold Level), and Great Nonprofits (2017 Top-Rated). We undergo internal and external audits that provide independent opinions to our donors on the truth and fairness of our financial statements. All of this means that when you donate to Amazon Conservation, your contribution directly supports conservation projects implemented by an effective organization that shares your passion and commitment to protect the greatest wild forest on Earth.

How contributions are used at Amazon Conservation:

Keeping core costs low to invest more directly on our on-the-ground programs.



REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants and donations from organizations	\$1,324,848	42%
Contributions from individuals	\$1,048,033	33%
Contracts revenue	\$ 426,064	14%
Research station income	\$184,951	6%
Program services	\$105,069	3%
In-kind contributions	\$855	0%
Interest and other income	\$42,553	1%
Total Income 2017	\$3,132,373	100%

EXPENSES

<i>Program services</i>		
Protecting habitat	\$1,540,314	31%
Science and education	\$1,706,339	34%
Sustainable livelihoods	\$507,428	10%
Threats and solutions	\$878,230	18%
<i>Total program services</i>	<i>\$4,632,311</i>	
<i>Critical Infrastructure</i>		
Fundraising	\$109,405	2%
Management and core infrastructure	\$242,508	5%
<i>Total support services</i>	<i>\$351,913</i>	
Total Expenses 2017	\$4,984,224	100%

Please note: At the time of printing, Amazon Conservation's 2017 financial audit was not yet complete. For updated, audited financial information, please see our webpage at www.amazonconservation.org/about/financials.html, where we will post the final numbers once they are available. Please contact info@amazonconservation.org if you have any questions.

All information on this page refers to Amazon Conservation's 2017 fiscal year ending December 31, 2017 and includes income and expenses for our sister organizations in Peru and Bolivia (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA and ACEAA, respectively).



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OFFICES:

- WASHINGTON, D.C., USA (ACA) - 7 staff
- LIMA, PERU (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA) - 9 staff
- CUSCO, PERU (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA) - 16 staff
- Amazon Journeys (ecolodges management of Wayqecha, Villa Carmen & Los Amigos) - 30 staff
- MADRE DE DIOS, PERU (Conservación Amazónica-ACCA) (includes Los Amigos) - 22 staff
- LA PAZ, BOLIVIA (Conservación Amazónica-ACEAA) - 15 staff

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COVER: *Guardian of Avalon*

INSIDE FRONT COVER: ACEAA Staff

PAGE 1: Pedro Bigeriego

PAGE 2: Frogger (top right), Ronald Catpo (bottom right)

PAGE 3: from left to right: Antony John, ACCA Staff, Jessica Suarez, ACEAA Staff

PAGE 4: Jessica Suarez (top right), Ronald Catpo (bottom right)

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PAGE 12: MAAP

PAGE 13: Jessica Suarez, ACCA Staff

PAGE 14: (from top to bottom) Dan Metcalfe, ACCA Staff, Carla Mere

PAGE 15: Gabby Salazar (background)

PAGE 16: Jessica Suarez

PAGE 17: ACEAA Staff

INSIDE BACK COVER: Sean Williams

BACK COVER: ACEAA Staff

*Uniting science, innovation and community
to protect the western Amazon and all
those who call it home.*



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