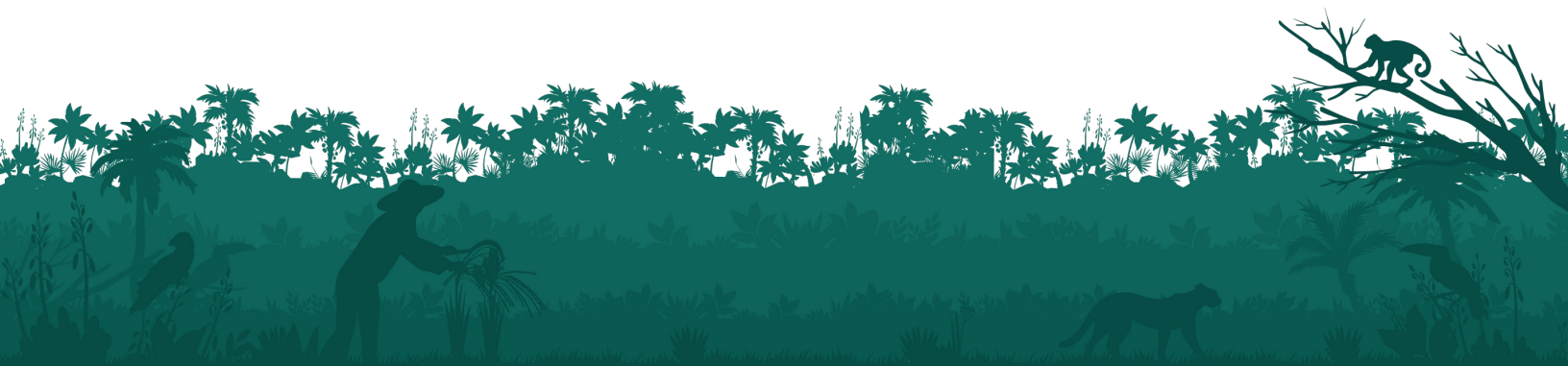




# CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE 2024-2030

## Colombia & Peru Initiative





# GOAL

We support efforts to conserve and restore Colombia and Peru's tropical forest systems; to ensure Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities secure and freely exercise their territorial and environmental rights; and to strengthen civil society and governance for greater equity and climate resilience.

## Why Colombia & Peru?

Globally, the Amazon biome plays a critical role maintaining the Earth's climate by removing carbon from the atmosphere and regulating rainfall patterns. Extending through nine South American countries, it is the largest river basin in the world and holds unique cultural and biological diversity. Together, Peru and Colombia contain roughly a quarter of the Amazon basin. Located in the transition between the Andes and the Amazon, these countries are key in the socio-cultural and ecosystem connections of the Andean and Amazonian forests and highland ecosystems. This connection is fundamental to securing water resources and other environmental services. Additionally, the Colombian Chocó works as a biological corridor between the Amazon and the Pacific, and Central and South America. Its biodiversity, climate regulation, and traditional Afro-Descendant knowledge are essential to the health of tropical rainforests. Protecting these ecosystems also tackles common threats like deforestation and unsustainable resource use.

Both countries' governments recognize the value of these forests and the direct relationship between expanding community land rights and decreasing deforestation rates. Yet, the process for Indigenous and Afro-Descendant

communities to secure and effectively exercise rights to their lands, remains inaccessible for many. As a result, progress on conserving tropical forest systems while increasing equity and resilience has been slow.

In their efforts to protect their tropical forests, the people of the Andean-Amazon and Choco regions often face a volatile and challenging context. Cattle ranching, mining, illegal logging, land grabbing, industrial agriculture, and illicit crop cultivation are driving deforestation in the Colombian and Peruvian Amazon. Deforestation and land degradation also represent the greatest source of conflict across the Amazon biome, exacerbated by criminality.

Despite the threats, significant opportunities exist in Peru and Colombia to strengthen the ecological and cultural integrity of the region. By focusing on collaboration between Indigenous Peoples, and Afro-Descendant Peoples, as well as local communities, civil society, governments, and the private sector; significant progress can be made toward conserving and restoring tropical forest systems and increasing climate resilience, while promoting equity and safeguarding territorial rights, increasing security and well-being, supporting livelihoods, and protecting life.



# The Colombia & Peru Initiative

The Colombia & Peru Initiative seeks to advance sustainable, transparent, and equitable solutions to the threats jeopardizing regional and global climate resilience, ecological balance, and people's rights and well-being. We focus on protecting the environmental health and diverse cultures of the Andean-Amazon region of Colombia and Peru and the Colombian Chocó ecoregion.

We support efforts led by civil society organizations, including Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities, to advance the protection and restoration of critically endangered ecosystems, secure collective and territorial rights, and build more diverse, inclusive and climate-resilient societies.

## What We Support

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports efforts to:



**Secure Forest Communities' Rights and Livelihoods**



**Advance Governance, Policy & Accountability**



**Strengthen Movements, Narratives & Collective Action**



**Shift Financial Systems**



**Improve Production, Consumption & Trade**





# Secure Forest Communities' Rights & Livelihoods

*Supporting Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' efforts to secure and exercise their collective rights and land tenure, manage their forests, and support their livelihoods.*

Tropical forests in Colombia and Peru are home to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities who are vital protectors and stewards of the land. And yet, these communities face ongoing threats from activities that degrade their lands and forests, including cattle ranching, mining, illegal logging, industrial agriculture, illicit crop cultivation, and other infrastructure driving deforestation into their territories.

Through their effective governance and leadership, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Peoples, and local communities are advancing their sustainable livelihoods while securing recognition of and exercising their territorial, civic, and environmental rights.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports those working to strengthen and assert Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' rights, developing regenerative forest economies, increasing participation in decision-making processes, and building resilience for their lands and people.

## WE SUPPORT

### Full Rights Recognition

Supporting Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendants Peoples', and local communities' efforts to assert and exercise their land and collective rights, while ensuring policies enhance their autonomy, security, and well-being.

### Regenerative Forest Economies

Contributing to Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendants Peoples', and local communities' livelihoods and well-being through locally-led forest-based economies, including through public and private sector support.

### Autonomous Community Organizations

Ensuring Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' organizations have strong governments and direct access to the resources they need to effectively engage in governance spaces, advocate for their rights and well-being, protect biodiversity, and combat illegal and unsustainable activities in their territories.

### Technological Tools

Ensuring Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities have access to the technologies they need to protect their territories and forests, advance regenerative forest economies, and improve food security and risk management.



# Advance Governance, Policy & Accountability

*Supporting effective environmental and social governance and policies while strengthening accountability to ensure equitable and sustainable management of forest resources and a just energy transition.*

Deforestation in Colombia and Peru is exacerbated by organized crime, democratic backsliding, complex governability, social unrest, and migration crises. Fragmentation and a high degree of instability make it increasingly difficult for forest stewards to do their vital work.

Some state policies encourage colonization and settlement, as well as the expansion of infrastructure and unsustainable extraction and production projects. In addition, illegal armed groups use violence to seize and maintain ownership over highly profitable coca, gold, and platinum production. With the energy and digital transitions underway, this situation is also rapidly changing with the increasing demand for transition minerals like copper and nickel, "rare minerals", and other materials used in technology. In large sections of both countries, a historical absence of state agencies and adequate regulation allows these same groups to operate with complete control over the land.

Decision-makers that have impact over the land, including the private sector and governments, must be informed and collectively support transparent, sustainable, and just forest policies and practices. National and local governments must prioritize and invest in forest protection and restoration, sustainable land use, a just energy transition, food security, and risk management in their policies and practices.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports organizations working to enhance policies, expand formal protection of tropical forests, improve understanding of the patterns of crime and violence to mitigate their effects, and protect human rights and environmental defenders.

## WE SUPPORT

### Research and Insights

Supporting partners and allies in Peru and Colombia to increase communications, strengthen narratives, reach key audiences, and deliver impactful strategies.

### Building Capacity and Amplifying Media

Supporting and amplifying priority spokespeople, topics, and messages and strengthening the quantity and quality of media and digital coverage of forest protection and collective rights.

### Reducing the impact of misinformation and polarization

Supporting effective communications by providing data, analysis, and capacity building, and supporting the health of media ecosystems.

### Media Pluralism and Access to Information

Supporting efforts to reduce information deserts and strengthen local voices, agendas, and narratives.

### Inclusive Civic Space

Supporting locally-led initiatives to protect and expand public and civic spaces, to support people and nature.





# Strengthen Movements, Narratives & Collective Action

*Supporting resilient, inclusive movements, narratives, and collective action on justice and rights, forest protection and regeneration, and climate resilience.*

While Peru and Colombia have distinct - and often turbulent - political landscapes, both countries face structural challenges that significantly impact efforts to protect forests and those who safeguard them. Issues such as polarization, misinformation, racism, and the stigmatization of environmental defenders are critical threats across the Peruvian-Colombian Amazon and Chocó Ecoregion.

Centuries of inequality have also left forest territories with limited communications infrastructure and media presence, creating what are known as "information deserts." These areas, combined with wide gaps in digital literacy, access to research, data, and technology, hinder effective advocacy and collective action. Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities likewise struggle to have their voices adequately represented in the media ecosystem and in global negotiation spaces.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports the work of movements, communities, civil society organizations, and leaders to advocate for their priorities—amplifying their voices to shift and shape powerful narratives that enable the protection of forests, their stewards, and all life.

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# Shift Financial Systems

*Supporting economic transitions that strengthen equity and transparency, revitalize forest economies, and reverse forest loss, while mobilizing more accessible and effective finance for forests and communities.*

Within Colombia and Peru, as elsewhere in the world, financial systems and public and private investment often incentivize deforestation and forest degradation.

Poorly regulated financing—particularly for oil, coal, gold and other extractive projects—enables private sector actors to mine, dig, and clear-cut without being held accountable for social and environmental impacts, degrading ecosystems and damaging community health. Many of these projects are often supported by additional capital raised through drug trafficking and other illegal economic activities.

A shift is needed toward financial systems focused on strengthening equity and transparency, revitalizing forest economies, and reversing forest loss.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance supports organizations working in Colombia and Peru to end the impunity and finance fuelling deforestation, rights violations, and illegality by improving transparency and accountability around investments. We also support efforts aimed at increasing direct funding to Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendant Peoples, and local communities as the main stewards of tropical forest systems.

## WE SUPPORT

### Direct Funding to Forest Communities

Increasing Indigenous Peoples', Afro-Descendant Peoples', and local communities' control over and access to forest and climate finance.

### Increased Financial Transparency and Oversight

Promoting greater transparency and oversight of national and international investment to mitigate potential negative environmental and social impacts of infrastructure, extractive industries, agribusiness, and other drivers of deforestation.

### Increased Accountability

Fostering greater accountability in national and international investments and new financial flows linked to forest conversion and conservation





# Improve Production, Consumption & Trade

*Supporting shifts in agricultural production, consumption, and trade toward lower-emissions, climate-resilient alternatives that benefit people and the environment, and increasing the sustainability of infrastructure and extractive industries in ways that protect communities and nature.*

Supply chains moving in, through, and out of the Andean-Amazon and Chocó regions are often tainted by corruption, criminality, and violence. Cattle ranching, mining, illegal logging, industrial agriculture, and illicit crop cultivation—driven by the vulnerability caused by poverty and violence from and between illegal armed groups and increased by the migratory crisis—have devastating impacts on the ecological integrity of tropical forests. These same activities also often involve human rights violations, both in production and in the process of violently responding to protests and mass movements.

For more than 20 years, the rivers shared by Peru, Colombia, and Brazil have served as conduits to transport illegal drugs to international markets, providing criminal infrastructure for other illegal economies such as mining and timber trafficking.

But change is possible. By moving toward regenerative forest economies, safeguarded from potential impacts of illegal activities, agricultural production, consumption, and trade can prioritize regeneration and resilience that benefit people, the climate, and the environment.

The Climate and Land Alliance supports those seeking to grow healthy and regenerative forest economies, pushing private sector actors towards transparency and accountability, and working to mitigate the social and environmental impacts of unsustainable extraction and infrastructure.

## WE SUPPORT

### Strong Standards for Infrastructure and Extractive Industries

Increasing coordination between civil society, government, and local communities to prevent the negative impacts of unsustainable infrastructure and extractive projects.

### High Integrity in Forest Carbon Markets

Ensuring forest carbon markets operate with high social and environmental integrity, including by promoting rights recognition, benefit sharing, and real reductions in both fossil fuel use and land use emissions.

### Regenerative Forest Economies

Promoting climate-resilient, regenerative forest economies that support local livelihoods and mitigate the impacts of illegal economies.

### Deforestation- and Conflict-Free Supply Chains

Advancing efforts to remove deforestation, land conversion, and rights violations from supply chains and ensuring science, innovation, and technology enable the development of regenerative forest economies and sustainable value chains.



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