



Amazon Conservation Association

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WHO WE ARE

The Amazon Conservation Association (ACA) is an alliance of Peruvian, Bolivian, and U.S. conservation organizations with a joint vision to protect the biological diversity of the Amazon basin. In Peru, our work is carried out in collaboration with the Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA), and in Bolivia with the Asociación para la Conservación e Investigación de Ecosistemas Andino-Amazonicos (ACEAA). These three sister organizations work together for the ecological and social viability of the Amazon Basin, by developing science, sustainable resource management and healthy land use policy.



WHERE WE WORK

ACA's work is geographically focused in the headwaters of the Amazon basin, where the Amazon forest meets the Andes range in southeastern Peru and northern Bolivia. This area has long been recognized as one of the most biologically rich regions on earth. Here the Amazon wilderness is still largely intact and extends for thousands of miles without interruption, providing habitat to jaguars, tapirs, giant river otters and many other species facing extinction elsewhere. Protecting the slopes of the eastern Andes provides a safe haven for rare species in times of rapid climate change.

HOW WE WORK

We are asking questions about the future of life on earth and looking for ways that people and nature can not just coexist but benefit from each other. We believe that protecting the world's greatest wilderness requires partnerships at every level of society and that science, careful land protection, and intelligent use of the forest are all part of the solution. Using cutting-edge science and innovative conservation tools, ACA is creating models for others to follow. We established the world's first conservation concession, manage some of the best research stations in the tropics, and are leading the charge to find mechanisms such as the voluntary carbon market and payments for environmental services to make forest conservation financially sustainable.

WHY IT MATTERS

The Amazon rainforest is home to more than a third of the species found on Earth. It is also a vital force shaping the world's weather and climate patterns. Moreover, twenty percent of all fresh water on Earth flows through the basin's rivers, and these forests are the source of countless foods, fibers, and potential new medicines to benefit humankind. Unfortunately, these forests are facing increasing threats from road development, logging, and large-scale agriculture. ACA is working together with local communities and partner organizations throughout the region to protect these precious forests for local inhabitants and future generations.



OUR PROGRAMS

Effective conservation depends on a well-defined and holistic approach. ACA focuses on scientific research, the direct protection of critical habitats, and the sustainable use of natural resources. Our programs include:

Brazil Nut Program

Brazil nuts are a natural forest product whose harvest guarantees income for Amazonian people. ACA's Brazil nut program supports over 500 Brazil nut harvesters in Peru and Bolivia to ensure a sustainable livelihood while protecting their forest resource through technical support, training, and certification. Through this program, ACA has ensured the legal protection of nearly a million acres of forest, enabling wildlife to travel safely between protected areas.



Manu-Tambopata Corridor Initiative

The Manu-Tambopata (MAT) Corridor Initiative was launched to conserve one of the most important areas for biodiversity conservation in the world, a 518,920-acre area of rainforest in the Peruvian Amazon. It preserves forest cover and biological connectivity by creating a mosaic of conservation areas and sustainable economic activity zones from ACA's Los Amigos Conservation Concession to Tambopata National Reserve, ultimately linking Peru's Manu National Park to Bolivia's Madidi National Park. This initiative is the centerpiece of ACA's efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the Interoceanic Highway, a transcontinental road linking the Atlantic in Brazil to the Pacific in Peru, completed in 2011.



Los Amigos Conservation Concession and Biological Station

In 2001, ACA established the world's first private conservation concession in the Los Amigos River watershed. The Los Amigos Conservation Concession covers 360,000 acres of old growth Amazonian forest at the base of the Andes in southeastern Peru. This watershed forms a lowland forest corridor that protects the eastern access of Manu National Park and connects it to the Tambopata National Reserve. Here, the organization focuses on forest protection, research, conservation education, and natural resource management training.



Wayqecha Cloud Forest Biological Station

In 2005, ACA created Peru's only permanent research center focused on Andean cloud forest ecology and management. This 1,450-acre research center, called Wayqecha is located in the buffer zone of Manu National Park, in the Kcosñipata Valley of Cusco. ACA provides scholarships to an average of 20 university students from Peru and around the world per year to study local biota, ecosystem interactions, and the impacts of climate change on the forest. In addition, the Research Station serves as a hub for environmental education field trips for local schoolchildren and teacher training workshops.



Villa Carmen Campus for Conservation Economies and Biological Station

In July 2010, the Amazon Conservation Association purchased a 7,576-acre property known as Villa Carmen, strategically located adjacent to Manu National Park and indigenous communities in the eastern Andes-Amazon region of Peru. This acquisition and the creation of a private conservation area will help to ensure the long-term protection of the region's incredible diversity of wildlife. ACA is now in the process of transforming this property into a Center of Excellence in tropical conservation and sustainable agriculture, while promoting a conservation economy, linking poverty alleviation to biodiversity conservation.



Haramba Queros Wachiperi Conservation Concession

In 2008, ACA, in collaboration with the Amazonian Haramba Queros native community, established the Wachiperi Haramba Queros Conservation Concession, the first conservation concession in Peru run by an indigenous community. Through support from ACA, the Haramba Queros are now successfully ensuring protection of their water supply and continued access to medicinal plants in addition to preserving space for their cultural traditions to flourish for generations to come.



Conserving the Pampas del Heath, Bolivia

Located in northern Bolivia, the Pampas del Heath are among the best-conserved Amazonian savannas, home to rare and threatened mammals like the maned wolf and the marsh deer, which are vanishing from the surrounding forest. In this area, we monitor this previously unstudied region to promote biodiversity conservation to the benefit of local Takana indigenous communities in and around Madidi National Park, benefitting more than 200 families and over 850,000 acres of native savanna and forest.