

AMAZON VISION 2021 REPORT SUMMARY

USAID strives to support a healthy and resilient Amazon basin that is valued by society, ensures human well-being, and safeguards our global climate.

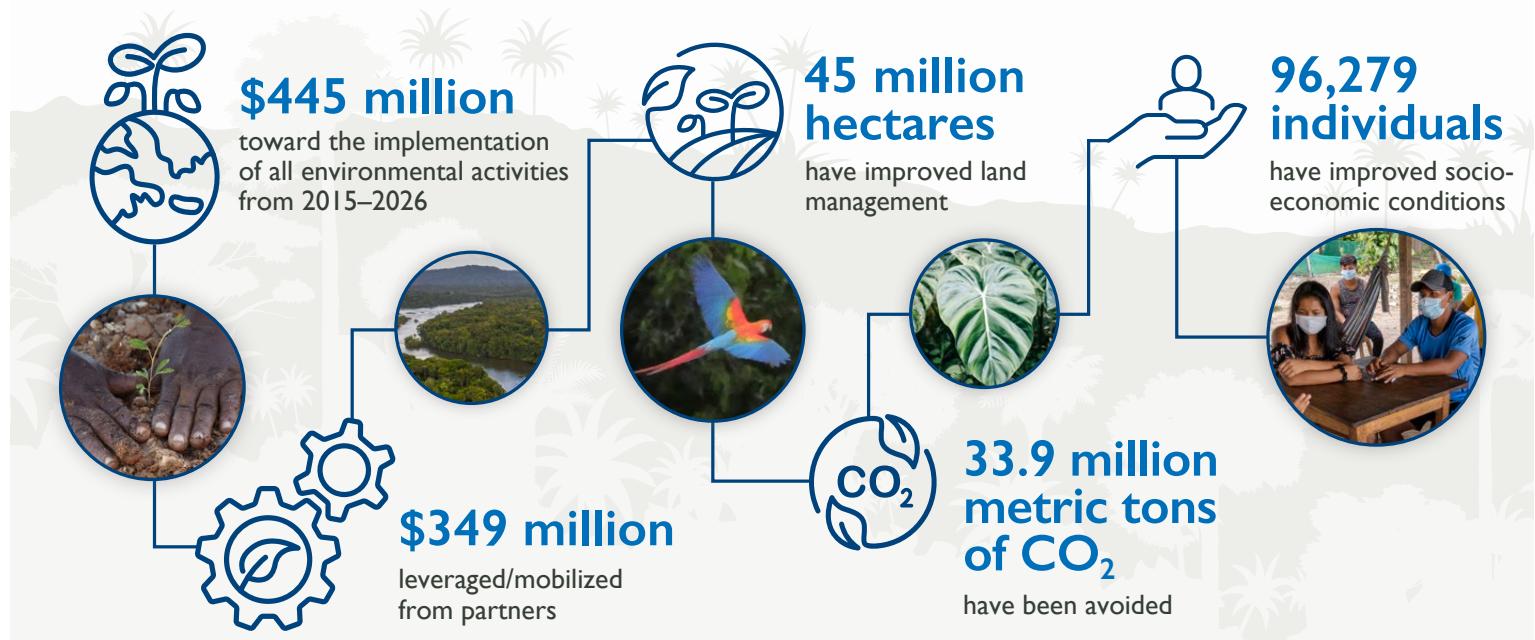
TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE VISION HAS FOUR OVERARCHING GOALS:



NOVEMBER 2022

HOW USAID IS IMPROVING CONSERVATION IN THE AMAZON

2021 USAID Investments and Results in the Amazon Region



Actions and Achievements in the Amazon

A healthy Amazon benefits everyone on the planet, especially those who live and work in the region. But the region faces serious threats: over the last four decades, the Amazon's carbon uptake, biodiversity, and ecosystem productivity have declined.

To address these threats and preserve the region's ecosystems, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) developed the Amazon Vision in 2016. This framework establishes a concerted and strategic regional response across USAID's efforts in Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Guyana, and Suriname. This report shares progress toward the Amazon Vision's ongoing efforts to maintain a healthy and resilient Amazon basin.

As one of the largest conservation donors in the Amazon, USAID invested nearly \$445 million in environmental activities in the region as of fiscal year 2021.¹ This includes activities that combat deforestation, conserve biodiversity, create environmentally friendly economic opportunities, improve the management of important landscapes, and support Indigenous rights.

The stories on the following pages demonstrate how USAID activities contribute to achieving the Amazon Vision goals. The full Amazon Vision 2021 Report is available [here](#).



¹ This value includes USAID investments in current and concluded activities that began as early as 2015/2016 and are planned to conclude by 2026, with two exceptions that began earlier.

GOAL

1

DECREASE DEFORESTATION, FOREST DEGRADATION,
AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Preparing First Responders for Fire Season in Guaviare, Colombia

The Amazon Piedmont is a vast region situated between the Andes Mountain Range and the Amazon River basin. The first three months of each year are prone to forest fires due to scarce rainfall, intense winds, and high temperatures. As practices such as unsustainable ranching and agriculture expand and illegal crops increase, so to do the frequency and severity of the fires, posing an even greater threat to the region's rich culture and habitat.

USAID/Colombia's Amazon Alive activity developed a Forest Fires First Responders strategy to help prevent and mitigate forest fires in Guaviare, Colombia, one of the areas most vulnerable to their effects. Amazon Alive identified individuals from local community action boards for training on environmental and safety protocols, as well as in procedures that suppress, mitigate, and eliminate forest fires. Ahead of the 2022 fire season, volunteer fire departments trained and certified a total of 10 teams, comprising 134 people, and provided them with essential equipment and tools.

Using skills and materials from the training, first responder teams stopped 30 forest fire outbreaks that threatened homes, crops, and wildlife during the dry season in the first three months of 2022.



Photo credit: Amazon Alive/Chemonics

GOAL

2

FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ECONOMY

Strengthening Financial Autonomy for Women in Brazilian Fishing Communities

Fishing is an important livelihood for Indigenous and other communities living along the Juruá River in Brazil. Both women and men in these riverine fishing communities play essential roles in the fishing industry: while men fish for pirarucu—the world's largest scaled freshwater fish—women process, clean, and sanitize the fish. However, despite their essential contributions, women are often unpaid and excluded from meetings and decision-making about fisheries.

The [Médio Juruá Territory Program](#) (MJTP), funded through a public-private partnership with Natura, promotes sustainable livelihoods while conserving biodiversity. As part of its efforts to strengthen the sustainability of fishing practices and bring value to the fisheries supply chain, MJTP works with women's associations in the region to build their capacity to collectively organize, generate their own income, and strengthen their financial autonomy.

As a result of the project, more women are now paid for their contributions to pirarucu management practices and generate income through the collection of andiroba and murumuru seeds. Through this intervention and other initiatives, women's roles in the fishing industry have become increasingly recognized.

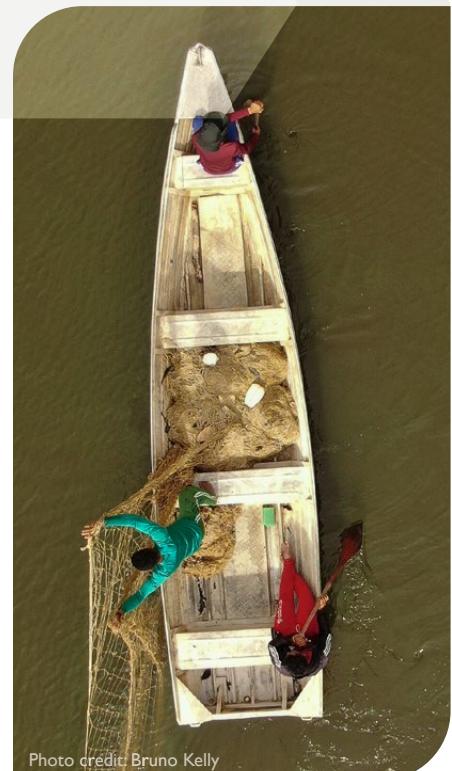


Photo credit: Bruno Kelly

GOAL 3

PROTECT KEY LANDSCAPES AND SPECIES

Formalizing Land Rights in Chiriquete National Park

Chiriquete National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage site, Colombia's largest national park, and the largest protected tropical rainforest in the world. Unfortunately, illicit crops, land grabbing and occupation, agricultural expansion, and cattle ranching threaten the area. Deforestation inside the protected area continues to increase.

Through the Land for Prosperity Activity (LPA), USAID supports the Government of Colombia's efforts to encourage rural economic development and sustainable natural resource management by formalizing land tenure and property rights. In fiscal year 2021, LPA began piloting a land formalization model that focuses on adding the areas around Chiriquete to national land registries and issuing legal land deeds.

LPA will also pilot a program for ranchers and farmers in the buffer zone to lease land for commercial and subsistence activities and mobilize government and private sector investments to promote legal economic development and improve citizens' quality of life. LPA plans to issue more than 20,000 land titles by 2024.

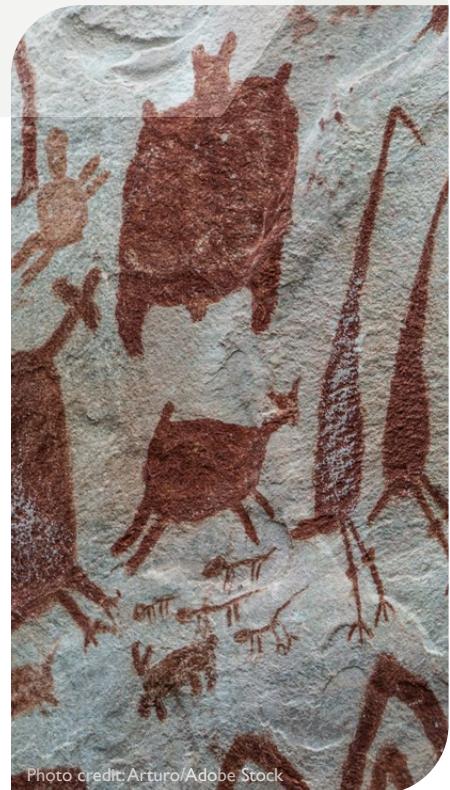


Photo credit: Arturo/Adobe Stock

GOAL 4

SECURE RIGHTS, RESOURCES, AND HEALTH OF FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

Growing Indigenous Enterprises in the Amazon

USAID's Amazon Indigenous Rights and Resources (AIRR) activity aims to increase the participation of Indigenous actors in the Amazon economy, encouraging Indigenous enterprises to grow sustainably while conserving biodiversity. AIRR supports Indigenous enterprises through a combination of grants, loans, markets, and learning opportunities. In fiscal year 2021, AIRR partners selected 25 Indigenous enterprises in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru to receive tailored business mentoring, technical training, and financing, with the goal of enabling these enterprises to expand into new markets and integrate their goods and services into established value chains.

The winners include an energy drink producer and a tourism company in Ecuador, an association in Peru that uses its Amazonian medicinal expertise to promote the sustainable use of Amazonian plants with medicinal properties, and an Indigenous women-led association in Colombia that promotes ancestral culture through art that reflects the pictographs and engravings on surface rock art found across Putumayo today.



Photo credit: Joel Heim/WWF Ecuador