**Region: Andes & Amazon**

Countries included: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, & Suriname

**Threats to Biodiversity, Environment, and IPLC Regional Context:**

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| Country | Threats to biodiversity and environment | Threats to IPLCs, and Root Causes |
| Bolivia | * Significant overlap of protected areas and IPLC lands, both territories and reserves—with variable management effectiveness. PAs are often underfunded, understaffed and lack adequate infrastructure.[[1]](#footnote-0) * Primary drivers of threats are the advancing agricultural frontier, primarily driven by monocultures for export. Bolivia’s Ministry of Economic and Public Finance estimates that the area cultivated will increase from 2012 to 2025 by 6 million hectares. * Threats linked to climate variability and change relate primarily to increased flooding, drought, frost, heat, and other extreme weather events. This will be especially pronounced in the high Andean plain, and in lowland areas on the agricultural frontier.[[2]](#footnote-1) * From 2001 to 2018, Bolivia lost 4.83Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 7.5 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 1.53Gt of CO₂ emissions. In Bolivia, the Santa Cruz region was responsible for 65 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. This region had the most relative tree cover loss at 10 percent compared to an average of 4.4 percent. * Cumulative development potential hotspots * IFL forest loss; forest loss within protected areas | * Bolivia is ranked 70th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been generally improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2009 until 2019, when most of these indicators worsened following former President Evo Morales’ removal from power. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |
| Brazil | * Primary drivers of threats include fragmentation and loss of habitats, introduction of alien species and exotic illnesses, overexploitation of plants and animals, use of hybrids and monoculture in agro-industry and reforestation programs, pollution and climate change. Habitat loss is by far the most significant cause driving species towards threatened status.[[3]](#footnote-2) * From 2001 to 2018, Brazil lost 53.8Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 10 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 18.3Gt of CO₂ emissions. Commodity driven deforestation was the principal driver. * In Brazil, the State of Sergipe had the most relative tree cover loss at 22 percent compared to an average of 12 percent. The top 8 States were responsible for 51 percent of all tree cover loss over this period (Maranhão, Rondônia, Espírito Santo, Mato Grosso, Bahia, Tocantins, and Minas Gerais) | * Brazil is ranked 75th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It has been steadily worsening across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2014. * According to Global Witness, at least 126 land defenders were killed in Brazil between 2016-2018. |
| Colombia | * The main threats to the conservation of biodiversity include, among others: increasing social inequality; internal armed conflict for more than five decades; reprimarization of the economy; the illegal drug trade; weak access policy and titling; implementation of extensive livestock and agricultural models. Such factors contribute to habitat degradation, changes in land use, increased presence of invasive species, climate change, overconsumption of services and general pollution dynamics. There are intrinsic elements that threaten biodiversity protection in Colombia, some of which include a lack of political priority of environmental issues in national and sectoral policies, undesired effects of macroeconomic policies, conflict with indigenous rights and traditional knowledge, and conflicts due to a lack of coordination regarding land-use planning that takes place at various state levels.[[4]](#footnote-3) * One of the most threatened forest ecosystems is the dry forest, whose range is around 2 percent of its original extension. About 2 percent of the Colombian mainland is covered by moorlands, which are considered one of the most important ecosystems for human well-being because of the source of water they provide to more than three-quarters of the population in these areas. * From 2001 to 2018, Colombia lost 4.07Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 5.0 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 1.60Gt of CO₂ emissions. Driven largely by shifting cultivation and commodity agriculture. In Colombia, the top 11 Departments were responsible for 43 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Atlántico had the most relative tree cover loss at 13 percent compared to an average of 6.6 percent. | * Colombia is ranked 65th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been steadily improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2006. However, the situation across many of these indicators has sharply worsened since 2018- 2019. * According to Global Witness, at least 85 land defenders were killed in Colombia between 2016-2018. |
| Ecuador | * From 2001 to 2018, Ecuador lost 787kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 4.1 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 349Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Ecuador, the top 6 regions (Los Rios, Esmeraldas, Sucumbios, Manabi, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, Guayas) were responsible for 53 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Los Rios had the most relative tree cover loss at 11 percent compared to an average of 4.1 percent. | * Ecuador is ranked 89th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been steadily improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2011 with an exception in 2016 when the situation momentarily worsened. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |
| Guyana | * Identified threats are associated with some of Guyana’s main economic activities, such as agriculture and extractive industries (forestry, and exploration/mining for gold, diamond and bauxite). Direct threats to biodiversity include overfishing and overhunting, savannah and forest fires, indiscriminate land use practices (mining, logging, and agriculture), poaching of wildlife, inappropriate use of agro-chemicals, introduction of alien invasive species, climate change events and related natural disasters. Indirect threats mainly originate from institutional fragmentation and conflicting legislation, limited knowledge of biodiversity and species range and distribution, insufficient environmental law enforcement, limited number of legalized, demarcated and managed protected areas, and the opening up of areas to commercial activity. * Guyana’s coastal ecosystems are under threat from three main factors: human activities that include pollution; over-exploitation of resources and urbanization; and sea level rise associated with climate change. A significant part of the Guyana coastline is subject to erosion, along with saltwater intrusion and flooding, * and losses of arable land. Saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers pose a serious threat to the availability of freshwater. Of the various coastal ecosystem types in Guyana, the mangrove ecosystem is predominant. * From 2001 to 2018, Guyana lost 183kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 0.96 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 89.4Mt of CO₂ emissions. In Guyana, the top 6 regions were responsible for 59 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Demerara-Mahaica had the most relative tree cover loss at 6.7 percent compared to an average of 1.9 percent. | * Guyana is ranked 101st /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been steadily improving quickly across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2017. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |
| Peru | * The main threats to Peru’s mountain and forest ecosystems are land use change, climate change, deforestation and extractive activities. The main threats to its continental water ecosystems relate to pollution, degradation, damming and overfishing. * From 2001 to 2018, Peru lost 2.88Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 3.7 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 1.37Gt of CO₂ emissions * In Peru, the top 6 regions were responsible for 60 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Huánuco had the most relative tree cover loss at 15 percent compared to an average of 3.9 percent. | * Peru is ranked 97th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been steadily improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2008. The situation mildly worsened in 2013-2014. * According to Global Witness, at least 10 land defenders were killed in Peru between 2016-2018. |
| Suriname | * Major direct threats to the country’s biodiversity include: mineral mining (mined ore has traditionally been a major commodity in the national economy) and unsustainable use of mangrove forests. The presence of invasive (alien) species, the import of exotic animal and plant species that may become pests, illegal hunting and fisheries, the poaching of sea turtle eggs, the overharvesting of fish brood and the illegal trade in biological diversity, present major indirect threats. * From 2001 to 2018, Suriname lost 166kha of tree cover, equivalent to a 1.2 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 93.9Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Suriname, the top 7 regions were responsible for 51 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Paramaribo had the most relative tree cover loss at 19 percent compared to an average of 5.7 percent. | * Suriname is ranked 115st /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been steadily improving quickly across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2009. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |

1. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/pa/ewsipals-01/other/ewsipals-01-presentation-26-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=bo#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=br#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/co/co-nr-05-es.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)