

“Protected” Indigenous Lands of Peru

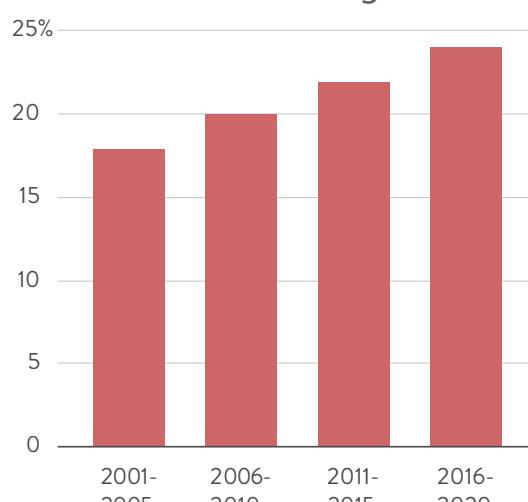
Deforestation, palm oil production, and land theft in the Peruvian Amazon

Peru is one of the 10 most biodiverse countries in the world. Over 50% of the country is part of the Amazonian tropical rainforest.

As of 2018, 23.4% of the Peruvian Amazon is officially recognized Indigenous Territory. With the addition of not officially recognized territories, Territorial Reservations, and proposed Territorial Reservations, that number rises to 33.4%.

According to Peruvian law, deforestation is prohibited in indigenous territories. However, this law hasn't prevented illegal intrusions on indigenous lands. The amount of deforestation each year that takes place on indigenous lands has increased since 2001.

% Deforestation on Indigenous Land



In 2001, Peru's government named oil palm a "national interest" crop. As of 2020, Peru produced almost 7 times more oil palm than it did in 2000. To reach production levels this high, agribusiness developers have spent the last two decades illegally acquiring and deforesting indigenous lands.

Ocho Sur P is one of those developers. They've purchased land that was illegally acquired by third parties in the traditional territory of the Shipibo-Conibo indigenous people of the community of Santa Clara de Uchunya. The people of Santa Clara de Uchunya hold legal title for only about 2 km² of their 850 km² traditional territory. Ocho Sur P operations have already deforested over 200 km².

The community of Santa Clara de Uchunya has filed suit against the Ucayali Regional Government and demanding the restitution, titling, and remediation of their lands. As they await a ruling from the Constitutional Court, Ocho Sur has flouted COVID regulations and continued to operate without government permission during the pandemic. These operations have been connected to high rates of COVID-19 in the area, victimizing the people of Santa Clara de Uchunya once more.

Palm Oil Production, Peru

