AMAZON VISION SUMMARY

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) developed the Amazon Vision in 2016 to be the framework unifying the Agency's goals across the region. This Vision provides a coordinated and strategic regional response to threats facing the Amazon forest in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname. It describes, guides, and measures USAID's investments and conservation impact at a regional scale and includes the work of the Amazon Regional Environmental Program (AREP), the bilateral Missions, and USAID/Washington projects in the Amazon.

Economy is environmentally friendly

Key landscapes and species are protected

Deforestation, forest degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions reduced

Rights, resources, and health of forest dependent communities are secured

A healthy and resilient Amazon Basin that is valued by society, ensures human well-being, and safeguards our global climate.

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID's Amazon Vision has four overarching goals:

1. Decrease deforestation, forest degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions
2. Foster an environmentally friendly economy
3. Protect key landscapes and species
4. Secure the rights, resources, and health of forest-dependent communities

This is a summary of the *2020 Amazon Vision Report*. It describes the regional context, the current status, and illustrative achievements of USAID's biodiversity and sustainable landscape initiatives in the Amazon basin through the lens of this Vision.

ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE AMAZON

In the Amazon basin countries of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname, USAID is supporting projects that combat deforestation, conserve biodiversity, create environmentally-friendly economic opportunities, improve the management of important landscapes, and support Indigenous rights.

Building on a long history of partnership in the region, USAID assistance is showing results for both the environment and the people who rely on it. For the period of 2015–2024, USAID has committed approximately $257 million for the implementation of activities in the region, where it has historically been one of the five largest conservation donors.

Macaws, Napo River, Ecuador. Credit: Julie Larsen Maher, Wildlife Conservation Society

2020 USAID INVESTMENT IN THE AMAZON REGION

Approximately **$257 million** committed for the implementation of USAID activities from 2015-2024

Improved economic benefits gained by more than **87,000 people**

Estimated **38.5 million metric tons of CO$_2$** avoided, sequestered, or reduced—the equivalent of 4.4 million U.S. homes' energy use for one year

Land management improved in nearly **48 million hectares**

$21 million of private sector funding leveraged by USAID

SUCCESS STORIES

GOAL 1: DECREASE DEFORESTATION, FOREST DEGRADATION, AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

CINCIA Innovation Lab, Peru

USAID, in partnership with Wake Forest University's Center for Amazonian Scientific Innovation (CINCIA), works to restore lands decimated by illegal gold mining and support local communities affected by mercury poisoning. In a 42-hectare forest laboratory, CINCIA scientists are testing 75 native species in degraded soils collected from mining sites. The heartiest and quickest-growing are selected to reforest former mining sites in the Peruvian Amazon. The laboratory is also researching the use of cutting-edge organic fertilizers that bring nutrients back to degraded soils and accelerate reforestation. In addition to its reforestation efforts, CINCIA is researching mercury-free mining alternatives and mercury mitigation, and using drone monitoring technology and improved mine closure techniques.
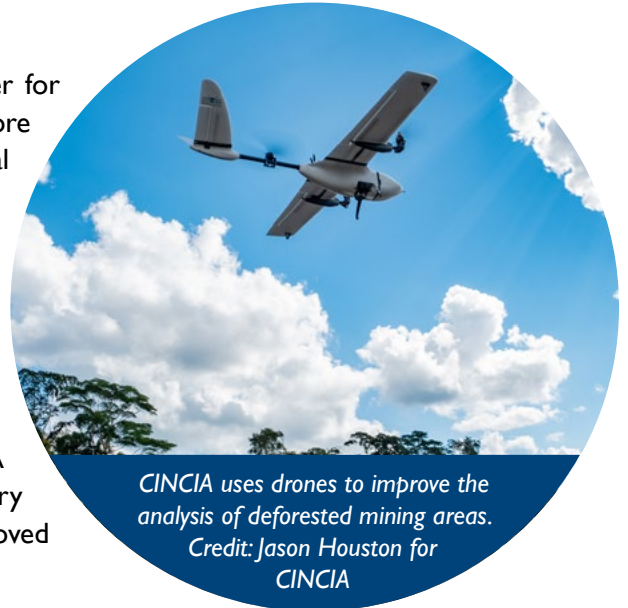
CINCIA uses drones to improve the analysis of deforested mining areas.
Credit: Jason Houston for CINCIA

GOAL 2: FOSTER AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ECONOMY

Partnership Platform for the Amazon, Brazil

USAID catalyzed the creation of the Partnership Platform for the Amazon (PPA) to promote an innovative development model by supporting Amazonian entrepreneurs with a vision for a sustainable local economy. A 2019 impact assessment found the 15 accelerated businesses (67 percent run by women) created 251 direct jobs, benefited 110 communities in 43 municipalities, and helped protect and restore 873,000 hectares of forest in the PPA's first year of operations.

PPA Acceleration Program products.
Credit: IDESAM

GOAL 3: PROTECT KEY LANDSCAPES AND SPECIES

Anavilhanas National Park, Brazil

USAID's Partnership for the Conservation of Amazon Biodiversity program, the United States Forest Service, and partner ICMBio are finding new ways to engage local residents and tourists in the preservation of the Anavilhanas National Park. Many in the surrounding communities rely on income that is tied to logging—an often illegal practice that is destroying their forests and imperiling their long-term livelihood. Sites for environmental education, guide training, and community and youth engagement are helping transform the park's tourism potential. Strategic environmental messaging is gaining the support of local people and educating visitors about wetlands and animals, including jaguars, giant anteaters, manatees, and river dolphins. Changing behaviors are already making a difference. Local guides and boat pilots trained in the Park programs are better informed in their tourism messaging. Some have become full-time guides, leaving behind generations of logging in their family and with brighter hopes for their children who now are staying in school and have more job opportunities.

Amazonian inezia in Anavilhanas National Park. Credit: Hector Bottai

GOAL 4: SECURE RIGHTS, RESOURCES, AND HEALTH FOR FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES

Strengthening the Capacity of Indigenous Organizations in the Amazon

USAID's Strengthening the Capacity of Indigenous Organizations in the Amazon (SCIOA) builds capacities of communities in Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname so they can access funding sources and advocate for Indigenous governance of the Amazon. Twelve Indigenous Peoples' Organizations are working with USAID partners to define their needs and participate in tailored training. Many organizations focus on developing strategic plans for fundraising and communications. In 2019, the Union of Indigenous Women of the Brazilian Amazon used their strategic plan, developed with SCIOA, to communicate their needs and ideas to donors. They successfully secured a grant from the Ford Foundation to support their third General Assembly. Using the capacities and plans developed with SCIOA, Indigenous organizations are realizing their goals for a secure and independent future by putting their agendas into action.

Shipibo-Conibo community member in an agroforestry plot. Credit: Forest Alliance