



INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE TO
CONSERVE ANCESTRAL TERRITORIES BASED ON
THEIR NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE:
THE AMARAKAERI COMMUNAL RESERVE (RCA)



AMARAKAERI COMMUNAL RESERVE (RCA)

Located in the southern Amazon region of Peru, in the Madre de Dios region, on the ancestral territory of the Harakbut people, it was created in 2002 by demand of the Harakbut, Yine and Matsigenka Indigenous Peoples. Its characteristics are:



Extension of
402 335.62 ha

10 
beneficiary communities



Freshwater source
from the Madre de Dios River,
Colorado River and other basins



Forms the Vilcabamba -
Amoro conservation corridor and
Purus-Manu Corridor, as well as the
Manu Biosphere Reserve

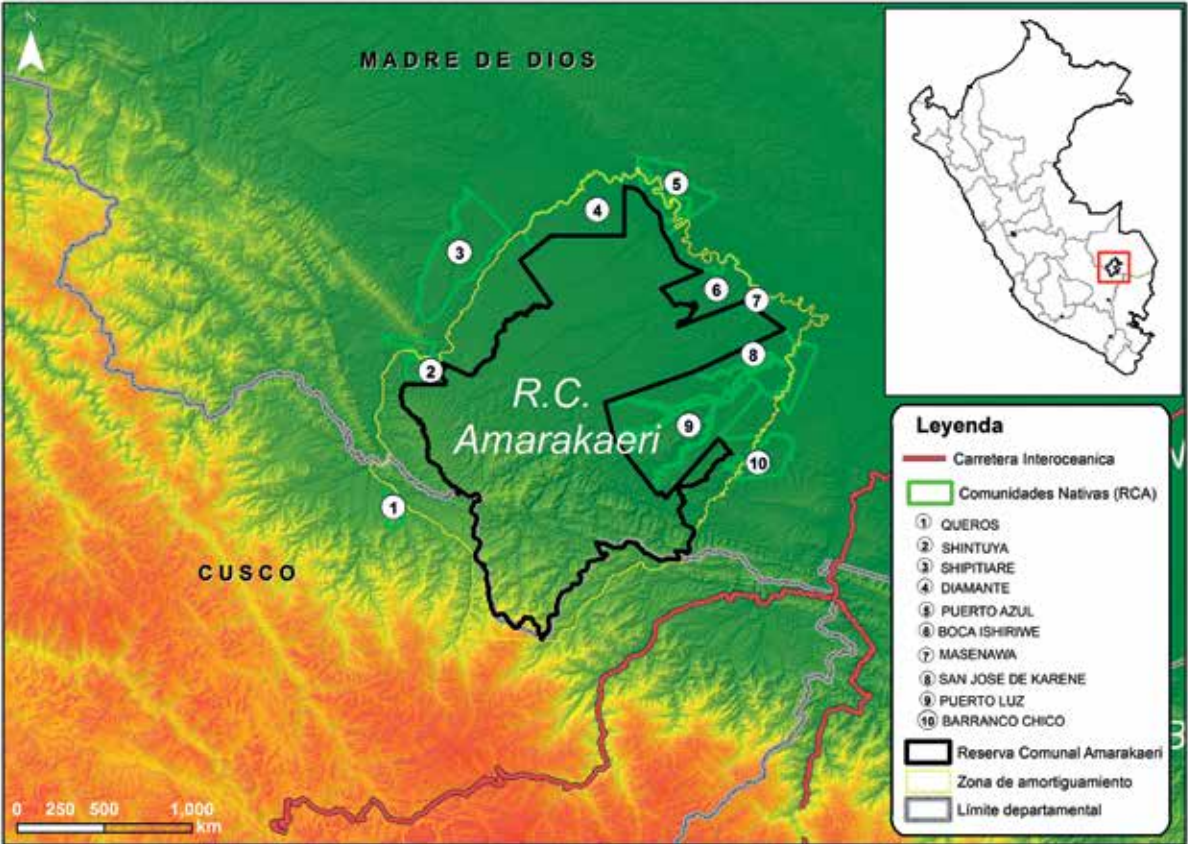


**Indefinite
Administration
Contract,**
in co-management with the government

HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Since the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve (RCA) is an indigenous ancestral territory and a protected area it was decided that its management would be carried out with an intercultural approach that articulates the management of the area with the territory management of the beneficiary communities.

2016-2020 MASTER PLAN
The Reserve's Master Plan has been prepared in a participatory manner with the communities since 2014. This planning and management document should be put forward during the next 5 years. Its components are:



Communal map reserve



ENVIRONMENTAL

GOAL:

- ecosystems
- water system
- wildlife conservation

STRATEGIES:

Surveillance and Control, physical delimitation of the area and communities, monitoring of ecosystem services



SOCIAL

GOAL:

To integrate local communities and populations to RCA management

STRATEGIES:

Strengthen participation spaces such as the Management Committee, and promote intercultural environmental education and communication



ECONOMIC

GOAL:

To generate opportunities for Vida Plena (Fullness of Life) for the Beneficiary Communities and local populations

STRATEGIES:

Indigenous Amazon REDD+ and the promotion of sustainable activities in the Reserve and in their communities



CULTURAL

GOAL:

Safeguard the cultural tangible and intangible heritage of the indigenous peoples who are part of the beneficiary communities

STRATEGIES:

Ethno-mapping of the Reserve and promotion of the recognition of patrimony with the Ministry of Culture

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Communal Life Plans

Life Plans are documents used for the territorial governance and management of the beneficiary communities located around the reserve. There, communities prioritize their development goals and delimit their territories.

This document has been prepared in coordination with the full life plans of the beneficiary communities. This allows the strengthening of work in favor of the sustainable use of the reserve and engages communities to encourage their preservation

CULTURAL RICHNESS

The Amarakaeri ECA (Administration Contract Executor) in the framework of the co-management with RCA Main Office, together with the Harakbut Yine and Machiguenga Council - COHARYIMA - initiated the work to identify the cultural heritage of the RCA using ethno-mapping in 2015

Ethno-mapping consists in recognizing and identifying the places of cultural importance to indigenous peoples living in the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve,

from the stories told by the inhabitants themselves. This identification is developed in order to safeguard their integrity and consider their critical role in the conservation of the reserve while reestablishing the customs of their ancestors.

A bilingual indigenous specialist worked with the wise and oldest indigenous members. They play an important role in the historical reconstruction of the territory and its ancestral use. It was possible to identify:

THE NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS ARE CO-ADMINISTERED AND CO-MANAGED BY THE ECA WHICH REPRESENTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, AND SERNANP REPRESENTING THE STATE, THROUGH AN INDEFINITE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT



- **Amanas:** Sacred locations for the Harakbut indigenous peoples.
- **El Rostro Harakbut** (The Harakbut Face): An Amana of special importance in the shape of a human face.
- **La Casa del Inca** (The House of the Inca): Archaeological remains of possible Inca origin.
- Territorial distribution of the Harakbut clans and the location of “malocas” (communal houses), cemeteries and farmland.
- **The toponymy of the territory:** names of mountains, rivers, lakes and others in the Harakbut language.
- Historical sites, prior to contact with Western society

The results of this work are used to seek the official recognition of this heritage by the Ministry of Culture and subsequently the nomination of the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve (RCA) as a World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site.

CO-MANAGEMENT MODEL IN THE RCA

Communal Reserves in Peru are Protected Areas administered jointly by the beneficiary communities and the National Service of Protected Areas (SERNANP) under the Special Regime framework

Administration Contract Executor (Amarakaeri ECA)

Represents the 10 beneficiary communities. According to the Special Regime their tasks are:

- Search for funding
- Master Plan Implementation
- PA Management
- PA Administration

Amarakaeria Communal Reserve Main Office (JRCA)

Represents SERNANP, it is composed by the chief of the area, its specialists and park guards. Its powers according to this scheme are:

- Administration/direction
- Granting rights
- Monitoring and control
- Sanctioning faculties

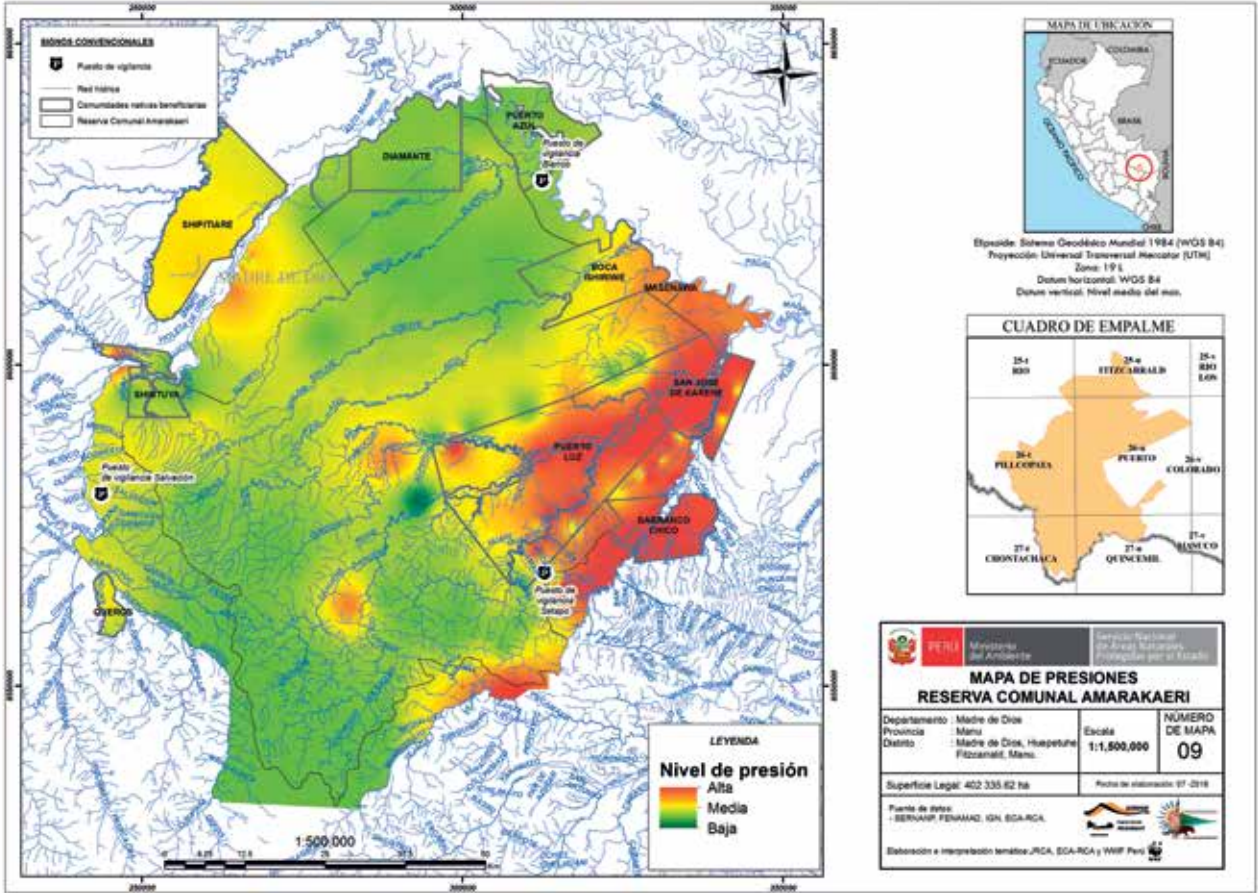
PRESSURE IN THE AREA

The Amarakaeri Communal Reserve (RCA) endures several pressures, all of which would directly or indirectly affect the objectives of the creation of the Protected Area, as well as the 10 beneficiary communities. The main pressures are caused by:

- Gold Mining
- Timber logging
- Unplanned infrastructure projects
- Poaching
- Illegal fishing
- Removing cultural patrimony or artifact plundering (also known as huaqueo in spanish)

Surveillance and Control Strategy

To reduce these pressures in the area, the RCA Monitoring and Control Strategy was developed jointly with the parkguards and communal guards. This document details the pressures, strategic actions and functions of the parkguards as well as the communal guards and members of the beneficiary communities who are committed to monitoring the reserve.



Map of pressures

A pressure map was developed in a participatory manner by the communal guards and parkguards:

The ultimate goal of the map is to be a tool with geospatial information to plan the control and surveillance strategies, giving priority to areas with higher pressure or threats.

The map is dynamic and gives options to analyze evolution over time, each time it is updated.

INDIGENOUS AMAZON REDD+

“In indigenous territories, any policy or project concerning REDD+ must conform to the indigenous rights, world views and proposals.”

Origin

RIA is a mitigation and resilience initiative to face the effects of climate change through the conservation and sustainable use of forests as a supplementary response to REDD+ determined by the UNFCCC

Reduce GHG emissions, with a strategy

according to the worldview of indigenous peoples, for the mitigation, adaptation and resilience to face Climate Change, through the legal security of indigenous territories and so that they are officially recognized by Governments in the National Strategies on Climate Change.

Core elements

Strengthen eco systemic functions: Going beyond carbon begins from territorial

- Security, life plans and indigenous territorial governance.
- Reducing the global ecological footprint: Changing the economic growth models, population means and ways of life, no promotion of offsets.
- Reducing and controlling deforestation and degradation drivers in the Amazon: Review projects and megaprojects that generate deforestation in the Amazon ensuring prior, free and informed consultation and consent.

Indigenous REDD+ in Amarakaeri

The purpose is to preserve the forests of the native beneficiary communities and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve area, facing the advance of deforestation. It

proposes reducing pressure to change land use in the area by consolidating the territory, implementing of full life plans, governance and institutional arrangements. These core strategies have a cross-cutting vision through awareness and capacity strengthening, community monitoring and financial sustainability. These strategies are intended to prevent the advance of gold mining, illegal logging, building professions without planning or studies, extraction of hydrocarbons without affecting the ecosystems. For this, permanent alliances and coordination will be carried out with institutions that are currently conducting conservation activities in the area

- Total carbon stocks in the reserve and beneficiary communities:
- Approximately 75.5 Million Ton C.
- Historical deforestation: By 2014 13,700 ha are deforested.
- High biodiversity: 898 plant species, 565 bird species, 224 mammal species, 95 amphibian species, 61 reptile species, 227 fish species, 82 beetle species and 388 parasitic wasp species from the Ichneumonidae family

Consolidation of the territory

Master plan of Amarakaeri and community Life plans

Governance and institucional arrangements

Financial Sustainability

Monitoring, reporting, verification and safeguards tailored to AIR

Awareness and strengthening of leaders capacities

Strategies



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Communal Reserves in Peru are Protected Areas administered jointly by the beneficiary communities and the National Service of Protected Areas (SERNANP)

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IN INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES, ANY POLICY OR STRATEGY FOR ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE MUST CONFORM TO INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, THEIR COSMO VISION AND THEIR REDD + INDIGENOUS AMAZON PROPOSAL

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