WWF

FACTSHEET

2015

FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

PERU

Maintaining the Amazon's forests for people and the planet

MADRE DE DIOS, PERU

The Madre de Dios region in southwestern Peru spans 8.5 million hectares encompassing some of the richest forest on Earth[i]. Home to the world's greatest concentration of bird species, as well as healthy populations of jaguar, tapir and other large Amazonian mammals, this region is among the most biodiverse in the Amazon. Madre de Dios is also rich in forest-dependent cultures, with dozens of indigenous communities, two communal reserves and a territorial reserve for indigenous people in voluntary isolation on approximately 1.7 million hectares of indigenous lands.[ii]

FORESTS UNDER PRESSURE

Over half of Peru, some 70 million hectares,[iii] is covered by forest. This lush landscape is the second-largest expanse of forests in the Amazon[iv]—and the site of significant deforestation. Deforestation and land use change account for nearly half of the country's

[i] World Wildlife Fund. Interview with Maria Eugenia Arroyo, Forest and Climate Coordinator for WWF-Peru, http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/forest_climate2/?225690/Interview-with-Maria-Eugenia-Arroyo-Forest-and-Climate-Coordinator-for-WWF-Peru, 2014.

[ii] Instituto del Bien Común. 2012. Directorio de Comunidades Nativas en el Perú 2012. http://www.ibcperu.org/ public/directorio_com_nativas_2012.pdf.

[iii] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2010. Global Forests Resources Assessment 2010. pp 54. http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1757e/i1757e.pdf.

[iv] Orta-Martínez, M. and Finer, M. 2010. Oil frontiers and indigenous resistance in the Peruvian Amazon. Ecological Economics, vol. 70, issue 2, pp 207-218, ISSN 0921-8009, http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/ S0921800910001655.

total greenhouse gas emissions[v]. An expanding agricultural frontier, cattle ranching, infrastructure projects, human migration, poorly planned urban expansion, gold mining and illegal logging – among other factors – all drive deforestation in Madre de Dios. The Inter-Oceanic Highway, which connects the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans through Peru and Brazil, opens the Amazon to the Pacific Rim economy and has accelerated the region's growth and deforestation. Social and political issues, such as unclear land tenure, limited involvement of stakeholders in decision-making, and lack of planning, further contribute to forest loss. These rising threats all point to an urgent need for sustainable management in Madre de Dios.

REDD+ - A PROMISING SOLUTION

If we can find a way to halt forest loss in Peru, not only will a vital part of the Amazon's rainforests be conserved, but the carbon held in the plants and soil of these forests will remain sequestered – which is key to fighting climate change. Efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to conserve, sustainably manage and enhance forest carbon stocks (together referred to as REDD+) are underway in Peru. REDD+ is a scheme to compensate developing countries for maintaining and sustainably managing their forests.

WWF's Forest and Climate Programme is working with governments, civil society and indigenous communities in Madre de Dios to improve governance and promote policies that address the drivers of deforestation at the local and regional levels under a landscape approach. The aim of these activities is to demonstrate how REDD+ could be used as a tool to advance sustainable development while conserving biodiversity and tackling climate change.

OUR WORK IN MADRE DE DIOS

WWF works on the national and subnational levels in Peru, providing technical assistance, strengthening environmental governance, creating local capacities, and promoting participatory processes that make REDD+ inclusive, effective and sustainable for the long run.

To improve environmental governance and engage the full diversity of stakeholders, WWF helped establish the Environmental Services and REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios (MSAR), a space for discussion, participation and cooperative work between the region's government, civil society, and local and indigenous communities. In addition, WWF has assisted the regional government in updating its development plan and climate change strategy (currently under design).

WWF worked to create a robust and transparent forest monitoring, reporting and verification system in Madre de Dios to accurately estimate potential emissions reductions from decreasing deforestation and forest degradation. Building on existing carbon maps, this approach combines freely available satellite imagery with data from lasers used in aerial surveys to produce a high-resolution, large-scale map of the amount of carbon stored in the forests of Madre de Dios. This method has led to the development of a carbon stock map and a deforestation analysis for the region of Madre de Dios, and may serve as the basis for a national MRV (Monitoring, Reporting and Verification) system.

To build local technical capacities, WWF worked with the regional government and a local university to develop the region's first certification course for REDD+. This 192-hour[vi] program trains regional and local government officials, NGOs specialists and university graduates in tropical forest ecology, deforestation assessments and environmental management. To date, more than 50[vii] students have completed the course.

WWF also supports the development of an indigenous vision for REDD+. Representatives from local indigenous communities were empowered to form the Amazonian Indigenous REDD+ Roundtable of Madre de Dios to inform and influence the design of REDD+. This roundtable and its vision have been recognized by the Madre de Dios regional government, and have spurred the selection of the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve as a pilot site for implementation of Amazonian Indigenous REDD+.

Lessons learned from all this work will be essential to informing the national REDD+ strategy for Peru and other countries pursuing similar strategies.

MAKING REDD+ WORK FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

If we get it right, REDD+ could reduce greenhouse gas emissions while protecting biodiversity, supporting sustainable development, and strengthening rights and livelihoods that benefit forest-dwelling communities. WWF's Forest and Climate Programme is supporting REDD+ initiatives in the world's key forest landscapes, including the Amazon, Borneo and the Congo Basin, by working at scale with communities and governments to test approaches for getting REDD+ right.

We are working to ensure that REDD+ delivers on its promise of maintaining forests for the benefit of people and nature.

WWF

Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

panda.org/forestclimate

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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[v] Ministry of the Environment (MINAM). 2010. Second National Communication of Peru to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/repository/ Peru_2nd_Natl_Communication_UNFCCC.pdf.
[vi] World Wildlife Fund. 2015. Peru Technical Report.
[vii] World Wildlife Fund. 2015. Peru Technical Report.