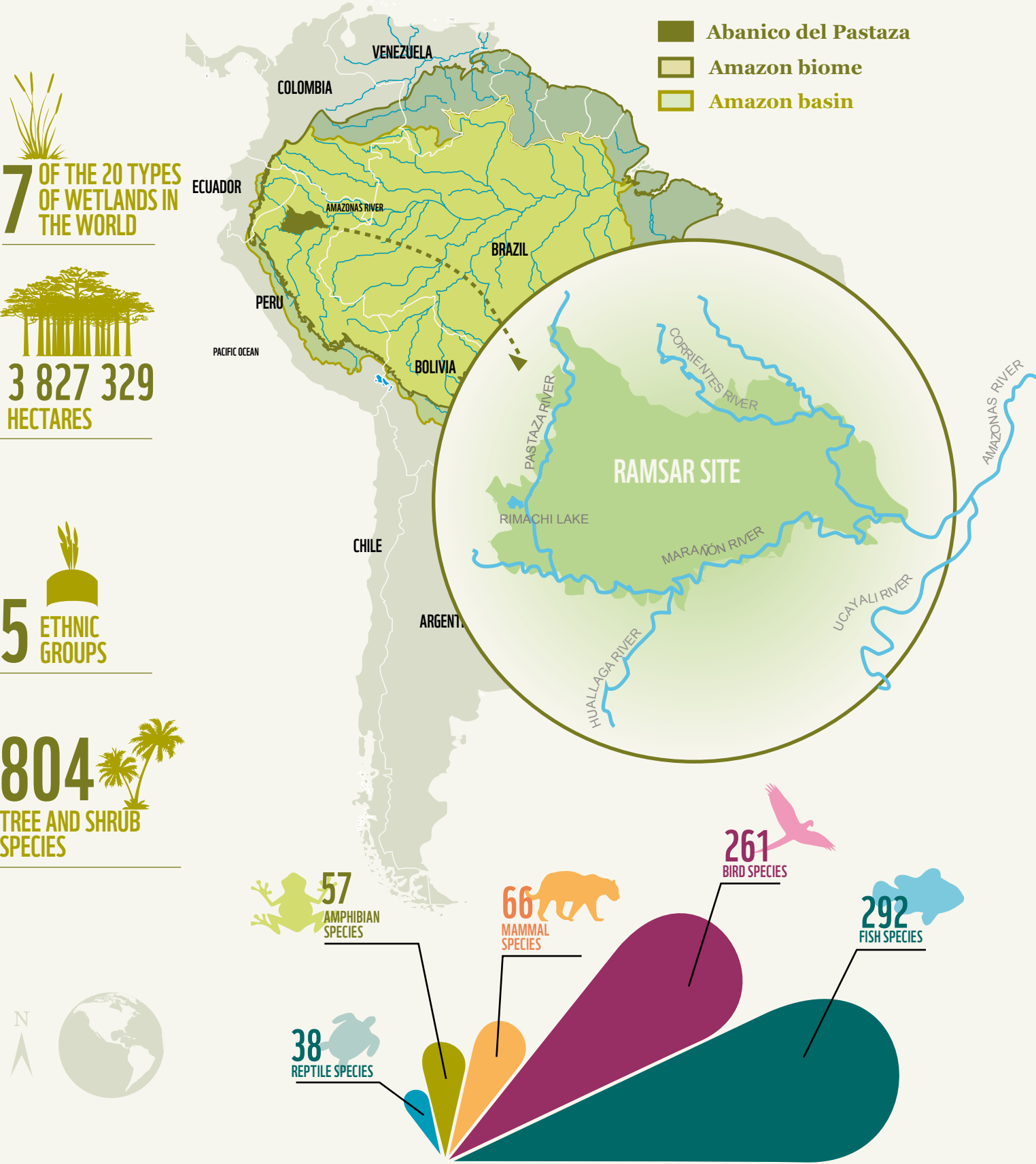


THE ABANICO DEL PASTAZA AT A GLANCE: FACTS AND FIGURES



We work with: Racimos de Ungurahui, SHINAI, Fundación Solsticio, Federación de Comunidades Nativas Kandozi del Distrito del Pastaza (FECONAKADIP), Organización Kandozi de Musa Karusha del Distrito del Pastaza (ORKAMUKADIP), Federación de Comunidades Nativas del río Corrientes (FECONACO), Federación Indígena Quechua del Pastaza (FEDIQUEP), Coordinadora Regional de Pueblos Indígenas (CORPI SL), Regional Directorate of Production - Loreto (DIREPRO-Loreto), Regional Program for Forest and Wildlife Resource Management (PRMRFFS), and the Provincial Municipality of Datem del Marañón.

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

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AMAZON PROGRAM

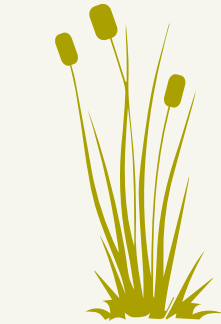
10+ YEARS IN THE ABANICO DEL PASTAZA WETLAND COMPLEX

Nature, cultures and challenges in the Northern Peruvian Amazon

The Abanico del Pastaza in Loreto is the largest Ramsar site (wetland of international importance) in the Peruvian Amazon. It is home to about 300 fish species and food source for dozens of Achuar, Kandozi, Quechua, Cocama Cocamilla and Urarina indigenous communities. However, for decades, pollution from poorly implemented oil operations, pressure from activities such as illegal logging and poaching, and overfishing had put these wetlands and their inhabitants at serious risk.

WWF began working with the local population in 1999, driving the designation of this complex as a Ramsar site, a wetland of international importance for conservation, finally achieved in 2002. Shortly after, WWF focused its efforts towards recovering the aquatic ecosystems and improving the local livelihoods through sustainable fishing and capacity building, within the framework of a long term vision that aims to maintain the unique wetland landscape, as an intact and functional ecosystem that harbors economically and ecologically important flora and fauna of the region, and that provides resources to the indigenous communities that have depended upon Pastaza during hundreds of years.

After over 10 years of work, we present some of the emblematic experiences and its stakeholders. They are local settlers, whose commitment and effort have been key factors towards facing some of the most difficult environmental problems in the Amazon.



THE LARGEST RAMSAR SITE IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON



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INSPIRATIONAL EXPERIENCE

ECOSYSTEMS RECOVERY AND BETTER INCOMES IN THE RIMACHI LAKE

The lake Rimachi, with over 7,900 hectares, is the largest in the entire Peruvian Amazon. It is direct and irreplaceable source of income for nearly 2500 Kandozi people in over 30 communities settled along the Chuinda and Chapulli rivers, and the Pastaza itself.

Despite its highly productivity (over 110 annual fishing tons), a sound management of the commercial fishing activity in the Rimachi Lake has not been evidenced during several years, partly because the highly fish demand in the main neighbored cities, such as Yurimaguas and Tarapoto, as well as the lack of legal support for the implementation of management and control measures. Consequently, the quality and number of available fishing resources for the local population has diminished each year.

What has been done?

WWF has developed an intense work with special emphasis in the community management of natural resources, overall fishing resources and aquatic chelonian (turtles). Therefore, control and surveillance communal systems have been designed and implemented, as well as trading schemes with fair prices in benefit of indigenous communities, and concurrently, to ensuring the conservation of critical habitats for target species. Today, after almost 15 years, the Rimachi Lake is recovering its big fishes – already yearned. The Kandozi peoples get better prices for its fishing activities, and the kandozi women have redefined their communal role by contributing to the household economy with incomes from managed turtle sales.



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ACHIEVEMENT: Fisheries Management



MANAGEMENT PLANS APPROVED

- Decades of mistrust between indigenous communities and fisheries authorities reversed as a result of better cultural understanding
- Nearly 200 artisanal fishermen formalized and recognized
- Implementation of 2 fisheries management plans, 2007-2011 and 2011-2015
- 2 fisheries surveillance groups recognized by the government and empowered to represent them in fisheries control and surveillance



ACHIEVEMENT: Management of Taricaya



40 000 + TURTLES RELEASED

- Over 40,000 turtles released to their natural habitat between 2004 and 2011
- First taricaya management plan approved outside a natural protected area
- Income increase by up to four times from the sale of managed turtles
- Increased hatching success under management practices, from 42% in 2004 to 82% in 2011
- Increases in abundance indices: from 8 taricaya females/km in 2010 to 18 females/km in 2011

ROBERTO YANDARI - leader fisherman

Roberto Yandari Akumbari is one of the most active and acknowledged settlers by the Kandozi community of Musa Karusha and by ORKAMUKADIP, Organización Kandozi de Musa Karusha del Distrito del Pastaza. He is a lifelong fisherman and a committed man to his community and his own town. He was elected as President of the SANGUIRMA (Community based organization of of Artisanal Fishermen and Processors) fishermen's associations in 2011. His work is very demanding. He is responsible for both protecting the rights and obligations of the fishermen of his own town and ensuring the respect for the fishing management regulations which they have embraced.

"I remember as a kid I never thought the Rimachi Lake could have no fishes. Now we know that resources we have, like fish, can disappear if we do not take care of them.. For this, we have to respect the breeding seasons, we don't catch juveniles, and we carry out surveillance and monitoring of our resources. We are witnessing how our fishes have recovered, and that makes me feel pretty well".



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BALBINA - the new kandozi woman

Balbina Sundi Akumbari is an example of an entrepreneur woman from the Kandozi people. Joint with other adult women and widows her mother's support Purunia Mashingashi – one of the most senior and experimented women in the traditional harvest of Taricaya's nests, she works making possible the small freshwater turtle's repopulation and trading. This is an activity carried out by women ever since they can remember, yet it is done now within strict sustainability criteria and achieving better economic incomes.

"We have always sold Taricaya's eggs, but they were running out because we removed the entire clutch. Now we know that one part of the nest we found must be placed in artificial beaches we have built. Then, when the eggs hatch, we use one part for repopulation and the other for sale, and thusly it gives us better prices than just selling the eggs".

With the sale of Taricaya's eggs and offspring, Balbina alongside other Kandozi women are increasing their family incomes by bolstering the woman's role and contributing to the conservation of a specie seriously threatened a couple of years ago.

INSPIRATIONAL EXPERIENCE

ADVOCACY FOR BEST PRACTICES IN OIL EXTRACTION ACTIVITIES

Since the 1960s until now, Peru has maintained an ongoing investment promotion policy for hydrocarbon extraction in the Amazon. The Abanico del Pastaza has been impact with this reality because in its lands remains some of the most ancient and productive oil plots, such as the block 1AB. As a result, about 90% of the Ramsar site is currently assigned for this activity.

Unfortunately, oil exploration and exploitation under low environmental and social standards are a serious threat to the livelihoods and health of Quechua and Achuar indigenous communities that live in the area, as well as the natural resources on which they depend.

As a result, this area has been affected by many crude oil spills that alongside with the disposal of formation waters resulting from oil extraction, have polluted water bodies with high concentrations of salts and heavy metals dumped into rivers and streams at high temperatures, affecting the hydrobiological resources, as well as the health of the human population.

What has been done?

To face this issue, WWF together with other organizations encouraged a number of actions, such as the generation of technical information about the effects of pollution and the existing measures to reduce its impacts, the organizational strengthening of Achuar (Corrientes) and Quechua (Pastaza) peoples, the promotion of dialogue and negotiation mechanisms among all the stakeholders involved, and the implementation of an independent community monitoring system led by the local people.

Thanks to these actions, especially to the community monitoring activities developed by indigenous young people, we have raised awareness of the Government about the social and environmental issues issue in the Pastaza, as well as promoted major changes in business practices in order to lessen and mend their environmental liabilities.



ACHIEVEMENT: Social and environmental commitments

COMMITMENT TO REINJECT 100% WASTEWATER

- The presence of heavy metals in the water and in the blood of local residents of the Corrientes River basin was proven for the first time.
- A community environmental monitoring system with FEDIQUEP and FECONACO, which identifies liabilities and oil spills, was implemented.
- Indigenous federations in the area presented their case to the Congress of the Republic of Peru for the first time.
- The company involved admitted the impacts of oil activities and committed to reinject 100% of its wastewater into underground formations.

JUAN JOSÉ - role monitor

When Juan José Butuma Dahua was selected by his community to join the environmental monitors group on behalf of his town, he never thought about the big responsibility of being part of the environmental guardians of the Quechua people.

"I'm very proud of the work we are doing. What makes me happier is to scientifically prove that our rivers are polluted with heavy metals from oil spills; thusly with these results we were able to demand to the Government to make such company responsible for the damages".



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