

Conservation International (CI) annual fundraiser:

What will our donations do in 2022?

Goal is to raise \$150,000 to fund two projects.

What are those projects and what will your donation do?

Project one: Protecting the Alto Mayo Region of the Peruvian Rainforest:

Shorthand version of facts:

- A. Alto Mayo region is 2,000,000 acres of critical rainforest habitat with high biodiversity and high carbon sequestered (over 12 million tons as estimated by www.phys.org).
 - a. Interesting fact: to grow a pound of wood, a tree uses 1.47 pounds of carbon dioxide and gives off 1.07 pounds of oxygen. An acre of trees might grow 4,000 pounds of wood in a year, using 5,880 pounds of carbon dioxide and giving off 4,280 pounds of oxygen in the process. (According to Forest Ecology Network,.org)
- B. At risk: Alto Mayo rainforest was most the highly deforested area in Peru before CI arrived in 2008.
- C. Since then, deforestation has been reduced by over 50%, partly by collaboration with the Ajawun indigenous tribe.



- D. This project is to support the women in this tribe who have created a new preserve called the Nuwas Forest.
 - a. These funds will used to support the growing businesses of these indigenous women; the selling of handcrafts, teas made from medicinal plants, and cassava.
 - b. These women will, in turn, agree to partner with CI to protect this forested area through a conservation agreement that has proven successful with other groups for over 30 years in this region.
 - c. Funds will provide an office for these women to do business; provide technical and business assistance; and provide resources (e.g.: drones and cell phones) and training for surveillance in preventing illegal activities, such as logging and mining.
 - d. Research has shown that conservation agreements such as these are very effective in protecting the Amazon rainforest, specifically this land will be 36 times less likely to be deforested than unprotected forest. (Research by John Reid and Tom Lovejoy in their book *Evergreen: Saving the World by saving its forests*).

More details are provided after the next section for those who are interested.

Project two: Helping to create an ocean preserve off the coast of Peru called the Dorsal de Nazca

Shorthand version of the facts:

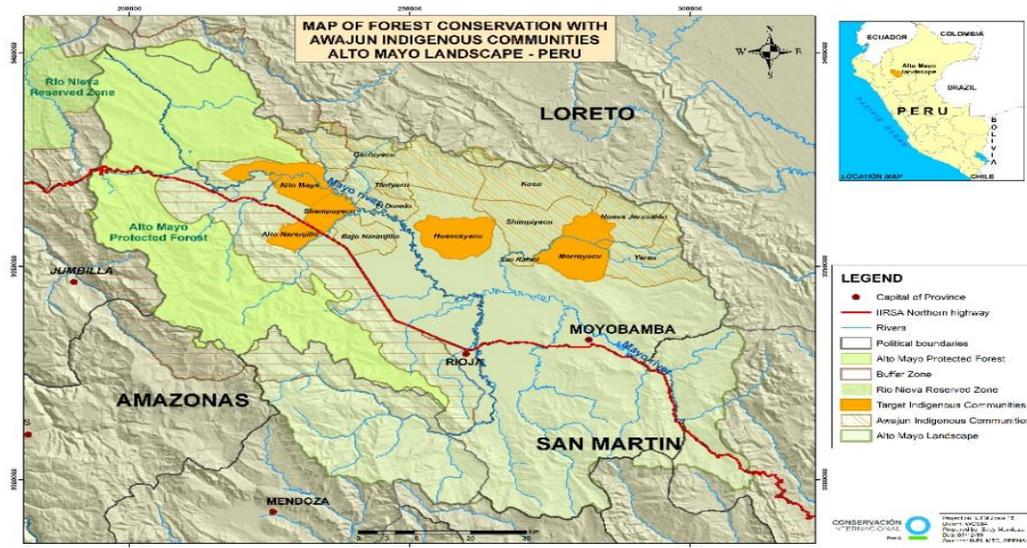
- A. While the Peruvian sea covers less than 0.1% of the world's marine surface, it accounts for more than 10% of all global marine fish catch since 1950.
- B. Peru's waters are nourished by the Humboldt Current, which provides critical feeding, spawning, and nursery habitat for extraordinary marine biodiversity.
- C. Peru, with arguably the most productive marine ecosystem in the world and one of the planet's most vibrant seafood economies, right now only protects a miniscule portion of its ocean – specifically 0.5%.
- D. Nazca Ridge is part of a submarine mountain range that spans across the South Pacific Ocean. It's a globally unique underwater habitat, home to more than 1,000 species, many of which are found nowhere else on Earth. Twelve key commercial species, including giant squid, mahi-mahi, and jack mackerel, depend on the Nazca Ridge, which is also a key part of the migratory route of endangered blue whales and other vulnerable marine species.
- E. Creating the Nazca Ridge National Reserve would protect over 24,000 square miles (about the size of West Virginia) or over 7% of Peru's marine territory. (See map below.)
- F. With your support we will work with SERNANP (National Service of Natural Protected Areas) to comply with all the enabling conditions that allow the MPA achieve the basic level of its effective management including Management Committee established, trained in the management of NPA and in operation, and the Master Plan developed and approved by SERNANP.

More details about both projects are provided below:

PROTECTING FORESTS AND OCEANS FOR PEOPLE OF PERU – FROM THE AMAZON TO THE EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC

NUWAS FOREST – ALTO MAYO

The tropical forests of northern Peru, which are home to the Awajún, provide critical ecosystem services yet have some of the highest rates of deforestation in the country. Conservation International works closely with Indigenous communities, local governments, businesses, and farmer cooperatives, all seeking to reverse current rates of deforestation and biodiversity loss while simultaneously promoting equitable participation from both men and women in economic growth.



Conservation International (CI) has worked in the Alto Mayo region of Peru since 2008, developing a deep understanding of the complex social and environmental landscape. CI partners closely with the local Awajún communities, local authorities and local civil society organizations to reduce deforestation and promote sustainable livelihoods. CI's community engagement process is based on building trust, explicitly acknowledging respect for positive cultural norms and practices and co-designing projects in a participatory manner and with a Rights Based Approach, ensuring that human rights are respected in all of our work.

The Alto Mayo Protected Forest contains high biodiversity, hosting more than 420 species of birds, 17 of which are found nowhere else in the world, as well as the two primate species, the Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey (*Lagothrix flavicauda*) and the San Martín Titi Monkey (*Plecturocebus oenanthe*), found only in Peru and both critically endangered.

Despite being also one of the areas of greatest importance for the supply of fresh water in the Amazonian Andes, the Alto Mayo Protected Forest is one of the natural protected areas with the highest levels of deforestation in Peru. This situation is caused by illegal logging for timber, illegal land grabbing and clearing for agriculture, mainly through the expansion of coffee, pastures, and subsistence crops.



© Marlon del Águila

do not usually participate in the decision-making processes of their communities. Although they play a fundamental role in environmental conservation, they often lack the resources to feed their children or send them to school and receive very little support from public services.

Next to this protected area there are 14 Awajún communities that have also suffered from extremely high deforestation rates. The women of the Indigenous Awajún group are at a social and economic disadvantage. Even when they have an independent source of income, women



© Marlon del Águila

Five years ago, at the request of the Awajún women in the community of Shampuyacu, CI helped to negotiate a 9-hectare piece of land for 70 women to grow native and medicinal plants. Called the "Nuwas Forest" (Nuwas means 'woman' in Awajún), it has become an important space for women of the community to maintain their ancestral knowledge and ensure that their traditions are passed on to future generations.

It has also allowed for the women to generate their own income through handicrafts, cassava, and traditional herbal teas made from the medicinal plants.

CI recognizes that conservation strategies must include a gender approach and effectively integrate women into the conservation economy, supporting them to share their traditional knowledge to better market their products and consequently increase their income.

Our proposal

We aim to create the enabling conditions for the marketing of different plant species as herbal teas based on the cultural capital of Awajún communities in Alto Mayo. CI Peru adopted the community Life Plan, an instrument of collective, differential, and integral strategic planning of an Indigenous or native community which starts from a reflection on their worldview and history to determine what is the vision of the future they wish to achieve, their conception of development and good living, and define strategies and actions to achieve it. In the case of our partner communities, their plan includes the development of Conservation Agreements for restoration of degraded lands and rivers with agroforestry systems based on commercial and traditional value trees and crops.

CI Peru has worked in the Alto Mayo region for over 30 years and currently co-manages, with the National Protected Areas Service (SERNANP), the Alto Mayo Protected Forest in San Martín. This region experienced the country's highest deforestation rates when CI arrived. Since then,

over 1,000 Conservation Agreements have been signed with families living within the Alto Mayo landscape. These families agree to protect the forest in exchange for technical assistance to improve both their coffee production and quality. More recently, CI has focused its attention to mitigating deforestation in Indigenous communities through strengthening local governance and supporting alternative economic opportunities.

With your support CI will install an office where meetings and activities can be carried out on a daily basis, providing the Awajún women a safe place to work and help them in their quest of securing and sharing their traditional knowledge and economic empowerment. We will also provide training and technical assistance for the Awajún women to strengthen their surveillance and monitoring of their Nuwas Forest for lasting conservation.

Eastern Tropical Pacific

Our goal is to catalyze transboundary conservation and improve management of at least 2 million km² of the Eastern Tropical Pacific to protect key highly migratory species and support local livelihoods by improving the management of at least five fisheries.

As a whole, the wider ETP is threatened by many of the large-scale problems that affect our global oceans: climate change, habitat degradation, resource over exploitation and pollution. All occur at a scale where no single country can solve them alone.

This strategy builds on CI's nearly 20 years of experience in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape (ETPS). The ETPS is a 2,000,000 km² subsection of the Eastern Tropical Pacific region. It comprises the Pacific waters, coasts and islands of Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Ecuador, including the world's densest cluster of marine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These near-pristine island ecosystems have many species found nowhere else in the world, as well as concentrations of critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable species, collectively constituting 'pelagic hotspots' on a highly connected migration network with exceptional concentrations of sharks, turtles, whales and seabirds, as well as one of the most important fishing areas globally for yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack tuna.

The scope of this strategy is defined by the ETP region, extending from Mexico to northern Peru and including coastal and oceanic waters out to the East Pacific Barrier, the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and adjacent areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJs).

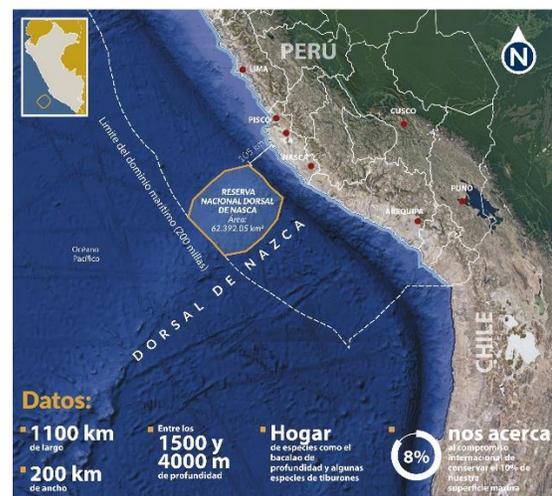
Through the years, our work in the ETP supported the creation, expansion and improved management of over 30 Marine Protected Areas. (MPAs) There are now more than 77 MPAs in a transboundary network covering 240,000 km². This regional cooperation and integrated strategy have enabled over 100 partners to work collaboratively together in a regional network of marine organizations, including government at all levels.

For the past 17 years, the expansion of knowledge as well as of CI's action in the ETP has resulted in an increased understanding of the biological connectivity across the region and of associated threats such as IUU fishing and climate change impacts, It has also inspired new marine projects in our Peru program.

CI Peru was established in 1989 and formalized an ocean's program in 2020 to support the creation and effective management of MPAs; protect critical habitats for threatened marine species; develop sustainable artisanal fisheries models; generate innovative financial mechanisms for marine conservation; and strengthen integrating management of mangrove and wetland ecosystems. As we expand to our oceans strategy, we aim to build on our experience working with communities and pilot projects on the ground, engaging with governments and private sector and using these partnerships to inform and support policy changes at the national and international level to transition our society to a more sustainable use and management of our fisheries and coastal ecosystems.

PROPOSAL 2: Strengthening the Effective Management of the Dorsal de Nasca National Reserve

In 2021 Peru established its first Marine Protected Area (MPA), the Dorsal de Nasca National Reserve (RNDN), located 57 nautical miles offshore of the Peruvian south coast over an extension of 62,392 square kilometers (24,090 square miles, about the size of West Virginia). With the creation of this MPA, Peru has 8% of its marine ecosystems represented in the National System of Natural Protected Areas (SINANPE).



The RNDN was established to conserve a representative sample of ecosystems associated with the area of the Nazca Ridge located within the Peruvian Maritime Domain, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, and increasing the representativeness of the SINANPE. The presence of a chain of seamounts located in the deep ocean (between 1000m-4000m) gives the area unique value in terms of biodiversity as these ecosystems are associated with high levels of marine endemism and productivity.

Several species use the area during their migration, among them are the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), albatrosses (*Thalassarche bulleri*, *Thalassarche eremita*, *Thalassarche salvini*) and petrels (*Macronectes halli* and *Pterodroma defilippiana*).

Furthermore, there are commercially valuable fishery species such as the jumbo squid (*Dosidicus gigantis*), mahi-mahi (*Coryphaena hippurus*), eastern Pacific bonito (*Sarda chilensis*), yellowtail tuna (*Thunnus albacares*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*), chub mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), Patagonian toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*), Chilean jack mackerel (*Trachurus murphyi*), among others. The biodiversity in the deep ocean is still relatively new and not well understood, thus, the creation of this MPA is a tremendous opportunity for Peru to lead in the better understanding and research of these deep ocean ecosystems.

The National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP) has defined 3 levels to achieve the effective management of a Natural Protected Area (NPA) once it is established: a) basic management, b) structural management and c) optimal management. Each level has enabling conditions that must be achieved in order to move to the next level:

1. *Basic management*: NPA staff conformed, Management Committee established and operating, Master Plan approved, boundaries demarcated and NPA registered in the National System of Public Registration.
2. *Structural management*: effective surveillance and control system, effective monitoring system and priorities of research in implementation.
3. *Optimal management*: the NPA is contributing to sustainable development through the sustainable use of natural resources, implementation of participatory mechanisms for the effective management of the NPA (e.g., conservation agreements, management contracts, cooperation agreements, etc.) and restoration of degraded ecosystems.

As the Dorsal de Nasca National Reserve (RNDN) was only recently established, it still needs to comply with the basic management level conditions. SERNANP has requested CI's support and expertise to develop the enabling conditions that will allow the RNDN to achieve the basic level and advance towards the structural level of effective management.

Our proposal

Strengthen SERNANP's capacities for the effective management of the RNDN by:

- Providing technical and financial resources that SERNANP currently lacks to develop the enabling conditions that allows the MPA achieve the basic level of its effective management
- Building capacity of SERNANP to design and implement management tools to move towards the structural level of its effective management.

With your support we will work with SERNANP to comply with all the enabling conditions that allow the MPA achieve the basic level of its effective management including Management Committee established, trained in the management of NPA and in operation, and the Master Plan developed and approved by SERNANP.

This will provide the critical foundation needed to move towards the structural level of effective management towards the optimal management and secure the lasting conservation of this special MPA.