



ALLIANCE FOR A  
**SUSTAINABLE**  
**AMAZON**

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2025





## IN THIS DOCUMENT

Our mission.....3

Where we work.....4

A word from the directors.....5

### ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

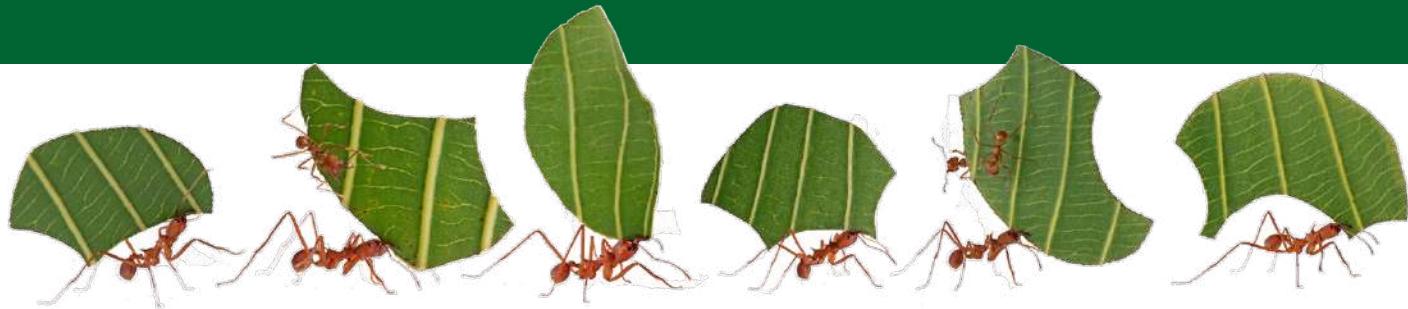
    Research.....6

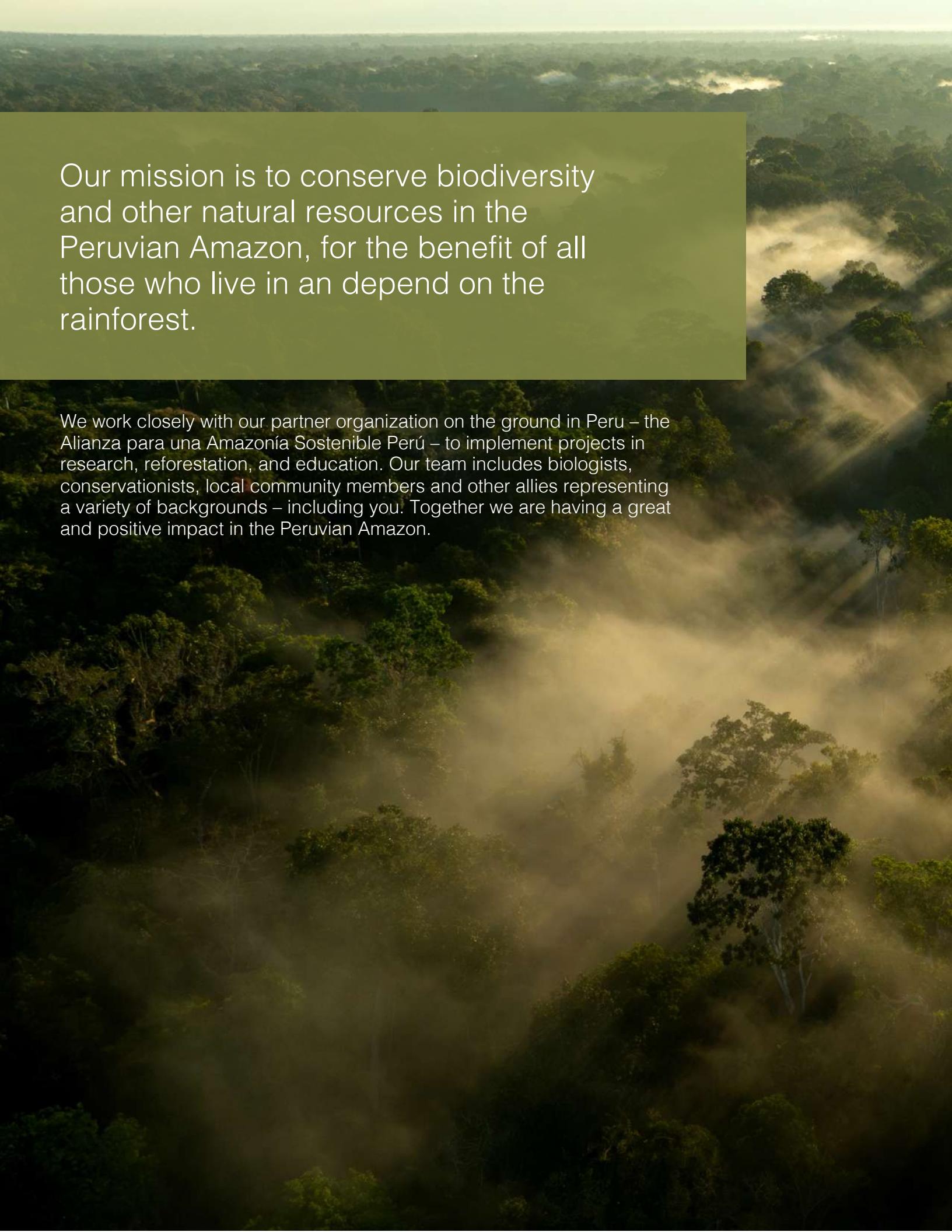
    Reforestation.....9

    Education.....12

Finca Las Piedras.....14

Looking ahead.....16

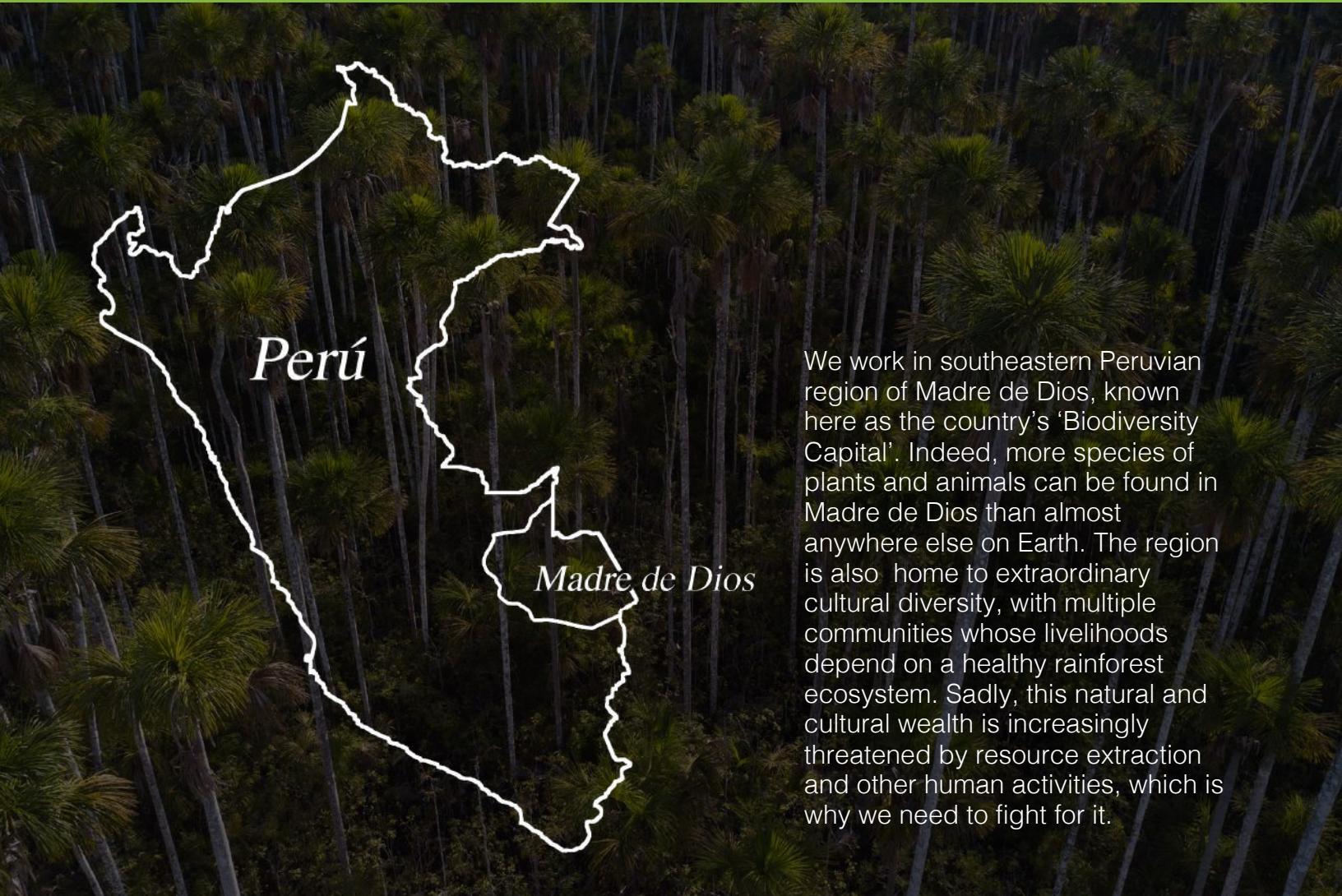




Our mission is to conserve biodiversity and other natural resources in the Peruvian Amazon, for the benefit of all those who live in and depend on the rainforest.

We work closely with our partner organization on the ground in Peru – the Alianza para una Amazonía Sostenible Perú – to implement projects in research, reforestation, and education. Our team includes biologists, conservationists, local community members and other allies representing a variety of backgrounds – including you. Together we are having a great and positive impact in the Peruvian Amazon.

# Where We Work



We work in southeastern Peruvian region of Madre de Dios, known here as the country's 'Biodiversity Capital'. Indeed, more species of plants and animals can be found in Madre de Dios than almost anywhere else on Earth. The region is also home to extraordinary cultural diversity, with multiple communities whose livelihoods depend on a healthy rainforest ecosystem. Sadly, this natural and cultural wealth is increasingly threatened by resource extraction and other human activities, which is why we need to fight for it.



# A word from the directors

*We're very proud to share an update on the Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon's work in the Peruvian Amazon through 2025. The challenges are many and great, but we're making progress in our fight to protect the Amazon.*



Our team in Peru has been working very hard to study and protect the Amazon since our founding in 2016. We've grown a lot since then, and our impact has grown apace. We are thrilled to share some of the most recent highlights of our work with you in this report.

From documenting thousands of plant and animal species to describing new butterflies and installing both a cutting-edge field DNA laboratory and permanent forest dynamics plot at Finca Las Piedras, our research has been moving full steam ahead. Through these efforts and more, and in collaboration with a growing list of local and international partners, we're building the knowledge base that will allow us to direct limited conservation resources where they're needed most, while also laying the foundation to make these gains sustainable in the long run. Given the mounting threats facing the rainforest, this is more important than ever.

Our reforestation efforts have also greatly accelerated in recent years. We're now working with dozens of local families in our region to restore the rainforest and secure the sustainable management of more than 25,000 hectares dedicated to the sustainable harvest of Brazil nuts. As our own research has shown, these working forests are incredibly biodiverse, demonstrating how our approach can protect both species and human livelihoods at the same time – a rare win-win for both people and nature.

These are just a few of our accomplishments to date, and we are so grateful to the many individuals and organizations that have given so generously to make it all possible. Everything you'll read about in this report is thanks largely to you.

We would like to especially thank all our local partners, who work so hard to manage the rainforest sustainably. We are honored to have these incredible people by our side as we fight for the Amazon.

Thank you again for your support. Together, we are making a difference.



**Geoff Gallice & Johana Reyes**  
Directors  
Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon  
Alianza para una Amazonía Sostenible Perú



# Research

Effective biodiversity conservation through science

## Why we conduct research

We conduct basic and applied research in the Peruvian Amazon that is the foundation of science-based conservation. From biological inventories, population monitoring, and in-depth studies of rainforest ecology to the impacts of national policy and the issues facing our local communities, our projects aim to generate and share the information needed to effectively protect the Amazon, its plants and animals, and sustainable livelihoods.



## Our projects

- Lepidoptera diversity and biology
- Forest dynamics and phenology
- Biological inventories and monitoring



**>1,500**

Number of butterfly species recorded at 15 different sites in southeastern Peru



**181**

Number of tree species recorded in just 1 hectare of our forest dynamics plot



**36**

Number of studies published in scientific journals (most with early career scientists as authors)

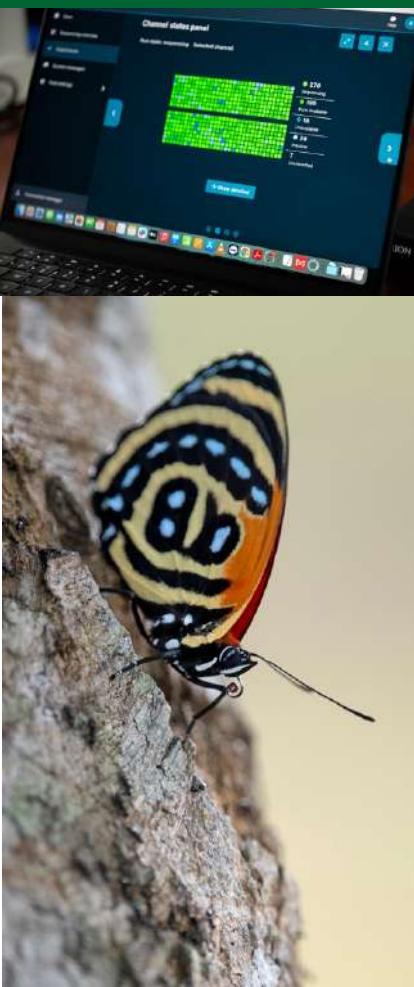


**>500**

Number of emerging scientists and conservationists trained in Peru



# RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT – The in-situ DNA lab at Finca Las Piedras



Since butterfly and moth diversity is so high in our region, simply identifying an individual can be quite challenging – even for an expert. In fact, given the large number of species that have not yet been described, sometimes it's just impossible. To help us solve this dual challenge we've partnered with Peru's Pontifical Catholic University in Lima to implement the Amazon's first in situ molecular laboratory dedicated to the study of Lepidoptera. By conducting DNA barcoding entirely in the field, we are aiming to revolutionize the way species identification and discovery are conducted in the world's most biodiverse rainforest.

## DNA barcoding

We're generating DNA "barcodes" that can be used for both species identification and discovery

## Low-cost protocols, completely in the field

From DNA extraction to sequencing using nanopore technology, all done cheaply and completely at Finca Las Piedras

## No more sending samples abroad

We want to keep biodiversity where it belongs, right here in the rainforest

## Training and capacity building

We're empowering our local scientific community by providing unprecedented opportunities to learn cutting-edge methods in molecular biology



As the impacts of climate change and other human activities mount, the world's tropical forests are changing. A global network of forest plots exists to help us study those impacts, and now FLP is contributing directly with our own 1 hectare plot.

Every tree within the plot has been identified, measured, and tagged to follow its growth over time. The plot contains nearly 200 different species of trees, in an area about the size of two football fields.



We've already published some preliminary findings using the plot data, an important way in which we contribute to our knowledge of forest dynamics in the Amazon.

## FLP-01 – A new forest dynamics plot at Finca Las Piedras



# Reforestation

Keep wild what's already wild, rewild what's been lost

Deforestation and forest degradation have taken a great toll across large parts of the Amazon as the global human footprint rapidly expands. Reversing this decline requires strategies that are as diverse as the causes of forest loss, and we are employing a number of them to protect the Amazon in southeastern Peru.

## Our actions to protect and restore the rainforest

- We work with our local communities to improve the management of working Brazil nut forests
- We reverse deforestation by planting trees, restoring wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and ecosystem services





## PROTECTING EXISTING FOREST

### The Brazil Nut Corridor Project

The so-called 'Brazil Nut Corridor' spans more than a million hectares of rainforest in southeastern Peru that is dominated by these incredible trees. Brazil nuts grow at such densities here that they are harvested from natural forest, where the clearing of trees and other extractive activities are forbidden.

The corridor links major protected areas of global significance in an area that is otherwise becoming increasingly degraded. We've shown through our research that these working Brazil nut forests are themselves important biodiversity areas, further strengthening the case for their protection.

We're working to secure the Brazil Nut Corridor by empowering our local harvesters to more sustainably manage their forests.

#### Project results to date



**>100**

Number of Brazil nut harvester families participating in our training workshops



**>3,000**

Number of Brazil nut seedlings produced that will one day be rainforest giants



**>25,000**

Number of hectares of forest secured – that's more than 40,000 football fields



# FOREST RESTORATION

## Rewilding what's been lost



### Restoration goals

#### Build back a home for biodiversity

- Rainforest plants and animals need rainforest to thrive

#### Protect endangered tree species

- We're planting trees that have been overexploited in our region

#### Store carbon to mitigate climate change

- Trees are made of carbon, and carbon heats the planet

### By the numbers

**74**



Hectares of standing and recovering rainforest at Finca Las Piedras

**>70,000**



Number of trees protected on our property, with more added each year



### Restoration is expanding at Finca Las Piedras...

This year we completed the purchase of land adjacent to the southern border of Finca Las Piedras, expanding the size of our property by nearly 40%. Much of this new purchase is intact forest; what was previously degraded by agriculture is now being restored by replacing invasive weeds with native trees. This will one day be a home for thousands of plant and animal species and gives our other projects room to grow.



# Education

## Ensuring the future of the rainforest

Our gains in the Amazon will only endure if those who depend most directly on the rainforest are empowered to manage it sustainably. In other words, we need to ensure the next generation of rainforest stewards – our children and young people – are up the task. That's why environmental education is key to our efforts in southeastern Peru. We work with budding conservation leaders from elementary to the college level, helping them to unleash their inner environmental identities, foster a deep connection with nature and understand how our actions impact the rainforest – and our collective future.

### To date we've reached:



>4,000 K-12 students

Quality environmental education experiences, often the first they've had



>2,000 college students

More advanced experiences to enhance important professional skills in science and the environment



>150 teachers

Many from underserved, rural schools in southeastern Peru



>700 international students

Empowering people from all over the globe to understand and advocate for the Amazon





## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025

We've been working hard for nearly the last 10 years to deliver high quality environmental education to young people in our local communities in the Peruvian Amazon, and 2025 might have been our most successful yet. In the first half of the year, we signed a formal agreement with the Madre de Dios National Amazonian University (UNAMAD), the most important institution of higher education in our region, which marks a new chapter in our strategic partnership. In collaboration with the UNAMAD, we will continue to expand opportunities for research training and field experiences for undergraduate students. The timing is perfect given that UNAMAD will welcome its first cohort of students majoring in biology in the first semester of 2026.



During the second half of the year, we developed a program called *One Day at Finca Las Piedras*. Supported by the Organization of Biological Field Stations (OBFS) and targeting students from both rural and urban schools, as well as university students, this initiative aims to expose young people to the work done at an active research site and its importance for regional development. Such opportunities are rare in our region, so this program fills an important need as we aim to foster the next generation of local leaders in science and conservation.



# Finca Las Piedras

Our research and education center in the Peruvian Amazon



Finca Las Piedras is our base of operations in Madre de Dios, in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon. This is where our staff, local communities, and other visitors come together to study and protect the rainforest. The property itself is 74 hectares, but the impact generated from this site reaches nearly every corner of the region.

## Finca Las Piedras at a glance

- Space for >40 residents & visitors
- Access to >20 km of forest trails
- >4,000 species of plants & animals registered to date



## BIODIVERSITY OF FINCA LAS PIEDRAS



More than 4,000 species registered to date

- >400 birds
- >500 plants
- >50 mammals
- >100 reptiles & amphibians
- >2,500 insects & other arthropods

These numbers are the result of the efforts of many people working tirelessly over the years to document the lifeforms we share our rainforest home with. The species list is growing rapidly – even the most seasoned naturalist can easily make new finds daily in the Amazon, the world's most biodiverse ecosystem.

Documenting these species is important since so little is known about them – in fact, many of our finds are new to science, and describing them is a first step towards their protection in the face of mounting human pressure. The plants and animals we've discovered at Finca Las Piedras have a secure future in our protected forest and, hopefully, throughout the world's greatest rainforest as well. These myriad creatures are why we fight for the Amazon, and we are determined to ensure their permanent survival.

# Looking ahead...

**Here's to a great year, and many more to come!**

We're proud of the work our team in Peru has done up to now to understand and protect the Amazon rainforest. All of it is thanks to you, our committed community of rainforest champions. Thank you.

As we reflect on the achievements of the year and wrap things up for the holidays, we're already making plans for 2026 and beyond – every year is an opportunity to leverage our experience and go into the next energized and ready for even more success.

Again, thank you for your generous support of our work in Peru and Happy Holidays from everyone at the Alliance for a Sustainable Amazon!

