

The Cry of the Land



"I dream of an Amazonia that guards the overwhelming natural beauty that adorns it, the overflowing life that fills its rivers and jungles".

Amazon Basin or Amazon Region is a hydrological or fluvial concept, since those regions flow into the Amazon River.

The territorial extension of this basin is still variable. The Amazon River is the most important river in the world, with a length of 6,850 km, an average annual flow rate of 230,000 m³/s and a humid temperature in its regular channel of 190 km wide. **It is the largest river basin in the world, with 7.4 million km², equivalent to 4.9% of the continental area.**

The largest Amazonian extension corresponds to Brazil, which represents 66% of the Amazonia, followed by Peru with 13%. To a lesser extent, the Amazon basin extends into 7 other countries: Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.

The Amazon region is the largest tropical forest, comprising a biodiversity composed of ecosystems, ecological processes, flora, fauna, microorganisms, minerals, landscapes, cultures, among others. The Amazonia is a great and resilient biome.

In terms of ethnic diversity, there are 34 million inhabitants and 420 indigenous peoples. Likewise, it comprises five major linguistic trunks.

In the Peruvian Amazon alone, there are 12 ethnolinguistic families, 60 ethnic groups and approximately 1,800 native communities.

Indigenous peoples are defined as descendants of populations that inhabited the country from the time of the Conquest and that preserve all their own social, economic, cultural, and political institutions (ILO-Convention 169). On the other hand, according to anthropological criteria, Indigenous peoples are referred to as cultural structures in traditional territories and economic systems.





Perhaps it is not entirely correct to say that the Amazonia is the "lung" of the planet, or at least this "lung" is bluer (because of the oceans) than green (because of the forests). However, this in no way detracts from the enormous environmental importance of the Amazonian ecosystem for a number of reasons:

- For its biological and cultural diversity.
- And because it plays a particularly important role as a climate regulator: first, because it is an enormous reservoir of carbon and a generator of humidity that produces cooling; and second, because the Amazon biomass is so enormous that burning releases a large amount of carbon into the atmosphere.

Potentially, the Amazonia may be the world's largest natural carbon emitter, in other words, it may be the largest pollutant on the planet.



On the other hand, the conquest process, capitalist expansion and globalization processes in the Amazonia have had both positive and negative effects; some of them, such as the concession of territories to multinational hydrocarbon and forestry companies that apparently allowed a greater presence of services in both education and health, however, what we see now are only increases in morbidity rates due to the emergence of new diseases and the decline in the educational levels of indigenous schools.

Despite the immense importance of its constitution as an Amazon Region, it faces numerous significant threats, such as deforestation due to agricultural expansion, illegal mining, dam construction and natural resource extraction, as well as human activities that put at risk many unique species and ecosystems that depend on them for their survival.

Conservation efforts include the creation of natural reserves, the implementation of sustainable management policies and the collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations and local communities.

