

**CIENCIA
Y SABER
INDÍGENA**

POR LA AMAZONÍA

RESULTS EXAMPLES

Primary focus on 2025

Science / Indigenous Knowledge
Unite to Reduce Forest Carbon Loss
in the Amazon (2021–2025)

Photo: Felipe Rodríguez / Gaia Amazonas



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OVERVIEW

Implemented between 2021 and 2025 with funding from Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), the project generated integrated scientific and Indigenous knowledge on carbon dynamics and governance in Indigenous Territories (ITs) and Natural Protected Areas (NPAs). In 2025, the project focused on translating this evidence into policy-relevant messages and supporting advocacy processes at global, regional, and national levels. It provided tools and approaches to support local stewardship of forest carbon and improve understanding of forest dynamics, strengthened legal protections for ITs and NPAs, and promoted locally tailored strategies in Pilot Landscapes (PALs).



RESULT 1:

Positioning Amazon Indigenous Lands and protected areas as a global climate priority

In 2025, project-generated evidence such as updated Amazon-wide carbon stock and density maps and scenario-based projections of carbon losses under different policy pathways, contributed to strengthening international recognition of the Amazon as a critical global carbon reservoir and highlighted Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas as key climate mitigation assets.

In 2025, this evidence was actively disseminated and discussed with decision-makers during COP30 and within Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organi-

zation (ACTO) policy spaces. These discussions contributed to reinforcing policy narratives that frame territorial protection—particularly Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas—as a cornerstone of global climate stability. At the regional level, the project also contributed data and analytical inputs to the [Pan-Amazon Climate Pact](#), highlighting that approximately 35% of the Amazon’s carbon reserves—equivalent to 27,609 million metric tonnes of carbon—are located in Indigenous Territories.



Findings and Activities:

Updated carbon stock and density analyses combining satellite data (Landsat, Sentinel, GEDI, LiDAR) and validation through review of results informed by local technical knowledge.

Findings showing that in the Amazon basin, **58–61% of forest carbon stocks** are located in ITs and NPAs, while these areas experienced significantly lower carbon loss (**3,4%**) compared to non-protected areas (**12,9%**).

Evidence indicating that ITs and NPAs absorb approximately **340 million tonnes of carbon annually**, based on project modelling and scenario analysis.



RESULT 2:

Policy-relevant projections highlighting urgency for strengthened forest and land-use governance

In 2025, future projections on carbon dynamics supported policy-relevant analysis by quantifying the climate risks associated with continued forest loss and weak governance.

These projections indicate that continued emissions of above-ground carbon from Amazonian deforestation would make it harder to limit global temperature rise in line with the Paris Agreement and the ambition reinforced through COP30 outcomes.

Findings and Activities:



Since 2000, the Amazon has released over **5.7 billion tonnes of above-ground carbon as a result of deforestation and forest degradation**, indicating a sustained contribution of forest loss to regional and global emissions over time, with evidence pointing to higher losses in recent years.

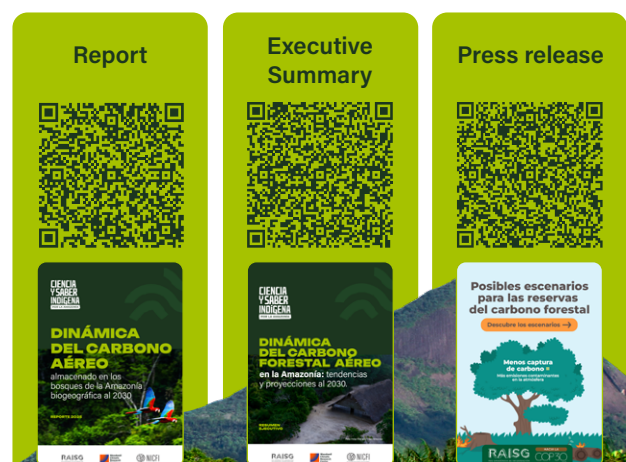


Project scenario analysis indicates that, **without strengthened policies**, up to **2.94 billion tonnes of stored carbon could be lost by 2030**, increasing the risk of the region becoming a net carbon emitter.



Under high-risk scenarios, carbon absorption could decline by at least **3,5% by 2030**.

The information presented is the culmination of three years of data collection, analysis, and validation under the project. It provides policymakers and stakeholders with a clear picture of urgent climate risks, supporting calls for stronger land-use, forest, and climate governance in regional and international forums.



RESULT 3: Strengthened advocacy and visibility at COP30

In 2025, the project contributed to increasing the visibility of Amazonian and Indigenous priorities in global climate discussions during COP30.

Through these engagements, the project supported greater visibility of Indigenous governance perspectives within international climate dialogues, contributing to their recognition as an integral component of effective climate mitigation strategies.

Findings and Activities:



Coordinated dissemination of project findings and visual products by consortium members.



Participation in:

12 official COP30 side events

2 alternative advocacy spaces

1 regional Ecosocial Forum



RESULT 4:

Advancing Indigenous land tenure and climate finance discussions

In 2025, project evidence contributed to international discussions recognizing Indigenous land tenure as a cost-effective and equitable climate mitigation strategy.

Collectively, these contributions help to reinforce policy narratives emphasizing that accelerating Indigenous lands recognition is not only a rights-based imperative, but also a cost-effective pathway to achieving climate and biodiversity objectives.

Findings and Activities:



Dissemination of the policy brief [NDCs to Boost Climate Action in the Amazon](#), which highlights the importance of Indigenous Peoples in climate action, while noting that pressures on their territories and limited access to resources constrain the effective contribution of Amazonian forests to national climate commitments.



Dissemination of flagship analytical products (**Amazonia 2022 and Amazonia 2023**) and policy briefs highlighting the climate value of Indigenous Territories.



Evidence referenced in discussions linked to initiatives such as the Intergovernmental Land Tenure Commitment (ILTC) and the Forests, Tenure and Governance (FTFG) initiative, **which aim to mobilize USD 1.8 billion by 2030.**



RESULT 5:

Improved governance safeguards in REDD+ and carbon markets

In 2025, the project contributed to policy discussions by highlighting governance and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) risks associated with REDD+ and carbon market mechanisms.

As a result, the project contributed to strengthening policy dialogues calling for the application of FPIC, transparent benefit-sharing mechanisms, and safeguards to protect Indigenous livelihoods and food security in the context of REDD+ and carbon markets.

Findings and Activities:



Dissemination of country-specific policy briefs for Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador.



Presentation of findings in ACTO meetings and other regional policy spaces.



RESULT 6:

Linking forest fires, carbon loss, and water vulnerability in the Amazon basin

In 2025, project data informed integrated policy discussions on the interlinkages between forest fires, carbon emissions, and water security in the Amazon basin.

In 2025, this information contributed to the COP30 Pact to Accelerate Action on Forest Fires, supporting integrated approaches that combine prevention, response, ecosystem restoration, and capacity-building at local and territorial levels.

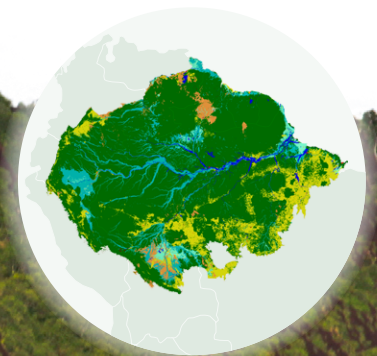
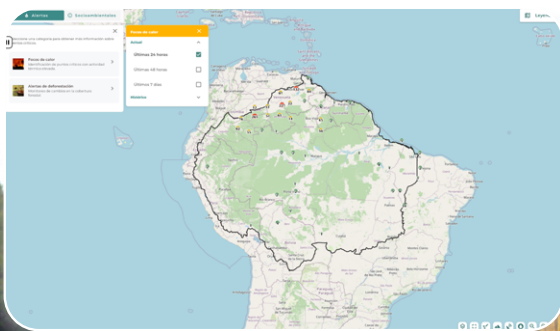
Findings and Activities:



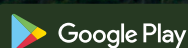
Data from the AMA 2.0 platform showing increasing hydrological vulnerability associated with forest fires in a region that holds approximately 20% of global freshwater.



Evidence indicates that **2024 registered the most severe fire season in recent years**, with nearly 40% of burned areas affecting forests.



AMA is available on the website ama.raisg.org as well as in the Android and Apple app stores.



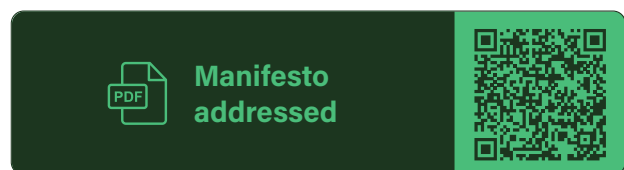
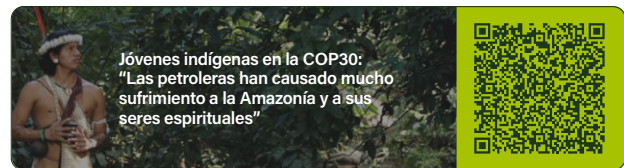
RESULT 7:

Increasing Indigenous participation in global climate governance

In 2025, the project contributed to strengthening Indigenous participation and leadership in international climate policy spaces such as COP30 side events and the ACTO policy forums.

These efforts contributed to improve the visibility and effectiveness of Indigenous voices in global climate debates. In line with Result 2, Indigenous youth spokespersons trained through a project-supported communication process played a key role in disseminating project products at COP30 and jointly endorsed a Manifiesto addressed to decision-makers, which was formally delivered within ACTO policy spaces.

Press release:



Findings and Activities:



Capacity-building in strategic communication for **Indigenous spokespersons**.



Active participation of **Indigenous youth representatives** in COP30 advocacy spaces.



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