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FOCUSING ON THE AMAZON

Newsletter

Amazon Network of Georeferenced
Socio-environmental Information

RAISG

AMAZONIAN NETWORK OF GEOREFERENCED
SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

What is Raisg?

The Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-environmental Information is a consortium of civil society organizations from the Amazonian countries oriented to the socio-environmental sustainability of the Amazon, with the support of international cooperation.

www.raisg.org

Raisg has a new internal structure to strengthen its processes

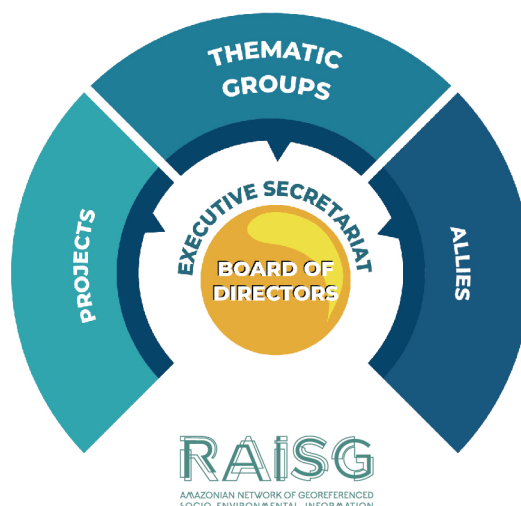
The Amazon is currently going through a complex situation, not only in the global context of climate change but also due to the loss of biodiversity and threats to its socio-cultural richness. The voracious use of natural resources and activities such as mining, together with the exploitation of gas and oil have brought the region closer to a no-return point. Additionally, the lack of political will and unstable governance exacerbate the effects.

Guided by the desire to generate a significant socio-environmental impact, Raisg adjusted its internal management to a co-leadership model. The Board of Directors, made up of representatives of the partner organizations, is the central nucleus of the network's governance, making strategic decisions and establishing institutional priorities. The Executive Secretariat is an autonomous management unit that leads the operationalization of the decisions made by the Board of Directors. And finally, to implement the actions, we have Thematic Groups, which develop the standards to carry out the projects of the network, under its strategic areas of work, and guarantee the fulfillment of the objectives with efficiency and technical rigor, following the established principles and policies.

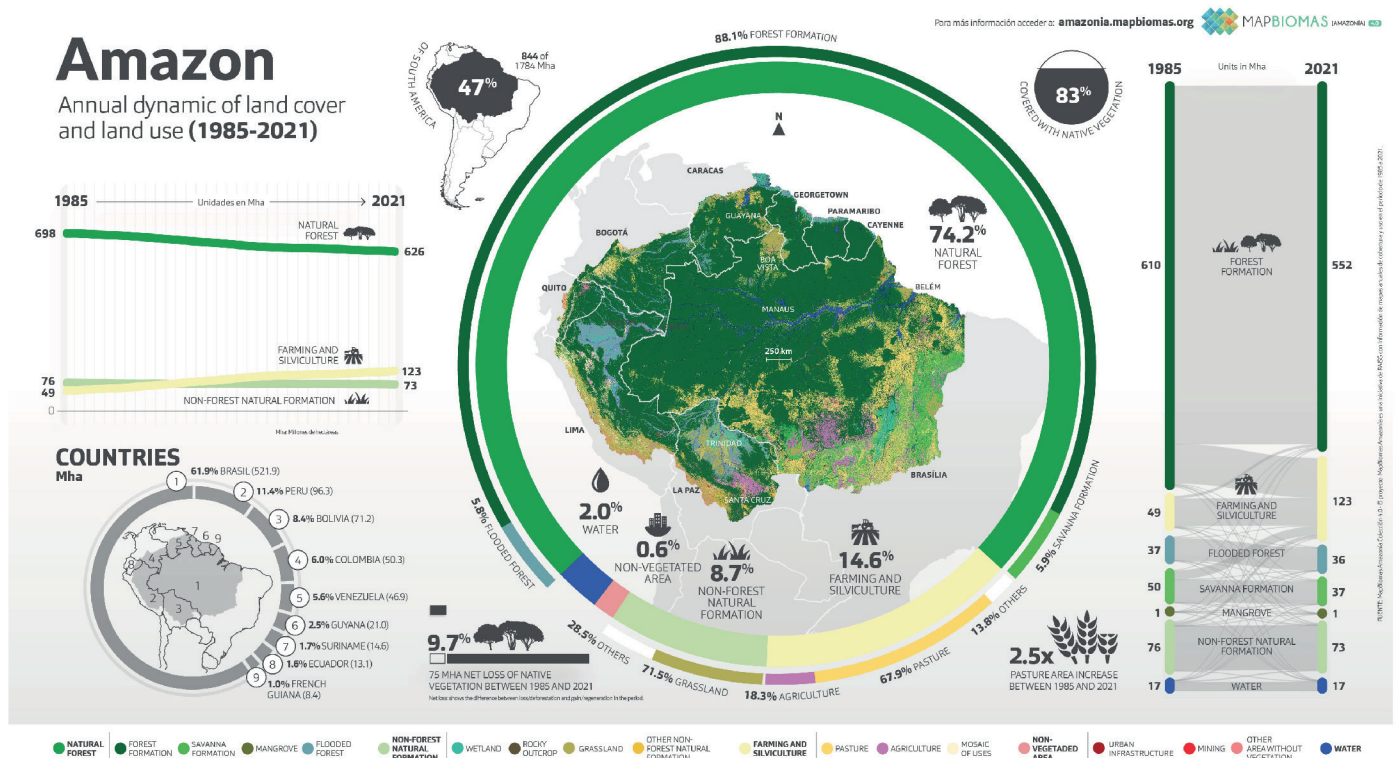
Additionally, Raisg has developed the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 framed in the current context, intending to achieve substantial impact and incidence in public policies and investments in the Amazon, always highlighting the required urgency. In this regard, Raisg will focus its efforts on three strategic areas: (1) biodiversity and ecosystem services, (2) climate change, and (3) governance.

For this reason, the network will promote decision-making on the territorial management of the Amazon, considering biodiversity and ecosystem services as assets to protect and use sustainably. Raisg will also continue to provide evidence on the mitigation, adaptation, and impacts of climate change in the region. As well as will continue to promote the recognition and strengthening of indigenous territories and participatory governance.

Structure organizational



of its natural vegetation in 37 years



On December 2nd, 2022, Raisg launched the 4th Collection of MapBiomás Amazonía in the auditorium of the Embassy of Brazil in Lima, Peru. This new collection reveals that the Amazon region lost almost 10% of its natural vegetation between 1985 and 2021, an area equivalent to the territory of Chile.

In Suriname, Guyana, and French Guiana, the magnitude of the loss of vegetation cover is only 1.6% of its area, but Brazil is reaching 19%, a completely different picture. According to the researchers, the point of no return is estimated at 20% to 25% loss. This scenario translates into a loss of ecosystem services that this major biome provides, such as climate regulation and carbon sequestration.

Raisg developed this project and generated the data using MapBiomás Amazonía: a mapping tool that allows monitoring, in high resolution, of the changes in land use for the entire Amazon region. Collection 4.0 compiles more than three decades of forest cover history, with annual maps from 1985 to 2021.

This collection represents a coordinated effort of civil society organizations to compile the history of the Amazon and generate robust and accurate information that contributes to the conservation of this relevant region.

More information: <https://amazonia.mapbiomas.org/>





Amazon Under Fire:

measures are urgently needed to reduce the pressure

In addition to the loss of vegetation cover, forest fires are another relevant pressure on the Amazon. Fires generate greenhouse gas emissions, loss of biodiversity, negative impacts to public health, and reduction of water sources, among other negative effects. For this reason, the Raisg analyzed the areas affected by fires during the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 under a regional and national approach, highlighting what happens in Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories.

This analysis found that for these three years, the fires in the Amazon expanded above the historical average, reaching a total of 701,484 km², which means an impacted area much larger than France. In the midst of the pandemic, in 2020, burning and fires expanded 6% more than in 2019. 59% of the areas affected by fires between 2019 and 2021, are areas impacted for the first time, while in 41% of these areas, fires were recurrent.

Most of these fires occur outside Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas, thus constituting a type of barrier against fire. However, this barrier is permeable, and fires have affected tens of thousands of square kilometers in these areas, which shows the importance of strengthening their management and protection.

These analyzes are available on the "Amazon Under Fire" map and on the Raisg new platform: AMA, where any user can consult, analyze and download maps and data on deforestation, burned areas, and heat sources in real-time. AMA means water in the Guaraní language, one of the paramount ecosystem services provided by the Amazon.

More information: <http://ama.raisg.org/>



Amazon against the clock:

Can 80% of the region
be protected by 2025?

The loss of Amazonian ecosystems has critical consequences for the entire planet and those who inhabit it. That is why the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), together with their national organizations in the nine countries of the Amazon, proposed the initiative "Amazonia for Life: let's protect 80% by 2025", an ambitious global call to avoid reaching the point of no return in the region. But, given the current level of degradation, is it possible to achieve?

The Raisg carried out a study within the framework of this initiative, with data ranging from 1985 to 2020. The aim was to generate a baseline of information that allows measuring progress and, in turn, guiding national and international policies to reach the ambitious goal. This work was published in September 2022 in the report "Amazonia against the clock: a regional diagnosis on where and how to protect 80% by 2025."

The results show that the protection of the Amazonia is urgent. If ongoing deforestation trends remain unchanged, this biome will not reach 2025 as we know it today. One of the main findings reveals that the Amazonia is going through a crisis due to deforestation and degradation rates, which combined reach 26% of the territory. In other words, we have already reached the point of no return in some areas: Brazil and Bolivia are the countries responsible for 90% of the loss of forests, and currently going through an advanced process of savannization.

So, can 80% of Amazon be protected by 2025? Yes, it is possible. Achieving this goal requires urgent measures to safeguard intact priority areas or areas with low degradation, combined with the restoration of 6% of the land with high degradation.

In this process, the role of indigenous peoples will be crucial. Historically, they have played a fundamental role in safeguarding the Amazon due to their ancestral practices and knowledge. Expanding their rights and territories is crucial to mitigate the climate and biodiversity crisis, since 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity is in these territories.

More information: <https://amazonia80x2025.earth/amazonia-against-the-clock/>



Deforestation in the Amazon: past, present and future

With an immeasurable value in terms of biodiversity, the extensive tropical forest of the Amazon is rapidly diminishing. Every hour, the equivalent of 310 soccer fields are deforested, as evidenced by the Georeferenced Amazon Socio-environmental Network (Raisg) and InfoAmazonia in the StoryMap Deforestation in the Amazon: past, present and future. Within five years, and at this rate, we could lose 23.7 million hectares of forest, a territory equivalent to all of Ecuador.

Land use change and road infrastructure is constantly growing to expand and increase agricultural land, which puts significant pressure on the forest and the Amazonian peoples. For example, more than half of the Amazon is affected in some way by road infrastructure, which puts more pressure on Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas. The destruction in each Amazonian country is commonly related to the accessibility to the forest (land roads and rivers), its terrain conditions (flat or sloping areas), the proximity to occupation areas, and the expansion of illegal activities.

Between 2001 and 2020, the Amazon lost 9% of its forests. Using a probability model, Raisg predicts the future of deforestation considering three scenarios and estimates that by 2025 the forest loss will be 130% higher than in the first two decades of the century.

To stop the advance of deforestation, Indigenous Territories and Protected Areas are relevant barriers. These areas combined cover almost half of the Amazon. Despite constituting the most important reserves of carbon, biodiversity, water, and cultural heritage in the Amazon, government commitment in most countries is insufficient to defend these areas. Through the years, these areas become more vulnerable to what is happening around them and experience constant pressure.

More information:

<https://infoamazonia.org/en/2023/03/21/deforestation-in-the-amazon-past-present-and-future/>

Do you want to know more about Raisg **and our commitment to the Amazon?**

In addition to our website, you can now follow us on Instagram and LinkedIn, where we will be publishing information about the current situation in the Amazon, our research projects, new alliances, and much more.



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