

Promoting social and environmental benefits of REDD+ in Peru

Using REDD+ to achieve a variety of benefits

The primary aim of REDD+ is to contribute to climate change mitigation by maintaining and enhancing the amount of carbon stored in forests. In addition to this, well-designed REDD+ actions have the potential to deliver a number of other environmental and social benefits at the same time. However, depending on how actions for REDD+ are planned and implemented, they could also pose certain risks. The achievement of multiple social and environmental benefits - while avoiding risks - can make REDD+ a more attractive option for different stakeholder groups, including communities who live in forest areas. It can also increase the long-term sustainability of REDD+. Aiming for a range of positive outcomes is also in line with the safeguards for REDD+ that were agreed at COP 16 in Cancun, which include a request to countries to promote and support the use of REDD+ actions to enhance social and environmental benefits.

The case of Peru

In addition to being a major carbon store and sink for carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, Peru's forests provide numerous other ecosystem services. These include regulating water flows and the supply of clean water, protecting against soil erosion and resulting sedimentation, providing timber and non-timber forest products, offering habitat for species that contribute to pollination and natural pest control, and enhancing the scenic beauty and recreational value of the landscape.

Forest flowers, Madre de Dios province, Amazon region



Using forest resources to manufacture brooms in Cordillera Azul, Ucayali, Amazon region.

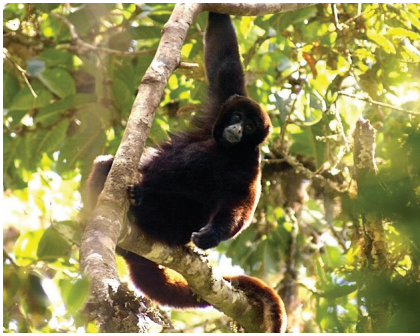
Deforestation and forest degradation in Peru not only threaten the continued availability of these ecosystem services, but may also increase the country's vulnerability to climate change. Planning for a variety of benefits from REDD+ can help the country to align REDD+ objectives with existing policy objectives related to the management of natural resources and socio-economic development. One of the aims of Peru's National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change is to create synergies between different instruments, strategies and planning documents, in order to reduce emissions and enhance carbon stocks, as well as to create co-benefits related to biodiversity, ecosystem services, livelihoods, and social inclusion, among others.

Promoting environmental and social benefits of REDD+ through spatial analysis

Information presented in the form of maps can be very relevant in the development of strategies and implementation plans for REDD+, as different areas may be more or less suitable for specific types of REDD+ actions, as well as for competing land uses. The natural, socio-economic and cultural conditions that determine the possible benefits and risks of these actions are also unevenly distributed across the landscape. Analyses of spatial data can support REDD+ planning processes and coherent implementation of different policies related to the use of land and natural resources.

Potential distribution of critically endangered and endangered species in relation to 2000-2013 deforestation

This map illustrates that forest loss can threaten potential habitats of critically endangered and endangered species. The map can be used to identify areas where continued deforestation may lead to the loss of ecosystems that harbour significant numbers of endangered species. REDD+ actions to address deforestation in these areas could potentially deliver added benefits for protecting multiple threatened species.



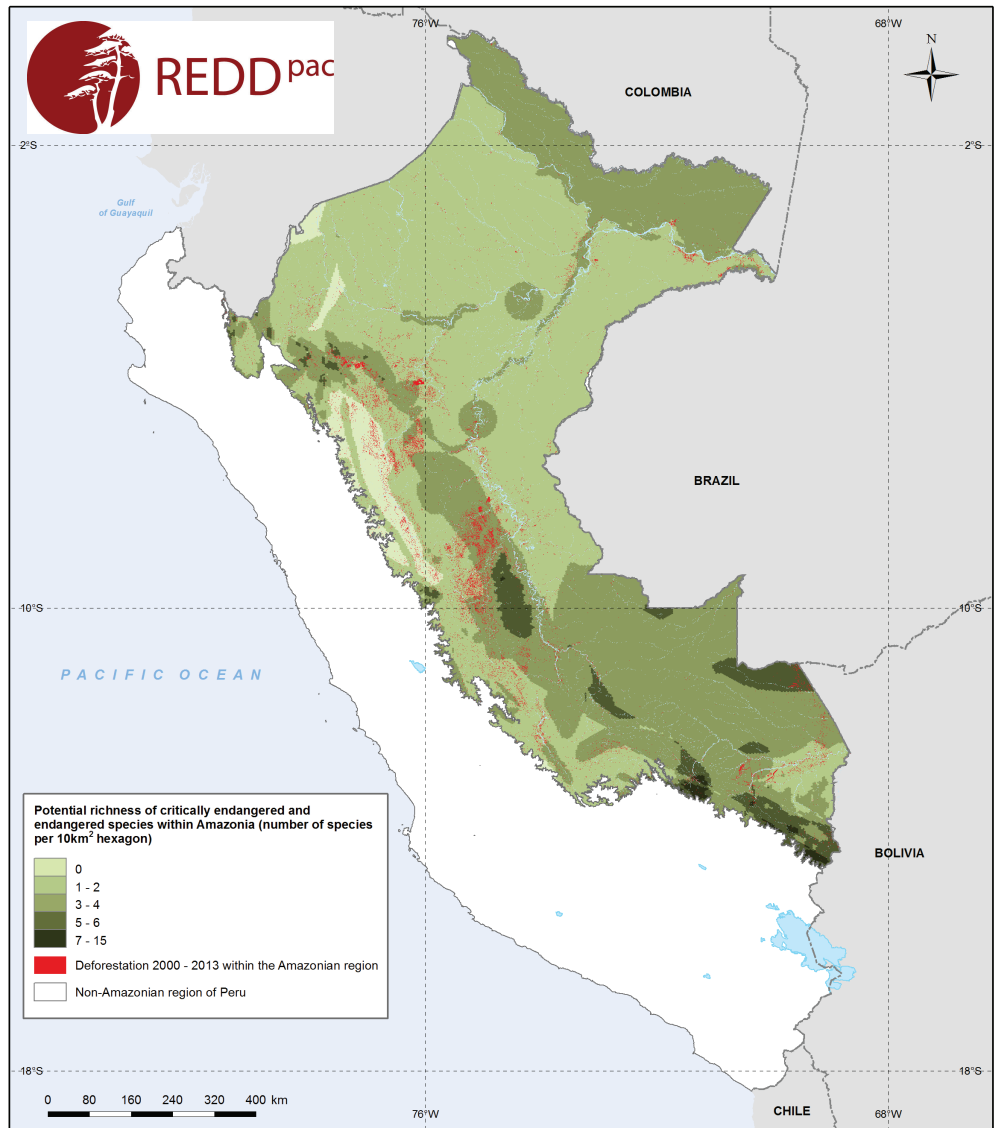
Yellow-tailed Woolly Monkey (*Oreonax flavicauda*), IUCN: Critically Endangered



Giant Otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), IUCN: Endangered



Royal Sunangel (*Heliangelus regalis*) IUCN: Endangered



Methods and data sources:

Species richness: IUCN 2013. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Version 2012.3. <http://iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded May 2014. Based on mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles classified as "Critically endangered" or "Endangered" by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species Version 2012.3. A 10sq/km hexagon grid covering Peru was generated using Jenness Enterprises repeating shapes tool in ArcGIS 10.0. Hawth's analysis tools were used to generate the species richness layer by calculating the number of threatened species ranges intersecting with each hexagon. Hexagons are shaded by species number, and then clipped to the boundary of the Amazonian region.

Forest cover loss 2000 - 2013: Map of forest loss 2000 - 2013 in the Amazonian region. Ministry for the Environment of Peru (MINAM), 2014.

Ongoing work

Peru's Ministry for the Environment (MINAM, through its REDD+ MINAM project and the National Programme for Forest Conservation) is currently engaged in a process to identify and prioritize potential areas for REDD+ implementation through conservation and sustainable use of forests. The REDD-PAC project (www.redd-pac.org) has contributed to this effort in 2014 by supporting a series of analyses conducted jointly by MINAM and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). These analyses highlighted some of the potential benefits that can be achieved through REDD+ actions, explore the

possible contributions that REDD+ can make to the achievement of other policy goals and commitments, and provide inspiration for future work on these issues. Building on the work completed so far, a flexible spatial tool for planning actions related to REDD+ or other conservation initiatives is now being developed by UNEP-WCMC and MINAM with the support of the UN-REDD Programme. This tool will help decision-makers and funders take account of biodiversity, and other environmental, social and economic considerations, in tasks such as the evaluation and prioritization of areas for REDD+ and other purposes.

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