



PERÚ

Ministerio
del Ambiente

FOREST

The route of life

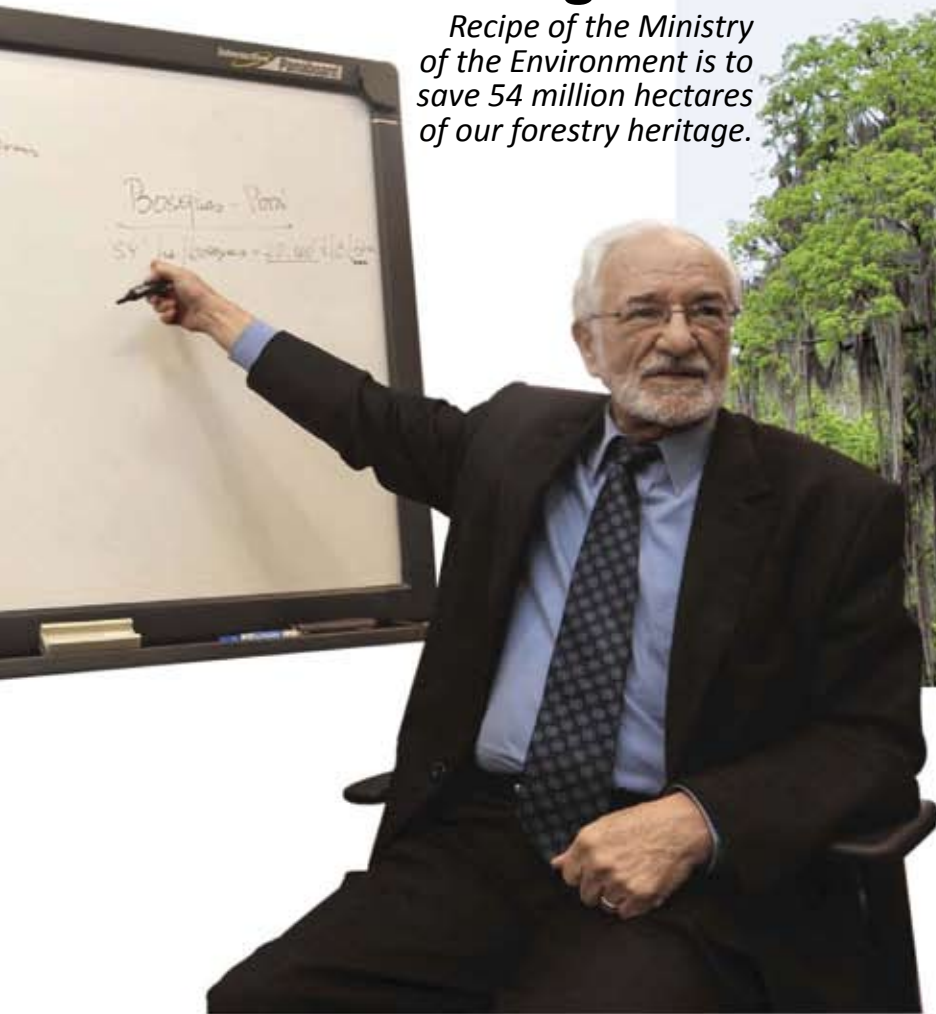


“.... we pledge financial and human resources to conserve 54 million hectares of forests to help curb climate change... and I reiterate the staunch will of Peru to strengthen sustainable economic development with low carbon emissions...”

*President Alan García Pérez
65th UN General Assembly
September 22, 2010*

Long Live Forests

Recipe of the Ministry of the Environment is to save 54 million hectares of our forestry heritage.



Looking into the root of the matter, there is a wise Indian proverb: "If a Man sows a tree before he dies, he shall not have lived in vain". The Peruvian Amazon's abundant forests are so vast, but nonetheless vulnerable to human intervention, and thus, more than referring to the phrase

to sow, the key phrase should be to conserve.

In view of the fact that Peru has lost 10 million hectares to deforestation in the last century, under the stewardship of Minister Antonio Brack Egg, the Ministry

Dry forests in the Cerros de Amotape National Park will also be protected thanks to the National Forestry Conservation Program.

of the Environment has created the National Forestry Conservation Program to Mitigate Climate Change, an initiative fully backed by President Allan García. This National Forestry Conservation Program intends to definitively conserve 54 million hectares out of a total 72 million hectares of tropical forests in Peru.

"The Government of Peru submitted this Forestry Conservation Program at the 14th Summit on Climate Change in Poznan, Poland as a contribution to mitigating climate change" stated Minister Brack Egg. **This is clearly a very pressing issue.** "Sixteen years have elapsed from

"Conserving 54 million hectares of forests will also conserve 10,000 million tons of carbon biomass" declares Minister Brack.

the 1st to the 16th summit to be held in Mexico in November and December this year" adds Brack. "During that period fossil fuel consumption has risen and greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere have increased by 6,000 million tons aside from the fact that forests, the great CO₂ recyclers, are shrinking."



Extension of carob trees on the Northern coast of Peru. By pledging to conserve, dry forests account for 3 million hectares.

Ten million hectares of forests have been deforested in Peru over the last century.

Despite the fact that Peru’s current figures give us some respite, the Ministry of the Environment refuses to stand by and do nothing.

Latin America alone has registered a loss of 60 million hectares of forests. According to a report of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency – JICA, Peru deforested 250,000 hectares per year in 2,000, however, this figure dropped to 150,000 hectares per year in 2005 and at present fluctuates at an estimated 90,600 hectares per year.

Since climate change is looming over the horizon and may exceed an increase of 2° C temperature by the end of the century – the limit agreed by the international community – conserving 54 million hectares of our forests means “putting a stop to greenhouse gas emissions and maintaining 10,000 tons of carbon biomass” as Minister Brack mentioned.

High biodiversity of flora and fauna, which includes the spectacled bear as a symbol, is life benefit to the conservation of forests.



pasallo (eriotheca Ruizi), a typical tree of the dry forests on the Northern coast of Peru.

Peru will have reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 47.5% through zero net deforestation by the year 2021.

Tree-Growing Farming Structure

Conservation may be perceived as a good, but inevitably unattainable intention. Despite the difficulties involved, the Ministry of the Environment has already defined the maps needed to start conserving its forests. Thus, of the 54 million hectares to be conserved, 16 million hectares belong to forests in 61 Protected Natural Areas (the PNAs that cover more than 19 million hectares which is equivalent to 15% of Peru’s territory). This first figure describing the area to be conserved covers legally intangible tropical and dry forests on the Northern coast that have been preserved thanks to the unrelenting monitoring and

Biological diversity must also be conserved in other areas, such as, water in watersheds, the habitat of indigenous people and a number of environmental services that dry and tropical forests provide. “The objective for 2021 is to bring net deforestation down to zero thereby reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 47.5%” stressed Minister Brack. Compared to the goal of the European Union which aims at reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, the previous figure is impressive. All of this can be gained by simply respecting the Amazon forest.

Conservation no matter how large the tree’s diameter is.



Germany has granted more than 20 million Euros for forestry conservation and in turn the Government of Peru is investing US\$ 30 million per year.

protection of the National Service of State Protected Natural Areas – SERNANP. The National Forestry Conservation Program also includes 10'653,709 hectares of titled land given to native communities through the participation of Community Forest Conservation and that will pay the indigenous communities 10 Soles



"We now have 600 forest rangers".

per hectare of conserved forest per year. This development tool will help alleviate poverty in these communities

without disregarding their ancestral custom of living in harmony with Nature. According to the Ministry of Agriculture an additional 17'971,768 hectares will be put in production under forestry management projects. "We have already granted concessions on 8'474,876 hectares for timber and other forestry products (Brazil nut and Shiringa or rubber tree)", adds Brack Egg. The dry forests of the north account for an additional 2'252,492 hectares for this initiative, and there is an equal amount of Amazon palm swamps. Non government



The indigenous People can actively participate in conservation with the National Forestry Conservation Program to Mitigate Climate Change



Out of the 19 million hectares of Protected Natural Areas, 16 million hectares are dry and tropical forests.

Brazil nut or tropical wood forestry management products account for US\$ 200 million.

organizations and private enterprises already have 700,000 hectares under private conservation and eco-tourism concessions.

By adding other small conservation categories the total amount is 54 million hectares of forests as shown on forestry conservation map.

Green Currency

It's one thing to have a good idea and quite another story to turn it into a reality. Enter powerful Mr. Money on stage since he finances good ideas. The good side of the story: "We are already on the right track" according to the Minister. "Germany has pledged to provide more than 29 million Euros over the next five years (an estimated US\$ 27'000,000) while USAID will grant US\$ 6 million in addition to the fact that the World Bank has included Peru in its FIP



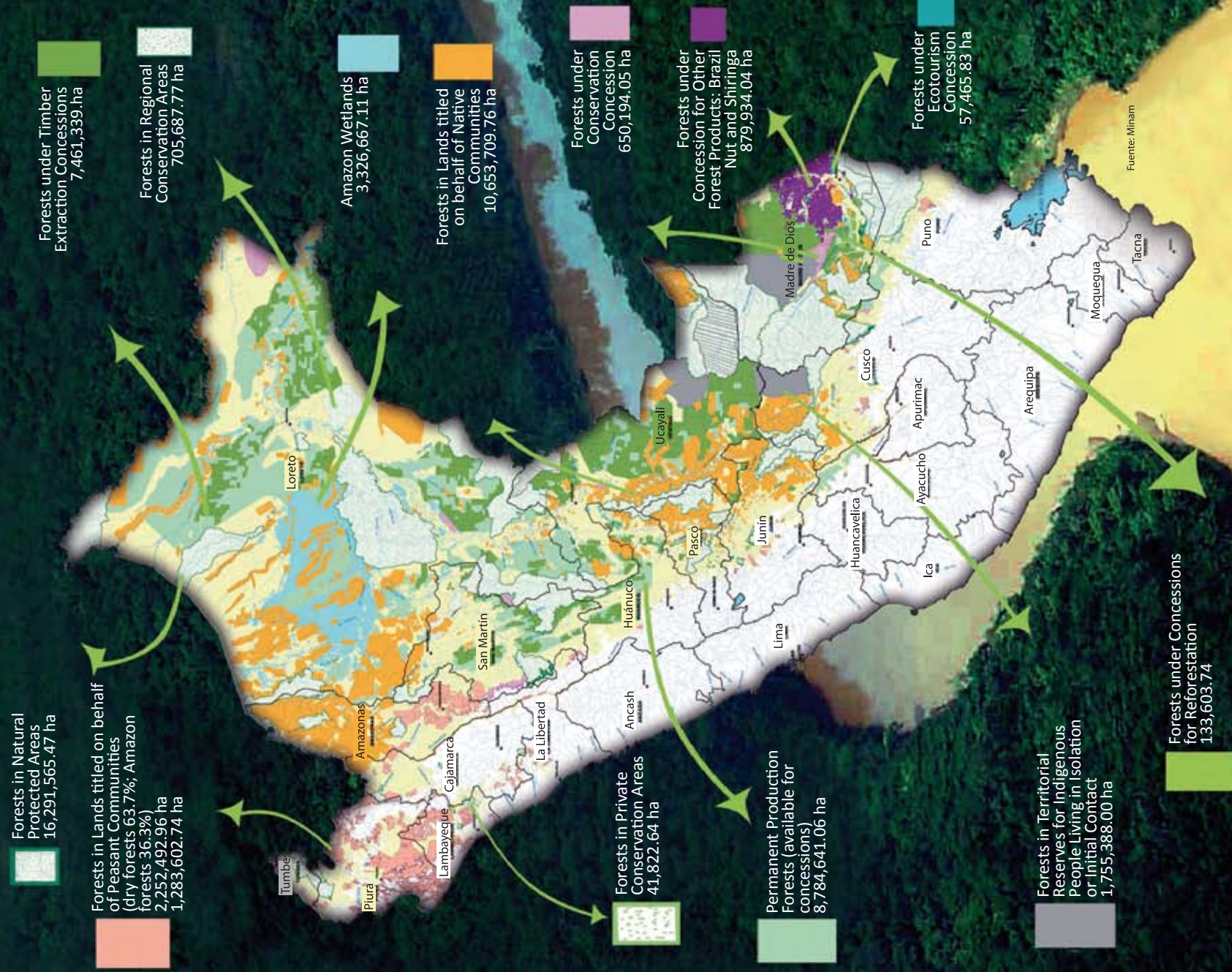
An example of a healthy carob tree on the Northern coast.

program and allotted an estimated US\$ 70 million".

These international grants should be added to the JICA credit for up to US\$ 40 million, at an interest rate of barely 0.1% per year, a ten year grace period and payable in thirty years. At the same time the Government of Peru has been investing US\$ 30 million per year which drives the message home about how keen it is on conservation.

FORESTRY CONSERVATION MAP

54 million hectares of future conserved forests





How are these funds used? For many things, but just to give you an example in January 2009 Peru had 230 forest rangers today the country has 600.



Obviously green currency is a two way street and it must be made clear that forestry conservation is not merely a romantic notion advocated by environmentalists. "The challenge is to conserve forests while at the same time encouraging the development of sustainable productive activities that generate wealth" stated Brack Egg. Eco-tourism is our main focus "since it generates US\$ 150 million per year and has an enormous potential for growth and employment. Eco-tourism is growing at a pace of 25% each year in the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve in Loreto".



Forestry management of Brazil nut or timber account for US\$ 200 million. In Madre de Dios, for example, 750 families have concessions over 863,778 hectares of Brazil nut forests and harvesting has become their main means of livelihood. Since the company Bosques Amazónicos will set up a factory to process Brazilian nuts near Puerto Maldonado, the economic outlook is appealing. Moreover, when the Initiative to Reduce Emissions Generated by Forestry Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) is finally implemented, the benefit from conservation will be far greater.

It is now clearly evident to see how Peru is proposing conservation and its benefits from both environmental and economic perspective. So if each of us is willing to pitch in, we should each plant a sapling to contribute to this big effort.

From the little spotted cat called Tigrillo to the White-Lipped Peccary, the Forestry Conservation Program will enable us to protect endangered species.



The Role of Indigenous People

Community-Based Forestry Conservation: solution for the environment and the poverty of native communities.

Indigenous organizations such as CONAP and AIDESEP have participated in information workshops on community-based forestry conservation.

The Community-Based Forestry Conservation will generate an estimated income of S/. 110'000,000 as annual income to native communities for their participation in forestry conservation.

Two heads think and act better than one. Resolutions or mere actions by the Ministry of the Environment do not suffice to accomplish the conservation objective of this National Program. The

native communities have the titles to an estimated 10'653,709 hectares of Amazon forests and are a fundamental partner of this endeavour.

Since indigenous communities have a long-standing tradition of living in harmony with Nature in the Amazon Region, the native communities represented by a number of organizations, for example, the Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana (AIDESEP) and the Confederación de Nacionalidades



Native communities play a fundamental role in the National Forestry Conservation Program.

Amazónicas del Perú (CONAP) will benefit from the Community Forestry Conservation that will give native communities with land titles an economic incentive of 10 soles per hectare of conserved forests.

“The good news is that the Community Forestry Conservation will enable us to define how many hectares with land titles may be included in this forestry conservation program”, mentions Germán Huanira, AIDSESEP Legal Council. He then adds “And when the other aspects involved in land titles such as the land currently processing land titles, and the ownership rights of individuals and not only community rights have been

Community-Based Forestry Conservation helps us to define how many hectares with land titles will be a part of the National Program.

clearly established, the initiative will benefit many more people”.

The AIDSESEP authorities have met and given their recommendations to improve the implementation of the National Program and community-based forestry management. “And when this is approved by Congress prior consultation of indigenous peoples, all these efforts will be appropriately channeled”, declares Huanira. Native communities are not the only ones that work jointly with the Ministry of the Environment. Another priority for forestry conservation is capacity-building of public entities and their contribution. “We have also helped MINAM to identify communities in the Apurimac-Ene River Valley (VRAE)”, stated Marco Espinoza, legal council to the Confederación de Nacionalidades Amazónicas del Perú (CONAP): “We are currently developing on a joint basis to recruit a consultant to design a process for prior consent. It is very positive”.

At the same time, the Initiative to Reduce Emissions Generated by Forestry Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) is still in the middle of a process. “MINAM has invited CONAP and AIDSESEP to attend Workshops in Tarapoto, Cuzco, Loreto, among other regions, to explain the



Regional Workshops explain the idea of the REDD Initiative that provides an economic benefit for deforestation avoided.



REDD Initiative to native communities”, commented Espinoza.

Firm steps are being taken to secure the wellbeing of communities. If the Community-Based Forestry Conservation which is part of the National Forestry Conservation Program undertaken by MINAM accomplishes its objectives this could mean that an estimated income of S/. 110’000,000 per hectare per year will be distributed to native communities with land titles for forestry conservation. In this context, if they voluntarily adhere to the REDD Initiative this could substantially help to alleviate poverty.



Pledge Before the World

At the United Nations President Alan García Pérez has pledged to conserve 54 million hectares of forests through the National Forestry Conservation Program.

“...we pledge financial and human resources to conserve 54 million hectares of forests, thus curbing the effects of climate change ... I reiterate the staunch will of my country to strengthen economic development through sustainable growth and low carbon emissions ...”

President Alan García Pérez at the 65th UN General Assembly Wednesday, September 22, 2010

The President’s message at the 65th UN General Assembly will become an historic landmark not only since he is one of the few Peruvian Presidents to have addressed the United Nations to speak out on world environment problems but also because he is the first President of Peru who has pledged to promote a conservation policy for 54 million hectares of Peruvian forests through a National Forest Conservation Program in order to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in the world.

“Peru is a vulnerable and high risk country vis a vis climate change, however it is also a strategic country to

mitigate and adapt to climate change in the world since it has the fourth largest tropical forest on Earth. We are not asking for international cooperation to mitigate the effects of climate change but rather demand that rich countries fulfill their obligations in their territories by controlling their carbon emissions and we will do the same in ours”, stated President García Pérez during his speech at this important international event.

The President declared that Peru has forests that capture 21 billion tons of carbon per year; a territory which has 84 life zones and is one of the 17 mega biologically diverse countries in

the world. “Without asking the rich counties for assistance I pledge financial and human resources resulting from our growth, to steadfastly conserve 54 million hectares of forests in order to mitigate the effects of climate change in the world”, he stressed.

During his speech President Alan García Pérez demanded the countries of the world to assume concrete objectives for cooperation and the transfer of technology and to set aside resources for the development of projects that will combat the effects of climate change. “We want to reach a binding, quick, effective global pact at the

Summits on Climate Change. Standing here before you I reiterate the will of my country to strengthen collective action by encouraging a clean and sustainable economic development with low carbon emissions”, pointed out President García.

With this aim in mind – highlighted the President of Peru - “Peru will voluntarily be accountable before the UN Assembly each year so that by the year 2021 deforestation will be stopped and the national energy grid will run on at least 40% of renewable non-conventional energies (hydro energy and biofuels)”, he declared.

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