



## REPAM on the road to COP 30 Pan-Amazon

### AXIS 1: Defenders of the common home

Women and men, girls and boys, our grandmothers and grandfathers, are the guardians of the air, of the water, of a healthy earth, mother and sister, of all nature. In a very special way, the peoples in voluntary isolation who make the Pan-Amazon the last place in the world where the purest of our biodiversity is preserved, becoming an ecosystem service for the rest of humanity.

They must be protected because they are an inseparable part of every atom of our Pan-Amazon biome. Today, their lives are at greater risk than ever before, and every year more men and women are murdered in their territories: the Coordinator of the Organizations of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin (COICA) points out that more than 300 leaders have been identified brutally murdered for defending their ancestral territories between 2012 and 2022, without counting the unrecorded deaths of many other leaders who silently lose their lives defending the Pan-Amazon.

For this purpose, the following measures are urgently required:

- The ESCAZÚ Agreement contains specific provisions for the promotion and protection of environmental defenders in Latin America. Its ratification is therefore urgent in order to implement the measures it contains for the prevention and support of human rights defenders, collective rights defenders and environmental defenders.
- Protocols for the protection of human rights defenders and people in voluntary isolation, including awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of the work of defenders.
- The implementation of effective security measures to guarantee the life and freedom of environmental defenders, in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations<sup>1</sup> in Article 2 of its Declaration on the Rights of Defenders.

### AXIS 2: Governance and participation (democracy and the civic space)

The communities and peoples that inhabit the Pan-Amazon region must be an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all public policies (social, environmental, cultural, economic, civil, political, etc.) that are implemented at

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly A/RES/53/144 (1999)

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Defenders/Declaration/declaration.pdf>

the state and regional levels. They are the owners of their yesterday, their today and their tomorrow.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR<sup>2</sup>) insists on focusing on civic space as a place that promotes the development of international standards of governance, participation (especially prior, free and informed consultation), transparency, accountability... of all people, of all peoples, of all communities.

Criminalizing this space or making it invisible calls democracy into question.

From this point of view, and in accordance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC<sup>3</sup>), states must take this into account:

- Diverse and inclusive participation is essential to guarantee political rights and the functioning of democracy, so it is a duty to adopt measures to ensure broad participation without any form of discrimination. To this end, it is essential to implement specific measures to guarantee the substantive participation and effective influence of the most vulnerable and excluded people and groups in all areas of political decision-making.
- Participation in decisions on the development of each territory is a right for all citizens (Article 6 IDC). No people, no ethnic group, no community can be excluded; to this end, the States must promote mechanisms and processes of participation in the world view of the peoples of the Pan-Amazonian region, according to their history, their customs, their own decision-making formulas.

### AXIS 3: Accountability mechanisms: State Guarantees and Corporate Responsibility. The role of Amazonian communities

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights must become binding obligations for States and companies, with concrete and effective mechanisms for access to information, participation and transparency.

As stated in Pillar II of the Guiding Principles, the due diligence process (identify, prevent, mitigate and respond) must include the identification and assessment of the negative (actual or potential) impacts of its activities on human rights and the environment; which also makes it possible to strengthen the State's control over respect for human rights in the various economic sectors, through the strengthening of the role of regulatory bodies, adequate funding of their structures and services, greater inter-

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<sup>2</sup> IACHR (2023)

<sup>3</sup> OAS (2001) <https://www.oas.org/en/democratic-charter/>

institutional coordination and the development of innovative and accessible control tools that allow citizens to participate in supporting the State's control role.

- For example, by promoting and monitoring the practice of transparency as a measure to prevent corruption and damage to the Amazon as a vital biome for climate change, transparency must be a mandatory indicator, the evaluation and monitoring of which is a requirement for licensing and a cause for investigation, sanction and reparation. Transparency also means creating mechanisms that guarantee access to information and participation, not only in the actions taken by companies and governments, but also in their impacts and results, as well as the voice and representation of Amazonian peoples and communities, based on their knowledge and experience in caring for and defending their territories.

#### AXIS 4: Land, water and air sacrificed in the biome essential for global climate regulation (the Amazon). Past the point of no return

The Amazon is a megadiverse area that, together with other tropical biomes on the planet such as the Congo Basin and Southeast Asia, contributes to the climate balance. In this sense, with its more than 6 million km<sup>2</sup>, it contributes up to 15% of the river water discharged into the oceans<sup>4</sup>. All this biological diversity goes hand in hand with the cultural diversity of hundreds of indigenous, Afro-descendant and mestizo peoples, who contribute from their local ways of life with alternatives to build a more sustainable world.

In this context, the Amazon has for decades been an area where the reproduction of life is threatened by the advance of the extractive model of a linear economy that extracts, transforms, circulates, consumes and excretes nature.

Understanding the Amazon as a territory for the extraction of wealth, the implementation of mining, agribusiness and other initiatives, makes it difficult to maintain harmonious relationships with nature, since these have often led to the displacement of communities from their territories and forced changes in their way of life<sup>5</sup>.

To change this reality, proposals are needed that redefine the ways of understanding well-being and integral human development, through social indicators that bring us closer to understanding the temporary realities of access to basic human rights, such as access to water, education, health and living in a healthy environment.

For this purpose, the following measures are urgently required:

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<sup>4</sup> [https://wwf.panda.org/es/sobre\\_la\\_amazonia/](https://wwf.panda.org/es/sobre_la_amazonia/)

<sup>5</sup> World Assembly for the Amazon (2024). Rapporteur's report 3 Mining, hydrocarbons and rights.

- Update the social indicators measured in the Amazon to determine the level of poverty and wealth of the population.
- Declare the Pan-Amazon an area where human rights are guaranteed to all peoples, regardless of their ethnic origin.
- Encourage countries to develop public policies and legal frameworks aimed at keeping oil in the ground, not opening new mineral exploitation in the Amazon, and promoting innovative mechanisms that do not commercialise nature.
- Identify processes for developing climate objectives in public policies and legal frameworks, including everything from a risk and security plan for extreme climate events, to mitigation and adaptation plans for climate emergencies, to climate finance.
- Promote the integration of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity objectives. Highlight the importance of biological, cultural and social biodiversity in the face of the limitations and contradictions of the green bioeconomy.

## AXIS 5: Escazú Agreement

The decisions adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties in April 2024 represent a significant step forward in the possibilities offered by the Escazú Agreement to move towards genuine peace with environmental justice. However, these decisions, like others, will continue to be inadequate, ineffective and inefficient if an adequate balance and articulation with existing rights and procedures (information, participation and protection) is not achieved, as well as with the application, monitoring and participatory evaluation of the implementation mechanisms from the territories of each country.

In the case of the Pan-Amazon, framed within a voracious extractivist model and the persistence of problems related to the institutional weakness of the States, the minimal will of governments, legislative and control bodies; which are also subordinated and subdued to various political, economic, corrupt and criminal interests and powers that threaten nature, human life, dignity, freedom, justice and peace.

- If this balance can be found, the Escazú Agreement could be a real tool for governance and the democratisation of public administration, as well as for environmental management, the prevention of conflicts and environmental damage, their prevention and control, and the precision of the responsibility and punishment of those who damage the environment.

## AXIS 6: Territory: Self-Determination

The right to territory, within the framework of the principles and standards of human rights, is defined according to a comprehensive and evolving vision that conditions the guarantees of other rights, and the principles of Laudato Si on cultural ecology refer to the need to incorporate the culture and history of a place in order to preserve identity; it is therefore assumed that cultural wealth is cared for in the broadest sense, with culture being a concept especially in a living, dynamic and participatory sense.

Following the line of proposition contained in Laudato Si<sup>1</sup>:

- We encourage efforts to ensure that the work to mitigate the effects of the exploitation of the environment is resolved from a global perspective, being interdependent, with a common project.
- We call for attention to be paid to the situation of the indigenous and peasants communities in the Pan-Amazon, considering that there have been various efforts and actions, but that they are disintegrating and that it is necessary to create links that characterise the struggle of these peoples and communities with a voice that integrates a common problem and with intercultural proposals.
- We are very concerned about the legal framework for the protection of peasant rights. There is an urgent need for specific treatment to raise the standards that link their collective right to the territory, reflected in the exercise of their right to adequate housing, as well as the creation of a convention or pact that is binding for the enforcement of their rights by the States.

## AXIS 7: Jungle and Rivers

The Amazon is a vast hydro-social territory with direct relationships between its rivers, its forests and the people who live there. This reality poses major challenges for national governments in terms of protecting territories and promoting sustainable lifestyles in balance with the local ecosystem.

Nature is a subject of rights, its rivers are subjects of rights, as established by the rulings of the courts of Colombia (2018 - Atrato River<sup>6</sup>), Peru (2024 - Marañón River<sup>7</sup>) and Ecuador (2024 - Machángara River<sup>8</sup>); together with the legislative power in Colombia (Law 2415 of 2024, Ranchería River<sup>9</sup>).

<sup>6</sup> <https://ecojurisprudence.org/es/iniciativas/colombiana-amazonica/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://lpderecho.pe/rio-maranon-sujetos-de-derechos-sentencia/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.biodiversidadla.org/Noticias/Municipalidad-de-Quito-apela-decision-judicial-que-otorgo-derechos-al-rio-Machangara>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=379d12f0-9667-443a-a3b0-6410b58cacc4>



In this sense, Indigenous Peoples are called to take the lead in using their ancestral knowledge to influence public policies that allow for a balanced life in the Amazon. In particular, we call on the international community to take action to pressure public policies to comply with the Global Pact for the Permanent Conservation of 80% of the Amazon Rainforest<sup>10</sup>.

It calls on the COP to take urgent action to:

- Develop mechanisms to oblige/encourage governments to declare all Amazon basins and sub-basins as subjects of rights, in order to protect them from initiatives and projects that threaten the reproduction of life.
- Facilitate spaces for the governments of the Amazon Basin to sign the Pact and join the Coalition of the Amazon Initiative for Life: Let's protect 80% by 2025.
- Demand that governments recognise the right of indigenous peoples to their territories through the official titling of territories, as a public policy that justifies the historical debt owed to the peoples and as a mechanism to stop the expansion of extractive industries in the Amazon.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://amazonia80x2025.earth/declaration/>