

YAVARÍ-TAPICHE TERRITORIAL CORRIDOR

Indigenous territories and protected natural areas

Organized by



In partnership with



Supporters by

Limits, headquarters, and roads

- Country limits
- State limits (Brazil) and Department limits (Peru)
- Department capitals (Peru)
- Municipal headquarter (Brazil), district and province headquarters (Peru)

Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor

- Yavarí-Tapiche Territorial Corridor

Indigenous lands (Brazil) / Native communities (Peru)

- Recognized by the State
- In process of recognition by the State

Circular representation occurs when there is no defined area/limits at this time

Recognized Indigenous reserves and proposals for isolated groups (Peru)

- Indigenous reserve recognized
- Proposals for Indigenous reserves

Protected natural areas

- Integral protection Area
- Sustainable use
- Conservation concession
- Proposed Protected Natural Area

Villages and settlements

- Matses villages (Mayoruna)
- Kanamary villages
- Marubo villages
- Kulina Pano villages
- Matis villages
- Korubo villages
- Kanamari and Tyohom-dyapa villages

Other ethnic groups and communities by status

- Ashánink a to be titled
- Capanahua to be titled
- Cocama-Cocamilla titled, to be titled, to be registered
- Iquito titled
- Quechua to be titled, to be registered
- Ticuna titled, to be titled, to be registered
- Yagua titled, to be titled, to be registered

Settlements

- Riverside communities

Posts and pelotons

- Ethno-Environmental Protection Base - BAPE/FUNAI
- Border Patrols
- Support house EVU/Univaja

Sources: Cartographic database, Indigenous Lands (BR) and Protected Areas (BR and PE) - RAISG, 2025; Peru Cartographic database and Protected Natural Areas. Ministerio del Ambiente del Perú (MINAM, RAISG and IBC). Villages in the TI Vale do Javari and Riverside communities. Centro de Trabajo Indígenista (CTI) and FUNAI 2025. Native communities of Peru Organización Regional de los Pueblos Indígenas del Oriente (ORPIO), Ministerio de Cultura and Centro para el Desarrollo del Indígena Amazónico (CEDIA). Peruvian Matses villages: Centro para

el Desarrollo del Indígena Amazónico (CEDIA). Villages, communities by status and ethnicity - Perú (Atlas IBC, 2016). Indigenous reserve and proposed Indigenous reserve in Peru: ORPIO. Proposal for a CEDIA Regional Communal Conservation Area, Lago Preto Paredon Conservation Concession and Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Regional Communal Conservation Area. Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS Loreto-Peru Program.

Territorial Corridor Límit Yavarí-Tapiche: ORPIO. Ethno-Environmental Protection Bases: Vale do Javari Ethno-Environmental Protection Front (FEVJ). EVU Support Houses: Univaja Surveillance Team (EVU/Univaja). Prepared by: Brazil - Renata Alves, Hilton Nascimento and Helena Ladeira. Peru - Rolando Rodríguez Arvalo and David Fretas Alvarado. Spanish-English translator: Carlos Julio Carrero. Style Editor: Ian Stuart (Ike) Isaksen



1. THE YAVARI-TAPICHE TERRITORIAL CORRIDOR

The western Amazon, on the border between Brazil and Peru, is home to the largest concentration of isolated indigenous peoples in the world.

Since the early 2000s, indigenous organizations and their civil society allies have mobilized to defend their rights and protect these peoples. In addition to the formal recognition by their respective nation states, of the territories occupied by isolated and recently-contacted indigenous peoples, these alliances have highlighted the need for intersectoral and bi-national cooperation and articulation for the implementation of effective policies and actions to safeguard their rights and the protection of the forests in their territories.

Since 2014, the Organización de Pueblos Indígenas del Oriente (ORPIO), with the support of its federations, through the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor Protection Platform, has been leading a process in collaboration with the União dos Povos Indígenas do Vale do Javari (UNIVAJA) and grassroots organizations to promote the protection and governance of the areas recognized by these entities and where isolated and recently-contacted indigenous peoples are present. This is the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor initiative, which has the collaboration of the Centro de Trabalho Indigenista (CTI) and the support of the Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN).

The Yavari-Tapiche Corridor comprises a continuous area of 16.2 million hectares of forest inhabited by isolated and recently-contacted indigenous peoples in addition to surrounding regions under different legal categories of protection. Located on the border between the state of Amazonas in Brazil and the department of Loreto in Peru, 66% of its extension is in Brazil and 34% in Peru.

On the Brazilian side, there are 16 references to isolated indigenous peoples recognized by the Brazilian government - 36% of all confirmed references in the country - and two of recently-contacted peoples. On the Peruvian side, there are five indigenous reserves for the protection of these isolated peoples, several of them recognized by the Peruvian government, in addition to one other recently-contacted people. Two reserves are still pending recognition.

This is a territory made up of forests of great ecological value and structural integrity, an area of special biological relevance, with high rates of biodiversity and healthy populations of various animals that, elsewhere, are at risk of extinction. It is one of the most diverse regions on the planet, with an almost unknown biodiversity and many species new to science. It is also home to the headwaters of important rivers and holds one of the largest carbon reserves in the entire Amazon, whose protection is essential to mitigate the effects of climate change.



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4. DEFORESTATION⁴

Until the year 2000, 99% of the total cover of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor area was intact primary forest. In the last 24 years, from 2001 to 2024, 76,000 hectares of forest cover (equivalent to 0.5%) have been lost.

Despite the low rate of deforestation in the interior of the corridor, there are five major deforestation hotspots around the corridor: Cruzeiro do Sul, Ipixuna and Eirunepe on the Brazilian side, and Pucallpa and Lower Amazon/Yavari on the Peruvian side.

The cities of Cruzeiro do Sul in Brazil and Pucallpa in Peru represent the largest deforestation hotspots around the corridor, where, between 2001 and 2024, 198,000 and 310,000 hectares were lost respectively. This represents a 19% decrease in tree cover in Cruzeiro do Sul and 17% in Pucallpa compared to 2000. The materialization of the bi-national highway project connecting these two regional urban centers could trigger a peak in deforestation rates in the region, in addition to crossing isolated indigenous territories and other protected natural areas, which would seriously affect the corridor.

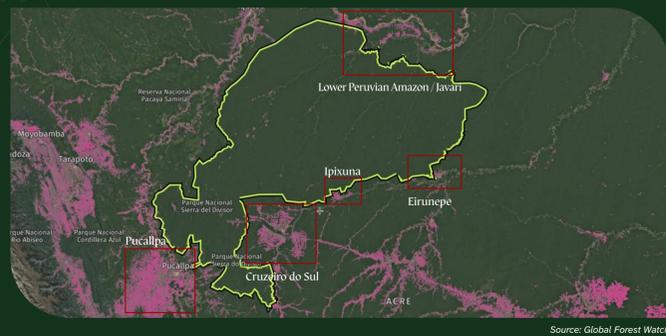
In Peru's Lower Amazon/Yavari region, on the border with Brazil, the loss of tree cover during the same period was 150,000 hectares, equivalent to 3% of its forest cover in 2000. This deforestation is closely related to an increase in coca cultivation areas in the region to meet the demand of drug trafficking.

Deforestation in the Brazilian cities of Ipixuna and Eirunepe, located on the banks of the Jurua River, amounted to 16,000 and 10,000 hectares, respectively. These

deforested areas represented a 19% reduction for Ipixuna, and 3% for Eirunepe of the forest areas that these municipalities owned in 2000. In the Iuxiuna region, incursive deforestation was carried out by local farms within the boundaries of the TI Vale do Javari.

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Accumulative deforestation until 2024 in the surroundings of the Yavari-Tapiche Corridor



4. For the corridor area, tree cover loss was calculated, which refers to the replacement, year after year, of natural vegetation over 5 meters in height within a specific area. This dataset is a collaboration between the University of Maryland, Google, USGS and NASA, and uses Landsat satellite imagery to map annual loss at 30 x 30 meter resolution. It is critical to note that "tree cover loss" is a broader term than "deforestation", as it includes changes in both natural and planted forests and is not limited to human causes alone. The primary source for tree cover loss is Hansen/UMD/Google/USGS/NASA: Global Forest Watch, "Tree cover loss in Ecuador (pre-release name)", accessed on 11/01/2025 at www.globalforestwatch.org. For the Lower Amazon deforestation maps, we used data from the Red Amazonica de Información Socioambiental Georreferenciada (RAISG) and Global Forest Watch for tree cover loss. For the Ipixuna and Eirunepe regions, we used Terra Brasilis data from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE) and MapBiomas complements (<https://brasil.mapbiomas.org/>).

2. INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES AND PROTECTED NATURAL AREAS IN THE CORRIDOR

The majority (83%) of the total area of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, has some type of territorial protection, 72% of which is made up of officially recognized indigenous areas, and 20% of which are Natural Protected Areas (NPA), of which 9% overlap with indigenous reserves in Peru. Only 17% of the total lack some type of territorial protection by the Government.

On the Brazilian side, 80% of the corridor is made up of indigenous lands¹ (TI), 10% by Natural Protected Areas and another 10% by areas without territorial protection. On the Peruvian side, 55% of the corridor is made up of indigenous areas; 35% by indigenous reserves² (RI) intended for the protection of isolated peoples, and 20% by native communities³ (CN) with titles in the name of indigenous communities with a longer relationship with Peruvian society. Another 14% is made up of Natural Protected Areas and 31% is without territorial protection; 42% of them are proposed for recognition as indigenous reserves.

While in Brazil most of the corridor is made up of indigenous areas, in Peru almost half (41%) is protected by natural areas with a large overlap of indigenous reserves. Of the 1.9 million hectares of recognized indigenous reserves on the Peruvian side of the corridor, 78% overlap with these ANPs. This situation raises a fundamental need for coordination for the management and protection of these areas occupied by isolated indigenous peoples, together with the environmental agencies responsible for them.

A comparison between the Brazilian part and the Peruvian part of the corridor makes clear the degree of protection vulnerability in Peru. In Brazil, 90% of the extension is under some type of territorial protection, in contrast to 69% on the Peruvian side. Only 10% of the corridor on the Brazilian side lacks protection, while in Peru the rate is 31%, despite the existence of two proposals for the establishment of reserves: the

RI Yavari-Mirim and the RI Tamaya Abujao. These face great resistance from the country's governmental agencies, which, year after year, try to grant their areas for timber and hydrocarbon (oil & gas) operations, serving the interests of the corresponding commercial sectors, with constant harsh campaigns against their recognition, in which regional and national political stakeholders participate. This has represented a lack of protection of the isolated indigenous peoples for decades, since the RI Yavari-Mirim proposal was filed 20 years ago. Although the recognition of the isolated peoples of this reserve has been officially made by the Peruvian government since 2017, the area of territorial occupation has not yet been defined by the nation.

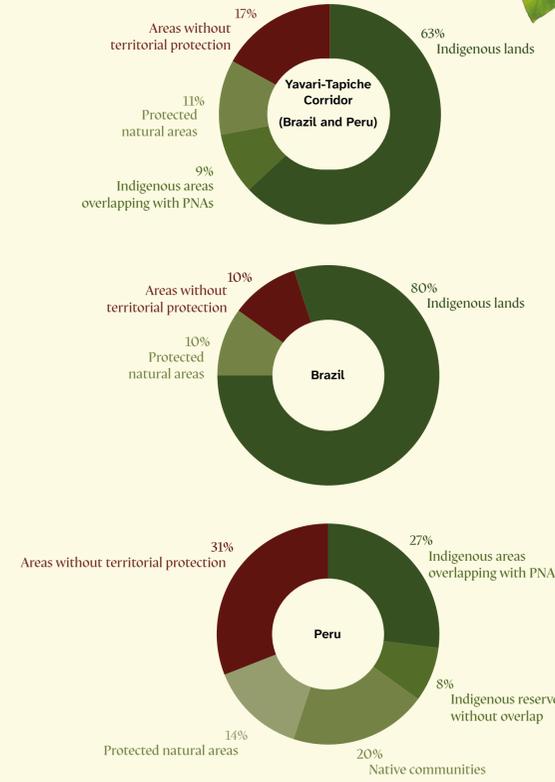
Most of the indigenous areas (94%) and Natural Protected Areas (75%) of the Yavari-Tapiche Corridor were established by the governments of both countries a little over two and a half decades ago, after the year 2000. It is a region in a recent and still ongoing process of land recognition, mainly on the Peruvian side.

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- Lands traditionally occupied by indigenous peoples, which are the property of the Union, but for the exclusive use of the indigenous peoples that inhabit them, being inalienable, unavailable lands with imprescriptible rights. They may be recognized either for indigenous peoples with a longer relationship with the surrounding society or for isolated indigenous peoples, or even for both.
- Lands delimited by the Peruvian State, of transitory intangibility, in favor of isolated indigenous peoples or in a situation of initial contact. Provisional possession of the delimited territory is recognized, without recognizing the indigenous peoples' property rights. For this right to be recognized, peoples in question would have to establish a relationship of continuous contact with the surrounding society.
- Fragments of the territory of an indigenous people whose legal existence and ownership are recognized by Peruvian law through a collective title granted in favor of native community. Native communities are intended only for indigenous peoples with the most interaction with the surrounding society.

3. PROTECTED AREAS IN THE YAVARI-TAPICHE CORRIDOR



PROTECTED AREAS IN THE YAVARI-TAPICHE CORRIDOR

Country	Protected Area	Year of homologation / recognition / categorization	Area in the Yavari-Tapiche Corridor (hectares)
Indigenous areas			
Brazil	TI Vale do Javari	2001	8,544,480
	TI Mawetek	2001	115,492
	TI Nukini	1991	27,263
Peru	CN Matsés	1993	487,498
	CN Fray Pedro Rio Yavari	2006	192,696
	CN Nueva Esperanza del Mirim	2005	184,923
	CN Lobo Santa Rocino	2010	39,074
	CN San Mateo	1998	30,789
	CN Nuevo Capanhua Rio Blanco	2013	25,079
	Other native communities	-	121,248
	RI Isonahua	2016	298,487
	RI Sierra del Divisor Occidental	2024	515,114
RI Yavari-Tapiche	2021	1,095,877	
Total			11,677,850
Protected Natural Areas			
Brazil	PN Serra do Divisor	1989	837,555
	RDS Cujubim	2003	205,464 *
Peru	PN Sierra del Divisor	2015	1,354,485
	RN Matsés	2009	420,635
	ACRC Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo	2009	364,563 *
ACRC Alto Tamaya-Abujao	2021	135,337 *	
Total			3,316,039

TI - Indigenous Land; CN - Native Community; RI - Indigenous Reserve; PN - National Park; RDS - Sustainable Development Reserve; RN - National Reserve; ACRC - Community Regional Conservation Area. Source: Native Communities - Indigenous or Original Peoples Database - Ministry of Culture (<https://bdpcultura.gob.pe>).

* Refers only to the area within the boundaries of the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, it does not represent the total size.



Photo: Diego Pérez / SPDA

Seizure of trachéids and turtles by FUNAI in 2018. Photo: FFEV/FUNAI Archive



CHALLENGES IN PROTECTION OF THE YAVARI-TAPICHE TERRITORIAL CORRIDOR

Despite being an immense preserved area, with large extensions of protected forests and the greatest diversity of isolated indigenous peoples in the world, the integrity of the corridor and its peoples faces many challenges.

Regional infrastructure projects planned for the region, such as the construction of the bi-national Pucallpa-Cruzeiro do Sul highway, may lead to uncontrolled deforestation around the corridor. The construction of other local roads, such as the one from Jenaro Herrera to Angamos, also energizes dangerous processes inside the corridor, such as the increase of coca cultivation areas to meet the demands of drug trafficking. This process is already occurring in the Lower Peruvian Amazon/Yavari region, intensifying deforestation and violence in this border area and threatening many indigenous peoples.

The survival of these peoples is threatened by timber extraction in forestry concessions granted by the Peruvian government. Many of these concessions are in areas where the same government has refused to recognize the territories occupied by isolated indigenous peoples. The legal documents for these concessions often facilitate the laundering of timber extraction from other protected areas in both Brazil and Peru.

Invasion by illegal hunters and fishermen supplying game meat and fish to the region's city markets creates competition for the area's natural resources, and can lead to clashes between the invaders and local inhabitants, including isolated indigenous peoples.

Mining interests for oil & gas extraction in the corridor's territories which date back to the 1970s, are still a looming threat to the region, even after campaigns by indigenous peoples have momentarily averted the risk. Simultaneously, illegal mining along the Jutaf and Jandiataba rivers in Brazil, is being practiced by an internationally connected network with the beginning involvement of organized crime.

These challenging situations have led indigenous peoples, with the support of various partners, to organize the monitoring and surveillance of both their own territories and those of other isolated indigenous peoples.



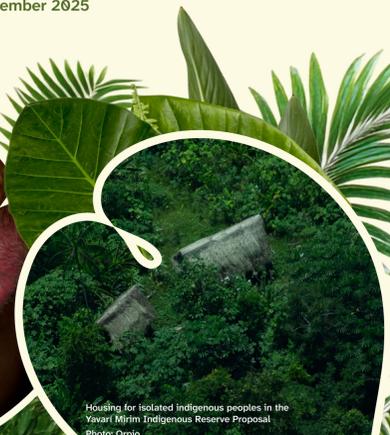
Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor

Indigenous territories and protected natural areas

Brazil-Peru border
November 2025



Red usakari
Photo: Lucas Bonolo / CTI Archive



Housing for isolated indigenous peoples in the Yavari Mirim Indigenous Reserve Proposal
Photo: ORPIO



Deforestation for cattle ranching in Guajará (AM), Cruzeiro do Sul region
Photo: Hilton S. Nascimento / CTI Archive



Prosecutorial action promoted by ORPIO against illegal logging within the framework of protecting the Yavari-Tapiche corridor. Photo: ORPIO