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## PREVENT

The Peruvian Amazon, one of the most biodiverse and culturally rich ecosystems in the world, is in danger. Environmental crimes such as illegal logging and mining and wildlife trafficking threaten biodiversity, forests and the lives of indigenous and local Amazonian peoples. Despite scientific and technological progress to address their causes, the environmental crimes continue. The Prevent project worked to stop this complex scenario.

USAID's Prevent Activity worked with the Government of Peru, indigenous peoples, and civil society to address this complex scenario at both the national and subnational levels, with a geographic focus on Loreto, Madre de Dios, and Ucayali. The Project aimed to improve the conditions to prevent and combat environmental crimes, reduce their occurrence in biodiversity rich areas, including indigenous lands, and build partnerships to mobilize resources to address these challenges.

### HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

Prevent collaborated with Peruvian environmental justice operators and government institutions to build their capacities, equip them with tools and resources so they could lead the reforms needed to prevent and combat environmental crime. Through a systems approach, the Project developed solutions adapted to local realities and opportunities in Loreto, Madre de Dios, and Ucayali. Prevent also used data and technology to accelerate the participation of local and indigenous communities in monitoring and preventing threats. Through an ambitious communication strategy, it promoted the participation of civil society, youth, businessmen and the media in the prevention and combat of environmental crimes. All

Prevent interventions incorporated gender and social inclusion approaches, aiming at the mobilization of private sector resources, civil society engagement, and long-term sustainability interventions.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- The construction of alliances and collaboration schemes with more than 50 leading companies, civil society organizations, indigenous groups, and the public sector for the development of sustainable value chains and the conservation of the Amazon and its biodiversity, in various modalities.
- Institutional strengthening and coordination of the Peruvian government, supporting the creation and management of the Environmental Crimes Functional Unit (UNIDA) and the High-Level Commission on Environmental Crimes (CANDA) and the consequent incorporation of these functions into the Ministry of Environment (MINAM).
- Training of more than 4,000 public servants and future justice operators, among others, in environmental crimes.
- Development of more than 15 technological solutions for the integration and exchange of information between government agencies regarding the reporting and monitoring of environmental crimes and the monitoring and management of forest resources.
- Technical support for the formation of the first 3 citizen environmental monitoring networks in Loreto and Madre de Dios.
- Promotion of best practices towards formal, responsible, and sustainable artisanal and small-scale mining, with social inclusion, a gender approach, and clean technologies in nearly 30 formal MAPE (Artisanal and Small-scale Mining) operations.
- Legal defense and material support for more than 25 vulnerable environmental defenders, as well as capacity building for their protection.
- Promotion of investigative journalism on environmental crimes and training for journalists and local and national media with more than 2,000 reports and stories in national media.
- Raising awareness and engaging citizens through communication campaigns and calls to action with over 80% recall and national and international recognition.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTER:** DAI

**PARTNERS:** Amazon Conservation (ACCA), and Environmental Law Institute

**DURATION:** September 27, 2019 – September 27, 2024

**USAID FUNDING:** \$24,684,000 million

**LOCATION:** Lima, Loreto, Madre de Dios and Ucayali regions

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