

AKTION AMAZONAS

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

**AKTION
AMAZONAS!**

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



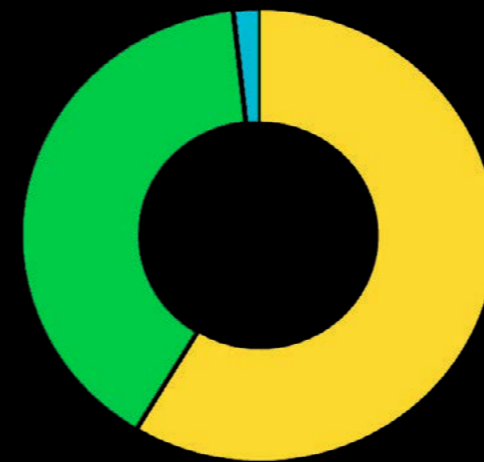
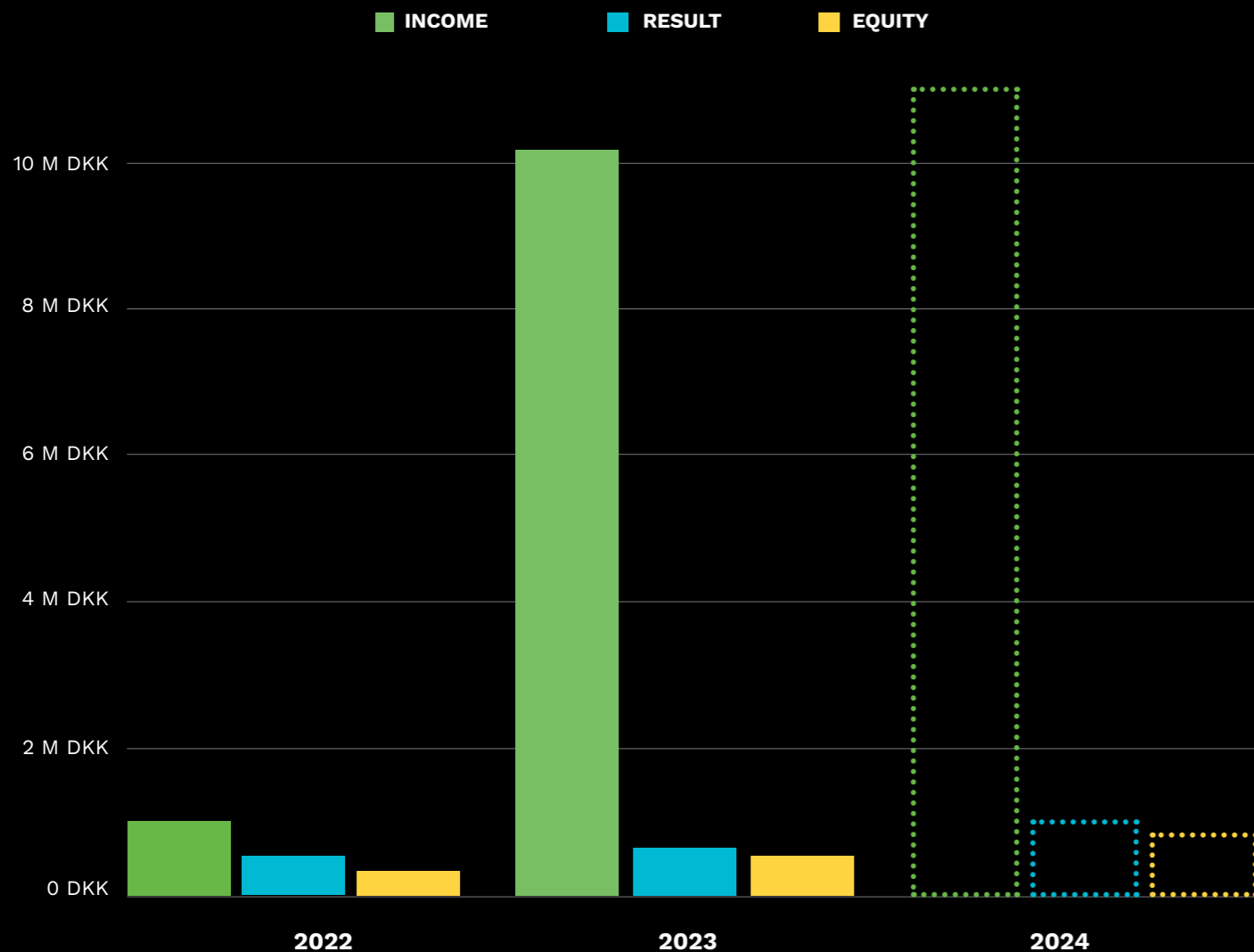
**CONNECTING
TO
CONSERVE**

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

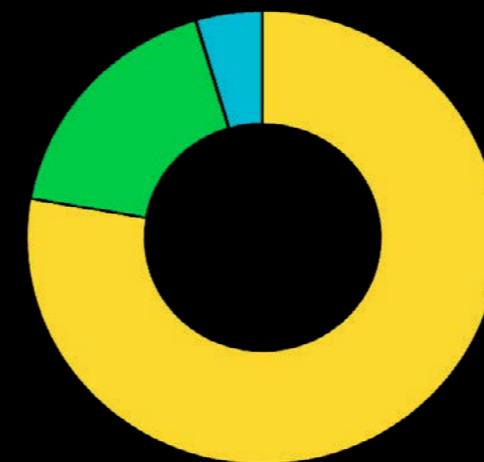
Aktion Amazonas had a total income of 5,748,000 DKK in 2023. Grants from the Civil Society Fund amounted to 3,401,000 DKK, while other project funds accounted for 2,260,000 DKK. The Civil Society Fund is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and administered by Civil Society in Development (CISU). The rise in other public and private projects is attributed to a strategic decision to diversify Aktion Amazonas' revenue. Membership fees, donations, etc., amounted to 87,000 DKK of the total income marking a significant increase compared to last year.

In 2023, Aktion Amazonas allocated 4,350,000 DKK to nature conservation in South America, representing over 78% of the organization's expenditure budget, while 18% of the budget was earmarked project activities in Denmark including information work. Operation costs, including expenses for continued resource mobilization, remain at just 5%. A significant investment in fundraising resulted in Aktion Amazonas increasing its annual revenue leading to a surplus of 156,442 DKK by the end of 2023. As of December 31, 2023, the available equity amounted to 102,119 DKK.

INCOME, RESULT & EQUITY 2022-2024



INCOME		2023
CISU	DKK	3,40 M
OTHER PROJECT FUNDING	DKK	2,26 M
MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS	DKK	0,087 M
TOTAL	DKK	5,748 M



EXPENDITURE		2023
ACTIVITIES SOUTH AMERICA	DKK	4,35 M
DK ACTIVITIES	DKK	0,98 M
OPERATIONS	DKK	0,26 M
TOTAL	DKK	5,50 M

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AKTION AMAZONAS is a nonprofit rainforest NGO working for the preservation of South America's tropical forests, focusing on the Amazon and adjacent forest ecosystems.

GREETINGS FROM OUR PARTNERS



SANDRA RIVERA CÓRDOVA
SPECIALIST IN
CONSERVATION SPACES / ACEAA



JUAN LOJA ALEMÁN
TECHNICAL PROJECT
DIRECTOR / ACCA



JENNY FLORES DE ZABALA
INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION
MANAGEMENT / FCBC

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

A DECADE FIGHTING FOR THE AMAZON

A MESSAGE FROM CO-FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF AKTION AMAZONAS:

In 2014, Aktion Amazonas convened its inaugural general assembly in premises borrowed from Care Denmark. Present were Bolivia's ambassador and a group of committed enthusiasts. A prevailing sentiment among attendees was frustration over the devastation of indigenous communities and loss of biodiversity. There was a collective realization that mere donations and discussions were no longer sufficient to support the Amazon rainforest. Instead we aspired to develop ambitious projects and secure substantial funding to enact real change.

Our objective then, as it remains today, is to conserve as much tropical forest as possible by promoting and establishing natural, productive landscapes interconnected on regional scales. We aim to curb the escalating deforestation and mitigate its dire consequences for the environment, biodiversity, and climate.

Ensuring a greener world for future generations necessitates steadfast dedication.

From the outset, our focus has been on the central-western part of the Amazon, which has suffered relatively less from deforestation. Our aim was to establish a stronghold from which we could expand the fight for the Amazon.

After 10 years, we have consolidated our presence in the region, known as "The Grand Arch of Tropical Forest in Central Western South America", and continue to advocate tirelessly for rainforest preservation.

Our journey has been long and demanding, requiring unwavering belief from all involved, particularly from partners who forged long-term relationships with a fledgling organization. These partnerships have been indispensable for our growth. Without their expertise and faith in Aktion Amazonas, we could not have fulfilled our mission to safeguard tropical forests.

Today, Aktion Amazonas stands as a robust organization with extensive project involvement across South America. In alliance with three formidable partners, we contribute to the protection of over 2 million hectares of rainforest in Peru and Bolivia. This transformation from concept to organization has only been possible thanks to the steadfast support of our members, volunteers, and partners over the past decade.

A heartfelt thank you to all who have been part of Aktion Amazonas over the last ten years. We hope you will continue to join us in our ongoing fight for the Amazon.

Kind regards
Toke Nyborg



GREETINGS FROM CISU

Dedication and high professionalism shine through strongly, and always have, in our encounters with Aktion Amazonas. Almost to the point where advisors are completely dazzled, asking ourselves – why are we even here?

Fortunately, we do occasionally have a few good points to contribute, and it is always a great pleasure to meet with people who not only bring their professionalism but also their whole heart and personal commitment.

From CISU's perspective, we hope that you can continue to engage and bring people on board who are wholeheartedly committed to the work for climate, nature, and the environment in the Amazon region.

Unfortunately, your work is becoming even more relevant as the challenges facing the region are severe.

Together with your skilled partners, you have taken up the fight, and it is a fight you must win. You should continue to pursue your approach to alliance-building and get as many people on your side as possible.

We look forward to following you in the many upcoming victories on behalf of climate, nature, and the environment.



ANDERS REIMER LARSEN
ADVISOR / CISU

REVISITING BRIGHT SPOTS

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



ANDERS HESSELLUND
CHAIRMAN / AKTION AMAZONAS

It has been a challenging year for the Amazon.

The world's largest rainforest faces drought, forest fires, pollution, and deforestation. It has called for a determined response from all of us in 2023.

Aktion Amazonas is committed to this cause. Through local partnerships and with support from our growing number of passionate volunteers, we are here to contribute to long term solutions. We believe in our ability to make a positive impact on biodiversity. By assisting the region's indigenous people and our local partners, we can do our part to preserve this unique ecosystem for both us and future generations.

Our approach is based on building strong, lasting relationships. We engage in projects that make a difference for the rainforest and the people on the ground. Thanks to generous donors, enthusiastic volunteers, and a few highly skilled employees, even a small organization such as ours can push for change.

In this annual report, please join us as we revisit bright spots and evaluate the progress made in 2023. But before we dive in to the achievements of the past year, we first want to extend a big "thank you" to all of you! Remember: None of this would be possible without your contributions to our common project. Aktion Amazonas is fueled by your passion and energy. We hope you will stay with us and continue to support our cause as we move into 2024. Happy reading.

CLIMATE CHANGE, DROUGHT AND EL NIÑO

Extreme weather events hit fragile parts of Central and South America in the Autumn last year. Heatwaves followed by probably the worst drought in the history of the Amazon. Dried-up rivers, a shortage of drinking water, and the depressing sight of dead river dolphins were tangible effects of climate change and the phenomena known as El Niño.

With support from Civil Society in Development (CISU) and the Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF), Aktion Amazonas and our Bolivian partner, Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano, launched an aid effort last year that has run into 2024. Our efforts aim at helping vulnerable families in remote villages.

The goal is to ensure that they have access to clean drinking water and basic food. We assist in delivering water collection equipment and seeds that can withstand these harsh conditions.

THE DANGERS OF DEFORESTATION

Decades of deforestation and burning has made the rainforest less resilient. It is losing its ability to self-heal. In the last five years alone, several million hectares of forest have been burned in Bolivia and Brazil, due to deliberate, man-made forest fires. This trend must be reversed to allow the forest to recover. Otherwise, we run the risk that even minor natural, weather events can cause permanent damage.

Man-made problems in the form of deforestation continually threaten the ecosystem of the Amazon. Our aid efforts include the distribution of 10,000 trees. Protecting the existing forest and replanting trees are crucial instruments in our efforts to prevent that the Amazon transforms from forest to savannah or, even worse, desert.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS

What happens in the Amazon matters not just to the people living in the region. It matters to all of us. The Amazon is home to 10% of the world's biodiversity. It functions as the largest carbon sink in the world. When it deteriorates, it is a loss for all of us.

In Aktion Amazonas, we believe in long-term, sustained efforts. Our focus is on preservation of the Amazon through the empowerment of local communities. We support income-generating activities, monitoring the forest using drones and satellites, as well as training local emergency firefighters. We use our influence to exert political pressure on local governments to stop deforestation.

As of today, our activities have contributed to the preservation of approx. 2 million hectares of rainforest!

The land consists of indigenous territories and protected natural areas. We strive to create land corridors to connect different wildlife areas. Ensuring the free movement and survival of local animal species is integral to our mission. Additionally, we support the purchase of wildlife cameras that allow local organisations to monitor the life and activities of local animals.

PROMOTING EDUCATION

Starting from 2023, Aktion Amazonas has engaged in environmental education. Specifically, our efforts support the establishment of local nature schools, training teachers, and development of educational materials. Through a two-year consortium project with two local partners in Bolivia, we are promoting educational activities in villages spread across four different forest areas.

Environmental education will empower local children and provide them with a platform for future activism. They are situated in areas that are particularly rich in terms of biodiversity. Our efforts will help them recognise this and support them in protecting it in the future.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

Collaboration is at the core of our work. It was therefore a great achievement of 2023 that we took part in establishing the South American Tropical Forest Conservation Alliance (SAFCA). Together with three South American partners, we laid the foundation for a lasting joint conservation effort in service of the rainforest and the adjacent ecosystems.

Together, the alliance will advocate for political solutions to deforestation through campaigns, political actions, data collection and research. Additionally, we will increase capacity-building support to local communities. SAFCA is a milestone in Aktion Amazonas' long-term strategic work for the conservation of the Amazon. It is a milestone that we are

particularly proud of. In years to come, we examine expanding our reach to Ecuador and Brazil.

THANK YOU

During 2023, we expanded our staff with a project coordinator, an accountant, and a student assistant responsible for communication. This expansion is in line with our goal to shape Aktion Amazonas as a professional organization that can take on bigger challenges and make a greater impact. Our ambition is to grow into a programme cooperation with CISU and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have great confidence in our new colleagues and their ability to help us in this endeavor.

Finally, we want to yet again acknowledge and thank our many loyal volunteers. Without the continued support of members and volunteers, Aktion Amazonas would not be able to reach its goals.

Thank you for your dedication and passion. If we stay the course, we can make a lasting, positive impact on the Amazon.

Anders Hesselund
Chairman
Aktion Amazonas



Aktion Amazonas is fueled by your passion and energy. We hope you will stay with us and continue to support our cause as we move into 2024. A big THANKS to all of you!

[ANDERS HESSELLUND, CHAIRMAN]

GET TO KNOW SAFCA

The **South American Forest Conservation Alliance (SAFCA)** is an organization dedicated to preserving the invaluable natural heritage of the South American tropical forests, thereby contributing to resilience to climate change, for the benefit of forest inhabitants and humanity as a whole.

The alliance includes four non-governmental organizations working in different tropical forest areas within Bolivia and Peru: Conservación Amazónica – ACCA from Peru, Conservación Amazónica – ACEAA from Bolivia, Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano – FCBC from Bolivia, and Aktion Amazonas – AKAM from Denmark.

South America's tropical forests, comprising a vital part of the continent's landscape, harbor immense biological diversity, as well as native and indigenous communities and therefore embody significant social and cultural values which are crucial for sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Facing escalating pressures from land use changes, deforestation, degradation, illegal activities, violence and exacerbated wildfires due to climate change

effects, urgent and coordinated actions are imperative.

SAFCA envisions the maintenance of extensive functional and resilient tropical forests across central-western South America, contributing significantly to sustainable and regenerative development for society. Its mission is to facilitate forest conservation by advocating for and establishing connected natural and productive landscapes at regional scales, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among civil society, local populations, and decision-makers.

Working together to preserve the forests in South America highly increases the chances of achieving the goal, by including all skills and experiences, allowing for synergies, and promoting local ownership of nature-based solutions to the global climate and biodiversity crisis. North-to-South assistance is not provided, as development and conservation work is carried out in partnerships, as this approach best contributes to sustainable change.

WHY SAFCA?

The significance of SAFCA lies in its strategic role in addressing the pressing challenges faced by South American tropical forests.

By fostering long-term collaboration among civil society organizations dedicated to forest conservation, SAFCA promotes the exchange of knowledge, awareness-raising, and mobilization of resources that are crucial for driving innovative conservation initiatives at landscape scales.

Through its focus on empowering local communities, protecting critical ecosystems, and ensuring ecological connectivity, SAFCA aims to safeguard biodiversity, enhance environmental governance, and mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, SAFCA's commitment to professionalism, solidarity, and transparency, grounded in principles of long-term and equitable partnerships, underscores its dedication to inclusive and sustainable forest conservation efforts.

By integrating diverse expertise and experiences, SAFCA endeavors to realize its vision of preserving South America's tropical forests for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to global resilience to climate change and biodiversity conservation.



WHERE IS SAFCA?



◀ Group photo from the SAFCA annual meeting in Madre Dios, Peru.
PHOTO: CARLA ZAVALA, ACCA

WHO IS SAFCA?

WE HAVE ASKED THE DIRECTORS



MARÍA ELENA GUTIÉRREZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ACCA

What inspired ACCA to join the SAFCA alliance?
SAFCA brings together conservation organizations with similar goals and allows for combining efforts in an alliance that has a vision of functional connectivity of the vast Amazon ecosystem, as well as it recognizes the importance of protection hand in hand with local and indigenous populations. SAFCA also allows us to scale the reach of our work to other places in the Amazon through its partners who have a lot of experience in conservation actions.

Why is SAFCA necessary?
It is important because it gathers local organizations with a long trajectory whose goal is the conservation of tropical forests through the creation and management of natural and productive landscapes in the Western Amazon. The SAFCA Alliance allows us to enrich ourselves with the knowledge of each member, especially when we exchange experiences in our annual meetings. The SAFCA alliance is key as it seeks the long term of its initiatives and programs, and in that sense, financial sustainability to guarantee its success and effectiveness.

Why is it important to protect the Amazon?
The Amazon rainforest is a key ecosystem for the functioning of the hydrological cycle of South America; it is habitat to unique wildlife, many of which we have not yet discovered, genetic and species diversity that could hold the solutions to many of humanity's diseases; it is a key carbon sink to address global warming; and it is home to hundreds of indigenous communities with impressive cultural richness, some of them still maintaining their nomadic lifestyle, who directly depend on their ecosystem for their subsistence.



ROBERTO VIDES-ALMONACID
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FCBC

What inspired FCBC to join the SAFCA alliance?
Being part of SAFCA allows us to broaden our horizon of knowledge and experiences and access greater funding, focused on the conservation of tropical forests in Latin America. We are inspired to join allies who share the same purpose and values as our institution. Moreover, we have been working in the Chiquitano Dry Forest, the largest tropical dry forest in Latin America, for 25 years. We can contribute knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned about the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Why is SAFCA necessary?
Being part of SAFCA allows us to raise awareness about the importance of the biodiversity of these tropical forests, their threats, and the search for innovative solutions. Up to today, SAFCA has allowed the exchange of experiences, the addition of collaborative initiatives, the increase in funding for conservation projects, and I believe that in the near future, SAFCA will help achieve greater visibility on the importance of conserving both the Amazon Biome and the Chiquitano Dry Forest.

Why is it important to protect the Amazon?
All tropical forests that are part of the Amazon Basin are in danger, and thousands of plant and animal species and the livelihoods of millions of people are being and will be dramatically affected. FCBC will contribute efforts, capabilities, and actions to make SAFCA a sounding board to save the life of these forests in South America.



MARCOS TERÁN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ACEAA

What inspired ACEAA to join the SAFCA alliance?

For Conservación Amazónica - ACEAA, it is important to promote the link between conservation and the various perspectives of development at the local and regional scale. SAFCA provides the opportunity to scale this approach beyond our organization's landscape, as well as to share achievements and reflections among the members of this alliance to have a sustainable impact on the conservation of South American forests.

Why is SAFCA necessary?

SAFCA is important in many ways, but it highlights the set of its organizations, which have a similar mission but with different capacities, allowing for a perspective from local to regional to propose practical solutions and focus on strengthening the capacities of forest inhabitants and users, linking research results and natural resource management to local policies that favor sustainable development and forest conservation in the region.

Why is it important to protect the Amazon?

The Amazon is important not only for its inhabitants and the South American region but also for the whole world, due to its significant role in global hydrological and climatic cycles; its conservation is a priority for global stability. Conservación Amazónica - ACEAA works to demonstrate this importance and to argue that the task of conserving the Amazon is not only the responsibility of its inhabitants but is a task that must be addressed globally.

TOKE NYBORG
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AKAM

What inspired AKAM to join the SAFCA alliance?

Establishing SAFCA was a strategic move based on the strengths and alignment of the organizations involved to leverage the partners' collective experiences, dedication, and geographical coverage to create a significant impact on forest conservation in South America and promote a shared ambitions to enhance connectivity across regions and countries.

Why is SAFCA necessary?

SAFCA allows partner organizations to pool resources, expertise, and networks to address the pressing challenges facing tropical forests in South America, such as deforestation, habitat loss, and climate change. The geographical location of SAFCA's areas of intervention and regions enables the creation of connectivity to ensure natural connections and interactions across regions combating the negative effects of habitat loss, fragmentation, and climate change. Maintaining high ecological connectivity within the landscape enables juvenile dispersal, seasonal migrations, genetic flow, and the persistence of metapopulations of various species.

Why is it important to protect the Amazon?

The Amazon Rainforest and the Chiquitano Dry Forest play a critical role in maintaining climate functions regionally and globally and provide ecosystem functions to thousands of communities depending on their resources to sustain their lives. And yet, during the last half-century, the connectivity of the seemingly endless tropical forests of South America has been increasingly disrupted, and numerous endemic species have been subjected to waves of resource exploitation. Saving the Amazon and its adjacent forest ecosystems is a global concern and the sole reason why SAFCA fights every day to halt their destruction.



AKTION AMAZONAS!



PHOTO: JIRI HREBICEK, SHUTTERSTOCK



BY MAIA GALMÉS FEUER

In 2023, Aktion Amazonas commenced its environmental education initiatives, now in their second year. Acknowledging education's transformative impact, we underscore its vital role in safeguarding Earth's invaluable resources. In the following pages, we delve into some of the results achieved thus far.

FROM AWARENESS TO ADVOCACY





*By providing training in **advocacy and media** management, the project creates a culture of active engagement and grassroots leadership, ensuring that youth voices are heard in decisions shaping their environment.*



Through partnerships with local authorities and technicians, AKAM is spearheading educational initiatives in 11 communities. The initiatives include teacher seminars, the establishment of Community Nature Centers, and the development of teaching materials tailored to local contexts.



PHOTOS: TOKE F. NYBORG, AKTION AMAZONAS

Creating nature-awareness among communities in the Amazon does not only make a positive impact on the population itself, expanding their knowledge and life possibilities, but also on forest ecosystems. From teaching kids about their environment, to creating spaces where young activists can develop their ideas, Aktion Amazonas has now 11 communities across the Bolivian rainforest that are part of this project.

The Youth Engagement for Nature Conservation is a two-year-long project carried out by Aktion Amazonas, in collaboration with two local partners, Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano, FCBC, and Acción Amazónica, ACEAA.

The project aims to empower communities through environmental education by encouraging a deep-rooted connection to their surroundings and a passion for conservation. The project, funded by CISU, started July 1, 2023, and it plans to go on until June 30, 2025.

The initiative addresses the underlying causes of deforestation in Bolivia by tackling institutional capacity gaps and engaging young people in decisions that are crucial for their future.

CONTEXT AND CAUSALITIES

At least 17% of the Amazon forest cover has been lost in the last half-century, due to industrial agriculture and illegal logging. This is why urgent action is imperative to prevent further damage and, it is believed that the youth is a strong sector of society that has the potential tools to fight it.

In Bolivia, where young people under 18 comprise 44% of the population, their involvement is pivotal in shaping the future of conservation efforts. However, their representation in decision-making bodies remains starkly low, underscoring the need for targeted interventions to make their voices heard.

Through partnerships with local authorities and technicians, Aktion Amazonas is spearheading educational initiatives in 11 communities strategically located within forest corridors in the Santa Cruz and Pando departments. The initiatives include teacher seminars, the establishment of Community Nature Centers, and the development of teaching materials tailored to local contexts.

In the Santa Cruz department, home to Chiquitano indigenous communities, and the Pando department, inhabited by descendants of rural settlers and Tacana indigenous people, Aktion Amazonas's projects serve not only as conservation endeavors, but also as guardians of cultural heritage.

By promoting sustainable practices and fostering pride in ancestral connections to the land, these initiatives aim to create a harmonious balance between human activities and nature.

THE INITIATIVES

Traditional schooling materials in rural Bolivian areas often only include basic notions of language and mathematics, as the resources are scarce and, therefore, the curriculum is short. One of the key initiatives of this project, therefore, involves the development of common teaching materials based on the 'Teaching of Ecology in the School Yard' method.

These resources not only educate but also inspire, offering a comprehensive framework for environmental education tailored to local needs. Moreover, community teachers receive specialized training in environmental and conservation topics, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to effectively engage students.

At least 17% of the Amazon forest cover has been lost in the last half-century, due to industrial agriculture and illegal logging.

Furthermore, the project establishes Community Nature Centers with kitchen gardens and nurseries that serve as vibrant hubs for environmental awareness activities and democratic youth engagement. Trained as 'Environmental Promoters,' young leaders take the reins, spearheading initiatives that foster a deeper connection to nature and empower their peers.

At the heart of this movement are the Community Youth Groups, passionate about conservation issues. These groups, spread across Amazonian communities, serve as catalysts for change, facilitating networking opportunities and advocacy training. Through workshops and active participation in local events, members of these groups amplify their voices, driving meaningful action and advocating for the preservation of the Amazonian ecosystem.

By providing training in advocacy and media management, this project creates a culture of active engagement and grassroots leadership, ensuring that youth voices are heard in decisions shaping their environment. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, this initiative offers a beacon of hope in the fight against deforestation and climate change in the Amazon Rainforest.



PHOTO: TOKE F. NYBORG, AKTION AMAZONAS

BY MAIA GALMÉS FEUER

WATERING THE ROOTS OF CHANGE

Aktion Amazonas explores climate resilience strategies, such as water management and drought-resistant indigenous seeds in the face of drought and ecological desperation in Bolivia.

Central America and parts of South America have been experiencing heatwaves and what could be the worst drought in the history of the Amazon. In Bolivia, record temperatures and failed harvests have left communities in poor conditions, prompting the central government to launch a relief plan to address the drought situation in December 2022, although the emergency situation persists today.

150,000 families across 207 of Bolivia's 336 municipalities are affected by the changing climate. Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia's largest and easternmost department, was particularly affected by severe drought and water shortages, prompting the local government to declare a state of emergency in 23 municipalities within the region.

Planting of trees is essential in combating drought, as they provide shade, reduce temperatures in their surroundings and retain moisture.

This situation drove Aktion Amazonas, in partnership with Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano - FCBC, to initiate a climate change adaptation project to confront this ecological challenge in 20 villages within the municipalities of San Ignacio and San Rafael in the Santa Cruz department.

These initiatives are not just stopgaps, but represent a long-term commitment to sustainability and resilience to climate change.

THE PROJECT'S INITIATIVES

The climate change adaptation project focuses on a water management program, a direct response to the severe droughts exacerbated by the El Niño phenomenon, further explained to the right.

Aside from securing water through various water storage techniques, there is a strong focus on the reintroduction and collection of drought-resistant seeds and tree cultivation. Knowledge of native crop varieties are gathered in the communities and these varieties are introduced in "chacos" (family or communal cultivation plots) through climate-smart agriculture techniques.

Seedling production is likewise based on ancestral knowledge and is centered around small community-driven nurseries. This altogether ensures that reforestation and revitalization of native crops are anchored in the communities.

The planting of trees is also essential in combating drought, as they provide shade, reduce temperatures in their immediate surroundings, retain moisture, and provide families with local fruits for their own consumption or as a source of economic income.

150,000 families across 200 of Bolivia's 342 municipalities are affected by the changing climate.

Crops native to the region previously formed part of the everyday diet but, due to a general modernization of the Bolivian society and globalization, native crops have been replaced by more water-demanding fruits, as well as cattle breeding, because it is more lucrative.

Reviving traditional knowledge on nutritious and drought resistant flora is a central adaptation strategy of the project, including the recollection and refining of seeds, with a focus on diversification and rotation.

The project, which started in May 2023 and aims for utilization until April 2025, also involves training of community water committees to ensure locally anchored skills to manage water resources.

Although this initiative addresses climate change concerns, it also aims to promote empowerment among the local population, enabling them to exert influence on municipal environmental policies and regulations.

EL NIÑO

El Niño is a naturally occurring climatic phenomenon that includes fluctuation of ocean temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific, combined with changes in the atmosphere. It can induce extreme weather phenomena, such as prolonged droughts, forest fires, tropical cyclones and heavy rainfalls. In a 2021 study, it was found that the most severe drought events generally occur during El Niño years. It is confirmed that El Niño since 2023 has been affecting Latin America and its effects are forecasted to continue.

OUR SUCCESSES 2023



Photo: Claudia Belaunde, FCBC

TECHNOLOGY AS OUR EYES

Satellites, drones and GPS are important tools when monitoring indigenous territories and protected forest areas in the fight for the rights of indigenous people and nature conservation of South America's vast forest areas. In collaboration with our local partner Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC) and with funding from both CISU - Civil Society in Development and the Canadian government, we trained indigenous population and local authorities responsible for nature management in the use of modern technologies to document illegal activities.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE BUILD

With a million-dollar grant from the Civil Society in Development (CISU), and the collaboration of the Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC), Aktion Amazonas improved water and food security for families who are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Changes in the climate have major consequences for the poorest countries, as a large part of the population's livelihood is built around natural resources. This is the case of Bolivia, which continues to suffer an extensive drought and both crops and livestock have died in the heat. Moreover, extensive forest fires contribute to a further worsening of this situation.



Photo: Maia Galmés Feuer, AKAM



Photo: Edgard Garrido, Scampix

TRAINING LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

As part of the work to protect the forest ecosystems in Bolivia, we collaborated with our local partner Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano to organize, train and equip local fire brigades. More than 60 people did a large training workshop organized by both authorities and FCBC. Farmers and indigenous people in Bolivia live on the frontline of the large forest fires that destroy millions of hectares of forest every year. In order to protect their home and livestock, it is important for them to know how to act in front of a fire, as they are the first responders before reinforcements from local authorities arrive.



Photo: Claudia Bealunde, FCBC

NEW ALLIANCE: SAFCA

Aktion Amazonas joined a strategic alliance called SAFCA, the South American Tropical Forest Conservation Alliance, with three other organizations working in South America. The alliance consists of: Conservación Amazónica - ACCA, in Peru; Conservación Amazónica - ACEAA in Bolivia; Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano - FCBC in Bolivia; and Aktion Amazonas in Denmark. This alliance aims to protect and connect the territories of indigenous people and local rural communities with protected areas, and thus establish natural corridors where biodiversity can flourish and roam freely. The alliance was also established to increase capacity-building support for local communities, to ensure access to funding and strength, and to develop the alliance's organizational capacity through knowledge sharing and coordination for the benefit of nature.

COLLABORATION FOR EDUCATION

Together with Conservación Amazónica (ACEAA) and Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano (FCBC), Aktion Amazonas initiated a long-term collaboration to increase children and young people's environmental awareness in collaboration with local schools and teacher seminars. The project also works to facilitate the establishment of locally run educational centers where children can develop abilities and skills by caring for nature through playful and creative activities. Financed by CISU, the Civil Society in Development, the project also aims to strengthen young environmentalists in their fight for the Amazon through awareness, agency and advocacy. "The project must give children a platform where they can channel their infinite capacity for activism into protection of nature and the creation of a better future for their local communities" explains Nazaret Fernandez, finance manager at Aktion Amazonas.



Photo: Toke F. Nyborg, AKAM



Photo: Nelly Guerra, ACEAA

CAMERA TRAPS IN THE FOREST

Aktion Amazonas got the funding and initiated a project which resulted in 42 mammals being spotted and identified through photo traps in the Pando region of the Amazon Rainforest. Alongside the partners at Conservación Amazónica (ACEAA), species considered Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List, such as the South American Tapir and the Northern Tiger Cat, have been accounted for. In total, 771 cameras were placed from 2015 to 2023 in various regions of the Bolivian Amazon forest. The cameras were purchased thanks to a donation from the Torben & Alice Frimodt Foundation and contributions to Aktion Amazonas' fundraising campaign 'Secrets of the Rainforest', among other donors. Thanks to the information obtained from the photo traps, Aktion Amazonas can create more accurate and efficient conservation strategies, making it easier to protect these species and their habitats.

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

SEPTEMBER



EMERGENCY CLIMATE FUND

Due to the dry conditions caused by the El Niño phenomenon in South America, Aktion Amazonas launched a 'Drought Emergency and Resilience Intervention' with funding from CISU, the Civil Society in Development and The Danish Emergency Relief Fund (DERF). This intervention aimed at ensuring vulnerable families in the most remote communities access to clean drinking water and basic food during the next months of intense drought. The support also provided water harvesting equipment and drought-resistant seeds to mitigate future water scarcity, caused by the record high temperatures. Like in other extreme weather events, deforestation is a key factor exacerbating the problem. The humanitarian support was complemented by distributing 10,000 trees with a long-term range of positive benefits for the land.

NEW FOREST CORRIDOR

Aktion Amazonas launched a large scale project to strengthen and protect natural protected areas and native territories by connecting them to create a forest corridor. This happened through a cross-border collaboration between indigenous people, local authorities and stakeholders from the business worlds of Bolivia and Peru. The corridor aimed to preserve the forest and its inhabitants in an area following the Madre de Dios River, which ranges from the southeastern Peruvian Amazon to the northwestern Bolivian Amazon. The project was funded by the Civil Society in Development (CISU) and implemented by Aktion Amazonas, alongside Conservación Amazónica - ACEAA and Conservación Amazónica - ACCA. "This collaboration will give the rainforest a breather" explains Toke Nyborg, director of Aktion Amazonas.



Photo: Claudia Belaunde, FCBC



Photo: Bird Life International

MAPPING VIOLENCE

A consortium of Danish and South American partners are ready to map the issue of criminal activities and violence in the Amazon Rainforest of Peru and Bolivia. The initiative, funded by Globalt Fokus and implemented with the collaboration of Conservación Amazónica, ACCA and Conservación Amazónica, ACEAA, was launched in response to an increase in both deforestation and violence in the Amazon, driven by extensive national and transnational criminal networks. Violence and killings involving environmental activists and locals fighting against the invasion of protected forest areas also affect organizations like Aktion Amazonas: "We look forward to improve the safety for environmental activists, indigenous peoples, and NGO workers" stated Nazaret Fernandez, Head of Finance and Projects in Aktion Amazonas.



Foto: istock

MARÍA ELENA GUTIÉRREZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR /
ACCA



#100Latinos2023

MOST COMMITTED TO CLIMATE ACTION

María Elena Gutiérrez, director of Conservación Amazónica - ACCA, one of AKAM's partner organizations, was recognized as one of the 100 Latinos Most Committed to Climate Action in 2023. It is an honour for Aktion Amazonas to be working with someone so dedicated to climate action, and we had the pleasure to ask her about personal contribution to the fight against climate change.

"My personal contribution is to disseminate to decision-makers and the general public the studies and alerts from experts regarding the dangers of deforestation and the transformation of the Amazon into savannah, as well as the reality faced by local communities and indigenous people in the Andean-Amazonian forests."

How can we overcome these environmental challenges?

"It is urgent that we undertake strategic and focused local and regional adaptation strategies, allocate direct financial funds to the most vulnerable, protect key landscapes in biodiversity and ecosystem services by promoting their connectivity and resilience, restore key sites, and above all, invest in research because without it, it will be like flying a plane with closed eyes."

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

REFOREST THE RAINFOREST

Join our reforestation campaign and donate trees to help regenerate the rainforest. Donating 10 kroner allows us to plant one tree. Support via **MobilePay** at **22686**

The rainforest is home to some of the most unique ecosystems on Earth and is crucial for the climate. However, as a result of decades of deforestation and burning, we now risk the Amazon slowly turning into a desert. This trend is only exacerbated by climate change. The rainforest has simply become less resilient. Now is the time to act, and you can make a difference.

Our goal is to replant 10,000 trees in the indigenous territory of CIBAPA, home to both the Chiquitano and Guarasugwé peoples.

Located in the heart of the rainforest in eastern Bolivia, bordering Brazil, this area boasts rich biodiversity. However, wildlife and plant life are diminishing due to illegal logging, agriculture, and forest fires.

The tree planting initiative aims to alleviate the damage and complements Aktion Amazonas' efforts to combat deforestation. These efforts involve exerting political pressure, utilizing forest monitoring technologies such as drones and satellites, and providing firefighting training to indigenous communities.

Small nurseries, supported by Aktion Amazonas, oversee the care and planting of the trees. Managed collectively by indigenous communities, these nurseries ensure that reforestation efforts are guided by local knowledge.

The newly planted trees in the affected areas consist of a variety of species with different functions and purposes. This approach benefits both biodiversity and local families.



FOR 100 DKK WE CAN PLANT 10 TREES!

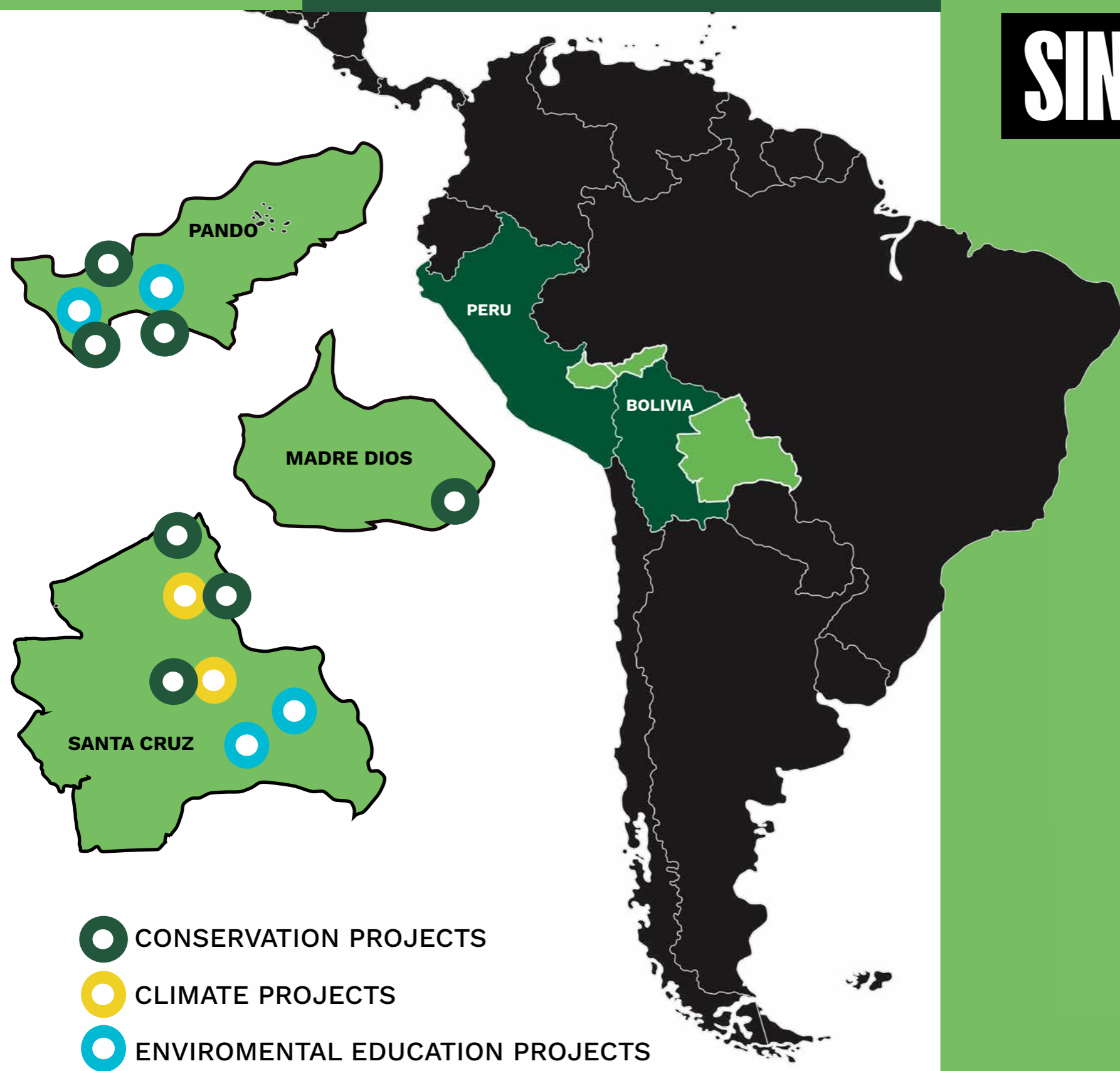
SUPPORT VIA **MOBILEPAY**
AT **22686**

Please mark your donation 'tree'.

"The rainforest has simply become less resilient. Now is the time to act, and you can make a difference"

[AKTION AMAZONAS]

REGIONS WHERE WE WORK ...



AKTION AMAZONAS HAS SINCE 2018 ...



CONTRIBUTED TO PROTECTING **2 MILLION** KM² OF FOREST



SUPPORTED **25.000** PEOPLE



PLANTED **60.000** TREES



THANK YOU to our members who support our work and create a strong foundation for our efforts to conserve South America's unique and globally significant forest ecosystems.

To all the volunteers who assist us on a daily basis and support Aktion Amazonas' activities.

Special thanks to Foundations and Public Funds for supporting Aktion Amazonas and our nature conservation endeavors and especially CISU's consultants who tirelessly assist Aktion Amazonas and ensure the quality of the development aid.

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AKTION
AMAZONAS!



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

**CONNECTING
TO
CONSERVE**