



Giant Armadillo © Amareta Kelly



Spectacled Bear © Christian Musat

Protect Peruvian Biodiversity from Mining

Along the eastern slopes of the tropical Andes in southern Peru, a region of humid grasslands, cloud and highland forest, wetlands and lagoons creates a diversity of habitats at elevations ranging from 2,500 to 17,000 feet. These steep slopes, ridges and valleys provide critical habitat for Vulnerable Spectacled Bear and Giant Armadillo. The region is also the territorial home of the community, Japu, of the nation Q'ero, an original Quechua population who are direct descendants of the Incas.

But communities and wildlife alike are threatened by the rapid growth of mining, predominantly gold, in the region. It is urgent that these areas be protected through the strongest means possible to prevent the expansion of mines.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA) seek \$1,152,310 to protect 170,336 acres in the Peruvian Andes as formally designated Regional Conservation Areas. The creation of the Japu-Camanti Biological Corridor Regional Conservation Area will increase legal and technical barriers to the granting of new mining concessions and reduce new illegal mines as well as other agricultural and land-degrading activities.

CREATE A CORRIDOR OF PROTECTION ACROSS 5.5 MILLION ACRES

The proposed Regional Conservation Area is strategically connected to other protected areas. It surrounds the existing Japu - Bosque Ukumari Llaqta Private Conservation Area, which will become a part of the Regional Conservation Area upon project completion. It also connects with the Q'eros-Kosñipata Regional Conservation Area created with Rainforest Trust support in 2021, and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve. **This project expands a biological corridor that extends northwest to the 4.2-million-acre Manu National Park.**

The region is important for both climate adaptation of species and because it stores over 32 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalents that, if released, would be comparable to the annual CO₂ emissions of Switzerland.



170,336
ACRES

\$1,152,310
PROJECT COST

\$6.76
COST PER ACRE

32,495,336 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Spectacled Bear (VU),
Giant Armadillo (VU)



SAVE UNIQUE "YUNGAS" FORESTS IN THE ANDES

The steep, highland humid forests called "Yungas" with their dense vegetation are ideal habitat for Spectacled Bear, Jaguar, a great variety of endemic birds such as the Marcapata Spinetail, little-studied amphibians, and many herbaceous plants such as orchids. Given the historic difficulty of access, these ecosystems have remained widely intact with very little or no human impact including 142,665 acres of high-integrity forest.

However, the expansion of the Interoceanic Highway that connects Peru with Brazil has brought increased human settlements and both legal and illegal activities to the region. Although the highway does not cross the proposed conservation areas, it is urgent that they be protected before illegal mining activity nearby spreads to these vulnerable lands.



SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT OF FRAGILE HABITATS

The protected area will be proposed as a Regional Conservation Area under the jurisdiction and management of the Cusco Regional Government pending full government and community consultation. With Rainforest Trust support, our partner will work with local communities to help strengthen their technical and management capabilities toward protection of the areas.

Eastern Andes Landscape ©Agami Photo Agency

