



## Save Riverine Forest in Brazilian Amazon from Mining and Deforestation



**725,000**  
ACRES

**\$2,609,542**  
PROJECT COST

**\$3.60**  
COST PER ACRE

**210,715,812** mT  
CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENTS  
STORED

### KEY SPECIES:

Tucuxi River Dolphin (EN),  
Giant Otter (EN),  
Amazonian Manatee (VU),  
Yellow-spotted River Turtle (VU),  
Arapaima (DD)

Only a third of the world's longest rivers still run free. One of them is the Putumayo-Içá River in South America that flows unimpeded by dams through some of the world's last, large intact rainforests. Originating as the Putumayo River in Colombia, its name changes to the Içá River when it enters Brazil on its way to the Amazon. The forests it passes through are the ancestral territory of the Tikuna and Kokama People who have lived there for centuries.

This remote, highly biodiverse area of western Brazilian Amazon is only accessible by boat or plane. The local Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge, culture and ways of living have kept forests standing and sustained healthy populations of fish and wildlife. But these lands at the frontier of the Amazon basin are not mapped and they have no legal recourse to protect them. External pressure from outsiders seeking economic gain are threatening biodiversity and the communities' livelihoods.

The increase in illegal gold mining and illegal, unregulated and unsustainable logging and fishing are depleting and degrading forest resources. Animal trafficking of turtle eggs to markets in cities has depleted the population of five species of turtle present in the area, including the Vulnerable Yellow-spotted River Turtle.

The Arapaima, locally known as the Pirarucu, is one of the largest freshwater fishes in the world. It is an important food resource for Indigenous Içá River communities along with other seasonally migratory fish species, highly coveted by outside poachers. Large sections of the Içá River basin remain vulnerable. These fish need a well-conserved, freshwater environment with a free-flowing river, natural flooding of protected forests and uncontaminated waters.

Rainforest Trust and our partners, Amazon Conservation Team-Brazil and Wildlife Conservation Society-Brazil, seek \$2,609,542 to secure approximately 725,000 acres of highly intact forest through Indigenous rights-based conservation. The project will be carried out in collaboration with four communities



Arapaima, locally known as Pirarucu, by Suriyachan



of Tikuna and Kokama people to obtain legal tenure of their ancestral territories and support them in strengthening their management and governance capacity.

## ENSURE THE SURVIVAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND INDIGENOUS LIVELIHOODS

Mammals within the project area include Endangered Giant Otter and Amazon River Dolphin as well as Vulnerable Amazonian Manatee and Lowland Tapir. This project will support detailed biological surveys and monitoring of the land and waters within the Indigenous territories to be designated.

The proven approach of working with Indigenous Peoples to achieve shared conservation goals can save this biodiverse area while protecting collective land rights and forest-based ways of life. The project will also keep 210,715,812 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents safely stored in the forest.

FUNAI, the National Indigenous Peoples Foundation of Brazil, is the government agency responsible for protection of territories in collaboration with Indigenous communities. Any economic activity on Indigenous lands is prohibited other than the traditional activities of the Ticuna and Kokama people who live here.

The project landscape, courtesy of FUNAI

