



Black Tinamou, by Blair Dudgeon/Wikimedia Commons/CC



Black-and-chestnut Eagle © thibaudaranson

Protect High-carbon Forests from Illegal Mining and Coca Cultivation

The Bahuaja-Sonene National Park is a megadiverse park located along the border with Bolivia in the Peruvian Amazon. It protects a complex mosaic of habitats that shelter tens of thousands of species, and lies between the 4.6-million-acre Madidi National Park in Bolivia to the east and the 679,000-acre Tambopata National Reserve to the north.

These two Peruvian national parks protect at least 20% of the country's species. And they are critically important in safeguarding water resources flowing from the Andes highlands into the Amazon basin. Yet, increasingly, the area is threatened by illegal mining, coca production, and oil and gas exploration.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Association for the Conservation of the Amazon Basin (ACCA), seek \$594,447 to support the designation of 188,000 acres as the Selva Verde-Santo Domingo Regional Conservation Area in the buffer zone stretching along the southern boundary of the Bahuaja-Sonene National Park.

Yungas forests, unique to the eastern slopes and valleys of the Peruvian Andes, blanket the remote landscape. They are 80-90% intact, thanks to their complex geography and limited access by land or water. The altitude ranges between 1,310 and 8,200 feet.

The proposed regional conservation area will safeguard an astounding concentration of wild species, including 121 mammal and 193 bird species as well as populations of at least 17 threatened mammals, amphibians and reptiles. The great diversity of orchid species present in the area have not yet been thoroughly studied or counted due to the area's remoteness and present a promising opportunity to identify new species.

This project includes critical habitat for wide-ranging, threatened species such as the Common Woolly Monkey, and Andean Bear. It protects restricted-range endemic threatened amphibian species such as the Bolivian Stubfoot Toad. Birds of the area include Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Black Tinamou—a ground bird, and Yellow-rumped Antwren. The little-known Yellow-bellied Climbing Mouse was re-identified by science in this region in 2010.

The Yungas forests provide direct and indirect benefits for local communities in terms of water and food supply, high levels of carbon sequestration, and climate regulation. They mitigate water erosion in an area of unstable soils and constant rainfall.



188,000
ACRES

\$594,447
PROJECT COST

\$3.16
COST PER ACRE

42,022,439 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Black-faced Black Spider Monkey (EN),
Black-and-chestnut Eagle (EN),
Blue-headed Macaw (VU),
Common Woolly Monkey (VU),
Margay (NT)



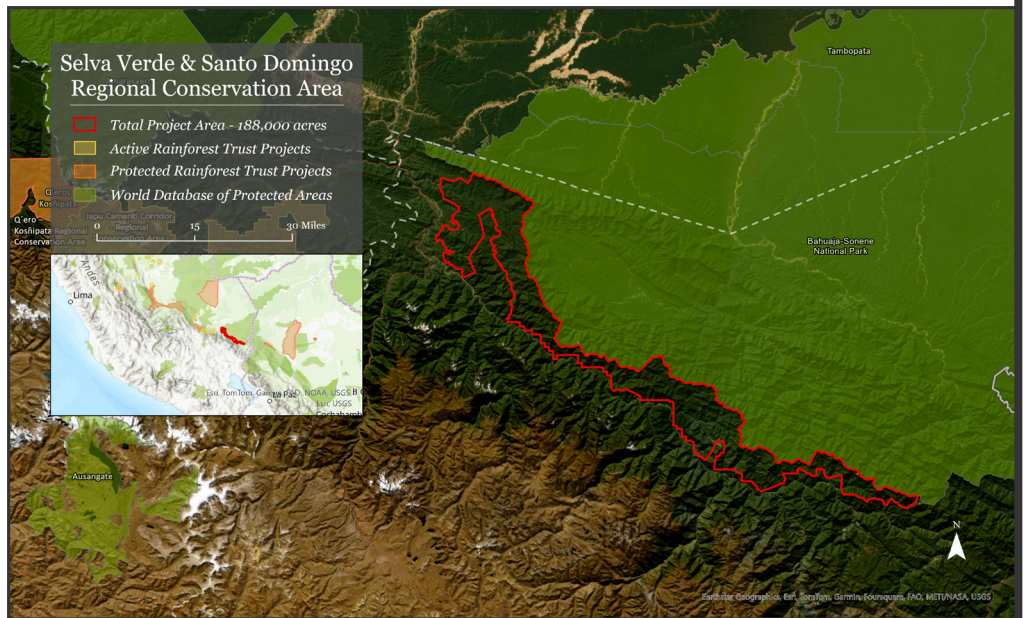
PREVENT ILLEGAL MINING AND COCA CULTIVATION IN SPECIES-RICH YUNGAS FORESTS

The greatest threats to the area identified for protection are illegal mining in soils along the Inambari River that adjoins the project area and illegal coca cultivation that is destroying vulnerable Yungas forests. The consequent human migration, new settlements and spreading agriculture threaten the exceptional biodiversity of the region.

No Indigenous territories have been found to overlap with the project.

Our partner will be conducting a full assessment of the population in the area as part of the project. Community park rangers will be hired and trained to patrol the area using satellite surveillance techniques and other smart technology.

Rainforest Trust has a number of other protected and ongoing projects with several implementing partners in this protection corridor along the eastern slope of the Andes mountains, including a 170,335-acre project with ACCA.



Project landscape, courtesy ACCA

