



Dear Menalie ,

Menalie , we hope you've had a good start to 2022! We look forward to the conservation programs that we have planned for this year, but first we want to highlight some of the top conservation successes of last year, which include:



- Establishing [a new protected agrobiodiversity zone in Peru, Marcapata Ccollana](#), which is an indigenous community of Quechua origin in Cuzco and the [Chuyapi Urusayhua Conservation Area](#) in the Peruvian Amazon, protecting more than 250,000 acres of sustainable Andean agricultural diversity and forests to safeguard fresh water sources for indigenous communities.



- British researcher Dr. Michael Darby discovering [nine new beetle species and two new genera at our biological stations](#), two of which are named in honor of our biological stations. To support groundbreaking research like this, we opened the new [Wildlife Conservation Lab at Los Amigos Biological Station](#), which conducts advanced wildlife tracking, conservation genomics, safe pathogen screening, and toxicology monitoring of key species in the Amazon. This targeted biodiversity monitoring helps us gather key information on zoonotic diseases and transmission risk.



- [Beginning our Andean bear conservation project](#) with the support of the Stadler Foundation, which aims to conserve Latin America's only native bear species through reforestation of native species.
- [Partnering with descendants of the Incas to combat climate change in the Peruvian Andes through restoration of highland wetlands](#), or bofedales. Bofedales can store as much as two to four times as many tons of carbon per hectare compared to the rainforest.



- Revealing that the [Brazilian Amazon has become a net carbon source](#) over the past 20 years, whereas the total Amazon is still a net carbon sink in our show that protected areas and indigenous territories are crucial carbon sinks, showing once again their importance and effectiveness for overall conservation across the Amazon (MAAP #141).
- Additionally another MAAP report revealed that [protected areas and indigenous territories prove to be the best defense against deforestation](#) for the western Amazon. Areas with other land use designations had deforestation rates that were two times higher than in protected areas and indigenous territories.



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