

This Month's Top Stories:



Reforestation and Governance Protects Critical Water Sources For Local Communities

Apolo is the second largest municipality in the Bolivian department of La Paz and overlaps with nationally important protected areas, including the Madidi National Park (7,320 sq mi, 18,960 sq km) and Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve. **Our sister organization on the ground in Bolivia has worked with this community since 2015 to protect critical water sources for local communities.** This past month, Carlos De Ugarte, the Coordinator for Conservation Areas, presented a webinar with several highlights on the most recent phases of this incredible project, **including the cultivation of 18,500 seedlings and reforestation of over 3,000 trees.**

Apolo has been highlighted by the Bolivian Ministry of Environment and local communities as a **conservation priority due to the Paramarani mountain range** located in its central region. Eight indigenous communities, including Apolo with its 6,000 inhabitants, depend on the Paramarani mountain range for...

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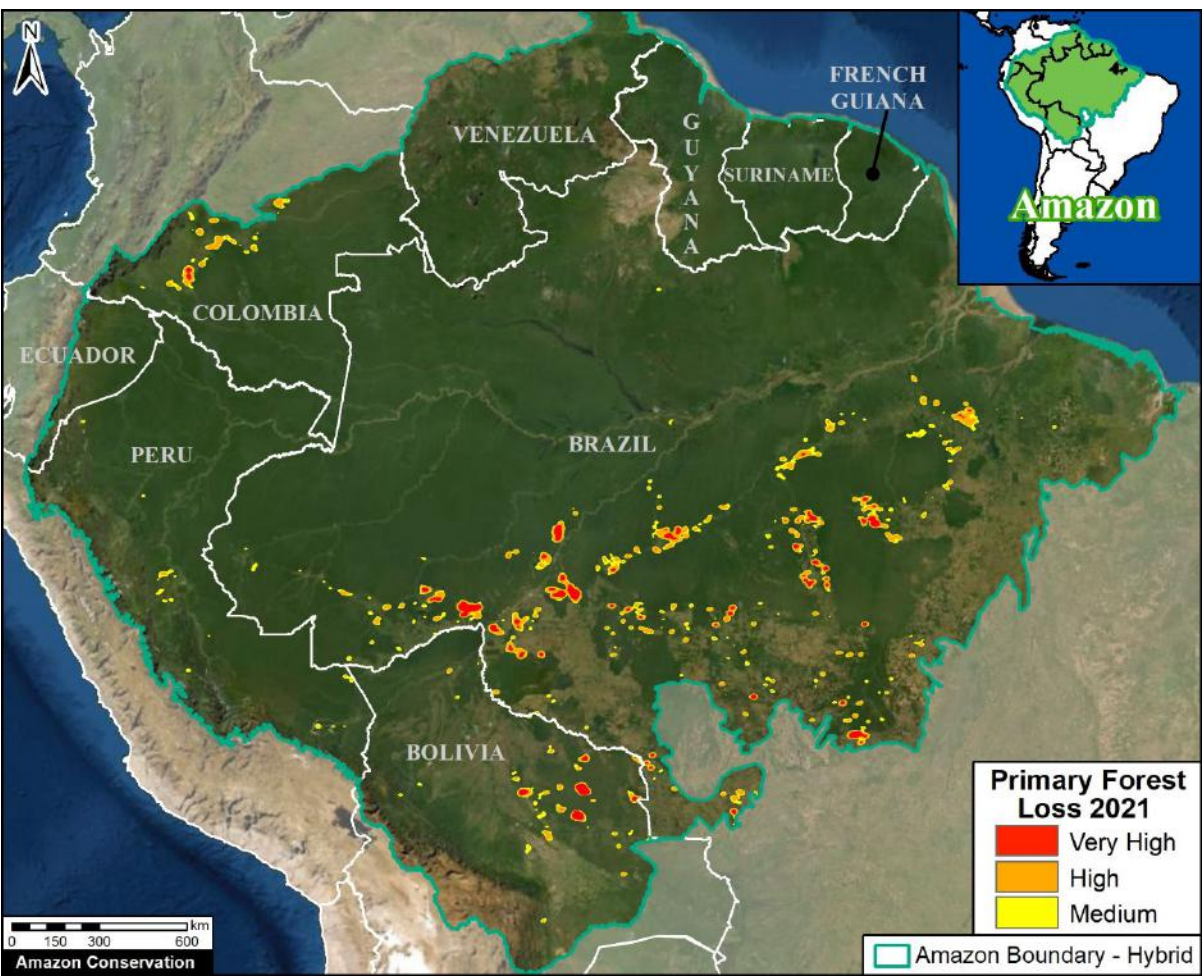


Ruthmery Pillco, Who Leads Our Andean Bear Conservation Project, Named Disney Conservation Hero

Ruthmery Pillco, who leads field activities for our [Andean Bear Conservation Project](#), was recently announced as **one of fifteen Disney Conservation Heroes**, recognized for their efforts to protect the planet. She joins a diverse global community of indigenous conservationists protecting critically endangered and threatened species such as Grauer's gorillas, golden lion tamarin monkeys, and leatherback sea turtles.

The Disney Conservation Fund awards grants annually to individuals and organizations working together to **stabilize and increase the populations of at-risk species**. Ruthmery's work to protect the **Andean bear in the Peruvian Amazon, which is categorized as vulnerable to extinction** by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, has earned her this distinction from Disney. During this project, she works...

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MAAP: Amazon Deforestation Hotspots 2021, 4.8 Million Acres Lost Across Amazon

We present a first look at the major **2021 Amazon deforestation hotspots**. The Amazon **Base Map** illustrates several key findings, including that we **estimate the loss of over 1.9 million hectares (4.8 million acres) of primary forest** across the nine countries of the Amazon biome in 2021.

This matches the previous two years, bringing the total deforestation to **6 million hectares** (15 million acres) since 2019, roughly the size of the state of Costa Rica. In 2021, most of the deforestation occurred in **Brazil (70%)**, followed by Bolivia (14%), Peru (7%), and Colombia (6%). In **Brazil**, hotspots are concentrated along the major road networks. Many of these areas were also burned following....

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International Women's Day Highlight: Amy Rosenthal

This International Women's Day, we highlighted a powerful woman who has **helped advance the protection of the Amazon for many years** within various roles at

[members](#), is a longtime environmental advocate and has experienced firsthand the changes and challenges within the field of environmental protection.

Amy's interest in environmental conservation dates back to middle school, when she was doing science projects on the rainforest. She remembers showing her class, "old-school slides of pictures of the Amazon — the ones where you pop them into a round carousel." Many years later, she finally had the opportunity to visit the Amazon in 2000. "To this day, I love the smell, the tastes, the colors, the element of surprise and wonder that's with you everywhere in the Amazon. **And I admire the people who know this place better than I ever will. They are the stewards and storytellers of the most magical place on our planet.**"

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April is Earth Month! Make a Sustaining Impact with Amazon Conservation

This year, Earth Day is celebrating all the incredible resources that this beautiful planet provides us. We are **taking Earth Day a few steps further and honoring the greatest wild forest on the planet for the entire month of April!** We encourage everyone to start taking action for nature and the Amazon this April, but we hope this will be just the start as our planet needs real impactful and urgent action each and every day.

This Earth Month, **we are encouraging everyone to #InvestintheAmazon and all of the ecosystem services it provides** to everyone from local communities in the Amazon to people all across the globe. From **drinkable water, oxygen, and unmatched biodiversity to climate change mitigation and economic resources**, the ecosystem services this forest provides are central for the health of the entire planet.

[Find out](#) how you can get a head start and #InvestintheAmazon this April.

[Learn more](#)

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