



IRI-COLOMBIA

IRI-Colombia delivers trainings and 2021 action plans with all 36 local chapters

In the last several weeks, IRI Colombia has delivered training and capacity building workshops in all 36 local chapters across the country. Each training event included a workshop on deforestation and climate change and then the articulation of a local strategy and action plan, including commitments to activities like early childhood education on forest protection, creating care for the Amazon management boards, river recovery and reforestation programs, public outreach campaigns to promote the conservation and preservation of forests, and creating inter-institutional environmental roundtables. The workshops included the participation of religious and social leaders, representatives of indigenous peoples groups, environmental activists, political leaders, and the municipal



Group pictures of IRI-Puerto Asís



Group pictures of IRI-Solano



Group pictures of IRI-El Retorno



Group pictures of IRI-Miraflores



Picture of ongoing training and capacity-building workshop in IRI-Macarena

government. Action plans were developed through a social mapping exercise, to see where IRI local chapters could have the greatest impact on forest protection. Part of the planning also included a pastoral action workshop, where religious leaders committed to a range of activities designed to educate and activate their networks and houses of worship on forest protection and restoration.

February 18: IRI-Puerto Guzman, IRI-Santa Lucia and IRI-Nueva Union
February 20: IRI-Puerto Asís, IRI-Vegas del Piñuña Blanco and IRI-El Águila
February 25: IRI-Miraflores, IRI-Agua Bonita Baja and IRI-Puerto Santander
February 26: IRI-El Retorno, IRI-El Unilla and IRI-La Libertad
February 27: IRI-San José del Guaviare, IRI-El Capricho and IRI-Charras Boquerón
March 1: IRI-Calamar, IRI-Argelia and IRI-Itilla

March 5: IRI-La Macarena, IRI-La Cristalina and IRI-Alto Morrocoy
March 10: IRI-Solano, IRI-Puerto Tejada and IRI-Campo Alegre
March 12: IRI-Puerto Leguizamo, IRI-Resguardo Indígena La Samaritana and IRI-El Triunfo
March 16: IRI-San Vicente del Caguán, IRI-Ciudad Yari and IRI-Campo Hermoso
March 17: IRI-Puerto Rico, IRI-La Soledad and IRI Bajo Riecito
19 March: IRI-Cartagena del Chairá, IRI-La Primavera and IRI-Remolinos del Caguán

“The Amazon must treasure the natural beauty that adorns it, the life that fills its rivers and jungles, the people, the ecosystems. We must value that which exists with the utmost appreciation and work to conserve it.”

Father Luis Miramag,
Director of the Social
Pastoral of the Diocese of
Mocoa-Sibundoy, during the
training day in Puerto Asís.



IRI-PERU

IRI-Peru holds electoral dialogues on forests with presidential and congressional candidates as part of the Pact for the Amazon

In recent weeks, three electoral dialogues have been held, one at the national level and two at the regional level ([Ucayali](#) and [Huánuco](#)). The general theme of the electoral dialogues has been the “[Use of the territory in the Amazon](#)” and within this the defense and protection of forests and forest defenders and proposals for a healthy, sustainable, productive and resilient Amazon. In each region, the dialogue was based on their own specificities and present challenges – in Ucayali, drug trafficking and logging, in Huánuco, the Natural Protected Areas and threats such as the development of hydroelectric plants. Participating candidates signed a [Commitment for the Amazon](#), securing a promise to have IRI Peru support and monitor their compliance on policies that advance protection and restoration of the Amazon. The dialogues were carried out in cooperation with other organizations present in the Amazon, including USAID.

IRI-Peru makes media push on forest protection around the Presidential election

As part of the general elections in Peru, IRI Peru has carried out a strong public outreach strategy with mass media at the national and local levels, including radio, web platforms, newspapers and television. The electoral dialogues were broadcast widely on TV and radio, in cooperation with the Network of Broadcasters of the Vicariates of the Amazon, which is made up of seven broadcasters (for the National Dialogue), the virtual platforms of INFOREGION and SERVINDI (for all the dialogues) and the virtual networks and platforms of CAAAP and REPAM. Below is a summary of links to coverage.

“This is an important moment for those who feel pain at witnessing this destruction of the Amazon, to see that it is being put on the political agenda. We cannot continue cutting down forests and polluting rivers.”

Prof. José Manuyama, coordinator of IRI-Iquitos and member of Resurgir Amazónico during an interview with Radio Oriente Yurimaguas to promote the “Electoral Dialogue: Forests and the Amazonian Peoples”.



• **National Electoral Dialogue “Use of Territory in the Amazon”** was covered on national television [TV Peru](#) and [UCI News](#), as well as through the digital platform of the newspaper [El Comercio](#). The event was also streamed on web platforms such as [Servindi](#), [CAAAP](#), [Pro y Contra](#), Info región, [Actualidad Ambiental](#) and [WWF Noticias](#), as well as radio programs such as [Radio Reina de la Selva](#), Radio Ondas del Huallaga, and the Amazonia en Red program. **Electoral Dialogue “Healthy Forests in the Ucayali Region”** was featured in [Ucayali Noticias](#), [La Ribereña](#), [Hoy por Hoy](#), FM Estéreo 100.1 La Primerisina, Radio El Progreso, La Revista Familiar - Canal 19, [Diario Ahora](#), [Diario Impetu](#), and [Zona Pucallpa Noticias](#). • **Electoral Dialogue “Healthy Forests in the Huanuco region”**: was broadcast on [Radio Amistad Aucayacu](#) and platforms like [El Trochero](#). The forthcoming **Electoral Dialogue “Forests and the Amazonian peoples: Proposals of the candidates to Congress for Loreto on the health of forests and indigenous communities”** began its dissemination through [Radio La Voz de la Selva](#), [Diario La Región](#) and [Actualidad Ambiental](#).

IRI-Peru continues advocacy with Congress

IRI Peru continues to work through Congress on a number of fronts. In the Commission of Amazonian, Andean and Afro-American Peoples, Environment and Ecology (CPAAAAE), IRI Peru requested the organization of a Political Control meeting to SERFOR and MINAM to report on the situation of territorial concessions in the Amazon. As a result, a technical working group has been formed with specialists from SERFOR and MINAM to report on the situation of forest concessions. Within the same commission, IRI Peru has been working to advocate for a bill on the rights of nature which has been put before Congress. IRI Peru made a statement advocating for adoption of the bill in a meeting with all the congressmen of the commission.

IRI-Peru advances advocacy with executive authorities on protection of forests and forest defenders

IRI has continued its direct advocacy with various executive authorities to advance policies that protect forests and indigenous peoples. A meeting was arranged with the Ministry of Environment to address threats by illegal miners to indigenous peoples, leading to a decree to define protocols for the protection of indigenous leaders and forest defenders. IRI Peru also met with the Vice Minister of Intercultural Affairs to advance discussions on the formation of a cross-sector working group on security for forest defenders. Conversations continue with the Ministry of Environment on the consolidation of a cross-sectoral cooperation agreement between the ministry and IRI Peru.

IRI-INDONESIA

IRI-Indonesia launches provincial chapter in Riau, with training event on forests for religious leaders

On 16 March, IRI Indonesia launched its first provincial chapter, IRI Riau. The launch – which was covered extensively in the media – was attended by representatives of all religious organizations in the country, indigenous peoples, local governments officials, police and military officers, NGOs and academics, and was officiated by the Governor of Riau who committed support to collaborate with IRI Riau, to create office space for the chapter, and to adopt several articles that IRI Indonesia put forward as part the Green Riau Provincial Regulation. Closing remarks were provided by Dr. Din Syamsuddin, chair of the IRI Indonesia Advisory Council. Following the IRI Riau launch, a training was held for more than 30 religious leaders on forests, climate change and the rights of indigenous peoples. Plans are underway to launch IRI East Kalimantan with the participation of the Governor on 9 April and IRI Papua in June.



Senior religious leaders on stage at the launch of IRI Riau, the first provincial chapter established by IRI Indonesia



Group picture following the IRI training in Riau and launching the "Love Forest" campaign

IRI-Indonesia delivers paperless and Love Forest campaigns

On 17 March, IRI Indonesia held a nation-wide "paperless campaign" with Muhammadiyah University Riau, which drew the participation of more than 200 people. Participants represented all Muhammadiyah Universities and colleges across Indonesia, and the proceedings included remarks from rectors and deans from several associated institutions. Riau was strategically selected as the site for the campaign, as it is home to the world's largest paper company. The purpose of the campaign is intended to eliminate paper use across Muhammadiyah Universities and colleges and raise awareness about how pulp and paper is a key driver of deforestation. IRI Indonesia also conducted a Love Forest campaign on the border between an intact forest and a heavily deforested area, again to raise awareness and visibility of the environmental, social and economic threats posed by deforestation.

"Religious leaders across Indonesia see the need for action to protect of our forests. The launch of IRI Riau is a critical step in building a faith-based movement across the country to end deforestation"

Dr. Hanafi Guciano,
National Facilitator
of IRI-Indonesia.

IRI-DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

IRI-DRC launches provincial chapter in Ituri along with preparations for chapters in Equateur and North Kivu

IRI DRC has launched its first provincial chapter in Ituri. The two-day event included training workshops on (i) the importance of tropical forests in the fight against climate change and sustainable development; (ii) the leadership of indigenous peoples as custodians of tropical forests; (iii) the moral, ethical and spiritual basis of the importance of protecting tropical forests, their inhabitants and the need for religious actions to stop deforestation; (iv) basic knowledge of territorial public policies; and (v) the development of a provincial program of IRI DRC. Participants included religious leaders from different denominations, indigenous pygmy peoples, civil society organizations, academics and government officials, including a representative of the Minister of Environment and the Deputy Mayor of Bunia (the capital city of the province). Preparatory meetings were also held with the President of the Église du Christ au Congo in Ituri (Protestant) and the

Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Bunia. An IRI Ituri Advisory Council was formed and their first meeting was held to develop an action plan and priority activities to protect forests in the province. Advance missions are now being held to North Kivu and Equateur provinces in preparation for IRI provincial chapters launches in the weeks ahead.



A ceremonial gift is presented to members of the IRI Ituri Advisory Council, the body established to guide the work of the newly launched provincial chapter



Participants in the training and launch event for IRI Ituri, the first provincial chapter established in the country