

IRI Brazil has meetings with Minister of Environment and Climate Change, General Coordinator for the Promotion of Religious Freedom of the Ministry of Human Rights

At a meeting with the Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, IRI Brazil presented highlights of its ongoing work and learned about the main actions of the Ministry towards sustainable development and addressing deforestation in the Amazon. The meeting informed IRI Brazil of the opportunities to engage the different sectors of the Amazon population through the policies and initiatives advanced by the Ministry and other bodies of the government. Also, IRI Brazil met recently with Mrs. Iya Gilda de Oxum, General Coordinator for the Promotion of Religious Freedom of the Ministry of Human Rights. At the meeting, IRI Brazil presented highlights from the work being undertaken, with an aim to identify areas for collaboration with the Ministry, and a proposal to work together to bring the debate on the climate crisis and the preservation of the Amazon to dialogues that the Ministry holds.



IRI Colombia holds workshop for Territorial Councillors of Guaviare



As part of the local and regional advocacy strategy it has been developing since August 2023, IRI Colombia trained more than 60 members of the municipal and departmental Territorial Planning Council of Guaviare through a workshop on strengthening forest commitments in development plans. The workshop included lectures on the functions

of the territorial planning councils, the process of formulating development plans and the impacts of deforestation. The involvement of IRI Colombia members in the territorial planning councils offers them the opportunity to act as agents of social change that seek to transform social, economic and cultural practices that degrade the environment and forests. The territorial planning councils constitute a privileged space for citizen participation to influence the formulation of local public policies related to the protection and restoration of the Amazon biomes. Indeed, these councils have, among their functions, to formulate recommendations to the territorial authorities on the content and form of development plans. They are also called upon to give their opinion on draft development plans prior to their approval by the competent authorities, with clear implications for forests and land use.

IRI DRC strengthens cooperation with Electoral Integrity and Mediation Commission



Reverend Matthieu Yela Bonketo, IRI DRC National Facilitator, had a working session with the Representative of the Electoral Integrity and Mediation Commission (CIME), which is committed to bringing together diverse religious denominations in the country. The discussion revolved around: (1) the mobilisation of CIME member structures around the Contribution Note to the Six Commitments of the President of the Republic, and (2) the participation in the high-level briefing to obtain their commitment to the work of IRI DRC. During this meeting, CIME committed to mobilise the member religious denominations to take part in the high-level briefing to be organised by IRI DRC and to share in advancing the contribution note on a forests commitment to the President of the Republic. According to CIME, the actions of IRI DRC fall within the framework of social mediation between the governing and the governed for the improvement of the living conditions.

IRI Indonesia prepares for Forest and Climate Youth Leadership Camp for Climate Action and Urban Forest Ecosystem Restoration

IRI Indonesia conducted a survey for campsites for the upcoming Forest and Climate Youth Leadership Camp for Climate Action and Urban Forest Ecosystem Restoration, to be held in June 2024. IRI Indonesia is actively preparing for the youth camp, in collaboration with youth NGOs such as Climate Reality Indonesia (CRI) and the KEHATI Foundation. The youth camp will bring together 30 young people from diverse religious backgrounds and representatives of local Indigenous Peoples' communities to engage in trainings, tree planting, and outbound activities that will strengthen their capacities in advocating for rainforest conservation and environmental sustainability.

IRI Peru secures endorsement for proposal to meet with the President of Congress about legislation on illegal mining



IRI Peru held a working meeting with Congresswoman Ruth Luque, President of the Commission on Andean, Amazonian, Afro-descendant Peoples, Environment and Ecology (CPAAAAE) of the Congress of the Republic to evaluate the difficult situation of the Amazon and explore engagement opportunities and possible actions for IRI Peru. During the meeting, it was agreed that IRI Peru would request to meet with the President of Congress and the spokespersons of the different parliamentary groups, with an aim to express concerns about the new laws that allow illegal logging and mining that threaten forests and the safety of forest defenders and communities. Congresswoman Luque agreed to endorse the proposed meeting with IRI Peru and recognise it as a key actor working to address deforestation in the Amazon. While awaiting confirmation from the President of the Congress, IRI Peru has been actively coordinating with religious leaders to secure their participation in the proposed meeting with the President of Congress. IRI Peru has confirmed the participation of Monsignor Miguel Ángel Cadenas from Iquitos, Monsignor Alfredo Vizcarra from Jaén, César Llanco of the Methodist Church and the World Council of Churches, and Pedro Véliz of the Lutheran Church.

IRI North Kivu advances campaign on forest protection and restoration in Goma



On 1 March, IRI North Kivu facilitated the planting of trees in the plots of the Non-Denominational Church and the Salvation Army denominations in the Katoyi district of Goma. The activity was carried out as part of the 'OPIS mon jardin' project for the restoration and reconstitution of forest cover. IRI North Kivu expanded implementation of the OPIS mon jardin project on 4 March, as it brought together 20 people from the different displacement camps of Masisi, Rutshuru, and Nyirangongo for a training at the PEIGO temple. Through the activity, the participants cultivated vegetable gardens in the villages and localities surrounding the city of Goma. On 7 March, IRI North Kivu hosted the program, "Listeners of Radio", on Radio RTVS 97.5 Mhz, as part of its 'Each Plot One Tree' awareness campaign. The objective of the campaign is to restore the forest cover in the city of Goma and its surroundings and to raise awareness on the importance of forests. In celebration of the International Day of Forests, IRI North Kivu, in partnership with Radio RTVS 97.5 Mhz, advanced a media awareness campaign under the theme, "Protecting the forest means protecting a better life."

IRI Indonesia hosts webinar on Cultural Heritage and Ecology on National Indigenous Peoples' Day

On National Indigenous Peoples' Day (HKMAN), IRI Indonesia hosted the webinar, "Cultural Heritage and Ecology: Indigenous Communities of the Archipelago in Rainforest Conservation Action," which sought to address deforestation and explore the critical role of cultural heritage in environmental sustainability. The event was attended by a total of 20 religious leaders and academics, including the Henriana Hatrawijaya, Vice Chair of the National AMAN Council, who spoke about the Kasepuhan Karang Banten Indigenous community and how they manage their customary forests.



IRI Brazil secures partnership with the Ecumenical Institute of Faith and Politics of Acre

IRI Brazil has established a partnership with the Ecumenical Institute for Faith and Politics (IEFP) to promote actions for the preservation of the Amazon rainforest and the defense of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. As a first joint action, it was agreed that IRI Brazil and IEFP will work together in the implementation of the Campaign for the Right to Breathe Clean Air. In addition, religious leaders who are part of IEFP will participate in educational activities carried out by IRI Brazil.



IRI Colombia prepares for UNCBD COP 16 with the 'Listen to the Amazon' alliance and the Territorial and Environmental Peace Group

IRI Colombia continues its partnership with the 'Listen to the Amazon' Alliance and the Territorial and Environmental Peace Group, this time with an aim to define lines of work and joint action to achieve more effective advocacy at UNCBD COP 16. In a recent meeting between the three institutions, the work plan was developed around the following axes of work: a joint call to action (task force) to achieve a greater impact at COP16, socialisation of rapprochements between the national government and aid workers, sharing existing initiatives for networking, and the definition of common purposes and commitments.



IRI DRC participates in working group to assess the implementation measures of the draft law on spatial planning



IRI DRC took part in a meeting of the Civil Society Thematic Working Group 5 (WG5) on Spatial Planning. The meeting was organised by the CADGFT with the participation of 20 people, including representatives of state services from the Ministries of Territorial Planning, Land Affairs, Interior and Security, Agriculture and Environment and Sustainable Development; and environmental civil society organizations. The objective was to analyse the consolidated version of the draft law on spatial planning, with a view to identifying provisions and matters likely to be subject to implementing measures once promulgated by the President of the Republic. IRI DRC has set up a strategy to monitor the legislative agenda of the draft law on Spatial Planning with the Thematic Working Group on Spatial

Planning (WG5). TWG5 prepared a draft of the mapping of the implementation measures of the Planning Act to be forwarded to the President for promulgation. The outcome of this meeting was the production of a draft of the implementing measures after an article-by-article reading of the final version of the bill and the proposal of actions to monitor the bill for its effective implementation. Spatial planning is one of the key development sectors in terms of land use, making it a key line of intervention so that IRI DRC is involved in processes to ensure the rational management of forest areas, specifically for local communities and Pygmy indigenous peoples. IRI DRC has set up a strategy for monitoring the legislative agenda of the draft law on regional planning with the Groupe de Travail Thématique Aménagement du Territoire (GTT5).

IRI Brazil secures screening of Amazônia Viva at meeting of Presidents of Supreme Courts of Justice of the G-20 countries and a permanent exhibit of Amazônia Viva at the Supreme Federal Court



Carlos Vicente, IRI Brazil National Facilitator, and Agnaldo Gomes, Director General of Religions for Peace Brazil, met with the Ms. Aline Rezende, Secretary General of the Supreme Federal Court (STF). After presenting Amazônia Viva and IRI Brasil's work, Ms. Rezende invited the film to be presented at an upcoming meeting of the Group of Presidents of Supreme Courts of Justice of the G-20 countries, in May in Rio de Janeiro. She also requested that a permanent exhibit of Amazônia Viva be set up in the exhibition room that will soon be created at the Supreme Federal Court. The permanent exhibition at the STF represents an important space for the dissemination of messages on the Amazon among public servants, ministers, advisors, lawyers, social leaders, journalists, politicians and businessmen.

IRI Peru provides recommendations to address inconsistencies in the draft law on voluntary conservation areas

IRI Peru coordinated with the office of the First Vice President of the Congress of the Republic to provide him with an opinion on the bills scheduled for the Green Plenary, particularly the Draft Law on Voluntary Conservation Areas. In its intervention, IRI Peru warned about inconsistencies in the proposal and recommended some clarifications to consolidate the project. The proposal to modify the Law on Natural Protected Areas to rename "private conservation areas" as "voluntary conservation areas" is a good initiative that reflects a global trend and was also a request from the owners of these areas. IRI Peru warned that the draft law erroneously assigned competencies that did not correspond to the Ministry of Agriculture and additionally maintained confusing definitions about the system of protected areas. Clarifying text was proposed to help advance the law. IRI Peru also provided comments to consolidate proposals on other bills, such as the Environment by Taxes and others.

IRI leadership teams from Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Indonesia and Peru meet for in-person learning exchange

From 23-30 April, the National Facilitators and leadership teams of all five IRI country programs from Brazil, Colombia, DRC, Indonesia and Peru met together with representatives of Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN), Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and Religions for Peace to share lessons learned and best practices from the implementation of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative in their respective national contexts. The learning exchange, held in São José dos Campos, São Paulo, Brazil, included a scientific immersion visit for all the IRI teams at the National Center for Monitoring Natural Disasters and Alerts (CEMADEN) and the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), followed by four days of workshops and exchanges on best practices from each country on working with religious leaders and faith-based organizations on awareness raising, on-the-ground mobilization, and political advocacy for the protection and restoration of tropical forests.



IRI Brazil holds scientific immersion for interfaith leaders

From 10-11 April, IRI Brazil held its ninth scientific immersion at the National Center for Monitoring Natural Disasters and Alerts (CEMADEN) and the National Institute for Space Research (INPE), which focused on climate change and the importance of the Amazon rainforest. The immersion brought together 32 religious and faith leaders from different religious and faith traditions (Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal, Neo-Pentecostal, Spiritism, Judaism, Catholic, Africa Matrix, Ayahuasca, and Indigenous Spirituality). Through the immersion, the participants gained a deeper understanding of the state of climate emergency the world is

confronted with, as well as the importance of combatting deforestation and ensuring that the territorial and human rights of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities are upheld. The immersion also provided a critical opportunity for IRI Brazil to highlight its unique capacity to support religious and faith leaders in the development of strategies to raise awareness and implement concrete actions aimed at advancing rainforest restoration and socio-environmental rights. Most participants expressed interest in nominating other influential religious leaders to take part in future scientific immersions conducted by IRI Brazil.



IRI Colombia participates in Custodians of the Amazon program

IRI Colombia participated in the third workshop of the Custodians of the Amazon programme, convened by Alisos and the British Embassy in Colombia. The programme aims to identify the role of civil society organisations in addressing environmental crimes, with the objective of presenting some recommendations to the national government. During the meeting, Alisos presented the first proposal of the roadmap for the organisations in the short, medium and long term, before submitting the observations to the national government.



IRI DRC participates in workshop on land reform

On 24 April, IRI DRC participated in a workshop organised by Congo Watch and the Renewed REDD Climate Working Group, which aimed to reinvigorate the Land Task Force. The organisers presented progress on land reform in relation to the objectives under CAFI's Letter of Intent, established an action plan for 2024, and defined the next steps for the Land Task Force. IRI DRC

presented a roadmap that consists of various actions to be undertaken once the legislative institutions have been established in late 2024, including engaging in consultations with Members of Parliament (members of the National Assembly and Senate Bureau and other groups and/or Parliamentary associations), and facilitating the monitoring of the draft revision of the land law.

IRI Indonesia launches monthly webinar series on importance of respecting and preserving the environment

On 29 April, IRI Indonesia, in collaboration with the Supreme Council for Confucian Religion in Indonesia (MATAKIN) and AMAN, launched the monthly webinar series, Respecting the Balance of Nature, Ethics in Conservation, and Preserving the Tropical Forest Environment. Mr. Ws.

Mulyadi Liang, S. Pd. Ing., M. Ag., Deputy Secretary of MATAKIN's Spiritual Council, served as the main speaker. The webinar highlighted the importance of preserving the environment and fostering a positive relationship between humanity and forests. Mr. Liang emphasised Confucian teachings on humanity's close relationship with heaven and earth, underscoring moral obligations to act in harmony with nature. This initiative reflects IRI Indonesia's commitment to strengthen the capacities of religious leaders in promoting environmental protection and tropical forest conservation to a wider audience. The event brought together 35 participants, including religious leaders and academics, both online and offline, engaging in fruitful discussions on the topic.



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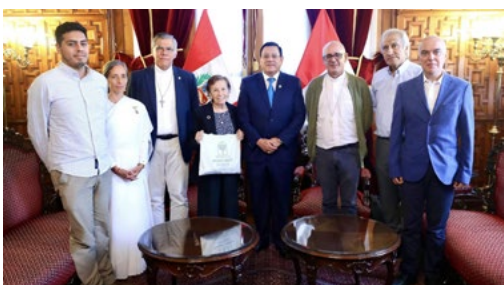


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IRI Peru holds meeting with the President of Congress



On 30 April, IRI Peru met with the Alejandro Soto, President of Congress, to express their concern about the increased violence brought about by illegal mining, and its implications on the Amazon rainforest and Indigenous Peoples. IRI Peru was accompanied by Bishops Miguel Angel Cadenas, Apostolic Vicariate of Iquitos; Msgr. Alfredo Vizcarra, Vicariate of Jaén; Sister Nonie Reaño from Brahma Kumaris Peru; and members of the IRI Peru Advisory Council. Through the meeting, IRI Peru secured the commitment of the President of Congress to hold an environmental plenary session in the near future.

IRI Brazil holds scientific immersion for evangelical leaders, IRI country program leadership teams



From 24-25 April, IRI Brazil held its tenth scientific immersion at the CEMADEN and INPE, which focused on climate change and the importance of the Amazon rainforest. The tenth immersion brought together 21 Evangelical leaders from the field of education (theologians, authors, bloggers, journalists, representatives of Evangelical student movements, seminary professors, artists, and digital influencers), who

together had a reach of over 1 million people on social media, along with leadership teams from the IRI country programs in Colombia, Peru, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia. A key outcome of the immersion was the commitment of the participating theologians to widely disseminate scientific knowledge on climate, rainforest conservation, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. IRI Brazil also committed to participate in the Congress of Biblical Scholars, to be held in Brazil at the end of the year, which will bring together leading biblical scholars, translators, and publishers across Latin America. Further, strategic commitments were made between CEMADEN and INPE, and the other IRI country programs, including: making the information systems generated by INPE accessible to IRI country programs; ensuring that the IRI country programs are able to utilize the information systems created by MapBiomass; and a commitment from IRI DRC to support in the installation of MapBiomass in the country.



IRI Colombia participates in preparatory workshop for COP16

On 5 April, IRI Colombia participated in the workshop “On the Road to COP 16 on Biodiversity,” organised by the Norwegian Embassy. The event brought together different civil society organisations to identify their objectives and perspectives with respect to the United Nations Conference on Biodiversity, to be held at the end of October 2024 in Cali, Colombia.

At the end of the meeting, the civil society organisations committed to advance several actions, including: (i) calling for unity in the face of COP 16, with linkages to COP 29, (ii) proposing a work plan focuses on COP 16, with a view to strengthen these efforts at COP 29, (iii) identifying key areas of participation in COP 16; and (iv) defining specific areas to engage in dialogue with the government, based on common objectives and principles shared by the civil society organisations.



IRI North Kivu organises training session to raise awareness on the harmful impacts of climate change

Furthering its commitment to raise awareness on the harmful impact of climate change, IRI North Kivu organized a training session for 43 participants from 20 member communities of the Church of Christ in Congo on 9 April. At the end of the training session, the participants pledged to raise awareness on climate change across their networks of around 1,500,000 people.

IRI Colombia highlights its work in panel discussion on contributions of faith-based actors to ceasefire mechanisms and humanitarian relief

On 4 April, IRI Colombia participated in an interreligious forum convened by Religions for Peace Latin America and the Caribbean, Religions for Peace Interreligious Council of Colombia (IRC Colombia), and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), entitled, The Contributions of Faith-Based

Actors in the Peace Negotiations in Colombia. In the panel discussion on “The Contribution of Faith-Based Actors to Ceasefire Mechanisms and Humanitarian Relief,” Blanca Lucia Echeverry, IRI Colombia National Facilitator, addressed the harmful impact of the armed conflict on the environment and highlighted IRI Colombia’s work on the protection of tropical rainforests in the Colombian Amazon. The interreligious forum was attended by important representatives of diverse religious and faith communities involved in the peace processes currently being carried out by the Colombian government, including some members of the IRI Colombia Advisory Board, such as Pastor Edgar Castaño, Representative of the Evangelical Confederation of Colombia (CEDECOL), and Monsignor Francisco Duque, President of IRC Colombia.



IRI Peru launches local chapter in district of Nieva

On 13 April, IRI Peru launched a local chapter in the district of Nieva, province of Condorcanqui, which is where the Awajun and Wampis peoples reside. A total of nine religious and Indigenous leaders make up leadership of the new local chapter. A key outcome of the launch event was the cultivation of the partnership and collaboration between the religious leaders on combatting deforestation and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

IRI Brazil participates in 61st General Assembly of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB)

Carlos Vicente, IRI Brazil National Facilitator, participated in the Ecumenical and Interreligious Ceremony during the General Assembly of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB). During the ceremony, the National Facilitator presented the work IRI Brazil has carried out in terms of engaging and mobilizing religious and faith communities for the protection of rainforests and the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The presence of IRI Brazil at the CNBB General Assembly, which was broadcast by the largest Catholic television and radio stations in the country, signifies the increased recognition of IRI Brazil as a highly relevant and representative movement. IRI Brazil’s participation also marks an important step forward in the relationship with the Catholic Church. In April 2023, IRI Brazil took part in CNBB’s General Assembly by showcasing the Amazônia Viva film to over 400 bishops. That same year, IRI conducted a scientific immersion at CEMADEN and INPE for the new board of CNBB, elected in April. IRI Brazil continues to work to replicate this process in engaging and cultivating relationships with other religious and faith communities, with an aim to yield similar positive outcomes.



IRI Brazil becomes member of National Consultative Commission of G20 Interreligious Forum in Brazil

IRI Brazil became a member of the National Consultative Commission of the G20 Interreligious Forum in Brazil, which is responsible for i) suggesting thematic areas for the events associated with the G20 Interreligious Forum; ii) making contributions to the drafting of recommendations to be presented to the G20 governments; and iii) participating in monthly meetings of the Advisory Committee. The invitation for IRI Brazil to join the Consultative Commission was made in recognition of the work that it has carrying out in the country, particularly on the Amazon rainforest. Participation in the Commission offers IRI Brazil the opportunity to influence the formulation of the documents that will be presented to the Brazilian government, and to increase its visibility and recognition as a key partner on environmental efforts.



IRI Indonesia continues preparations for publication of guidelines on role of houses of worship in rainforest protection

IRI Indonesia has been developing six guideline books and six sermon books, with the support of 24 authors representing eight major religious traditions. The guideline books aim to provide an overview of how each religion articulates the significant role of places of worship in both environmental conservation and education for their respective communities, with a particular focus on rainforest protection. In April, the draft book from the Confucian Council (MATAKIN) was completed.

IRI DRC secures declaration of commitment by religious leaders to work collaboratively in the promotion of sustainable development

With the aim of raising awareness among religious leaders and faith communities in the DRC who are members of the Conseil National des Religions pour la Paix (CNRP) and the Commission d'Intégrité et Médiation Electorale (CIME) of the seriousness of deforestation and the urgent need to halt deforestation, IRI DRC hosted a high-level briefing on: i) the context, theory of change and successes of IRI DRC; ii) the importance of involving religious leaders in the fight against deforestation, climate change, and the defense of the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the DRC; iii) the contribution of IRI DRC to the Six Commitments of the President of the DRC and the

next steps in its implementation; iv) IRI DRC's National Conference for Biodiversity around the vision "Living Forests, Emerging People" in the context of the International Day on Biodiversity; and v) the importance of involving religious leaders in the sustainable management of the wood fuel value chain. At the end of the meeting, 34 religious leaders signed a declaration of commitment to support IRI DRC in carrying out its mission, and to work together in combatting climate change through the promotion of sustainable development. Click [here](#) to view the article published by IRI DRC on the high-level briefing. Media coverage of the high-level briefing can be accessed [here](#).



IRI Colombia participates in meeting of Social Pastoral Directors

IRI Colombia participated in the Meeting of Social Pastoral Directors, held on 10 April at the Episcopal Conference of Colombia. In its intervention, IRI Colombia emphasised the importance of scaling up efforts to care for the environment and biodiversity in the country, and presented its work on the protection of the Amazon rainforests.

The meeting provided a platform for participants to reflect on the most pressing global issues, including ongoing violent conflicts, displacement, and the climate and ecological crisis, and strengthen the commitment of the Colombian Catholic Church in the cultivation of a more peaceful, harmonious, and humane society.



IRI Brazil continues to raise awareness on importance of rainforest conservation through screenings of Amazônia Viva film

IRI Brazil continued to leverage the Amazônia Viva film to raise awareness on the importance of combatting deforestation in the Amazon by conducting seven screenings of the film that reached over 12,000 people. During the 20th Free Land Camp - ATL 2024 convened by the Coordination of Indigenous Organisations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB), IRI Brazil presented key messages of Indigenous Peoples concerning rainforest conservation through a screening of the Amazônia Viva film, which reached a total of 1,494 people – of whom more than 80 percent were Indigenous leaders from all regions of the country. IRI Brazil also participated in the XXII Congress of the Environmental Public Prosecutor's Office convened by the Brazilian Association of Members of the Environmental Public Prosecutor's Office (ABRAMPA) from 24-26 April. IRI Brazil presented the Amazônia Viva film to 64 public officials, with an aim to inform strategies and programs for education, awareness-raising, and civil society engagement in the socio-environmental agenda. The screening paved the way for several opportunities for partnership with IRI Brazil, including for the use of the film in awareness-raising efforts among authorities in the judicial system throughout the country. A screening of Amazônia Viva was also held for 15 leaders at the Sixth Independent Presbyterian Church of Sorocaba. Taking advantage of its presence in the city of Sorocaba to raise awareness among the religious leaders of the Presbyterian Church, a screening was also held for 172 students from the Professor José Roque Almeida Rosa State School. Similarly, IRI Brazil facilitated an exhibition of Amazônia Viva at the Luziânia Municipal Basic Education Centre. The film was viewed by a total of 115 people, including teachers and elementary school students. This school serves a population that has very little access to modern technological resources such as virtual reality goggles, and have never had any contact with the

Amazon rainforest. IRI Brazil also presented its work and Amazônia Viva to the Ecumenical Water Network (REDA), which consists of seven key organisations aimed at mobilising religious and faith institutions to promote water conservation in Brazil, including: the National Council of Christian Churches of Brazil (CONIC); the Oca do Sol Institute; the Ecumenical Coordination of Services (CESE); the United Religions Initiative (URI); the Centre for Studies and Social Action (CEAS); and Agora Brazil. At the end of IRI Brazil's presentation, REDA's member organisations expressed their interest in supporting IRI Brazil's work, particularly in raising awareness on the importance of preserving the Amazon and mitigating deforestation and forest fires. Finally, Amazônia Viva has been one of the main attractions in the Museum of Tomorrow in Rio de Janeiro, having been viewed by a record audience of over 50,000 people in the course of 11 months. In the first quarter of 2024 alone, the film was viewed by 10,373.



IRI Peru mediates negotiation with Wampis indigenous leaders upon the request of the Ministry of Interior

Wampis indigenous leaders intervened in three illegal miners' dredges, detained their occupants and were surprised to learn that three of the miners' security personnel were active police officers, whom they also detained. In light of the situation, the Ministry of Interior mounted an operation to rescue the detained policemen, which led to fears of reprisals amongst the Wampis. Recognising IRI Peru's influence and authority over matters concerning the environment and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Ministry requested IRI Peru mediate in the delivery of the detainees to justice. In the course of two days, IRI Peru mediated a negotiation between Wampis Indigenous leaders and a high-level commission sent by the government.

IRI Peru convenes webinar on effects of the anti-forestry law passed by Congress

IRI Peru convened the webinar, *Effects of the Anti-Forestry Law Passed by Congress*, on 3 April. The webinar brought together 33 members from its local chapters to reflect on the scope of Law 31973 passed by Congress that modifies the procedure for classifying land by its capacity for major use (CTCUM), which would allow the legalisation of agricultural activities without the necessary technical support. At the end of the webinar, it was agreed to implement creative measures to achieve the repeal of this law. Furthering this commitment, IRI Peru met with Congresswoman Ruth Luque, President of the CPAAAAE to jointly develop the strategy for the presentation to the President of Congress.



IRI DRC continues planning for submission of contribution note to the Six Commitments of the President of the Republic

On 22 April, representatives of the Communauté Islamique au Congo (COMICO), Religions for Peace Interreligious Council in DRC, and the Orthodox Church convened to plan of advocacy around the five-year program of the President of the Republic. The meeting had two items on the agenda: (i) the strategy for submitting the contribution note on forests, and (ii) preparations for the IRI DRC National Conference on Biodiversity. With regard to the first point, the religious leaders, together with the IRI DRC National Facilitator, set the following prerequisites: (a) finalisation of the Contribute Note to the Six Commitments of the President of the Republic, (b) preparation of the summary of the contributions of religious leaders to the Six Commitments, and (c) preparation of the letter requesting an audience with the President of the Republic to submit the Contribution Note. It was agreed that the letter requesting an audience with the President of the Republic would be signed by all leaders of religious denominations, after which a series of planning consultations with the Episcopal Conference of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (CENCO) and the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) would take place in preparation for the potential meeting.

IRI Peru establishes working group to coordinate efforts in defense of Amazon

In a meeting with the Integral Ecology Commission of Resucita Perú Ahora, IRI Peru's request to form a working group dedicated to coordinate, study and articulate efforts to defend the Amazon was accepted. The group will be formed by Ernesto Ráez, Mariano Casto, and Eduardo Salas, who will work collaboratively to develop and present a proposed action plan to the commission and Resucita Perú Ahora.



IRI DRC highlights its contributions to biodiversity preservation on national media



Rev. Matthieu Yela Bonketo, IRI DRC National Facilitator, gave an interview on Télévision 7's Environment and Sustainable Development programme, in which he raised awareness on rainforest protection and biodiversity conservation. He highlighted IRI DRC's ongoing contributions to the protection of rainforests and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and stressed the urgent need to halt deforestation. He also announced the convening of the National Biodiversity Conference, to be held in May 2024, with the aim of raising awareness on and catalyzing common actions for biodiversity preservation. Furthermore, he appealed to political decisionmakers to recognize religious and faith institutions as a key partner and commit to work collaboratively for the preservation of biodiversity in the DRC. A recording of the interview can be viewed [here](#).