



INTERFAITH
RAINFOREST
INITIATIVE

...brar para conservar: Agroforestería y
bioeconomía en la región andina

Belén Ojeda, 7 de mayo de 2026, Puerto Guzmán



IRIbulletin
May/2026

CATHOLIC DIGITAL MISSIONARIES EQUIPPED TO COMMUNICATE CLIMATE SCIENCE



IRI Brazil held its 31st scientific immersion at INPE and CEMADEN, bringing together Catholic digital missionaries and Laudato Si' Movement multipliers from 18 states. Participants included online evangelists, content creators and pastoral communicators with significant reach across Catholic networks. The immersion connected scientific evidence on the Amazon, climate change, fires and extreme events with Christian teaching on care for creation and the protection of life. Follow-up monitoring found that participants produced videos, posts and reflections translating complex scientific information into accessible faithbased messages. Their communications also helped build trust in scientific institutions and carry climate and forest issues into audiences often missed by conventional environmental outreach. By equipping influential Catholic communicators, IRI Brazil is widening public understanding of climate science and reducing polarization around forests and environmental responsibility.

NEW EVANGELICAL DEVOTIONAL CONNECTS BIBLICAL FAITH WITH CREATION CARE

IRI Brazil and Pão Diário Ministries launched Tempo de Cuidar: Biblical Reflections on Faith, the Environment and Life, a new 30-day devotional supporting evangelical teaching and action on forests and care for creation. The publication brings together reflections from 31 pastors, theologians, missionaries, scientists, journalists and Christian leaders representing diverse denominations and organizations. It presents environmental protection not as an external political agenda, but as a biblical responsibility rooted in creation, justice, discipleship and the protection of life. Pão Diário's credibility and national distribution network give the resource significant potential to reach churches throughout Brazil. The devotional will be incorporated into scientific immersions, leadership trainings, Bible studies and local church activities. By providing a practical and theologically grounded resource, IRI Brazil is helping evangelical communities move from awareness to reflection and action.



FOLLOW IRI BRAZIL ON SOCIAL NETWORKS



@iribrasil



IRI Brasil



IRI Brasil

SOMA NETWORK UNITES EVANGELICAL ORGANIZATIONS AROUND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

IRI Brazil supported the launch of the SOMA Network, a new coalition of major evangelical organizations working together to expand faith-based environmental education and action. Founding members include ABUB, the Brazilian Evangelical Alliance, the Brazilian Association of Christians in Science, CRU Campus, Pão Diário Ministries, Efeito Prisma and Movimento Vocare. Together, their networks reach universities, churches, pastors, young leaders and large digital audiences nationwide. The coalition also launched the “Time to Care” campaign, which will run from 1 September to 5 October and combine distribution of the new devotional with thematic Bible studies and a practical tree-planting action. Additional interest from national and international Christian networks has further expanded its potential reach. By connecting influential evangelical organizations around a common agenda, IRI Brazil is creating durable infrastructure for faith-based environmental mobilization at national scale.



INTERFAITH WEATHER-STATION NETWORK STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY CLIMATE SECURITY

IRI Brazil advanced the Interfaith Network of Amazon Weather Stations, known as RIMME, which equips religious and community institutions with small meteorological stations and connects locally generated data with public education, risk awareness and climate preparedness. During May, the initiative progressed with station installation, partner coordination, technical support and development of a shared operating model. The network is designed to improve access to

reliable local information in communities facing heat, drought, fires, flooding and other extreme events. Religious leaders can use the data to communicate risks in accessible language and help communities prepare for changing conditions. By positioning houses of worship and faith organizations as local hubs for climate information, RIMME connects scientific monitoring with trusted community networks and strengthens resilience in priority areas of the Amazon.



VR FILM OPENS ENVIRONMENTAL DIALOGUE WITH CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE LEADERS

IRI Brazil advanced discussions with the Supreme Federal Court on using Amazônia Forever as a tool for environmental education and institutional engagement. The immersive film was presented as a way to connect judges, public officials and visitors with the realities of the Amazon, climate change and Indigenous Peoples’ rights. IRI Brazil also screened the film during the Ibero-American Conference on Constitutional Justice in Brasília, reaching ministers, magistrates and legal experts from Brazil and other countries. The experience opened dialogue on environmental protection, intergenerational responsibility and the constitutional rights of forest peoples. It also created opportunities for future screenings and policy discussions within institutions whose decisions shape environmental governance. By bringing the Amazon into judicial spaces through immersive storytelling, IRI Brazil is expanding understanding and support among influential constitutional and legal actors.



BUSINESS AND INNOVATION LEADERS ENGAGE WITH A FORESTPOSITIVE FUTURE

IRI Brazil participated in Horizons 2026 in São Paulo, a forum bringing together business leaders, investors, public officials, universities and innovation specialists around sustainability, bioeconomy, climate finance and regenerative development. Through screenings of *Amazônia Viva* and *Amazônia Forever*, IRI Brazil brought the lived realities of the Amazon and Indigenous Peoples into discussions often dominated by technology, investment and corporate strategy. The films created an emotional and factual foundation for dialogue on the responsibilities of business and finance in building an economy that protects forests rather than destroying them. Participation also generated contacts with potential partners interested in Amazon protection, climate communication and responsible business practices. By engaging influential economic actors, IRI Brazil is helping connect innovation and investment with the realities and requirements of a forestpositive transition.



AMAZÔNIA FOREVER GAINS INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY AT CANNES



Amazônia Forever was presented at the 2026 Marché du Film during the Cannes Film Festival, reaching 60 film, cultural and business leaders from nine countries. Participants included festival directors, curators, sales agents, artists, corporate executives and representatives of international cultural institutions. The screening positioned the film as an innovative immersive experience capable of connecting global audiences with the Amazon, its peoples and the urgency of forest protection. It generated interest in future screenings, distribution and institutional partnerships involving festivals, museums, public events and decision-making spaces. By taking the Amazon's realities to one of the world's most influential film markets, IRI Brazil is expanding the international reach of its storytelling strategy and opening new channels for building public concern and political will for rainforest protection.

PUBLIC MEDIA DIALOGUE OPENS PATHWAY FOR NATIONAL CLIMATE COMMUNICATION

IRI Brazil opened a strategic dialogue with Empresa Brasil de Comunicação, Brazil's national public media company, on strengthening communication about the Amazon, climate change and forest protection. Discussions explored opportunities to distribute IRI Brazil's films and educational content through public television, radio and digital platforms. The parties also considered collaboration on public-interest campaigns, reporting and coverage of religious and community climate action. EBC representatives viewed *Amazônia Viva* and *Amazônia Forever* and discussed how credible science, immersive storytelling and trusted messengers can make environmental issues accessible to broad audiences. By developing relationships with national public media, IRI Brazil is creating a pathway to carry forest and climate narratives beyond existing faith and environmental networks and into homes and communities across the country.

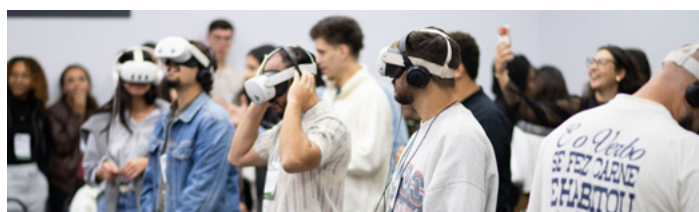


YOUNG EVANGELICAL LEADERS PREPARED TO MOBILIZE A NEW GENERATION



IRI Brazil's 32nd scientific immersion brought 43 young evangelical leaders to INPE and CEMADEN from ministries and churches across seven states. Women represented nearly 63 percent of participants, and the average age was 23. The group included leaders connected to Dunamis, JesusCopy, Zion Church and influential university, worship, discipleship and digital ministries. Participants received direct instruction from scientists on climate change, forest loss, fires, disasters

and environmental monitoring, while exploring biblical foundations for care for creation. Many lead groups and platforms capable of multiplying what they learned among thousands of young Christians. By connecting science with faith and youth leadership, IRI Brazil is preparing a highly influential generation to make environmental responsibility part of Christian ministry, education and public life.



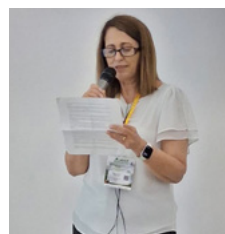
AMAZON FILMS BRING FOREST PROTECTION TO AGRIBUSINESS AUDIENCES

IRI Brazil participated in Green Farm 2026 in Cuiabá, using Amazônia Viva and Amazônia Forever to engage rural producers, companies, women leaders and agribusiness institutions on the relationship between production, climate stability and forest protection. Approximately 220 people experienced the virtual-reality films, creating an emotionally powerful entry point for dialogue with audiences not often reached through environmental advocacy. Participation generated new relationships with women's business networks, farms and other organizations interested in sustainable production and climate resilience. By entering a major agribusiness forum with a message grounded in science, dialogue and shared responsibility, IRI Brazil is building connections across sectors and opening new opportunities to engage producers and business leaders in the transition toward a forest-positive economy.



TERRITORIAL LEADERSHIP ELEVATED AT GOVERNORS' FOREST MEETING

IRI Colombia participated in the 16th Annual Meeting of the Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force, held in Florencia, Caquetá, from 18–22 May. The meeting brought together governors and representatives from 11 countries to advance a new forest economy capable of protecting tropical forests, restoring degraded lands and creating fair and sustainable livelihoods. IRI Colombia contributed to a working session on the restoration of strategic ecosystems alongside governments, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, academia, civil society and the private sector. Participants also visited Agua Bonita, a territory once affected by armed conflict where community conservation and sustainable tourism are supporting peacebuilding and forest protection. By contributing faith-based and territorial perspectives, IRI Colombia is helping ensure that global forest strategies recognize community knowledge, local leadership and crosssector cooperation as essential foundations for lasting change.



FOLLOW IRI COLOMBIA ON SOCIAL NETWORKS



@iricolombiaoficial



IRI Colombia



IRI Colombia



IRI Colombia

CAQUETÁ CHAPTERS ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE FOREST ECONOMIES



IRI Colombia convened 231 participants from 12 local chapters for a training cycle in Curillo, Cartagena del Chairá, Puerto Rico and San Vicente del Caguán from 19–22 May. Religious and community leaders, Indigenous authorities, educators, civil society organizations and public officials received practical tools for developing productive systems that reflect the structure of the Amazon forest. The sessions demonstrated how agroforestry can restore ecological connectivity, conserve water and biodiversity and generate income without

further forest loss. Community leaders presented successful approaches involving organic cacao, ecotourism, farmers' markets, native bees and silvopastoral systems adopted by more than 270 cattle ranchers. By sharing solutions already working in Amazonian communities, IRI Colombia is helping local coalitions show that forest protection, economic opportunity and community well-being can be advanced together.

PUTUMAYO LEADERS TRAINED IN AGROFORESTRY AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

IRI Colombia trained 206 religious and community leaders, Indigenous authorities, educators, farmers' associations, local officials and municipal councilors in Orito, Puerto Asís and Puerto Guzmán from 5–7 May. The sessions strengthened the ability of local IRI chapters to promote forest restoration, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods through agroforestry and bioeconomy approaches. Participants examined the ecological and cultural importance of the Orito Ingi Ande Medicinal

Plants Sanctuary and learned from local enterprises producing cacao, açai, palm hearts, sachá inchi, plantain and other Amazonian products without further forest loss. By connecting technical knowledge with practical community experience, the training helped build a shared territorial agenda for restoring degraded landscapes, improving food security and creating economic opportunities that conserve the Amazon.



INDIGENOUS AND COMMUNITY RIGHTS ADVANCED IN FOREST LAW REFORM

IRI DRC participated in the Ministry of Environment's technical retreat in Kisantu from 12–16 May, formally launching the revision of the 2002 Forest Code. Through the IRI DRC–civil society consortium, the initiative presented recommendations developed during its earlier expert consultation in Kinkole. The proposals called for stronger legal safeguards for forests and highvalue ecosystems, including peatlands and mangroves. They also sought greater participation by Indigenous Pygmy Peoples and local communities in forest-governance institutions and oversight of logging activities. IRI DRC's contribution helped place community rights, ecological protection and inclusive governance within the official reform process. By engaging directly in the technical review, IRI DRC is working to ensure that the new Forest Code provides stronger protections for both forests and the people whose lives and cultures depend upon them.



FOLLOW IRI DRC ON SOCIAL NETWORKS



@iridrc



IRI DRC



iridrc.org

CIVIL SOCIETY PRIORITIES SHAPE FOREST CODE REVISION

IRI DRC convened 15 civil society experts in Kinkole from 4–6 May to develop recommendations for revising the country's 2002 Forest Code. Organized with CAGDFT, DGPA and MMT, the meeting identified legal provisions requiring reform and emerging issues that should be incorporated into the new framework. Priorities included stronger protection for peatlands and biodiversity, improved green-finance mechanisms and greater support for community forestry. Participants produced an evidencebased advocacy note setting out proposed reforms and the arguments supporting them. IRI DRC submitted the document to the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development and New Climate Economy task force responsible for the formal technical review. By coordinating a clear civil society contribution, IRI DRC is helping ensure the revised Forest Code responds to current environmental challenges and the needs of forest-dependent communities.



COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS ENTER INTERNATIONAL FOREST AND CLIMATE DIALOGUE



IRI DRC participated in a strategic dialogue hosted by the Norwegian Ambassador on the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership. The delegation included the Secretary General of the National Episcopal Conference of Congo, which coordinates IRI DRC through CENCO. The meeting provided an opportunity to present IRI DRC's advocacy for stronger land-tenure protections for local communities and Indigenous Pygmy Peoples within the national land-reform process. It also connected this national work with wider international priorities on forests, climate and sustainable development. By bringing religious leadership and community-rights advocacy into a high-level diplomatic forum, IRI DRC is strengthening recognition that effective forest protection depends on secure rights and meaningful participation by the communities who protect and depend upon forests.



PAPUA ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEW CHAPTERS AND LOCAL ACTION



IRI Indonesia conducted a scoping mission in Southwest Papua and West Papua to assess opportunities for future chapter development and locally led forest action. Through dialogue in Sorong and consultations in Manokwari, the team engaged religious institutions, Indigenous Peoples, public agencies, universities and civil society organizations. Participants expressed strong interest in a platform capable of connecting fragmented initiatives and strengthening cooperation among customary institutions, faith communities and public authorities. The mission identified promising landscapes and community models, including the Malamoi customary territory, conservation and ecotourism initiatives in Kampung Kwau in the Arfak Mountains and a proposed waqf forest in Oransbari. By identifying concrete opportunities for chapters, immersions and demonstration projects, IRI Indonesia is building a foundation for faith-based and Indigenous-led forest action in one of the country's most important forest regions.

**FOLLOW IRI
INDONESIA
ON SOCIAL
NETWORKS**



@iri_ind



IRI Indonesia Official



iri-indonesia.org



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BILL ADVOCACY ENTERS A CRITICAL LEGISLATIVE STAGE

IRI Indonesia continued its strategic engagement in support of the Indigenous Peoples Bill, which remains under Level I deliberation in the House of Representatives' Legislative Body. Building on its participation in a formal public hearing in April, IRI Indonesia contributed perspectives connecting Indigenous Peoples' rights with forest governance, ecological justice, spirituality and cultural protection. It also participated in civil society coalitions and legislative

consultations to strengthen coordinated advocacy. Priorities for the next phase include engagement with the parliamentary working committee, stronger relationships with key political factions and development of policy briefs and public narratives. By emphasizing territorial, cultural, spiritual and ecological rights, IRI Indonesia is helping position Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and essential partners in forest protection, climate resilience and sustainable development.



SCIENTIFIC IMMERSION EQUIPS RELIGIOUS LEADERS FOR CLIMATE AND FOREST ACTION

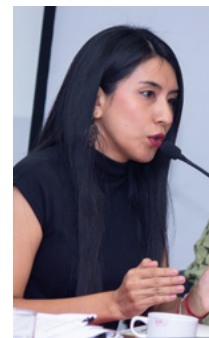
IRI Peru organized a scientific immersion from 17–19 May for senior religious leaders, pastors, priests, representatives of Cáritas Peru and other faith-based actors from northern Peru. The program connected participants with leading climate and environmental institutions and deepened their understanding of forests, climate change, illegal mining and threats to Peru's ecosystems. Visits to SENAMHI and the Pantanos de Villa protected area helped translate scientific evidence into practical and pastoral understanding. IRI Peru also recorded six expert presentations and 12 participant interviews, which will be transformed into five educational and communications products for the “No Forests, No Life” campaign. By combining direct scientific learning with campaign content production, IRI Peru is equipping trusted religious leaders while extending the immersion's messages to much wider faith and public audiences.



AMAZON PRIORITIES ENTER SECOND-ROUND PRESIDENTIAL DIALOGUE

Ahead of Peru's second-round presidential election, IRI Peru joined GRADE, the Instituto del Bien Común, SUMA+ and CINCIA in convening a dialogue with the technical teams responsible for the government plans of the two competing parties. The discussion examined five environmental priorities, with IRI Peru moderating sessions on Indigenous Peoples and protected areas. The event generated substantive exchanges with both teams and opened the possibility of creating a future parliamentary dialogue involving parties represented in the incoming Congress. Broadcasting, press coverage

and social media outreach extended the discussion beyond those in the room. By bringing evidence and Indigenous-rights perspectives into a nonpartisan electoral forum, IRI Peru is helping ensure that Amazon protection and environmental governance are treated as national political priorities.



CHICLAYO CHAPTER BUILDS PARTNERSHIPS AT A STRATEGIC AMAZON GATEWAY



IRI Peru accompanied the development of its recently established Chiclayo chapter from 7–9 May. Chiclayo is strategically located between Peru's northern coast and the Amazon regions of San Martín, Amazonas and Cajamarca and is an important transit point for legal and illegal timber. Meetings with the regional government, provincial municipality, education authorities and the Roundtable for the Fight Against Poverty generated interest in participating in future IRI activities. Chapter members also reviewed their annual plan, prepared an interfaith prayer for tropical forests and identified opportunities for public awareness activities in civic spaces. By strengthening local planning and institutional relationships, IRI Peru is positioning the chapter to mobilize public attention and action around forests, timber flows and environmental responsibility.

FOLLOW
IRI PERU
ON SOCIAL
NETWORKS



@iriperu



IRI Peru



iriperu.org

NEW ALLIANCE EXPLORES FAITH-BASED ACTION AGAINST ILLEGAL MINING

IRI Peru advanced discussions with the PAS Collective, a platform bringing together civil society, financial-sector and mining-sector actors to campaign against illegal mining. PAS invited IRI Peru to contribute to its public education and advocacy work, recognizing the moral authority and social reach that religious leaders can bring to the issue. The partners are developing a joint work plan that would incorporate forest protection and safeguards for environmental and human-rights defenders into future campaigns. The proposed collaboration would connect faith-based advocacy with actors not usually reached through religious networks and strengthen coordinated responses to one of the most serious drivers of Amazon degradation. By building this alliance, IRI Peru is helping broaden the constituency prepared to confront illegal mining and its impacts on forests, communities and defenders.



Watch the video here: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DZpvrMADP4I/?igsh=MXy2c2RrNHRidmhuw%3D%3D>

AMAZON RADIO PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS REGIONAL FOREST COMMUNICATION



IRI Peru developed a cooperation agreement with IPSA–Radio La Voz de la Selva, a long-standing nonprofit communications network serving Amazonian communities in Loreto. The partnership will support joint programs, projects and public information activities on sustainable forest management, deforestation and Indigenous Peoples' rights. It will also strengthen the ability of journalists and communicators to report on forest loss and practical solutions while prioritizing participation by women and young leaders. Radio La Voz de la Selva provides a trusted platform with deep roots in Amazonian communities and an established record of reporting on territorial and social issues. By formalizing this partnership, IRI Peru is expanding its regional communications infrastructure and creating a durable channel for locally grounded forest education and public mobilization.

JOURNALISTS AND YOUNG FAITH LEADERS CONNECT FORESTS WITH SPIRITUALITY

IRI Peru convened journalists from Radio La Voz de la Selva and Iquitos Dialoga on 29 May for a discussion on forests and spirituality led by Sister Ana María Palomino, Vice President of REPAM. The session encouraged communicators to present forests not only as economic resources, but as living territories with spiritual, cultural and ethical value. IRI Peru also partnered with the Amazon Youth Network and CIVIX's Sacha Bosquesino project to hold a workshop for young faith leaders on care for creation, Amazonian spirituality, territorial identity, leadership and collective action. By equipping journalists and young leaders with values-based narratives, IRI Peru is strengthening the "No Forests, No Life" campaign and widening the range of voices able to communicate why Amazon protection matters.



“

The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative reminds us that defending the earth is a sacred calling. Faith must lead us towards justice and peace for all humankind, and integrity of all creations on the planet.

Rev. Johan Kristantara

M.Th. — Head of the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Desk Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI)

FOLLOW IRI ON SOCIAL NETWORKS

