



INTERFAITH
RAINFOREST
INITIATIVE

IRIbulletin

Mar/2026



SCIENTIFIC IMMERSIONS HELP MUNICIPAL AND FAITH LEADERS TURN CLIMATE KNOWLEDGE INTO LOCAL ACTION



IRI Brazil held two scientific immersions in March that advanced its effort to connect science, faith, and public leadership around climate resilience in the Amazon. One brought together 15 municipal authorities and institutional representatives in Acre to strengthen disaster preparedness through direct engagement with specialists, laboratories, and forecasting tools. A second convened 32 evangelical leaders from across the Legal Amazon to translate climate science into accessible, faith-based language that participants can use in vulnerable communities. By equipping trusted local actors with practical knowledge and next steps, IRI Brazil is building stronger momentum for prevention, preparedness, and public advocacy.

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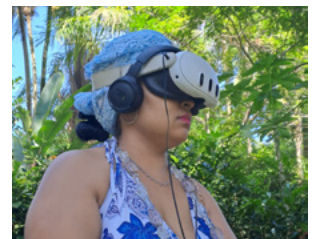
PLANNING BEGINS FOR THE 2026 CLEAN AIR, WATER, AND CLIMATE SECURITY CAMPAIGN

IRI Brazil began preparing the 2026 edition of its Right to Breathe Clean Air, Access Safe Water and Climate Security campaign by reviewing preliminary climate data and lessons from the previous cycle. In parallel, the communications team supported the campaign uptake following the scientific immersions in March through design, logistics, audiovisual production, and participant engagement tools. Monitoring of this communications work showed strong content generation, from participants post-training, as well as opportunities to strengthen institutional messaging and digital mobilization. By pairing data, communications, and field support, IRI Brazil is preparing a broader public-facing push for the next campaign cycle.



VR FILMS REACH COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS, AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

IRI Brazil held 12 screenings of its virtual reality films in March, reaching around 400 people across community, educational, institutional, and cultural spaces in the Amazon and Brasília. Screenings took place with Indigenous communities, students, faith groups, public institutions, and strategic stakeholders, opening new opportunities for partnerships and follow-up engagement. The films also gained visibility in policy-oriented settings, helping connect decision-makers and local audiences to the realities of the Amazon in immersive ways. By bringing the forest into spaces where values, policy, and public imagination intersect, IRI Brazil is expanding support for socio-environmental protection.



INTERRELIGIOUS MINI-STATION NETWORK EXPANDS LOCAL CLIMATE MONITORING

IRI Brazil continued expanding the Inter-Religious Network of Amazon Meteorological Mini-Stations as a community-based tool for climate monitoring and early warning. The network now includes 20 operational stations, with 10 more in installation, increasing locally generated climate data in priority Amazon territories. March technical meetings with leading partners helped validate equipment, improve data transmission to national systems, and shape next steps for testing, calibration, and alert protocols. By placing better local data into systems that support early warning and civil defense, IRI Brazil is strengthening preparedness in highly vulnerable communities.



PARTNERSHIPS DEEPEN AROUND CLIMATE JUSTICE, AMAZON PROTECTION, AND PAN-AMAZON COOPERATION

IRI Brazil maintained an active partnership agenda in March across environmental governance, advocacy, education, and financing. It advanced discussions with global and regional actors, participated in the third meeting of the Amazon Network of Networks in Bogotá, and strengthened cooperation around shared planning for 2026–2027. Nationally, IRI Brazil also used strategic events to increase the visibility of its VR films, generate campaign-relevant climate policy insights, and explore new collaboration opportunities in communications and financing. By investing in coalition-building across multiple levels, IRI Brazil is strengthening the broader ecosystem needed to defend the Amazon.



ECO-THEOLOGY WORK LINKS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, TEACHING, AND DEVOTIONAL FORMATION

IRI Brazil advanced its eco-theology strategy in March through public lectures, academic teaching, and progress on a new devotional publication. In Tocantins, it contributed to the anniversary of the Ecological Guardians Group of the Archdiocese of Palmas, framing care for creation as a shared ethical and spiritual responsibility. It also taught three ecotheology classes in a postgraduate program focused on creation, integral ecology, and climate disinformation in faith communities. At the same time, IRI Brazil moved forward on *Tempo de Cuidar*, a devotional book designed to bring care for creation into everyday Christian life. By connecting reflection, training, and practical resources, IRI Brazil is deepening the moral and theological foundation for climate action.



2026 PLANNING SHARPENS INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

IRI Brazil launched its 2026 strategic and operational planning process in March, focusing on priorities, targets, and expansion strategies aligned with institutional goals and partner commitments. Leadership meetings in Brasília (including with Minister Marina Silva) helped refine the operational dimensions of the coming year's work and integrate new staff members. The process also included exchanges with prominent Brazilian socio-environmental leaders, helping reinforce strategic relationships and team alignment. By strengthening internal planning and external connections at the same time, IRI Brazil is positioning itself for greater impact in 2026.



NEW TRAINING CYCLE EQUIPS LOCAL CHAPTERS ON AGROFORESTRY, WATER, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

IRI Colombia launched its first 2026 workshop cycle with a March training in Solano, Caquetá, that brought together 50 religious and community leaders, council members, and young people. The workshop focused on agroforestry, water, and the ecological and cultural importance of Chiribiquete National Park, combining scientific, ethical, and spiritual perspectives. Through sessions on water as a sacred element, agroforestry as a sustainable production model, and the role of protected areas in climate and ecosystem stability, participants strengthened their capacity to act as local guardians of the Amazon. By linking science, spirituality, and livelihoods in one training strategy, IRI Colombia is building stronger local leadership for forest protection.



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JOURNALIST TRAINING HELPS PUT THE AMAZON INTO THE 2026 ELECTORAL DEBATE

IRI Colombia and the Escucha la Amazonía alliance held a virtual workshop for 20 journalists from local and national media to improve coverage of the Amazon during the 2026 electoral cycle. The session explored the Amazon's ecological and sociocultural diversity, the post-election legislative context, and the main pressures likely to shape the next national government's agenda, including deforestation, mining, and cross-border crime. It also encouraged more respectful and informed storytelling about the region. By strengthening media coverage ahead of the elections, IRI Colombia is helping make the Amazon harder to ignore in national debate.



MUNICIPAL DIALOGUE IN SOLANO BUILDS COMMON GROUND FOR FOREST PROTECTION

During the Solano training, IRI Colombia met with the mayor to review local development priorities and explore coordination between municipal authorities and IRI Colombia's local chapters. The conversation focused on forest protection and the need to promote sustainable productive models that balance economic development, social wellbeing, and environmental

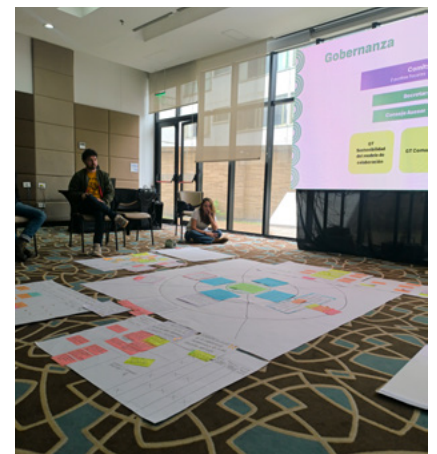
stewardship. IRI Colombia highlighted the role religious leaders can play in areas where state presence is limited, while the municipality shared progress on deforestation control and environmental policy. By strengthening alignment between institutions and community actors, IRI Colombia is helping turn forest protection into a shared territorial priority.



PAN-AMAZON COALITION WORK HELPS SHAPE A SHARED REGIONAL ROADMAP



IRI Colombia took part in the third meeting of the Amazon Network of Networks in Bogotá, joining representatives from 13 civil society and Indigenous Peoples' networks from across the nine Amazon countries. Over three days, participants worked to define the coalition's vision, governance, values, and 2026–2027 action plan under the Pan-Amazon Climate Pact. The coalition connects major regional nodes and hundreds of organizations and scientists. By helping co-create a shared platform for regional coordination, IRI Colombia is strengthening pan-Amazon advocacy, communications, and territorial action.



CIVIL SOCIETY ADVANCES A ROADMAP TO SECURE COMMUNITY LAND RIGHTS



From March 12–14, IRI DRC supported a strategic retreat that brought civil society experts together to examine the country's new land tenure law and its implications for communities and vulnerable groups. Participants welcomed progress in the law, including recognition of local communities and stronger social and environmental protections, while also identifying

major gaps in how customary land rights can be formalized. The retreat produced a roadmap calling for implementing measures, stronger land information systems, and permanent dialogue between government and civil society. By helping shape the next phase of land reform, IRI DRC is supporting community rights, conflict prevention, and stronger forest protection.



ÉQUATEUR CHAPTER RELAUNCH SEEKS TO RESPOND TO RISING DEFORESTATION PRESSURE

IRI DRC also took steps in March to relaunch its provincial chapter in Équateur, with a strategic meeting focused on the chapter's 2026 action plan and local priorities. Participants identified community awareness, mobilization of religious leaders, and advocacy for forest protection as key areas of work, while emphasizing the need for stronger local capacity on forest law, peatlands, and deforestation monitoring. Immediate next steps include convening a wider group of faith leaders and partner organizations and organizing local training sessions. By rebuilding provincial coordination around urgent threats, IRI DRC is laying the groundwork for more locally grounded forest advocacy.



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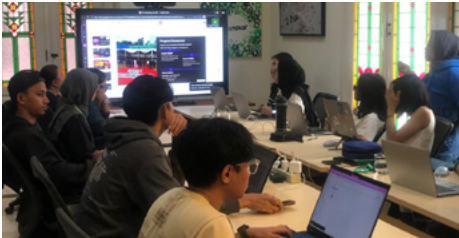
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COALITION LEADERSHIP STRENGTHENS ADVOCACY FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS



Throughout March, IRI Indonesia reinforced its role in the Civil Society Coalition for the Indigenous Peoples Bill by helping strengthen coordination, digital advocacy, and mobilization strategy across 48 member organizations. It supported clearer role distribution, stronger media outreach, and better alignment of campaign priorities for 2026. IRI Indonesia also hosted and facilitated a

coordination meeting for the coalition's mobilization team, helping improve coherence across regions and deepen ownership of the advocacy agenda. By bringing an interfaith voice into a broad civil society coalition, IRI Indonesia is helping strengthen the legitimacy and reach of the campaign.



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE BUILDS COMMON GROUND FOR JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

IRI Indonesia deepened its bridge-building role through participation in a high-level interfaith dialogue hosted by the Communion of Churches in Indonesia. The gathering brought together representatives from multiple religious traditions and positioned interfaith engagement as a practical platform for addressing social and environmental challenges. The dialogue helped strengthen institutional relationships and build greater alignment around shared values of justice, compassion, and sustainability. By using interfaith spaces to advance shared public action, IRI Indonesia is reinforcing its role as a trusted convener.



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FAITH-BASED FORUM EXPANDS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Through its participation in the Eco Bhinneka Muhammadiyah interfaith forum, IRI Indonesia helped bring together religious actors, civil society, youth groups, and media stakeholders around environmental sustainability and social responsibility. The forum connected religious values to practical discussions on sustainable living and responsible consumption while broadening participation in community-level ecological action. By encouraging narrative and behavior change through faith-based engagement, IRI Indonesia is helping strengthen local resilience and everyday sustainability practices.



EARLY PARTNERSHIP TALKS LINK FAITH, LIVELIHOODS, AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

As part of its wider interfaith engagement strategy, IRI Indonesia initiated discussions with Koalisi Ekonomi Membumi to explore collaboration around green economy models. The conversation focused on how IRI Indonesia can position the role of interfaith mobilization in promoting alternative economic models, connecting ethical values, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, particularly in support of Indigenous Peoples communities. Although still at an early stage, the dialogue created stronger mutual understanding and identified possible paths for future cooperation. By exploring partnerships that connect faith and livelihoods, IRI Indonesia is opening new avenues for community-centered environmental justice.



KEM adalah koalisi strategis yang terdiri dari 32 organisasi yang berkomitmen mendorong bioekonomi yang bertanggung jawab di Indonesia.

Sebagai katalis kolaborasi, penjemputan lintas rantai nilai, pusat pengetahuan, pembentuk narasi, dan penggerak inovasi kebijakan, KEM mempercepat aksi kolektif untuk memposisikan bioekonomi sebagai alternatif ekonomi yang berkelanjutan dan berdampak bagi bangsa.

Target Kami



100 Wilayah
Berkomitmen pada pembangunan berkelanjutan



100+ Usaha
Beroperasi pada rantai pasok berkelanjutan



200 juta USD
Pendanaan yang dapat diakses, dalam bentuk investasi maupun transaksi



NATIONAL DIALOGUE RAISES THE PROFILE OF FAITH-BASED FINANCING

IRI Indonesia also took part in a national policy dialogue organized by Bappenas and UNDP BIOFIN on Islamic financing for sustainability. In that space, it highlighted the role that faith-based values and financial tools can play in closing funding gaps for environmental protection and sustainable development. The engagement strengthened relationships with government and development partners and increased the visibility of faith-based financing in policy discussions. By broadening the financing conversation, IRI Indonesia is helping promote a more inclusive vision of sustainability.



“NO FORESTS, NO LIFE” CAMPAIGN EXPANDS ITS ELECTION-SEASON REACH



Much of IRI Peru’s March communications work focused on the second year of the No Forests, No Life campaign, especially its election-focused use of the Grade Your Candidate tool. Through radio, interviews, partner platforms, videos, digital content, and printed materials, the campaign linked forest protection to democratic responsibility and informed voting. Open-media interviews alone reached an estimated 270,000 people, while the campaign’s broader communications push was estimated to reach about 1.5 million people. By combining traditional media, local partnerships, and practical voter-facing tools, IRI Peru significantly expanded campaign visibility during the election season.

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ELECTION-SEASON CAMPAIGN TRAINS FAITH LEADERS FOR INFORMED AND ETHICAL PARTICIPATION

Ahead of the April 12 general elections, IRI Peru carried out an intensive March campaign to equip faith-community leaders for informed, values-based participation in the electoral process. Through workshops, talks, trainings, media appearances, and digital tools, it connected electoral ethics with climate change, forest protection, democratic responsibility, and care for

creation. More than 200 leaders were trained directly across multiple cities, with an estimated indirect reach of around 1,300 through participant replication. By giving faith leaders tools they can carry into their communities, IRI Peru is helping place the Amazon and ethical public leadership more firmly on the electoral agenda.



LOCAL CHAPTERS IN QUILLABAMBA AND QUITOS STEP UP ELECTORAL ADVOCACY AND REGIONAL ORGANIZING

IRI Peru’s local chapters continued expanding their territorial role in March through electoral dialogue, youth engagement, and planning. In Quillabamba, partner organizations convened congressional candidates to discuss a roadmap for defending the Amazon and democratic institutions, then followed with a workshop for Catholic pastoral groups on ethical electoral criteria. In Iquitos, local allies came together to shape the chapter’s annual work plan around interfaith formation, outreach, workshops, and regional advocacy ahead of the October elections. By helping local chapters organize around shared priorities, IRI Peru is strengthening regional leadership where electoral and environmental debates intersect.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENT RAISES THE MORAL VOICE OF THE AMAZON IN PUBLIC DEBATE

IRI Peru deepened engagement with senior Church leadership in March through a private audience with the Apostolic Nuncio to Peru and a major national media interview featuring Archbishop Alfredo Vizcarra. These exchanges helped elevate public concern over illegal mining, the Amazon crisis, and the need for stronger public policy, while making clear that no current candidate speaks on behalf of the Catholic Church. By connecting church leadership to electoral ethics and national debate, IRI Peru is strengthening the public moral voice in defense of the Amazon.



NEW AYACUCHO CHAPTER EXPANDS TERRITORIAL REACH IN A STRATEGIC TRANSITION ZONE

On March 10–11, IRI Peru launched a new local chapter in Ayacucho, extending its work into a strategic region that links the Amazon and the coast. The area faces strong pressures from illicit economies, coca production, narcotrafficking, and the legacy of armed violence, making forest protection closely tied to wider issues of governance and territorial wellbeing. The new chapter brings together local faith communities and allied civil society actors to respond to these challenges through joint action. By establishing an interfaith presence in a high-pressure transition zone, IRI Peru is strengthening local capacity for forest advocacy and public engagement.



To read the article, [click here](#)

TERRITORIAL ACCOMPANIMENT AND NATIONAL ADVOCACY TARGET ROADS, ILLEGAL MINING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



IRI Peru also engaged directly with territorial struggles and national policy debates in March. In Loreto, the team visited the Indigenous Bora Murui community of El Arenal to better understand the risks posed by a proposed road project that could intensify illegal logging, trafficking, and gold mining. Nationally, IRI Peru organized a public electoral dialogue on the Amazon and environmental justice, participated in a major event on illegal mining in government plans, and issued a formal statement urging Congress to shelve a bill seen as facilitating illegal mining in Madre de Dios. By combining accompaniment on the ground with public policy advocacy, IRI Peru is reinforcing forest defense at multiple levels.





Faith unites us and the forest connects us. That is the spirit of the Interfaith Rainforest Initiative. Supporting sustainable forest economies is an act of brotherhood and interfaith solidarity, because protecting creation is a shared responsibility before God. Training and educating believers is our mission.

**Révérénd Armand
KINYAMBA**

Secretary General,
National Council of
Religions for Peace



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