



IRIbulletin

Apr/2026



INTERFAITH
RAINFOREST
INITIATIVE

30TH SCIENTIFIC IMMERSION EQUIPS EVANGELICAL LEADERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

IRI Brazil held its 30th scientific immersion at INPE and CEMADEN, bringing together 39 carefully selected evangelical leaders from São Paulo, the Federal District, Espírito Santo, Rio Grande do Sul, Rio de Janeiro, Amazonas and Paraná. The cohort included pastors, missionaries, ministry leaders, theology students and influential church members from independent, Baptist, Presbyterian and Assemblies of God communities. The immersion connected faith, science and socio-environmental realities, helping participants understand

how deforestation, drought, fires and climate instability affect daily life and public responsibility. Follow-up commitments include organizing new groups of evangelical leaders, developing ecotheology courses in seminaries and faith-based schools, and launching environmental projects in participating communities. By equipping trusted evangelical leaders with scientific knowledge and practical tools, IRI Brazil is expanding the faith-based constituency for forest protection and climate action.



INDIGENOUS MOBILIZATION AT ACAMPAMENTO TERRA LIVRE GAINS FAITH-BASED SUPPORT

IRI Brazil participated in Acampamento Terra Livre in Brasília, Brazil's largest Indigenous Peoples mobilization, which brought together around 7,000 Indigenous people from more than 200 groups across the country. IRI Brazil supported the gathering through screenings of *Amazônia Viva* and *Amazônia Forever*, using immersive film to help social leaders, public authorities and international audiences better understand Indigenous rights, territorial protection and forest conservation. IRI Brazil also helped draft and publish an open letter in defense of Indigenous Peoples' rights, developed with religious and civil society organizations and formally sent to key government authorities. By standing with Indigenous Peoples in one of Brazil's most important rights mobilizations, IRI Brazil is helping strengthen public and institutional support for the communities who are among the Amazon's strongest forest guardians.



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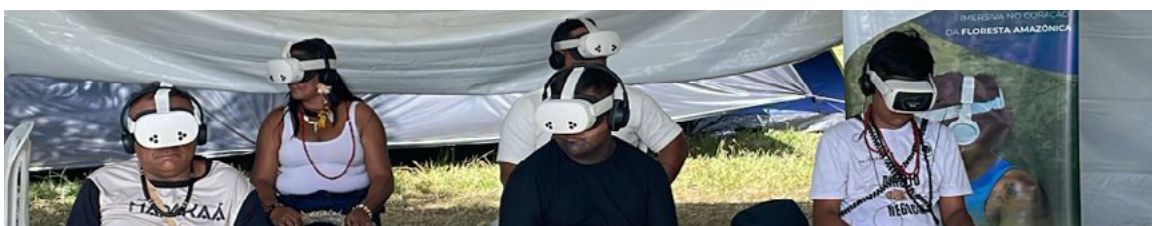
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EYE HEALTH PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS INDIGENOUS AMAZON COMMUNITIES

IRI Brazil advanced a new partnership and advocacy agenda to expand access to eye health care in Indigenous Peoples' communities in the Amazon. On 8 April, IRI Brazil convened the Suel Abujamra Institute, Federal Deputy Marina Silva and Frank Hida of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness to explore support for Aldeia em Foco, an initiative to provide ophthalmological services in Indigenous territories. The discussion highlighted the often-invisible effects of vision loss on autonomy, education, livelihoods and quality of life, and identified ways IRI Brazil can mobilize religious leaders, community engagement and institutional support. A follow-up dialogue with IAPB focused on public policy, including a possible Federal Senate hearing on avoidable blindness in remote regions. By connecting health, dignity and territorial resilience, IRI Brazil is helping strengthen practical support for Indigenous communities who defend forests.



BRAHMA KUMARIS PARTNERSHIP EXPANDS FAITH-BASED CLIMATE AWARENESS

IRI Brazil advanced a new collaboration with the Brahma Kumaris religious community in São Paulo, joining a gathering of around 30 leaders working on spirituality, well-being and social transformation. IRI Brazil presented its approach to linking faith, science and public policy, and screened *Amazônia Viva* and *Amazônia Forever* to deepen understanding of the Amazon's climate, social and spiritual significance. The meeting opened a concrete agenda for collaboration, including Brahma Kumaris participation in future scientific immersions, film screenings in different cities and spaces, and joint awareness events for religious leaders and communities. By building relationships with additional spiritual networks, IRI Brazil is widening the circle of faith actors prepared to speak and act for forests and climate stability.

FGV PARTNERSHIP BRINGS FORESTS AND CLIMATE INTO ACADEMIC SPACES

IRI Brazil met with Marco Antonio Carvalho Teixeira, professor in the Department of Public Management at FGV EAESP and coordinator of the institution's master's and doctoral programs in Public Administration, to explore collaboration on climate, forests and public policy. The meeting introduced IRI Brazil's work connecting faith, science and social mobilization, and included screenings of *Amazônia Viva* and *Amazônia Forever* to illustrate the climate crisis and the importance of protecting forests and forest peoples. Both sides agreed to develop joint awareness activities for professors and students. By bringing the Amazon agenda into academic and public-management spaces, IRI Brazil is helping prepare future decision-makers to understand forest protection as a central issue of governance, justice and climate responsibility.



AMAZÔNIA VIVA AND AMAZÔNIA FOREVER REACH NEW PUBLICS ACROSS BRAZIL

Throughout April, IRI Brazil used Amazônia Viva and Amazônia Forever to carry out socio-environmental awareness activities in the Legal Amazon and the Federal District. Screenings took place in religious communities, public schools, cultural spaces, institutional events and Indigenous mobilizations, reaching students, educators, children, Indigenous leaders and wider community audiences. In Acre, three screenings reached around 78 participants; in Pará, four screenings reached around 145 participants; and in the Federal District, three major screenings reached around 405 participants. In total, 10 screenings reached approximately 628 people directly. By using immersive media to make forest loss, Indigenous leadership and climate risk feel immediate, IRI Brazil is turning public awareness into a stronger social foundation for forest protection.



AMAZON ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME PROJECT OPENS SPACE FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

IRI Brazil participated in the Manaus launch of INPOED, the project “Promoting Information, Policies and Education to Address Environmental Crime in the Legal Amazon.” Led by UNODC and UNEP in Brazil under the Brazil-UN Fund for the Sustainable Development of the Amazon, with partners including the Legal Amazon Interstate Consortium, the Brazilian Government and financial support from Canada, the initiative seeks to strengthen environmental governance, sustainable territorial development, rule of law and enforcement against illegal activities. IRI Brazil’s participation highlighted the value of faith-based education and social mobilization, especially among religious and community leaders. By bringing trusted religious networks into environmental-crime prevention efforts, IRI Brazil is helping connect law enforcement, public education and community responsibility in defense of the Amazon.



EVANGELICAL LEADER DAVI LAGO TO HELP MOBILIZE STRATEGIC CHURCH NETWORKS

IRI Brazil met with Baptist pastor and writer Davi Lago, a public voice on democracy, religion, ethics and public life, to advance plans for a scientific immersion with evangelical leaders from his direct network of influence. As a result, IRI Brazil and Davi Lago agreed to convene 50 strategic leaders for an immersion planned for August. The discussion also advanced plans for the launch of a new book by Davi Lago on environmental care from a biblical perspective, expected in the second semester. By working with credible evangelical voices who can reach pastors, students and church communities, IRI Brazil is expanding the theological and public leadership needed to make forest protection part of mainstream Christian responsibility.



CIVIC CLIMATE COALITION OPENS NEW CHANNELS FOR FAITH-BASED MOBILIZATION

IRI Brazil joined the Civic Engagement and Climate Track, convened by the Institute for Culture, Communication and Advocacy to align civil society strategies and strengthen climate action in the post-COP30 context. The meeting focused on worsening climate impacts, inequality, political instability and the need for coordinated public engagement across sectors. IRI Brazil will participate in the working group on new audiences, bringing its experience in engaging religious communities and connecting climate narratives to values, public responsibility and daily life. The track will support communications and joint initiatives throughout 2026. By helping climate coalitions reach beyond already mobilized constituencies, IRI Brazil is expanding the public base needed to defend forests, protect communities and sustain climate action.

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Convite
Trilha de Engajamento Cívico e Clima

O compromisso de uma sociedade civil é essencial para...
O ano de 2025 será decisivo para estabelecer os rumos de um novo ciclo de...
Para isso, convidamos sua organização a integrar a Trilha de Engajamento...
Clique e Clique. Nosso objetivo é promover um espaço qualificado de...
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O que é a
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A Trilha é uma metodologia desenvolvida pela IC2 para...
Para mais informações, envie-nos um e-mail ou responda ao formulário...
18h - 19h30h Início: Cerimônia e abertura
19h30h - 20h30h Lanche: Conversa, Clima e Clima
20h30h - 21h30h A Trilha e o governo: Como vai funcionar
21h30h - 22h30h Conclusão: Momento de participação
22h30h - 23h Encerramento: Momento de despedida e música de grupo

Nosso propósito é mobilizar ações coletivas e inovadoras, qualificar o...
diálogo público e fortalecer a atuação da sociedade civil e o Movimento de...
Plataforma Civil está pronta para acontecer em 28 de abril.



AMAZON VOICES TAKE CENTER STAGE AT BOGOTÁ INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR



IRI Colombia and Escucha la Amazonía held the public conversation “Amazonía, una selva que habla” at the Bogotá International Book Fair, bringing scientific, Indigenous, legislative, civil society and media voices into dialogue on the future of the Colombian Amazon. Moderated by Sergio Silva of El Espectador, the event featured Fernanda Leal of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, Sonia Matumbajoy of OPIAC, Representative Juan Carlos Losada, Andrés Zuluaga of The Nature Conservancy and Fernando Trujillo of Fundación Omacha. The discussion helped make the Amazon more visible as a central issue in Colombia’s public and electoral debate. By helping mobilize Escucha la Amazonía as a broad cross-sector platform, IRI Colombia is bringing religious, scientific, Indigenous, political and civil society voices into shared public advocacy for the Amazon.



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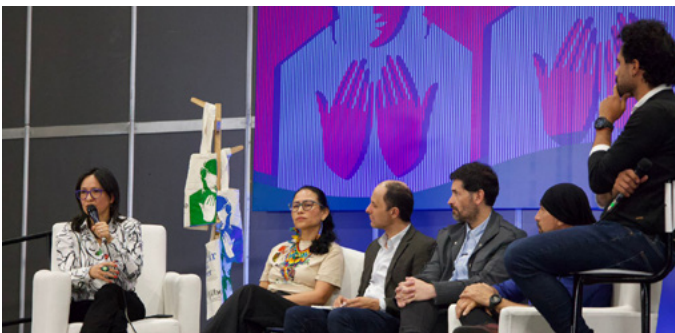


[IRI Colombia](https://www.youtube.com/IRIColombia)

NEW ADVOCACY DOCUMENT SETS BENCHMARKS FOR THE 2026 ELECTION

At the Bogotá International Book Fair, IRI Colombia and the Escucha la Amazonía alliance launched Coordinates to Prevent the Point of No Return in the Colombian Amazon, a public advocacy document designed to guide debate during the 2026 presidential election cycle. The document presents the ecological, cultural and political realities of the Colombian Amazon, identifies pressures and transformations, and offers recommendations for confronting illegal economies,

protecting ecological connectivity and strengthening territorial governance. Participants emphasized that presidential candidates must offer long-term proposals for the protection of the Amazon. By helping shape the document as both a technical reference and a public-facing advocacy tool, IRI Colombia is making it easier for citizens, journalists and campaigns to test political promises against the real needs of the forest.



DEFORESTATION, ILLEGAL MINING AND INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE FRAMED AS NATIONAL PRIORITIES



During the FilBo dialogue, IRI Colombia and Escucha la Amazonía helped elevate the main pressures threatening the Amazon, including deforestation, illegal mining, mercury contamination and agricultural frontier expansion. Speakers emphasized the need for urgent measures in the most vulnerable municipalities, stronger Indigenous territorial governance, progress on Indigenous Territorial Entities and cattle traceability to reduce deforestation linked to land-use change. The discussion connected immediate threats to the deeper governance failures driving forest loss. By linking technical priorities to an ethical and public advocacy agenda, IRI Colombia is strengthening the role of faith-based leadership in demanding stronger protection for forests, Indigenous rights and territorial governance.



FAITH AND TERRITORIAL VOICES ENTER THE FOSSIL FUEL TRANSITION DEBATE

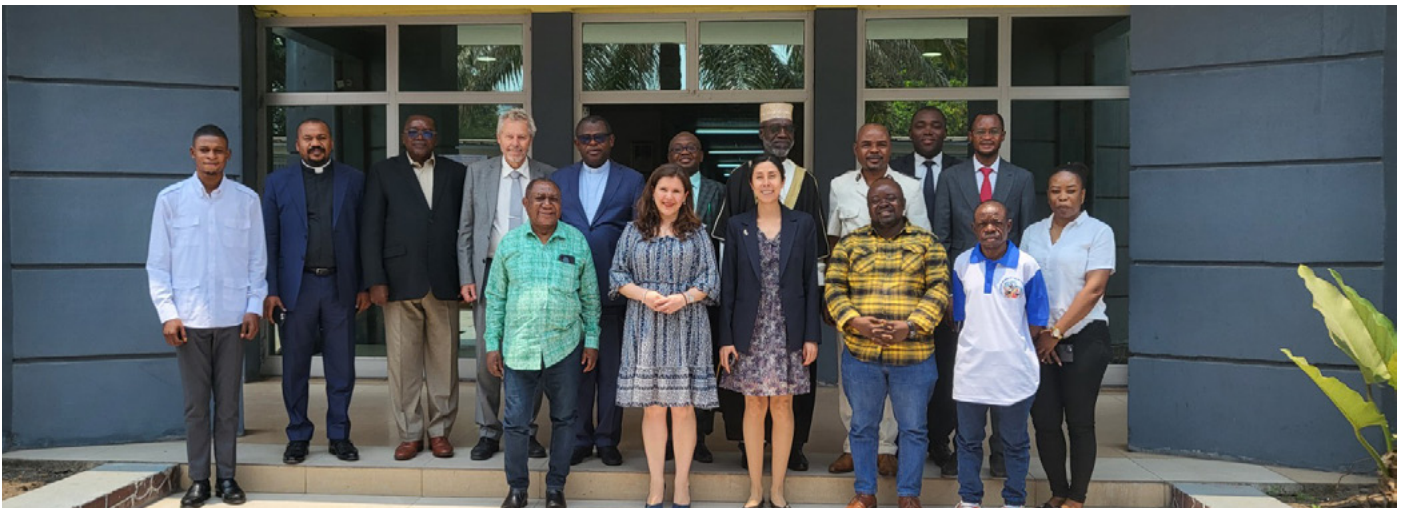
IRI Colombia participated in discussions ahead of the First International Conference for the Transition Beyond Fossil Fuels, convened in Santa Marta by Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development with the Government of the Netherlands. The dialogue brought together actors from different sectors and regions to advance pathways toward a just, inclusive and sustainable energy transition. IRI Colombia contributed a faith-based and territorial perspective, stressing that the transition is not only technological or economic, but also social, ethical and spiritual. The discussion emphasized that Indigenous, Afro-descendant, rural and campesino communities must be active participants in decision-making. By bringing moral leadership and territorial realities into the transition agenda, IRI Colombia is helping ensure climate action protects both people and forests.



NATIONAL LAND-USE COUNCIL DECREE MARKS A MAJOR IMPLEMENTATION STEP

IRI DRC welcomed the signing of Decree No. 26/09 establishing the National Land-Use Planning Council, an important step toward implementing Law No. 25/045 of 1 July 2025. The decree creates an interministerial body under the Prime Minister to validate the national land-use planning framework, resolve intersectoral conflicts and coordinate interventions affecting the country's physical space. The development reflects recommendations advanced by IRI DRC in its January

2026 memorandum, which called for a competent body to support implementation of the law. The decree also opens space for civil society, religious groups, Indigenous Peoples, women's organizations and customary chiefs to participate in the Council's technical committee. By pressing for inclusive land-use governance, IRI DRC is helping ensure forests, communities and rights are not sidelined when competing land claims are decided.



MANIEMA FAITH LEADERS RAISE ALARM OVER RAPID FOREST LOSS

At the first provincial conference on environment, water, agriculture and tourism in Kindu, religious leaders from IRI Maniema and local civil society organizations raised serious concern over forest degradation in the province. They warned that nearly 36 percent of Maniema's primary forests disappeared between 2001 and 2024, representing around 500,000 hectares lost to illegal logging, charcoal production and uncontrolled mining expansion. Participants highlighted impacts already being felt by communities, including river pollution, habitat destruction, land conflicts and the marginalization of Indigenous Peoples. They called for stronger enforcement, community forestry, restoration and inclusion of Maniema in the Kivu-Kinshasa Green Corridor initiative. By bringing religious leadership into provincial environmental debates, IRI Maniema is turning forest-loss data into public pressure for action.



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NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS STRENGTHEN SCIENCE, MONITORING AND POLICY EXPERTISE

IRI DR Congo held its first Advisory Council meeting of 2026 in Kinshasa and formally welcomed two new members: the National Network of Independent Natural Resource Observers and the Regional Postgraduate School for Integrated Forest and Tropical Land Management. Their inclusion strengthens the Council's expertise in independent monitoring, transparency, natural resource governance, research, training and public policy. Members also approved the 2026 work plan and budget, including priorities to contribute to the revision of the 2002 Forest Code, form a technical expert team, prepare inputs for public authorities and launch the national "No Forests, No Future" campaign with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. By strengthening its advisory structure, IRI DR Congo is building the technical and institutional base needed to influence forest governance at national scale.



NORTH KIVU RELIGIOUS AND SCIENTIFIC LEADERS ALIGN FOR "NO FORESTS, NO FUTURE"

IRI North Kivu met with the provincial representative of scientists in Goma to align action around the national "No Forests, No Future" campaign. The discussion focused on launching the campaign locally, advancing the Goma Green project under the theme "Every plot, one tree," and strengthening forest governance. Participants identified strategies to mobilize religious leaders, promote environmental education in schools and parishes, use community radio, map local actors and provide training on forest governance and Indigenous Peoples' rights. The exchange also addressed dissemination of Law No. 22/030 on the rights of Indigenous Pygmy Peoples. By connecting religious and scientific leadership around practical local actions, IRI North Kivu is building momentum for biodiversity protection even in a context of insecurity, limited resources and civic disengagement.



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BILL ADVOCACY GAINS INTERFAITH SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT

IRI Indonesia contributed to the advocacy process for the Indigenous Peoples Bill through a public hearing with the Indonesian House of Representatives in Jakarta. IRI Indonesia supported coalition coordination, helped prepare Indigenous Peoples' representatives for effective participation and aligned advocacy messages ahead of the hearing. It also helped shape the policy narrative by developing content on the importance of recognizing Indigenous Peoples' spirituality, belief systems, sacred spaces and cultural systems within the bill. By linking spiritual values with land, forests, water and ecological governance, IRI Indonesia helped present Indigenous Peoples not only as rights holders, but as guardians of cultural and ecological continuity.



POSITION PAPER LINKS INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE AND SPIRITUALITY

Following the public hearing on the Indigenous Peoples Bill, IRI Indonesia developed a position paper outlining its perspective on the legislative process and the bill's importance for ecological justice and national development. The paper framed recognition of Indigenous Peoples as a priority that must include territorial rights, cultural and spiritual rights, protection for Indigenous women and youth, and recognition

of Indigenous communities as active subjects of development. It also emphasized that Indigenous spirituality and cultural values should be integrated into sustainable development approaches. By connecting Indigenous rights with forest protection, climate resilience and environmental governance, IRI Indonesia is strengthening the moral and policy case for long-delayed legal recognition.

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PROTESTANT YOUTH LEADERS EXPAND FAITH-BASED FOREST NARRATIVES

IRI Indonesia collaborated with Protestant leadership through the publication of an editorial by Pdm. Rosiana Purnomo, Head of the Youth and Children Bureau of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia, titled "Women and the Face of Christian Faith that Cares for the Earth and Forests." IRI Indonesia supported the development, publication and dissemination of the article through partner media, the IRI Indonesia website and Protestant community networks. The piece highlighted women's leadership, Christian responsibility for creation and the role of faith communities in protecting forests. By helping Protestant youth and women leaders speak publicly on ecological responsibility, IRI Indonesia is expanding the faith-based narrative for forest protection and environmental justice.



INTERFAITH FORUM FRAMES FOREST PROTECTION AS A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

IRI Indonesia facilitated a cross-faith forum with religious leaders, academics, Indigenous Peoples' advocates, civil society organizations, media and youth groups to strengthen commitment to forest protection, Indigenous rights and ecological responsibility. The discussion brought together representatives from Indonesia's six officially recognized religions, including Muslim, Protestant, Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist and Confucian leaders, alongside academic, Indigenous, civil society and media voices. Participants framed deforestation as a moral, social and humanitarian challenge, not only an environmental issue. By creating a platform where religious values, science, social justice and environmental governance can speak together, IRI Indonesia is strengthening public responsibility for forests and Indigenous Peoples.



23RD LOCAL CHAPTER LAUNCHES IN PUNO

IRI Peru launched IRI Puno, its 23rd local chapter, at the House of Culture of the Provincial Municipality of Puno. The launch brought together 50 participants, including Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Bahá'í, Latter-day Saints and evangelical leaders, as well as representatives of the municipality, civil society, the National Police and organizations working on Amazon protection. The launch followed an interfaith dialogue introducing IRI Peru's mission and a presentation on threats to Bahuaja Sonene National Park. The new chapter strengthens IRI Peru's presence in a department where 32 percent of the territory, including Sandia and Carabaya provinces, is Amazonian. By expanding its local chapter network, IRI Peru is building the territorial leadership needed to defend forests where public decisions and local pressures meet.



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METHODIST LEADERS TRAINED ON FORESTS, FAITH AND CARE FOR CREATION



IRI Peru continued supporting a national training cycle organized by the Methodist Church of Peru under the theme "Caring for the Earth Is Caring for Life." The initiative grew out of Methodist participation in IRI Peru's Amazon immersion, which leaders brought back to the wider church as a call to make environmental care a pastoral priority. In April, IRI Peru trained 13 pastors and leaders from Lima and 52 pastors and leaders from the Vilcanota Sur district in Cusco. The Cusco workshop was held in Quechua and Spanish, reflecting the linguistic and cultural context of participants from high Andean communities. By helping churches translate forest protection into pastoral formation, IRI Peru is expanding the number of faith leaders prepared to teach and act for creation.

ETHICAL VOTING CAMPAIGN REACHES VOTERS THROUGH VIDEO AND ALLIED MEDIA

IRI Peru amplified its ethical voting work through short videos and campaign materials under the No Forests, No Life campaign. The materials included videos developed with the Amazon Youth Network under the message "Defending the Amazon is voting for life," along with messages from María Eugenia Gonzáles of the Bahá'í community and Sister Ana María Palomino of REPAM calling for integrity, action against corruption and authorities capable of confronting illegality. The content was shared through IRI Peru's social networks and allied radio stations ahead of the general elections. By using accessible, values-based messages across youth and faith networks, IRI Peru is helping citizens judge candidates through an ethical, environmental and civic lens.



To watch the video, [click here](#) To watch the video, [click here](#) To watch the video, [click here](#)



SPECIALISTS HELP SHAPE STRATEGY FOR THE NEW CONGRESS

IRI Peru convened allied specialists to analyze the Amazon protection agenda under the newly elected Congress. Participants included representatives of Colectivo PAS, which focuses on illegal mining, as well as Mariano Castro, Iván Brehaut and José Álvarez. The discussion recognized that the political landscape remains uncertain and difficult for forest protection, but also identified the need to engage individual members of Congress with interest, credibility or influence on Amazon issues. The meeting helped define an approach focused on mapping allies, building issue-based collaboration and maintaining legislative vigilance. By grounding its advocacy in political analysis and expert guidance, IRI Peru is strengthening its ability to respond quickly to threats and openings in the new Congress.



RELIGIOUS LEADERS CALL FOR CONSCIOUS VOTING IN DEFENSE OF THE AMAZON

As part of the “Grade Your Candidate” campaign, three prominent faith leaders issued a joint public call urging citizens to vote for candidates committed to the Amazon, Indigenous Peoples, life and nature. Published in Diario Voces, the article was signed by Monsignor Alfredo Vizcarra SJ, Metropolitan Archbishop of Trujillo; Pastor Ofelia Dávila, President of the Lutheran Church of Peru; and Reverend César Llanco, Bishop of the Methodist Church of Peru. The piece highlighted IRI Peru’s ethical voting criteria and promoted the “Grade Your Candidate” tool as a practical resource for informed electoral participation. By bringing religious leadership into the election debate, IRI Peru is helping voters connect integrity, public responsibility and forest protection.



FAITH LEADERS OPPOSE BILL THREATENING PROTECTED AREAS AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

IRI Peru raised concern over Bill 14288, introduced by Congressman Eduardo Salhuana, which would create an exceptional regime for hydrocarbon exploitation in Manu National Park, Bahuaja Sonene National Park and the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve. The proposal triggered concern among Indigenous federations, environmental organizations and civil society actors working to protect forests and territorial rights in Madre de Dios. IRI Peru joined the opposition by sending a substantiated letter to Congress requesting the bill be definitively shelved and by widely distributing a public statement. By speaking against extractive threats to protected areas and Indigenous territories, IRI Peru is helping raise the political cost of legislation that would weaken Amazon safeguards.



POST-ELECTION STRATEGY WITH RUTH LUQUE MAPS NEXT AMAZON ADVOCACY OPENINGS

IRI Peru met with Congresswoman and senator-elect Ruth Luque, a long-standing ally in efforts to create the Parliamentary Bloc for the Amazon, promote the Green Plenary and defend Indigenous Peoples and forests from harmful legislation. Following the general elections, the meeting focused on the new political scenario and opportunities for continued advocacy. Luque emphasized the need to map the new Congress, understand elected representatives at the regional level, reject narratives of electoral fraud and identify allies for the defense of the Amazon and its peoples. By working with trusted legislative allies early in the new political cycle, IRI Peru is preparing to defend forests, Indigenous rights and a just energy transition in a challenging Congress.



2026 WORK PLAN WITH ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY STRENGTHENS NATIONAL COORDINATION

IRI Peru consolidated and approved its 2026 work plan with Peru's Ministry of Environment following a coordination meeting with ministry representatives. The plan includes activities of mutual interest, including scientific and Amazon immersion trips for religious leaders, with visits to environmental institutions such as SERNANP, the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute and SENAMHI. It also includes collaboration with ministry experts in dialogues promoted by IRI Peru. By formalizing coordination with the national environmental authority, IRI Peru is strengthening the institutional backing for its work to mobilize religious leadership, deepen environmental education and advance action for forests, climate and the Amazon.



WATER PROTECTION PROPOSAL IN CUSCO GAINS FAITH-BASED SUPPORT

IRI Peru participated in an event convened by INTI RUNAKUNAQ WASIN, an allied organization and member of the IRI Quillabamba chapter, to present a legislative proposal for protecting water sources in La Convención and Lares in Cusco. The event brought together Congresswoman Ruth Luque, religious actors, Indigenous organizations, government representatives and civil society groups. Participants proposed expanding the initiative to protect water sources across the department of Cusco and recognize the forests that sustain them, particularly in the valleys of La Convención. By lending faith-based support to a concrete water-protection proposal, IRI Peru is helping link forests, watersheds and public responsibility in one of the country's most important Amazon-Andean territories.



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The Interfaith Rainforest Initiative is a space where compassion becomes climate action. Through dialogue and solidarity, we transform faith into a force that protects people, forests, and our shared future.

Hening Parlan
Facilitator of IRI Indonesia and recipient of the Planet Award from the UK Embassy for her leadership to environmental protection through interfaith collaboration in Indonesia



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