



PERU

COMMUNITY-BASED REAL TIME MONITORING

NOVEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

RFUK in-country partner: FENAMAD

Forest area: 78.7 million ha¹ (GFW)

Forest loss: 278,000 ha² (2020)

Percentage of timber production estimated to be illegal: c. 37%³ (2021)

Principal threats to forests: Road and infrastructure development, agricultural expansion, industrial logging, illegal gold mining

Snapshot: In Peru, RFUK works with indigenous organisation Federación Nativa del río Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD) in the Madre de Dios region of southeastern Peru. 90% of Madre de Dios is covered by the Amazon rainforest, home to some of Earth's most unique biodiversity. In contrast to other countries where ForestLink is operational, indigenous groups in Madre de Dios possess state-recognised land titles, and ForestLink is used to monitor and defend these territories.

Since 2015, Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK), its partners and local communities have used the **ForestLink Real Time Monitoring system (ForestLink RTM)** in Peru to combat illegal mining and logging, environmental destruction and human rights abuses. RFUK's ForestLink technology connects communities and law enforcement to carry out real-time monitoring of tropical forests, and put power back into the hands of those who call them home.

Communities trained: 18

Regions active: Madre de Dios

Alerts sent: Over 350

Civil Society Organisations using ForestLink: FENAMAD

¹ Global Forest Watch (2020)

² Global Forest Watch Dashboard – Peru

³ FAO-EU FLEG (2021)

HOW FORESTLINK WORKS

With this unique smartphone app, forest communities can report illegal activities via satellite link from even the most remote locations, without telecommunications networks. ForestLink empowers them to use their unique knowledge of the forest to defend their rights and to have a say in how extractive industries operate within their territories.



MONITORING & COLLECTION

Community monitors use a smartphone app (Collectaur) to collect evidence of illegalities and to document their alerts using photos, videos or audio recordings.



REPORTING & DATABASE

The collected evidence, bearing precise GPS coordinates of where incidents were observed, is transmitted to a secure database using a portable satellite transmitter or via SMS or internet.



VERIFICATION

Once the transmitted alerts are received on the online platform (Monitaur), they are analysed and verified by partner organisations.



ENFORCEMENT

Details of the illegal activities are passed on to the appropriate authorities so they can take action, such as sanctioning illegal operators.



ADVOCACY

The data collected using ForestLink helps CSOs to promote accountability of companies and authorities, thus increasing transparency and good governance more broadly.



**INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MONITORING
HAS A LONG TRADITION IN THE COUNTRY.
THIS MADE THE ADOPTION OF FORESTLINK
ESPECIALLY POWERFUL, BOOSTING EXISTING
LOCAL STRUCTURES AND CONSOLIDATING AN
INDIGENOUS MOVEMENT. WORKING WITH
18 COMMUNITIES, FORESTLINK IS USED
TO REPORT ENCROACHMENT BY ILLEGAL
LOGGERS AND GOLD MINERS, PROMOTE
LEGAL ACTION AND PROTECT
THEIR TERRITORIES.**

OUR IMPACT

When communities send alerts, we advocate for these alerts to be investigated. If illegalities are confirmed, we use our collective voice to ensure authorities sanction those responsible. Through this process, ForestLink has improved law enforcement and empowered communities to defend their rights and lands. Civil society has become stronger and has developed deeper links to the forest communities it serves.

In Peru, ForestLink RTM is being used by observers to monitor:



LOGGING IN NATURAL FORESTS



HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



ILLEGAL MINING



ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION



Peruvian law enforcement intervention in Boca Pariamanu, Madre de Dios, initiated by ForestLink alerts via partner FENAMAD, to tackle the devastation from illegal mining.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Seizures of illegal equipment:** In 2018, ForestLink alerts triggered the seizure of £1.5 million worth of illegal mining equipment in Madre de Dios. Overall, 195 pieces of mining equipment have been seized and 23 illegal gold mining camps have been dismantled due to the efforts of communities in Madre de Dios.
- **Pursuing legal recourses to justice:** The advocacy efforts of ForestLink communities and FENAMAD led to six legal complaints being filed with the office of the Public Prosecutor in Peru. The regional forestry authority complied with the communities' request to set up a Forestry Vigilance and Control roundtable to listen to community concerns.
- **Documenting illegalities of forest concession holders:** ForestLink observers have documented encroachment by neighbouring concession-holders on indigenous territories, and supported legal cases whereby communities have reasserted their territorial boundaries.
- **Adapting ForestLink technology to fight the pandemic:** During the COVID-19 outbreak, ForestLink was adapted to allow communities to report outbreaks of the virus in their community via the application, allowing them to communicate their need for support with FENAMAD.



"We have never had anything like this technology in the community. You know that illegal mining is nearby, and we sometimes see miners along the river, but RFUK's ForestLink system allows us to be safer. We can control our territory now and send alerts if anything happens."

Wilmer, Community Monitor, Peru

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Whilst we are very proud of the incredible impact that the communities and our partners have every day in Peru, our funding means that we can only monitor a fraction of Peru’s remaining forest. To learn more about how your support could transform the future of tropical rainforests, please contact us.

CHARLIE HAMMANS

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Visit us at www.forestlink.org

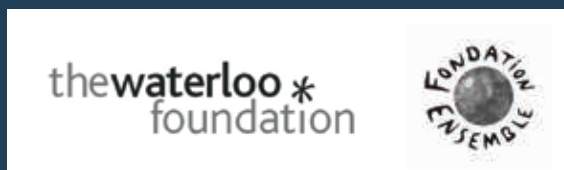




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