



DERECHO
AMBIENTE Y
RECURSOS
NATURALES

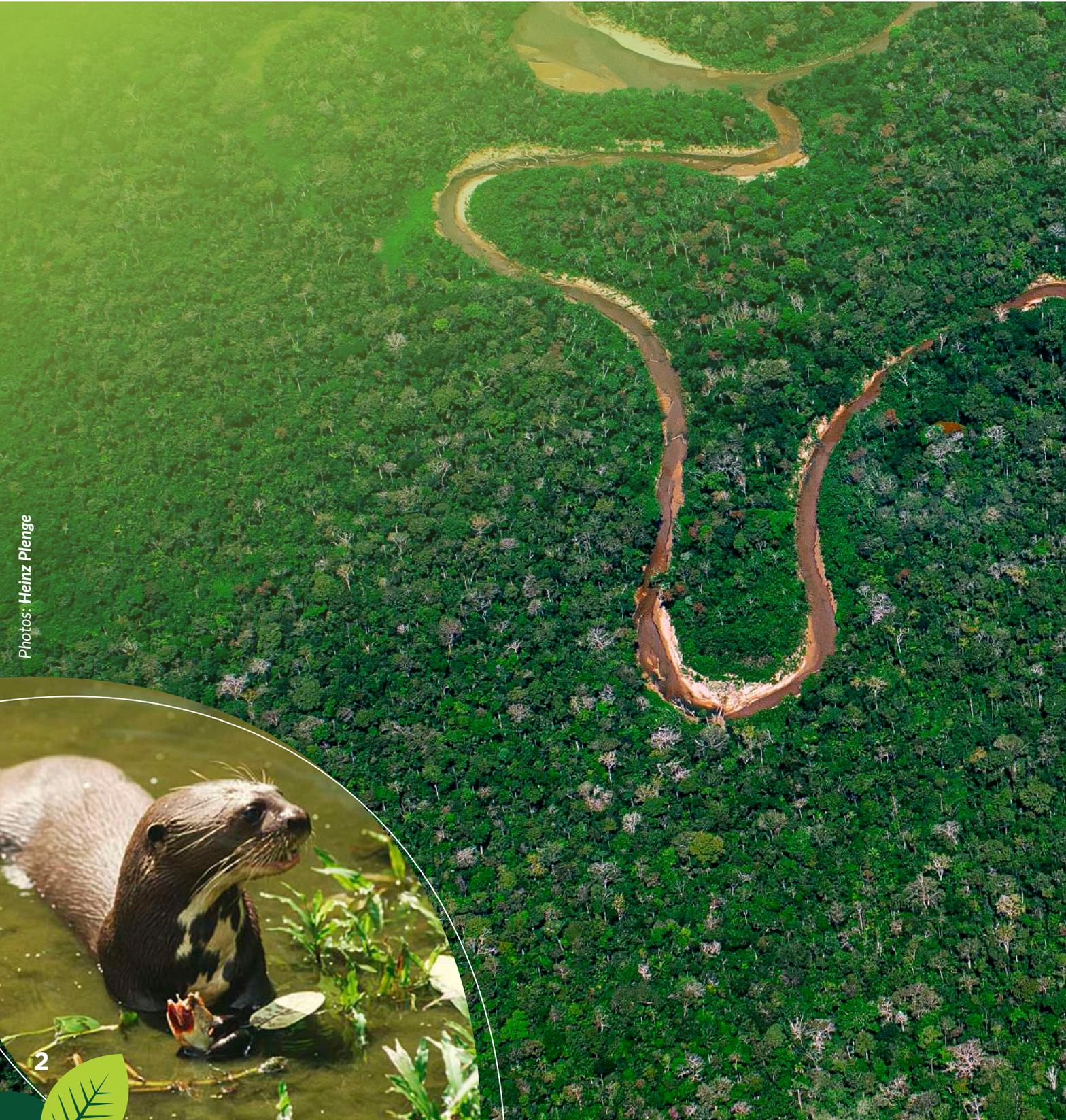


Años
de Amazonía
en la piel



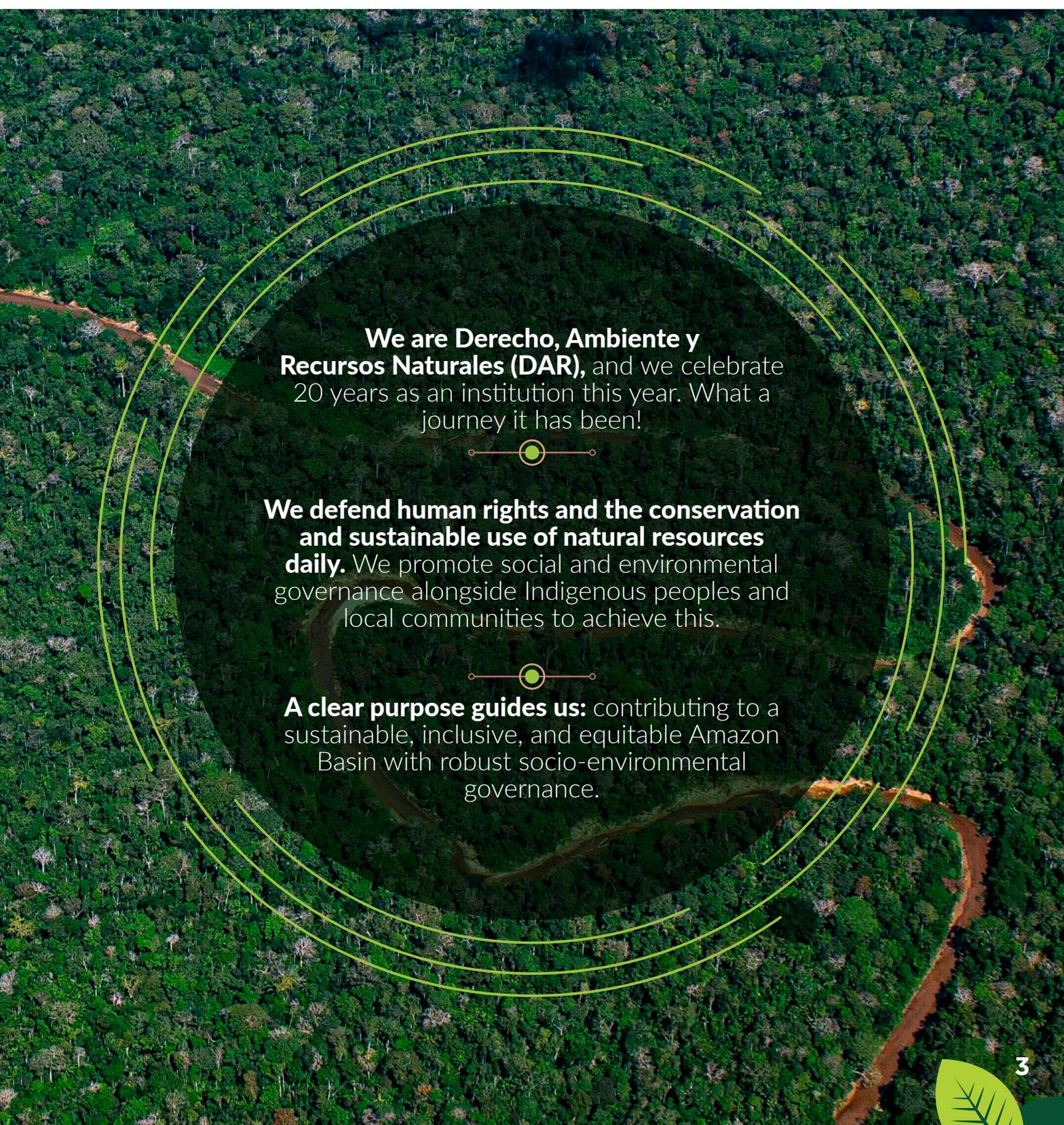


About us



Photos: Heinz Plenge





We are Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR), and we celebrate 20 years as an institution this year. What a journey it has been!



We defend human rights and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources daily. We promote social and environmental governance alongside Indigenous peoples and local communities to achieve this.



A clear purpose guides us: contributing to a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable Amazon Basin with robust socio-environmental governance.



Milestones That Shaped Us



2004



2008 - 2010 and
2010 - 2012



2012



We were founded as DAR

In these early years, we positioned ourselves as a bridge organization between biodiversity conservation agendas and Indigenous rights. We actively participated in collaborative civil society spaces. We engaged in monitoring processes to protect native community lands through prior consultation, safeguarding the rights of Indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact, and conserving biodiversity through protected areas in the Amazon.

Since our beginnings, DAR has operated fully transparently, maintaining this standard with our partners, donors, and overseeing authorities. Our annual evaluations by APCI and our audits demonstrate this commitment. Our dedication to service and being a nonprofit organization have been key to our efficient management over the years.

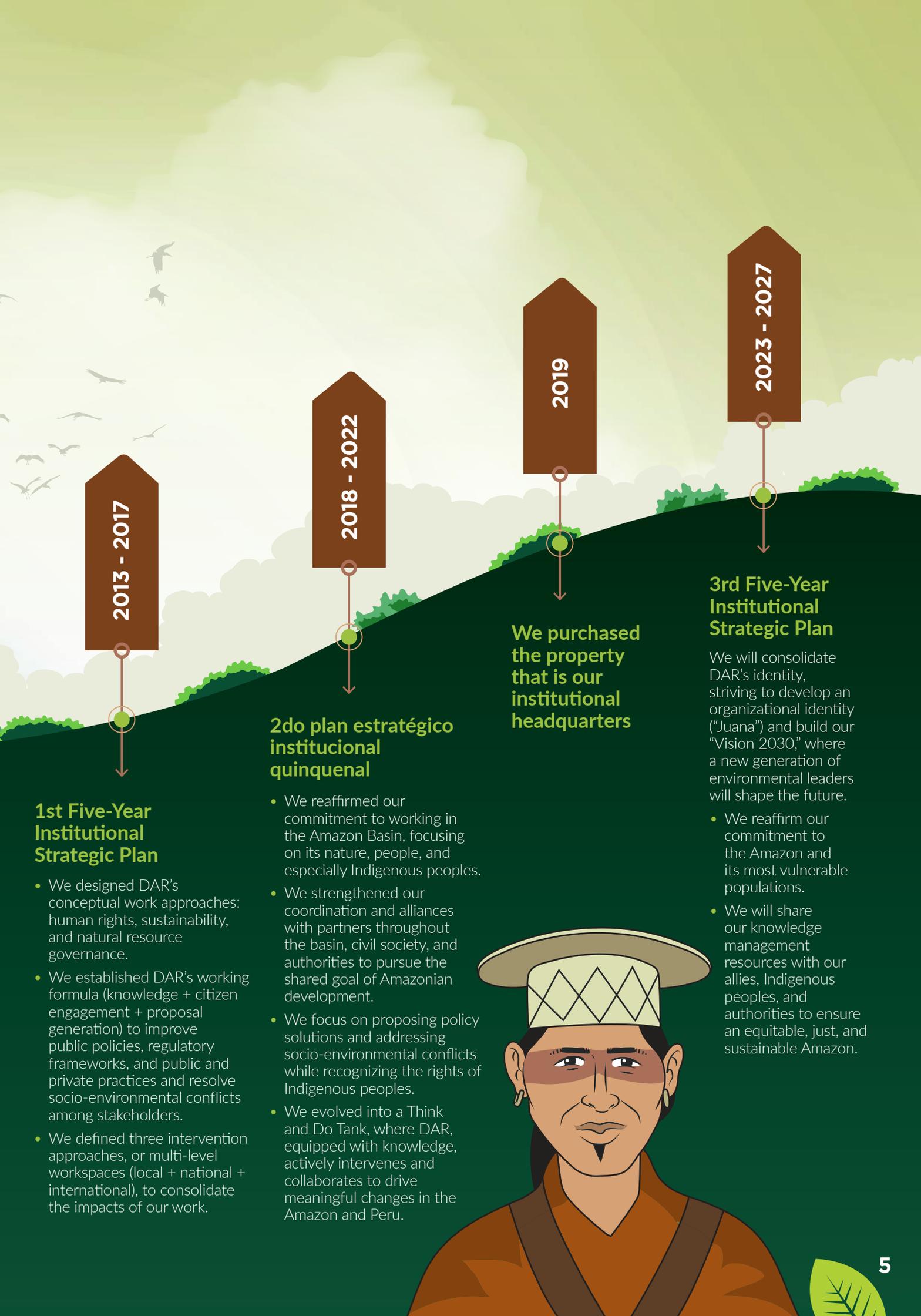
1st and 2nd Biennial Work Plans

- We focused on three priorities: Extractive Industries (oil and gas), forests, and Indigenous rights.
- We aimed to support sustainable and transparent investments, such as the Camisea Gas Project, the South Interoceanic Highway, and hydroelectric projects in the Amazon.
- Our priority was to provide strategic input to public and private actors to resolve socio-environmental conflicts and work with communities.

We opened our office in Loreto.

We registered with APCI





2013 - 2017

2018 - 2022

2019

2023 - 2027

1st Five-Year Institutional Strategic Plan

- We designed DAR's conceptual work approaches: human rights, sustainability, and natural resource governance.
- We established DAR's working formula (knowledge + citizen engagement + proposal generation) to improve public policies, regulatory frameworks, and public and private practices and resolve socio-environmental conflicts among stakeholders.
- We defined three intervention approaches, or multi-level workspaces (local + national + international), to consolidate the impacts of our work.

2do plan estratégico institucional quinquenal

- We reaffirmed our commitment to working in the Amazon Basin, focusing on its nature, people, and especially Indigenous peoples.
- We strengthened our coordination and alliances with partners throughout the basin, civil society, and authorities to pursue the shared goal of Amazonian development.
- We focus on proposing policy solutions and addressing socio-environmental conflicts while recognizing the rights of Indigenous peoples.
- We evolved into a Think and Do Tank, where DAR, equipped with knowledge, actively intervenes and collaborates to drive meaningful changes in the Amazon and Peru.

We purchased the property that is our institutional headquarters

3rd Five-Year Institutional Strategic Plan

We will consolidate DAR's identity, striving to develop an organizational identity ("Juana") and build our "Vision 2030," where a new generation of environmental leaders will shape the future.

- We reaffirm our commitment to the Amazon and its most vulnerable populations.
- We will share our knowledge management resources with our allies, Indigenous peoples, and authorities to ensure an equitable, just, and sustainable Amazon.



Key Accomplishments with Our Partners.

We achieved these actions, outcomes, and successes in collaboration with Peruvian and Amazonian civil society, Indigenous peoples, authorities, and donors. We express our deepest gratitude for their support and trust.

1. Natural Resource Governance (Planning, participation, accountability)

- We contributed to signing the Escazú Agreement (2018), which addresses environmental rights and includes a clause on environmental defenders. Civil society promoted this clause during negotiations, and it will implement mechanisms to protect defenders. This is the first regional environmental instrument to guarantee access to information, public participation, and environmental justice, and the first in the world to protect environmental defenders. We supported 12 countries across the region, helping Peru and Colombia sign the agreement, and advocated for its ratification in Argentina, Ecuador, Saint Lucia, and Mexico with the support of national organizations, the #EscazúNow Network, and DAR. The agreement came into force in 2021. In 2023, we promoted the approval of the ad hoc group for environmental defenders, and in 2024, the Regional Action Plan for Environmental Defenders of the Escazú Agreement was approved.
- We contributed to reforming the EITI standard, introducing clauses on environmental transparency (payments and impacts), prior consultation, and gender and energy transition in 2019 and 2023. We have promoted transparency in the energy sector and, since 2013, have served as a member of the Permanent Multisectoral Commission for the Implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). We also participate in the Loreto Regional EITI Commission, supporting the inclusion of Indigenous peoples. Since 2016, we have represented Latin American civil society on the EITI International Board and participated in the Advisory Council and Coordination Council of the G7 Transparency Initiative in Extractive Industries (2014-2017) and the Open Government Partnership Forum.



Photo: Heinz Plenge

- In Peru, EITI included environmental information for the first time in its Seventh National Transparency Report. We shared our experience and knowledge with other countries, including Mexico, where we supported civil society in creating an alternative report on the environmental impacts of the extractive sector. The National Commission accepted this report.
- We monitored legal developments and advocated for improved national policies on access to environmental information. We successfully secured the release of the Environmental Assessment of the Inambari Hydroelectric Central Feasibility Study, which had not been made public, through a habeas data process. In 2013, we successfully advocated for PERUPETRO to make its exploration and production database publicly accessible. In 2014, PERUPETRO approved its first Administrative Procedures Text (TUPA), which improved access to information, and 21 other public entities enhanced their transparency and access standards using a standardized methodology.
- Our transparency work led the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to hold its first hearing on transparency and access to environmental information in the region in 2017. This hearing prompted a visit to the Dominican Republic and led to improvements in their regulatory framework.
- We contributed to strengthening environmental oversight by presenting technical information to support the legality of Regulation Contributions (APR). We did this through an Amicus Curiae in a case where the Cerro Verde mining company attempted to invalidate the APR payment to the Environmental Evaluation and Oversight Agency (OEFA).

- We supported the signing of the Socio-environmental Governance Pact (2018) by the leading candidates for the Regional Government of Loreto, in collaboration with civil society in Loreto. This pact created a consensus on key socio-environmental policy guidelines to guarantee transparency, effective governance, democracy strengthening, decentralization, and sustainable, inclusive development in Loreto.
- The new Forestry Law incorporated governance principles and specific articles on transparency and Indigenous rights in the forestry sector, leading to introducing transparency standards into Peru's forestry sector.
- Over the past 20 years, we have represented civil society in various government and agency forums, including the Inter-American Development Bank's (IDB) CONSOC, the IDB's MICI Advisory Group, the Advisory Council of the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), the Board of Directors of the National Forestry and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), the Board of Directors of the Fund for the Promotion of Natural Protected Areas of Peru (PROFONANPE), and the Management Committees of various natural protected areas.
- Since 2011, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has accredited us as a civil society observer. In 2015, we joined the Climate Action Network-Latin America (CAN-LA) and served as its regional coordinator from 2016 to 2017. Since 2015, we have been a Climate Action Network-Latin America (CAN-LA) member and served as its regional coordinator from 2016 to 2017.
- Since 2014, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) has recognized us as observers.
- In 2009, civil society elected us to represent them on the National Steering Committee of the National Forest Program Mechanism (FAO Facility).
- Since 2013, we have been part of the National Human Rights Coordinator (CNDDHH), a coalition of civil society organizations with Special Consultative Status before the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). We are accredited to participate in the Organization of American States (OAS) activities and served on the Board of the Bank Information Center (2016-2022). We are also a member of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Photo: Maria Fe Mendoza/DAR



2. Sustainability

- We have promoted the adoption of environmental and social standards and operational policies of multilateral development banks. For the past 15 years, DAR has monitored the reforms of the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standards, the World Bank's environmental and social framework, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and IDB Invest. DAR contributed to the design of the Cancun Declaration on environmental and social commitments issued during the IDB's 8th recapitalization. In the latest IDB reform, we successfully included compliance with the Escazú Agreement, protocols for prior consultation, and an exclusion list for fossil fuel projects, among other standards.
- We promoted the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as part of the public decision-making process, securing its inclusion in the Loreto Regional Concerted Development Plan (PDRC), which became the first SEA approved in the Amazon.
- We contributed to the Vision for Mining in Peru 2030, where key issues were included, such as strengthening the National Environmental Impact Assessment System (SEIA), transparency, human rights, and citizen participation.
- We successfully encouraged the Chinese government to accept the recommendation to include the principle of extraterritoriality of its environmental obligations for its companies operating abroad. This recommendation, made by the Indigenous organization COICA with DAR's support, was part of China's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations.

- We monitored compliance with the 21 commitments made by the Peruvian state in the Camisea Project. Some outcomes include maintaining offshore operations on land (using air transport instead of roads) and creating and implementing the Kugapakori Territorial Reserve Protection Plan. We also promoted transparency in the Camisea Gas Export Project, resulting in improvements to Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in 2013 and in the Camisea contract, highlighting the need for better energy planning in Peru.
- We monitored five priority hydroelectric plants and the Peru-Brazil Energy Agreement, advocating for transparency in hydroelectric concessions, respect for Indigenous territories, and prioritizing Peru's energy security over exports. In 2014, the Foreign Relations Commission of Congress archived the bill seeking to approve the Peru-Brazil Energy Agreement.
- We contributed to strengthening the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Amazon Waterway Project, which raised concerns about food security and the health of 424 native communities. The EIA had serious socio-environmental gaps, and in 2019, COHIDRO, the consortium in charge, withdrew from the environmental assessment process.
- Over the years, we identified and emphasized the potential environmental and social risks of infrastructure projects in Peru and the Amazon when local development and control over forest threats were ignored. We monitored various projects and proposed improvements, such as the Bioceanic Train, the South Interoceanic Highway, and the Pucallpa-Cruzeiro do Sul Highway. The South Interoceanic Highway showed us the importance of public participation in monitoring the indirect impacts of these projects. The Pucallpa-Cruzeiro do Sul Highway could affect the Sierra del Divisor National Park, the Isconahua Territorial Reserve for Indigenous peoples in isolation, and native community lands, repeating the mistakes of the South Interoceanic Highway, which increased forest degradation due to illegal mining.
- From the beginning, DAR has advocated for including sustainability, profitability, energy security, and equity principles in projects like Camisea, the NUMES Project, the Energy Agreement, and hydroelectric projects. Recently, we contributed to including guidelines for a just and community-based energy transition in the Regional Energy Matrix Change Policy in Loreto.



- Approximately 2,500 people from 14 buffer zone communities around natural protected areas and eight communal associations sustainably managing natural resources in Loreto benefited from installing solar panels. These panels allowed the communities to save 37,582 kWh annually, avoiding 26.35 tons of CO2 equivalent emissions.
- In Loreto's Tahuayo Basin, 120 people were trained in making "ollas brujas" (thermal cooking pots) that maintain thermal inertia, allowing food to continue cooking with residual heat after being brought to a boil on a regular stove. This reduced firewood consumption and deforestation by 50%, improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- We distributed solar radios to 3,000 families with children from rural communities in Loreto without access to electricity, enabling them to participate in remote education during the COVID-19 pandemic. These experiences motivated us to further promote renewable energy as part of a sustainable local development model and advocate for energy transition policies that support local actors.
- DAR was one of the first organizations to research and make REDD+ discussions more participatory, leading discussions and debates on the topic, particularly emphasizing the inclusion of Indigenous peoples in these discussions. DAR represented Latin American civil society as an observer in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) from 2012 to 2014 and in the Forest Investment Program (FIP) from 2015 to 2017.
- We promoted the inclusion of a new mitigation measure for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF) sector to combat deforestation linked to the expansion of roads in the Amazon.



Photo: Heinz Plenge

- We worked with Indigenous peoples to reach an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that the Regulation of Land Classification by Major Land Use Capacity (RECTCUM) under the Forestry Law does not negatively affect the titling processes of native communities.
- DAR's proposals were incorporated into the Joint Declaration of Intent (DCI) Plan between Peru, Norway, and Germany, an international cooperation effort to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and promote Peru's sustainable development. Our proposals included updating the Administrative Procedures Texts (TUPAs) of at least three Amazonian regions to reflect new regulations on land-use changes by competent entities. We also advocated for the RECTCUM regulation to be aligned with the Forestry Law.
- We successfully implemented two Technical Units for Community Forestry Management (UTMFC) in the Atalaya and Coronel Portillo provinces, equipping them with personnel and resources. These units represent approximately 80% of communities with enabling titles. This accomplishment allowed Ucayali's Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management (GERFFS) to fulfill its services, such as training forty native communities in community forestry management in both provinces and recognizing twenty community monitoring committees.
- In the Central Jungle, DAR contributed to improving the coffee and cocoa production and certification processes of 360 Asháninka families in 17 communities along the Ene River through technical support in harvest management, post-harvest management, warehouse management systems, production cost control, and the implementation of traceability software for organic certification.
- In Amazonas, DAR helped develop and implement four Management Declarations for shiringa (rubber) in Awajun native communities (Uyuenta, Pakui, Wawas, and Sawientsa), benefiting 82 families.
- We raised awareness of the importance of protecting natural areas like the Bahuaja Sonene National Park, the Sierra del Divisor National Park, and the Amotape Hills National Park, which have faced various threats. DAR helped prepare technical studies on environmental impacts to protect these areas, promote compatibility studies, support the convergence of protected areas and territorial reserves, and defend these areas from reduction initiatives.





Photo: Maria Fe Mendoza/DAR

3. Human Rights

- From the beginning, DAR has sought to ensure the rights of Indigenous peoples by coordinating with their representative organizations and civil society allies. The strengthening of the legal framework—such as the Special Protection Regime for Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact, its regulation, the Prior Consultation Law, and the Climate Change Law—was achieved with the active participation of Indigenous peoples and civil society.
- We improved the standards included in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Lot 88, which overlaps with the Kugapakori Nahua Nanti and Others Territorial Reserve (RTKNN). We approved a new Protection Plan for this reserve as part of this process. DAR has consistently advocated respecting the principle of intangibility for isolated areas inhabited by Indigenous peoples.
- We maintained the intangibility of the Kugapakori Nahua Nanti Territorial Reserve (RTKNN) through a dissemination process and support for Indigenous organizations, highlighting the risks of the categorization process for Indigenous reserves, which could allow economic activities in the areas where these peoples live.
- In coordination with AIDSEP, we successfully promoted the AP 29126 ruling, which corrected the Prior Consultation Regulation. This ruling strengthened the right to consultation by eliminating exemptions in the regulation that prevented consultations on public service projects such as highways, waterways, or electric transmission lines.
- We achieved the legal recognition of Local Monitoring Organizations responsible for monitoring, controlling, and overseeing their communal territories within a regional conservation area or its buffer and influence zones.

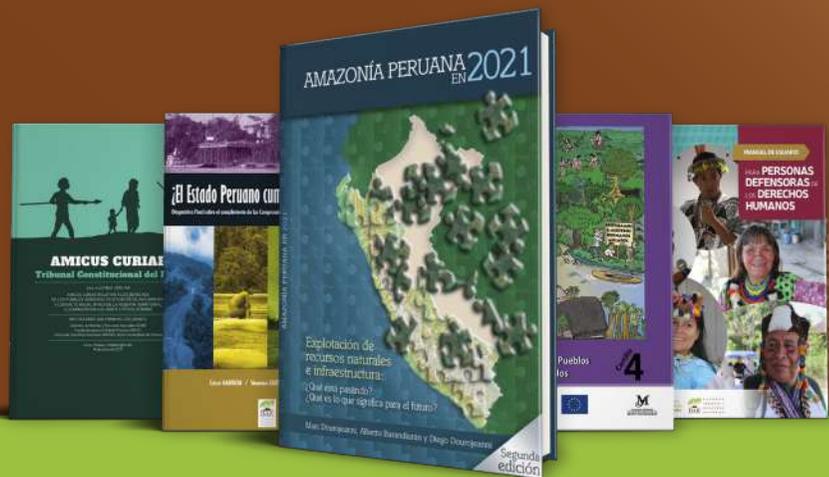
- We secured the recognition of twenty community monitoring committees by Ucayali's Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management (GERFFS), representing a significant achievement because these committees are crucial for monitoring communal forests and coordinating with the regional forestry authority.
- We participated in and supported Indigenous organizations in developing the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights (PNA), incorporating their recommendations into the PNA's Citizen Participation Methodology.
- A Judicial Branch resolution created The Environmental Justice Observatory to generate knowledge about judicial decisions related to environmental issues and Indigenous peoples' rights.
- DAR supported Indigenous organizations in various prior consultation events, ensuring they upheld their rights. The Amazon Waterway consultation process was emblematic, resulting in over eighty agreements, including legislative changes on transportation, environmental impact assessment procedures for these investments, and adjustments to the concession contract. In 2020, after years of supporting Indigenous organizations, the Supreme Court issued a ruling affirming the mandatory nature of prior consultation for all public service projects.
- We promoted mechanisms to protect human rights defenders, leading to the approval of the Registry of Risk Situations for Human Rights Defenders in October 2020. This registry incorporated our contributions regarding the differentiated impacts on environmental defenders and the inclusion of an intercultural approach to identify Indigenous environmental defenders.
- We contributed to the approval of Supreme Decree 004-2021-JUS, which created the Intersectoral Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. which provides Peru with a regulatory document coordinating multiple state sectors to protect human rights and environmental defenders. We also helped establish subnational coordination spaces, such as the Ucayali Regional Table, to address issues related to human rights defenders in collaboration with national and local authorities and Indigenous peoples.
- From the outset, DAR has advocated for direct cooperation with native and peasant communities. In 2019, we supported the creation and consolidation of Peru's Socio-Environmental Fund, which directly supports community initiatives related to local development, human rights protection, and biodiversity conservation across the country.
- In 2017, DAR supported the creation of the first defender program for COICA, leading to more coordinated regional efforts. DAR's strategic recommendations for defending environmental defenders were incorporated into the Final Report of the 21st Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2021, the approval of Motion 129 "Avoiding the Point



of No Return in the Amazon by Protecting 80% by 2025” at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2021, and improvements to 9 of the 23 targets approved in the new Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework during the COP15 on Biodiversity.

- We contributed to Colombia’s Constitutional Court ruling C-280/24, which declared the second paragraph of Article 57 of Law 99 of 1993 constitutional, with the understanding that the required studies must include an evaluation of climate change impacts. Our contribution to this process was made jointly with DPLF through the submission of an Amicus Curiae addressing the rules and principles applicable to the obligation to include a climate change impact assessment in environmental impact studies.

Since founding **DAR**, we have consistently earned recognition for managing knowledge across various media, especially through specialized publications:



Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)

would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our colleagues, allies, Indigenous organizations, communities, donors, and authorities. Without your trust and support, these achievements would not have been possible. Thank you!



D E R E C H O
A M B I E N T E Y
R E C U R S O S
N A T U R A L E S



**Connect
with us:**

Facebook: @DAR Perú
X (formerly Twitter): @ONGDAR
Instagram: @ongdarperu
YouTube: @DARPeru
LinkedIn: @Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Visit us:

Lima Office: Jr. Pumacahua 2249, Lince
Phone: +51 994691943 | +51 942887927

Loreto Office: Calle Fanning 139, Iquitos
Phone: +51 954776674

Ucayali Office: Jr. Atahualpa 569, third floor,
intercom 201, Coronel Portillo, Pucallpa
Phone: +51 954776674

www.dar.org.pe

