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FOREST OVERSIGHT AND RESOURCE STRENGTHENING

Amazonian forests represent over 90% of Peru’s forest cover. These forests provide ecosystem services including biodiversity conservation, climate regulation and water provision. They are also critical to the economic and social well-being of Peru. Despite their critical role, forests are being lost at increasing rates due to illegal logging.

To reverse this trend, Peru needs effective forest governance institutions, regulations and a competitive forest sector. The Forest Oversight and Resource Strengthening (FOREST) activity aims to promote sustainable forest management by strengthening the principles of transparency, accountability and stakeholder participation.

HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

The FOREST program focuses on strengthening national and regional government institutions in the forest sector in Peru, and effective implementation of Peru’s new forestry framework. Hence, FOREST leverages the expertise of the U.S. Forest Service to provide technical assistance in natural resource management, capacity building for land management agencies, and public administration. In addition, the FOREST program supports Peru in meeting its obligations included in the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (also known as U.S.-Peru Free Trade Agreement). FOREST also works with national and sub-national forest sector institutions to secure needed human and financial resources to ensure a

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competitive, sustainable and legal forest sector. Finally, FOREST is working with national universities and young professionals to develop the future generation of leaders in the forest sector.

WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED?

- Amazonian regional forest authorities have been strengthened enabling them to receive an additional 25 million soles budget and more than 30 million soles for investment projects from the Ministry of Economy and Finance.
- 15 agencies from the Government came together to develop and implement a new National Multisectoral Strategy to Combat Illegal Logging 2021-2025.
- Four inter-institutional coordination groups have been established resulting in Peru's first National Fire Prevention Plan, National Forest and Wildlife Research Plan and an increase in budget for the Amazonian regions.
- FOREST was instrumental in carrying out extensive training programs for government personnel both in-person and using an online learning training platform that over 2200 personnel and stakeholders have taken courses on.
- Peru's Forest and Wildlife Oversight Agency (OSINFOR) now uses the latest technologies to carry out oversight of forest concessions remotely. In addition, it has implemented a strategic monitoring system to ensure compliance and accountability of strategic objectives. They have also an improved structure and organization to be an effective leader in the forest sector.
- Peru's Forest and Wildlife Service can confidently certify high-quality forest regents for improved forest concession management through the forest and wildlife regents' certification course and a continuing education program.
- Three online forest transparency portals and a national statistical platform have been established that contain over 8000 digitized documents and over 250,000 data records.
- Two Peruvian universities, the National Agrarian University La Molina and National University of the Peruvian Amazon, have strengthened forestry programs and research agendas through: training on scientific research methods and the alliance with Oregon State University's School of Forestry.
- Peruvian wildland fire management capacity strengthened through a standardized curriculum, ongoing training on wildland fire response, and collaborative planning across all forest institutions.

PROJECT INFORMATION

IMPLEMENTER: United States Forest Service

PROGRAM DURATION: September 28, 2017 to September 27, 2022

USAID FUNDING: \$16,935,000

LOCATION: Lima, Loreto, Madre de Dios and Ucayali regions

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