



WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT AMAZON PARTNERSHIPS FOUNDATION?

Poverty, Health, and the Global Importance of the Amazon

- Representing one of the world's largest continuous areas of high biodiversity and the largest freshwater system in the world, the Andean-Amazon region is a global conservation priority.
- The amount of carbon sequestered in the Amazon is equivalent to about 1.5 decades' worth of human-made carbon emissions.
- Global deforestation accounts for 20-30% of global greenhouse emissions. Deforestation in Napo Province, Ecuador is occurring at the rate of almost 50,000 acres a year. To pay for clothing, school expenses, and medication, families resort to cutting old growth hardwood trees, which they often sell to small lumber yards for as little as \$50.
- More than half of all families in the Ecuadorian Amazon make ends meet through subsistence farming, and 71% live in poverty. A typical indigenous family in the Amazon earns about \$100/month.
- Many indigenous Amazonian communities have limited or no access to clean water because rivers and streams are contaminated with human and animal waste, runoff from mining operations, etc. Thirty percent of families in the Ecuadorian Amazon are at high risk of infectious diseases because they lack potable water and sanitation.

Community Empowerment

- With our training, communities learn all aspects of planning and implementation and take full responsibility for projects from start to finish. They learn how to set their own benchmarks and evaluate whether they've met their goals. If they meet their goals, they qualify to receive follow-on funding.
- Our model helps break cycle of paternalism and dependency by giving communities more power and tools to determine their future and generate funding from a variety of sources, including self-financing.

Excellent Return on Investment

- We deliver more than 1000 hours of workshops and funding for 7 small grants with just three program staff and an average annual budget of \$80,000, 80% of which goes to program costs.
- Prevention costs less than restoration: Because the Ecuadorian Amazon is still relatively intact and relatively unpopulated compared to many other tropical forest regions, conserving it is a much better investment than restoring other completely degraded eco-systems.
- By focusing heavily on training and projects that families and communities maintain, we avoid wasting money on costly large-scale infrastructure projects that fail for lack of maintenance and follow up.
- We invest not only in communities but also in training for our local team of indigenous Kichwa and Ecuadorian professionals who will lead the organization long-term and be role models for young people.

For more information on our programs, visit www.amazonpartnerships.org