

Key information:

- Over 50% of Peruvian emissions originate from the burning and deforestation of forests and other land use changes, WWF conducts the first studies for the future implementation of REDD mechanisms.
- In 2009, a 15% reduction of electricity consumption was reached during the first edition of Earth Hour in Peru, which means that approximately 8 million Peruvians turned their lights off in demonstration of climate change awareness and commitment to its mitigation.

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3 trees preserved for the future
4 kg. waterborne waste not created
5,423 lt. wastewater flow saved
72 kg. solid waste not generated
142 kg. greenhouse gases prevented
2,388,994 (BUTs) energy not consumed

Additional savings because the paper is made with windpower and carbon offsets:

72 kg. emissions not generated
37 m3, natural gas unused



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CLIMATE

Programme

Reducing our vulnerability

Climate change in Peru: vulnerability and opportunities

Climate change is arguably the most serious problem faced by mankind today. Since 1990, the 10 years with the highest mean temperatures in the world have been recorded and Peru is one of the most vulnerable countries facing this temperature rise. Its glaciers represent 70% of the ice surface in the tropics, but they recede between 20 and 30 meters per year, causing valuable water sources for our consumption, electricity generation and agriculture to disappear. 70% of the Peruvian population is concentrated in the desert coast region and Lima is the second largest city in the world in a desert after Cairo. On the other hand, if the current deforestation trend continues to alter the climate in the Peruvian Amazon, the forests in key areas such as the southeast rainforest will recede due to the growing- and until recently unprecedented – forest fires.

The WWF Peru Climate Program aims to contribute towards a future with a safe climate. To achieve this, it works through campaigns such as Earth Hour, and proposing practical options to adapt and reduce our vulnerability such as the restoration of ecosystems and Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), a promising mechanism that promotes the conservation of forests with financing from the main greenhouse gas producing countries.

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Important goals

In line with the WWF Forest-based Carbon Network Initiative, WWF Peru's goal is to consolidate the pilot implementation of Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) mechanisms in the Peruvian Amazon, in order to contribute towards a significant reduction of world deforestation emissions by 2020.

Forest-based Carbon The forest as a climate regulator

As part of its natural functions, the forest sequesters carbon and other gases produced by human activities that otherwise, would rise to the atmosphere, thus contributing towards the greenhouse effect and consequently, to global warming. WWF Peru works alongside authorities and local partners, laying the foundations for the future implementation of a mechanism that will allow the conservation of the forest starting from the economic value of its role as a climate regulator, known as



Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

To implement an unprecedented conservation mechanism such as REDD, there is a need for clear technical arguments and solid tools. For this reason, since 2008 – and through local partners - WWF Peru combines field research with institutional strengthening actions. **This way, it works in key areas such as San Martin and Madre de Dios - either carrying out extensive field studies or using modern remote sensing systems - to determine the carbon sequestration potential of the forests and obtain the necessary arguments to support their conservation.**

At the same time, it has fostered the establishment of the REDD Roundtable, an important arena to create strategies – made up of 50 institutions – that has identified the technical, legal and financial requirements to implement this conservation mechanism in Peru. Recently, WWF Peru has contributed with the analysis of the political and legal framework required to implement REDD and, continues promoting this mechanism as a feasible option for the conservation of Peruvian forests.

Payment for environmental services New reasons to conserve the Andean forests

Although the Peruvian coast barely holds 2 % of the country's water resources, it harbors most of the national agroindustry. This is possible since the few but fertile valleys of the coast region are enriched by water from the high Andes region, although in certain areas, human activities have endangered this cycle. WWF Peru promotes mechanisms for the high Andean villages to maintain their water sources in exchange of a retribution or payment by the users of this resource in the agricultural coast regions.



Under this scheme, WWF, CARE and the local population have been recovering the headwaters of the Jequetepeque River basin, one of the most important in Northern Peru, with an area of 4 372 Km2 and nearly 400 000 inhabitants. During years, agriculture based on inefficient irrigation systems (in the lower regions), added with the deforestation and overgrazing (in upper regions), and contamination produced by urban and mine effluents have seriously degraded this basin.

Since 2008, WWF Peru and CARE have been working with the population to reforest and develop agroforestry systems in the upper basin regions, so that the villagers receive a fair payment for the natural gathering and distribution of water derived from these activities in the medium-term by the agricultural downstream users. **Today**, aside from having initiated the recovery of the upper regions, **the coast and Andean villagers are taking their first steps towards a future fair payment scheme for environmental services that combines both conservation and a better living standard.**

Ecosystem restoration The need for a healthy environment

It often occurs that a resource is not valued until it is lost. This occurs in different areas of the Andes where neediness causes the population to deforest their mountainsides only to find themselves with poor soil and scarce water resources after a short time. WWF Peru works alongside the population in regions like the northern Andes to recover forests and their environmental services in key areas and improve the local living standard.

The Tabaconas Namballe National Sanctuary in Cajamarca was established in 1988 to protect the Andean paramo, a humid and cold ecosystem that harbours rare species - such as the mountain tapir and the dwarf brocket deer - and that plays a critical role in water collection. However, the neighbouring population has been deforesting a large part of the adjacent forests for years, through inappropriate agricultural practices, endangering the sanctuary and reducing their own water resources.

In 2004, WWF Peru began working in the area and initiated – along with the population and the sanctuary authorities – the restoration of the upper basin with productive agroforestry systems that combine native species and organic coffee.

Shortly after that, the community developed a business plan and formed an association of 120 ecological producers that surpassed the initial profits by eliminating intermediaries. **Today, the villagers voluntarily replicate the forest and coffee agroforestry systems that simultaneously protect the sanctuary itself, help recover the river streamflows and achieve more productivity.**



Campaigns Joining efforts against climate change

Climate Change urges us to change our attitudes. WWF Peru works to bring this topic to the main debate arenas as well as to society through campaigns and advocacy and media actions – carried out hand in hand with authorities and private companies – in order to raise awareness on the need to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects.

Earth Hour was born in Sydney, Australia in 2007, when 2 200 000 people turned their lights off during sixty seconds to draw attention on the need to face climate change. In its second edition, this WWF initiative became a global phenomenon with over 50 million participants in 370 cities. For 2009, the proposed target was one billion participants in one thousand cities and Peru participated for the first time.

On Saturday, March 28th, 2009 at 8: 30 pm from the pyramids of Egypt to the Beijing National Stadium, lights were turned off in a gesture of optimism to face climate change, involving nearly 4000 cities and over one billion participants. In Peru, 40 cities turned their lights off, authorities, artists and businessmen publicly joined the Earth Hour initiative and the most important commercial establishments, monuments, plazas, parks and cathedrals were left in the dark. The official

reading determined an impressive decrease of over 15 % in energy consumption nationwide during Earth Hour. In other words, 8 million Peruvians – or 1 in every 3 with access to electricity - turned their lights off, making it the most successful environmental campaign in our country and turning Peru into one of the countries with most participation and commitment to face climate change worldwide.



Quick facts:

- 70 % of the remaining tropical glaciers are found in the Peruvian Andes; however they recede between 20 to 30 meters per year due to the rise in temperatures.
- 70 % of the Peruvian population is concentrated in the desert coast of Peru, where only 2% of the national water resources are found.
- Lima is the second largest city in the desert after Cairo and, while the Nile transports 2800 cubic meters of water per second there, the Rimac River does not even reach 1 % of this flow.