

PURÚS – MANU

**REFUGE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN
VOLUNTARY ISOLATION**



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The Purús-Manu complex is a mosaic of over 4 and a half million hectares in the Southeastern Peruvian Amazon, formed by the Purús and AmaraKaeri Communal Reserves, the Alto Purús and Manu National Parks; the Murunahua, Mashco-Piro and Madre de Dios Territorial Reserves; 4 protected areas in Brazil, such as, the Campa e Isolados do Envira, Mamoadate, Riozinho do Alto Envira Indigenous Territories and the Chandless State Park.

Several indigenous peoples live here in isolation and initial contact, including the following ethnic-linguistic groups:

Ethnic-linguistic groups	Indigenous peoples	Location
Pano-speaking population	Murunahuas, Chitonahuas, Mastanaguas peoples	The Mapuya, Piquiyacu, Yurúa, Envira and Curanja river headwaters
Arawak-speaking population	Mashco Piro people	From the Tahuamanu and Las Piedras rivers (Madre de Dios) to the Manu (South), and the Purús and Chandless river headwaters (North).
Arawá-speaking population	The Madijá or Culina people in initial contact	Between the Envira river headwaters and the Santa Rosa border gully.
Harakmbut population	The Harakmbut people	Footprints have been found in the AmaraKaeri Communal Reserve
Unknown language indigenous group	Identified by The National Indian Foundation	Peru-Brazil border.

Threats: An increasingly vulnerable refuge

Deforestation due to timber, mining and oil extractive activities affect indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact (IPIIC), as well as the forest where they live in. This causes both ecosystems fragmentation and biodiversity loss. Furthermore, the presence of workers, machinery and tools generates both solid and liquid wastes, which are directly buried into the forest without any treatment. All these elements combined represent a serious threat for both health and welfare of IPIIC, because it affects their integrity, food-access and wellbeing (Soria 2010 a, 661).

What we look for

Support the national government, Madre de Dios and Ucayali regional governments, in the development of a public policy for the IPIIC's protection.

How we plan to do this?

- Contributing with the acknowledgement of the existence of indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact in the PMCC, a process which has been led by the IPIIC Multisectorial Commission
- Supporting the re-categorization process of territorial reserves to indigenous reserves
- Supporting the implementation of protection plans for the Murunahua, Madre de Dios and Mashco Piro Reserves
- Defining the legal status of the protection stakeholders from the Ministry of Culture and those from the indigenous organizations, who contribute to the protection of these peoples and the neighboring indigenous communities

What are we doing?

WWF began working in the area several decades ago, particularly in the Manu National Park and other protected areas. In 2004, WWF contributed towards the categorization process of two protected areas in Purús: the Alto Purús National Park and the Purús Communal Reserve. Ever since, WWF actively supports the participatory management of both protected areas.

As part of the Purús – Manu Consortium, in the ICAA Project, WWF Peru has supported the Ministry of Culture through the Viceministry of Interculturality to develop a public policy (standards, plans and programs) in order to protect Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact (IPIIC) of the Purús – Manu Conservation Complex (PMCC).

Similarly, WWF has also worked with the National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP) to ensure a joint work with the Ministry of Culture, in order to implement anthropological contingency plans for IPIIC living in natural protected areas. At a national level, these actions are supported through an awareness-raising strategy for both authorities and political decision-makers.

At a subnational level, WWF supports the Madre de Dios Government (GOREMAD) and the Indigenous Federation of Madre de Dios River and Tributaries (FENAMAD) to develop a Protection Plan for IPIIC in Madre de Dios, as a mechanism to articulate the action of both Government and Civil Society in areas close to territorial reserves. Moreover, coordination meetings with members of the Ucayali Regional Government (GOREU) have been held, in order to develop a Protection Plan for IPIIC in Ucayali.

At a local level, WWF works in the implementation of capacity building strategies in areas with the presence of these peoples.

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