

Dear IRI friends and colleagues,

On behalf of the team, please find activity updates from the [Interfaith Rainforest Initiative](#) from February 2026.

## **BRAZIL**

### **IRI BRAZIL DEEPENS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE 2026 PRIORITIES**

In February, alongside the audit process, IRI Brazil focused on strategic meetings with partners, donors, public institutions and communications allies to strengthen alliances and mobilize support for its 2026 agenda. Engagements with the Ambassador of Norway, RFN, REPAM, CLUA, UNEP and the Pan-Amazonian Institute helped consolidate diplomatic backing, institutional alignment and cooperation around joint campaigns, environmental education and regional network-building.

Resource-mobilization efforts also advanced significantly: discussions involving IRI global leadership and partners opened new funding pathways. At the same time, IRI Brazil expanded communications and public-engagement opportunities through partnerships linked to the publication *Tempo de Cuidar*, the *Amazônia Viva* film, and a proposed VR pilot with Bemol in Manaus. Additional meetings with public authorities and technical partners also advanced planning for scientific immersions and faith-based engagement on climate governance in the Amazon.

## **COLOMBIA**

### **IRI COLOMBIA ADVANCES A LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE AMAZON AHEAD OF THE 2026 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS**

To strengthen political advocacy in Colombia's Congress and promote a legislative agenda for the Amazon and its peoples, IRI Colombia has been holding strategic dialogues with candidates for the Chamber of Representatives in Amazonian departments where it has 45 local chapters. Following earlier meetings with candidates from Caquetá, IRI Colombia continued this effort throughout February by holding bilateral meetings in Mocoa and Puerto Asís with candidates and campaign teams from different political groups. These meetings aimed to build direct channels of communication, share technical and ethical perspectives on deforestation, climate action, and water security, and encourage informed, long-term public governance. During these conversations, IRI Colombia shared its experience in interfaith dialogue, technical support, and policy advocacy. It also invited candidates to join the

“Parliamentary Alliance for the Amazon 2026–2030” and explore the creation of a Permanent National Coordination Roundtable for the Amazon, bringing together Congress, scientists, Indigenous Peoples, territorial communities, and other key actors.

## IRI COLOMBIA, THROUGH ESCUCHA LA AMAZONÍA, PREPARES KEY ADVOCACY INPUTS FOR THE 2026 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

As part of Colombia’s 2026 electoral cycle, the Escucha la Amazonía alliance, in which IRI Colombia is a lead partner, advanced the preparation of strategic materials to guide its public advocacy once the presidential candidates for the 31 May 2026 first-round election are confirmed. One of the main materials developed is *Coordinates to Prevent Crossing the Point of No Return in the Colombian Amazon and Understanding the Challenges and Opportunities for the 2026–2030 Government Term*. This document is intended to guide conversations, debates, and public discussion so that presidential candidates include comprehensive, long-term proposals to protect the Amazon, avoid reaching the point of no return, and support territorial well-being. The alliance also drafted a concept note for a workshop with journalists. The workshop is designed to provide a broader understanding of the Amazon in the electoral context and review presidential proposals related to the environment, human rights, and territorial planning. These elements can help strengthen media coverage, public debate, and accountability around Amazon issues.

## THE AMAZON NETWORK OF NETWORKS REACTIVATES ITS STRATEGIC AGENDA AND DEFINES GOALS FOR 2026

After a year of advocacy in Pan-Amazonian and global forums, the Amazon Network of Networks has restarted its joint work to strengthen a shared Pan-Amazonian vision that can influence national, regional, and global decisions on climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development. The network brings together 12 regional platforms representing hundreds of civil society organizations and members of the scientific community committed to defending the Amazon biome. On 11 February, the technical secretariat convened partner networks to review key governance issues and begin defining priorities for the year. At the same time, it launched a series of bilateral meetings to identify each organization’s priorities and areas for collaboration to inform the 2026 work plan. During the 18 February meeting with IRI Colombia, participants reviewed IRI Colombia’s strategic work in training, communications, and advocacy, and identified shared priorities for coordinated action.

## IRI COLOMBIA AND THE ETNOLLANO FOUNDATION FORMALIZE AN ALLIANCE FOR INDIGENOUS SELF-GOVERNMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE BIOME IN PUTUMAYO

IRI Colombia and the Etnollano Foundation formalized a strategic alliance to strengthen the autonomy and self-governance of Indigenous Peoples in Putumayo. The partnership is based on a roadmap focused on reducing deforestation, restoring hydrological and biodiversity connectivity, and strengthening territorial governance in response to threats such as mining. The agreement was finalized after a key meeting in Bogotá on 19 February. The alliance seeks to turn lessons from earlier training processes with IRI Colombia's local chapters, including Villagarzón, into a long-term political and organizational model. The work plan includes trust-building, mapping of biocultural connectivity, and technical and legal strengthening for territorial defense. It links spirituality and ancestral knowledge with monitoring and control tools, while also promoting recognition of Indigenous territories not only as protected reserves, but as essential ecological corridors for climate resilience and the integrity of the Amazon.

## IRI COLOMBIA DEEPENS COORDINATION WITH UNEP IN COLOMBIA TO EXPAND ADVOCACY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE IN 2026

On 20 February, IRI Colombia held a high-level bilateral meeting with the leadership of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Colombia at UNEP's office in Bogotá.

The meeting served as an important strategic space to strengthen cooperation on Amazon protection, climate action, and environmental governance. Participants reviewed program progress and shared IRI Colombia's strategic priorities for its 2026 work plan, a year seen as critical for consolidating ongoing work, scaling results, and strengthening advocacy, especially with legislators and other decision-makers. The discussion highlighted the important role that religious leaders and faith-based organizations can play as strategic allies in mobilizing society, increasing the social legitimacy of public policies, and promoting climate action rooted in ethical and spiritual values. The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment of UNEP and IRI Colombia to deepen their partnership in addressing the climate crisis and deforestation in the Amazon.

## **INDONESIA**

### **IRI INDONESIA PARTNER PLANNING WORKSHOP STRENGTHENS ADVISORY COUNCIL AND PARTNER ALIGNMENT**

From 9–11 February 2026 in Jakarta, IRI Indonesia held a three-day workshop with its partners to align on the organization’s vision, strategy, and program direction for Phase 3, including its theory of change. The workshop brought together Advisory Council members from major religious and institutional bodies, including MUI, Muhammadiyah, NU, KWI, PGI, PHDI, PERMABUDHI, MATAKIN, IPB University, Universitas Nasional, AMAN, and EcoNusa. It also included civil society organizations such as BRWA, Greenpeace, Kaoem Telapak, FWI, AURIGA, WALHI, Hutan Wakaf, PUSAKA, PPIM UIN, and HUMA, as well as representatives from government institutions including the Ministry of Forestry and BMKG, youth groups, and mainstream media. Participation grew across the three days, with 17 participants on Day 1, 39 on Day 2, and 24 on Day 3, supported by six IRI Indonesia team and facilitation staff. Day 1 focused on consolidating the Advisory Council and aligning on vision and mission. Day 2 explored key issues, policy strategies, and the Phase 3 theory of change, followed by a networking dinner with the Norwegian Embassy and the Ministry of Forestry. Day 3 focused on strategic priorities, governance arrangements, and immediate follow-up actions. Key results included agreement on IRI Indonesia’s Phase 3 role as a faith-based moral movement that seeks to influence public policy; a stronger vision and mission centered on Indigenous Peoples’ rights; a more practical and measurable draft theory of change; agreement on priority issues and focus areas, including Papua, Indigenous Peoples’ territories, extractive industries, and critical biodiversity areas; and a 3–6 month action agenda to finalize the theory of change, prepare the 2026 action plan, assess chapters, and move forward with national campaign planning.

### **IRI INDONESIA PHASE 3 CAMPAIGN STRATEGY WORKSHOP ADVANCES PLANNING FOR ‘NO FORESTS, NO FUTURE’**

On 4–5 February 2026 in Jakarta, IRI Indonesia held a workshop to develop the strategy for its “No Forests, No Future” campaign. The workshop brought together the IRI Indonesia secretariat team, communication partners, and a representative from EcoNusa. The workshop helped participants build a shared understanding of IRI Indonesia’s Phase 3 vision, mission, campaign direction, and theory of change, and translate these into practical communication strategies. Through presentations, discussions, and collaborative drafting, participants refined key messages, identified priority issues, mapped target audiences, and agreed on communication channels and ways of working together in 2026. The workshop produced a draft campaign strategy for

2026–2029, with a clear implementation direction for 2026. It also strengthened the campaign’s core narrative by linking faith-based moral values, forest protection, and Indigenous Peoples’ rights; developed initial audience segmentation for the first and second halves of 2026; and set out short-term next steps to finalize and operationalize the strategy.

#### IRI INDONESIA JOINS COALITION MEETING ON THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES BILL AND PREPARES FOR WEST JAVA MOBILIZATION

On 18 February 2026 in Bogor, IRI Indonesia joined a coordination and consolidation meeting of the Coalition for the Indigenous Peoples Bill (RUU Masyarakat Adat), together with Kaoem Telapak, AMAN, Sawit Watch, Kemitraan, BPAN, PPMAN, and other coalition members. The meeting reviewed advocacy progress, identified challenges and political opportunities, and prepared for a West Java Regional Consolidation planned for 25–26 February 2026 in Bandung. Discussions focused on building a shared position on the bill, widening the movement’s support base, and designing broader public mobilization beyond policy circles. Planned outreach included campuses, cultural spaces, public discussions, film screenings, seminars, and engagement with Indigenous Peoples communities, students, farmers, labor groups, academics, artists, religious groups, women’s organizations, and wider civil society. The meeting resulted in agreement on the West Java consolidation plan, including possible venues, target participants, and sector coordinators. It also clarified roles for mobilization and political outreach, identified technical needs such as campaign materials and press conference preparation, and supported the drafting of a Terms of Reference and public discussion framework, including plans to invite DPR RI speakers and coalition policy experts. The coalition also agreed on next steps, including a working timeline and a joint agenda for engagement with DPR and regional legislative bodies.

#### IRI INDONESIA PARTICIPATES IN AMAN–IPRI WORKSHOP ON A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION, HIGHLIGHTING RISKS TO INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES

On 2 February 2026 in Jakarta, IRI Indonesia participated as an invited organization in a workshop on the Just Energy Transition organized by AMAN in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples Rights International (IPRI). The workshop brought together AMAN-affiliated Indigenous community representatives and partner NGOs to examine how Indonesia’s energy transition is being implemented and how so-called low-emission projects can still lead to land dispossession and violations of Indigenous Peoples’ rights. IRI Indonesia contributed to the panel discussion by stressing that a just energy transition should be measured not only by technology, but also by governance. This

includes recognition of Indigenous Peoples' territories, protection against forced land acquisition, and accountability for environmental and social harm. Participants raised concerns that some energy transition initiatives continue to threaten Indigenous-managed areas, damage ecosystems and biodiversity, create pollution, and increase violence and criminalization against communities defending their lands. A key outcome of the workshop was stronger shared narratives and commitments to promote an inclusive energy transition grounded in Indigenous Peoples' rights, human rights protections, and socio-ecological sustainability.

## IRI INDONESIA HOLDS INTERFAITH YOUTH GATHERING AND RAMADAN IFTAR TO INTRODUCE THE THEORY OF CHANGE AND BUILD YOUTH SUPPORT

On 27 February 2026 in Jakarta, IRI Indonesia hosted an interfaith youth gathering and Ramadan iftar to introduce the “No Forests, No Future” theory of change and build youth support for its programs and campaign implementation. The event brought together 26 participants, including 16 men and 10 women. Participants included youth officially delegated by religious institutions represented on the IRI Indonesia Advisory Council, as well as partners and networks such as Greenpeace, Ummah4Earth, Eco-Bhineka, Laudato si', IPB University, Universitas Nasional (UNAS), and the IRI Indonesia youth chapter. Through presentations, group discussions, and reflection sessions, participants reviewed the theory of change, shared input from their respective organizations, and discussed initial roles and follow-up actions to strengthen youth engagement and expand outreach. Key results included a shared understanding of the theory of change, stronger readiness and commitment among youth delegates to support IRI Indonesia's work, consolidated input from youth linked to Advisory Council institutions, early ideas for youth-led and interfaith-based activities, and agreement on immediate steps to expand youth participation and campaign reach.

## PERU

### IRI PERU CONVENES HIGH-LEVEL FAITH DIALOGUE ON LAUDATO SI' WITH CARDINAL MICHAEL CZERNY

On February 13, IRI Peru organized the conference “*Challenges for Faith Communities in Light of Laudato Si'*” at the CONFER auditorium in Lima, featuring Cardinal Michael Czerny, Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, accompanied by Apostolic Nuncio Paolo Rocco Gualtieri. The event brought together Catholic, evangelical, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Jewish, Bahá'í, Brahma Kumaris and Muslim representatives, alongside church leaders, Indigenous Peoples voices and environmental experts, including Ana María Palomino, Julio Cusurichi and

Manuel Pulgar-Vidal. With 106 in-person participants, radio and social media transmission, and coverage by Catholic and regional media outlets, the conference became a significant platform for positioning faith communities as moral actors in environmental protection, deforestation action and public responsibility. As the only event accepted into Cardinal Czerny's private agenda in Peru, it strengthened IRI Peru's visibility and convening power at the intersection of faith, ecology and public engagement.

## IRI PERU LOCAL CHAPTERS IN QUILLABAMBA, CUSCO AND PUERTO MALDONADO SET 2026 PRIORITIES

Between February 24 and 27, IRI Peru visited its local chapters in Quillabamba, Cusco and Puerto Maldonado to review 2025 progress and jointly define priorities and workplans for 2026. The meetings helped organize a shared agenda of interreligious activities and socio-political advocacy focused on rainforest protection and ethical civic participation, especially through the promotion of IRI Peru's ethical criteria for responsible voting. Planned actions include interfaith prayer gatherings, conferences on the theology of nature aimed at engaging additional denominations, and public conversations on ethical discernment in the electoral process. Strategically, the planning process strengthened coordination between local chapters and the IRI Peru national team, while translating broad environmental and democratic concerns into concrete territorial agendas rooted in interreligious collaboration and community-level advocacy for protecting rainforests.

## IRI PERU TRAINS CITIZENS ON ETHICAL VOTING AND CONSCIOUS ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION

From February 24 to 27, IRI Peru held four training workshops titled "Ethical Criteria for Choosing" in Quillabamba, Cusco and Checacupe, along with one virtual session for communities of the National University of San Marcos and the DECOS network, reaching 55 participants of different ages and faith backgrounds. The workshops created space for citizens to reflect on the relationship between protecting the Amazon, democratic responsibility and the need to elect authorities committed to life and the common good. Facilitators also addressed the emotional impact of the political climate, helping participants process frustration, anger and apathy before moving into practical tools for civic discernment. Using the "Electoral Traffic Light" methodology, participants explored how to assess political parties more calmly and systematically, drawing on official public information and shared discussion in families and communities. The trainings positioned informed voting as both a democratic responsibility and a moral practice.

## IRI PERU DEVELOPS MULTIMEDIA CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT THE “GRADE YOUR CANDIDATE” INITIATIVE

IRI Peru produced a new set of audio, video, web and print materials to support its “Grade Your Candidate” campaign under the broader No Forests, No Life framework. Designed for different audiences and communication channels, the campaign package includes an interactive Electoral Traffic Light webpage, flyers on ethical criteria and voting tools, radio spots, digital brochures, printed materials and short videos featuring faith leaders and young Amazonian voices. Together, these products are intended to make electoral discernment more accessible and actionable, equipping communities with practical resources to evaluate candidates through an ethical, environmental and civic lens. The materials also help translate IRI Peru’s advocacy into formats suitable for churches, radio stations, community groups and digital platforms, strengthening the campaign’s reach ahead of the April 12 general elections.

## IRI PERU EXPANDS MEDIA OUTREACH TO PROMOTE ETHICAL VOTING AND FAITH-BASED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In February, IRI Peru significantly expanded media outreach around its “Grade Your Candidate” campaign and the conference with Cardinal Michael Czerny through interviews and cross-platform broadcasting across regional and national outlets. National Facilitator, Laura Vargas, was interviewed by Radio y TV Oriente in Yurimaguas, Radio Onda Azul, and Radio y TV Quillabamba, helping position the campaign before audiences that together reach hundreds of thousands of listeners and viewers. The Czerny conference was also transmitted by a wide network of radio, television and digital media, including outlets in Amazonas, Loreto, Lima, Quillabamba, Madre de Dios and Jesuit social media channels. This communications effort amplified IRI Peru’s message well beyond the in-person events themselves, reinforcing its role as a credible faith-based voice on ethical elections, environmental responsibility, action to address deforestation, and public dialogue in Peru.