

# IMPACT

2025

## PERU

### Science-Driven Protection for Threatened Forests (2021–2025)

- 2025 capped five years of consequential, herpetological work in Peru. Across **12 expeditions** and a field training course, RP scientists have:
  - **Discovered and named 32 new species** (with 40 more pending description)
  - **Published 24 peer-reviewed scientific papers**
  - Strengthened Indigenous-led conservation and local community-managed areas
  - Delivered biodiversity datasets that Peru's regional and national agencies now rely on to guide management plans, justify new protected areas, and implement climate mitigation strategies
  - Partnered with NGOs with 25–40 years of experience to accelerate protection where political and ecological windows are rapidly closing
- **Biodiversity Expedition Highlight.** During a Cloudforest expedition in mid 2025, the RP herpetological team recorded:
  - **16 species of amphibians and 4 species of reptiles**, of which **5 amphibian species are new to science**.
  - Importance for conservation: all 16 amphibian species and three of the five reptile species recorded are endemic, distribution restricted to the Peruvian Yungas in Central Peru.
- **Scientific Contributions:** Rainforest Partnership Lead Herpetologist, Pablo Venegas, led another prolific year with the team:
  - Publishing **9 scientific journal articles** in 2025 describing **11 species of frogs new to science**, and articles on an endangered frog and conservation of venomous snakes endemic to Peru.
  - **Three additional journal articles** currently under review for publication covering 5 new species of lizards and 6 species of frogs and working on 6 additional articles.
  - **Goal for 2026 is to return to 5 planned expeditions**, a race against time; we are actively seeking funding.

## WORLD RAINFOREST DAY

**World Rainforest Day (WRD), June 22, Rainforest Partnership** launched **Planet Walkers**, a worldwide initiative to bring together forest enthusiasts across all 6 populated continents.

- More than **1M** people engaged on walks guided by indigenous leaders, scientists, rangers, and changemakers through the Earth's most vital ecosystems.



## FILMS FOR THE FOREST

- Received **72 Film submissions** in 2025 from **25 countries** for the theme: **More than Trees** across five categories:
  - Documentary Shorts
  - Narrative Shorts
  - Animated Shorts
  - Youth Category (Under 18)
  - Indigenous Category (Indigenous People & Local Communities - IPLC)



## ECUADOR

### Indigenous Youth Empowerment & Community Stewardship

Addressing root drivers of deforestation and migration, RP's long time indigenous project manager is building the next generation of Indigenous rainforest stewards:

- Completed and activated the **Sani Isla Youth Empowerment Center**, now fully operational as a permanent hub for youth leadership, learning and conservation. It now serves as an epicenter for preserving Kichwa culture & language.
- Expanded the local youth organization, including youth from neighboring communities focused on **45 youth** trained through **20 plus workshops** spanning permaculture, environmental impact, community health, cultural preservation.

### Indigenous Amazonian Women Leaders and Standing Forests: Women of the Rio Napo

Along Rio Napo, impacted by heavy-metal mining and oil extraction, the women across six Amazonian river communities continue to build livelihoods good for them and their rainforest ecosystems.

- **Ninety women across six communities** managed their fish ponds that produce an estimated 350 to 550 pounds of fish per pond annually, improving household food security and income, while providing autonomy and ability to withstand pressures that lead to deforestation.



## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

### Tropical Rainforest Industry Impact (TRII) Index:

- Rainforest Partnership proudly continued as a **Knowledge Partner** for the futur/io Institute, helping measure the rainforest impact of corporations nominated for the prestigious **CSO Awards** (Chief Sustainability Officers recognized for their leadership at companies with \$1B+ in annual revenue):
  - We scored 2 sets of companies in 2025 (Europe and North America) on their respective impact on rainforests and forests in general: and proactive efforts to mitigate them.
  - We further refined our methodology with greater focus on rainforests.
  - Our CEO, **Niyanta Spelman** served as a member of the Grand Jury for the **CSO Awards Europe** (Davos in January, alongside the World Economic Forum) and **CSO Awards North America** (New York Climate Week in September) and attended both along with other RP team members.

*In 2025, as the world retreated on climate and global commitments, we examined the fast changing global landscape and recommitted our unwavering focus on accelerating outsized results in preserving tropical rainforests. To do so, in 2026, we have embarked on critical work, internal, external and on ways to create sustainable revenue for our work. To that end, we remain grateful to our most steadfast, long-time supporters.*