



**Natura International** works to establish and strengthen protected areas that conserve biodiversity and safeguard natural ecosystems together with local cultural heritage across Latin America. Our mission centers on protecting landscapes that simultaneously uphold the twin goals of conserving the world's biological diversity and sustaining the vital ecosystem services upon which all life depends.

Our strategic approach targets catalytic opportunities where relatively modest investments can have major conservation impact. We prioritize the planet's tropical biodiversity hotspots — regions that harbor roughly half of all species within less than 3 % of the Earth's land area — with particular emphasis on forest-rich systems.

For each potential initiative, we evaluate three core dimensions: conservation value, cost, and feasibility. To assess value, we focus on areas with exceptional species richness (alpha diversity) and uniqueness (beta diversity), directing much of our work toward intact Amazonian rainforests and Andean cloud forests — two of the highest priorities for global conservation.

In 2025, we supported projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela with a diverse network of local conservation partners. Central to our strategy is strengthening the capacity of these on-the-ground organizations, enabling them to work effectively with governments and communities to secure protected status for critical high-biodiversity ecosystems.

**Cover photos, clockwise from upper left:** Serranía de Mandiyurenda Natural Area, Bolivia (*credit: Natura Bolivia*); Celebrating El Manchao Municipal Protected Area in Catamarca, Argentina (*credit: Natura Argentina*); Inuya River, Peru (*credit: Upper Amazon Conservancy*); Golden tanager (*Tangara arthus goodsoni*), Paz de las Aves, Nanegalito, Ecuador (*By Charles J. Sharp - Own work, from Sharp Photography, sharpphotography.co.uk, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=165303077>*)

# Key Achievements in 2025

## Mar Tropical de Grau Marine Reserve, Peru

Over the last year and a half, Natura International has helped to provide the funding for the creation and initial management of Peru's second marine reserve at the Mar Tropical de Grau, declared in April of 2024. **This 285,842-acre reserve protects the richest area of the Peruvian coast**, where the cold Humboldt meets the warmer tropical Guayaquil current, and contains 70% of the marine species found in Peru. Its iconic species include large populations of marlin, swordfish, and tuna, and is a migration corridor for endangered sea turtles. It also contains rich coral reefs, 12 of the 30 known species of whales, and several species of sharks. We thank the local communities, the Peruvian Park Service SERNANP, Nature and Culture International, and co-funders Andes Amazon Fund and Re:wild for their important roles in this successful project.

## Creation of Serranía de Mandiyurenda Natural Area, Bolivia

The Serrania de Mandiyurenda Natural Area of Integrated Management and Community Protection of Water and Biodiversity, was declared in April 2025 by the Huacaya Guaraní Indigenous Government in southern Bolivia. **This new natural integrated management area covers over 200,000 acres of Chaco-Andean montane forest and is important for biodiversity and as a biological corridor.** It was established to protect habitats for species like jaguars and pumas and to promote sustainable livelihoods and Guaraní culture. Natura International's support to Natura Bolivia allowed it to continue to provide its technical assistance to this project over the final months when other funding sources had run out. We are also supporting Natura Bolivia in creating water funds in several cities to promote sustainable management of protected areas.

## Achieving Title for the Alto Esperanza Indigenous Community, Peru

In Ucayali in central eastern Peru, we have been supporting Upper Amazon Conservancy (UAC) to **gain territorial rights over 165,000 acres of Amazon rainforests for the Amahuaca Indigenous peoples** in Alto Esperanza, central Peru. UAC had a major success this year, in getting the community title officially approved by the government, making it the first community in "initial contact" to obtain title to its lands in Peru's history. This is a huge step, but remaining efforts are needed to remove the forestry concessions that cover part of its area to remove the threat of clearcutting. Re:wild has also been a principal funder of this area.



# Ongoing projects supported in 2025

## Conservation of 17 million acres of the Venezuelan Amazon

Our partner Wataniba is working with the Indigenous Uwottuja and Ye'kwana peoples to enhance their social and sustainable development, and help conserve 17 million acres of their land in southern Venezuela -- one of the two least intervened areas of Amazon forest on the continent. Wataniba has been working to support these Indigenous peoples for 15 years, to: 1) establish recognition of the rights of the Yanomami, Uwottuja and Ye'kwana over the ancestral territory that they occupy; 2) formalize the relationship of these Indigenous nations as co-management entities for the national parks within their territories, and 3) add 1+ million acres of protected land by creating legal recognition of Indigenous ownership in land that is outside of the parks. In addition to supporting Wataniba directly, we also provided support to the Northern Amazon Alliance, a group of NGOs including Wataniba, working together on a strategy of protected area connectivity between the Andes, the Amazon and the Atlantic Ocean.

## Argentina Protected Areas



We are supporting our partner Natura Argentina in working to create several major protected areas in Argentina, including the Sierras de Famatina in La Rioja province, the Uspallata Valley of Mendoza, and cloud forests of Catamarca and Jujuy. Natura Argentina also seeks to implement the management of two areas it helped to establish. In one, the Ansenusa National Park created in 2022, the team continues to work with the municipalities surrounding the park area, as well as for a possible extension of the protected area east to the wetlands of the Rio Dulce. In the second, in Catamarca Province, Natura Argentina is working with the three municipalities that established their reserves in November 2024 to form a connected landscape of 335,000 acres that protects Chaco, Yungas, montane forests, and high Andes ecosystems. The current focus is to establish participatory management plans for each area that will guide future actions to conserve their rich biodiversity and safeguard essential water resources. World Land Trust is also a principal funder of this area.

## Santa Elena Provincial Reserve and Choco Forests, Ecuador

We support Paisajes Sostenibles (PASOS) in implementing almost 2.5 million acres of natural reserves it helped to create in the Choco and dry forests of western Ecuador, with support as well from Andes Amazon Fund. A particular focus has been the establishment and expansion of the Santa Elena Provincial Protected Areas System, which currently protects 156,800 acres and aims to reach almost 277,000 acres, including areas designated as municipal reserves. This system will safeguard one of the largest remaining tracts of Tumbesian coastal dry forest in Ecuador, an ecosystem internationally recognized for its exceptional endemism and unique humid forests. Once fully expanded, the reserve is projected to conserve over 80% of the remaining native forests in the province of Santa Elena, ensuring long-term protection of its threatened biodiversity.

## Maijuna Community Empowerment, Peru

We are working with OnePlanet to support the Maijuna community in practicing its traditional lifestyles while protecting the million-acre Maijuna-Kichwa Regional Conservation Area and its pristine Amazon rainforests. A major element in this effort has been to support the community in its defense against the El Estrecho Road Project that threatens to bisect the reserve. In 2025, OnePlanet helped the Maijuna build and strengthen alliances with ten other Indigenous federations in the region surrounding the proposed highway, and work to raise awareness and create a united Indigenous front against this road project whose social, environmental and economic costs far outweigh its potential benefits.

## Salas Community – Spectacled Bear Conservation, Peru

The Spectacled Bear Conservation - Peru team are working to protect the habitat of the Spectacled Bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*), also known as the Andean Bear, within a conservation mosaic in the Lambayeque region. We are supporting the plan to help the Salas community establish a 24,000-acre community reserve. Significant progress was made in 2025 regarding social engagement, defining the boundary of the conservation reserve, and community capacity building. Formal validation of the reserve proposal and launching the official Peruvian recognition process we hope will take place in early 2026. In the broader landscape initiative, SBC was able to purchase 5,000 acres to protect a vital feeding and connectivity corridor, and continued collaborative monitoring of the bear population.

## Shawi Nation Protected Area, Peru

Our partner Amazonicos por la Amazonía (AMPA) is providing technical support to the leaders of the Shawi Nation to promote a community-based conservation initiative to safeguard approximately 143,000 acres of their ecologically-rich ancestral territory, under threat from a 34-mile road project. The main objective is to ensure the legal protection of their territorial security while developing a collaborative relationship based on trust. In tandem, special emphasis is placed on raising environmental awareness among children, recognizing them as key agents for the present and future conservation of their territory

# 2025 Financial Report

Natura International works to be as efficient as possible with its funds, and we are proud that 94% of our 2025 expenses directly supported our Latin American conservation programs.

In 2025, we raised over \$887,000, and we would like to thank our individual and foundation donors whose generous support allowed us to significantly increase our scope of grants in 2025 to fund on-the-ground conservation programs! We recognize and thank the following foundations for their support: the March Conservation Fund, Merlin Foundation, Starfall Education Foundation, Oregon Community Trust, Wild Waters Foundation, Wild Woods Foundation and Viridi Futuro Foundation.

