

People have lived Amazonia for at least 13,000 years. About 34 million live there today. Human activity over the past century—mining, logging, cattle ranching, agriculture, oil and gas drilling—has put unsustainable pressures on its ecosystems. The good news: Protected areas are increasing, as are efforts to curb deforestation. Experts say the key to long-term success will be managing Amazonia as an integrated natural system. The health of the region—and the world's ability to cope with climate change—will depend on it.



HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS
The Amazon is the world's largest river system. Hydropower supplies more than a third of Ecuador's and Bolivia's electricity and about a fourth of Peru's. But deforestation is reducing rainfall and river flow, which also affects fish migration between the mouth of the Amazon and the upper water-

- Protected natural area
-  Indigenous territory
- Isolated group
-  Protected natural area and indigenous territory

Map Key

Land cover

- Evergreen forest
- High density
- Low density
- Subject to flooding

Other

- Cropland
- Grassland
- Permanent wetland
- Savanna

Road

- Paved or being paved
- Unpaved
- Planned

Hydroelectric plant

- Operating or under construction
- Planned or potential

— Amazon Basin extent

AZIMUTHAL EQUIDISTANT PROJECTION
 SCALE 1:8,500,000
 1 CENTIMETER = 85 KILOMETERS; 1 INCH = 134 MILES

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