

Elaborating a Sustainable Development Plan in a Tri-national Frontier Region in the Southwestern Amazon

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In looking to solve problems brought on by the paving of the Interoceanic Highway in the MAP region (Madre de Dios, Peru, Acre, Brazil and Pando, Bolivia) of the southwestern Amazon, representatives from governmental institutions, NGOs and civil society from the three countries elaborated a tri-national sustainable development plan to minimize indirect impacts of highway paving. The MAP region still holds 96% of its forest cover. In recent years, changes in land use have led to increased deforestation and forest degradation in the region, creating the need for a sustainable development plan. Since such planning involves different countries that divide territories and resources through official borders, the challenge is to identify adequate instruments for the management of tri-national spaces, while considering the sovereignty rights inherent to each country. One of these instruments is the "Carta Consulta," a document whose objective is to mitigate indirect social-environmental conflicts resulting from the paving of the Interoceanic Highway, protecting forest resources and their sustainable use by communities. This document was constructed with a 10-year vision and an external loan value of US\$48,000,000 and outlines planned interventions in four thematic areas: management, economics, environment and society. This document is unique in that it contains tri-national plans for the different thematic areas, including the creation of 15 tri-national programs that value US\$10,000,000. Although the plan has yet to be implemented, the elaboration of the "Carta Consulta" is an innovative result of three countries' active participation in wanting to solve shared problems in a cooperative way.

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