

Mamirauá Declaration on Biodiversity Monitoring in Amazonia

An International Alliance for Biodiversity Monitoring and Conservation

Executive summary

The Mamirauá Declaration brings together Amazonian governments, scientific institutions, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector in a unified commitment to protect the Amazon's unparalleled biodiversity and cultural heritage. Motivated by mounting threats such as deforestation, climate change, and unsustainable resource use, the Mamirauá Declaration establishes an international alliance with strong regional leadership, grounded in the priorities and capabilities of the Amazonian countries, to promote collaborative, participatory, technology-enabled biodiversity monitoring throughout the Amazon Basin, integrating traditional knowledge with modern science. Signatories pledge to foster open and ethical data governance, support capacity-building and the mobilization of sustainable financing mechanisms, contribute to the development and adoption of compatible monitoring protocols between countries, respecting their sovereignties, and ensure alignment with global environmental agreements and Indigenous rights.

Preamble

Recognizing the Amazon Basin as one of the most ecologically significant and biologically diverse regions on Earth, and its critical role in regulating the global climate, storing carbon, protecting freshwater resources, and supporting the cultures, health, and livelihoods of millions of people;

Affirming that Amazonian ecosystems and biodiversity have intrinsic value beyond their utility to humanity;

Recognizing the unique diversity of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities within the Amazon, and reaffirming their rights as guaranteed in the United Nations Declaration on the

Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant international instruments, as well as the essential role of women, youth, and marginalized groups in shaping effective and just solutions;

Acknowledging the principles and recommendations of the Manaus Letter on Participatory Biodiversity Monitoring, which emphasize the central role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in ecological stewardship and knowledge co-production;

Acknowledging the principles and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the commitments under the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), and the Belém Declaration adopted at the Amazon Summit in 2023, which reaffirmed regional cooperation, Indigenous leadership, and the urgency of halting deforestation and promoting sustainable development across the Amazon;

Recognizing the importance of regional cooperation among Amazonian countries and respect for national sovereignty in promoting collective action for the conservation and sustainable use of the region's shared resources;

Recognizing the urgent need for increased, sustained, and innovative financial and technical support, including resource mobilization for effective biodiversity monitoring and conservation interventions across the Amazon;

Stressing the need to strengthen environmental governance, enforce relevant national and international laws, address illegal activities such as unauthorized mining, logging, and wildlife trafficking, and combat corruption affecting the region;

Highlighting the importance of building ecosystem and community resilience and supporting local adaptation strategies in the face of accelerating climate change impacts;

Recognizing that biodiversity monitoring is essential for assessing ecosystem health, detecting changes, and guiding conservation policies, and that robust monitoring underpins evidence-based policymaking, adaptive management, and the achievement of national and global biodiversity targets;

Concerned by the growing threats facing Amazonian ecosystems – including deforestation, climate change, pollution, and unsustainable exploitation of resources—and underscoring the urgent need for coordinated, science-based, inclusive, and culturally respectful action;

Emphasizing the critical role of restoring degraded Amazonian landscapes to recover biodiversity, ecosystem services, and livelihoods;

Recognizing that past and present biodiversity monitoring efforts have been fragmented and insufficiently funded across national boundaries, and stressing the importance of fostering collaboration, co-production of knowledge, and long-term partnerships among scientific institutions, policymakers, and civil society.

We, the undersigned, hereby adopt the following Mamirauá Declaration:

I. Purpose

The Mamirauá Declaration on Biodiversity Monitoring aims to establish a landmark international alliance uniting governments, scientific institutions, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to promote a cross-border, standardized, integrated, and technology-enabled biodiversity monitoring effort across the Amazon Basin to inform conservation and restoration policies, protect the ecological and cultural integrity of the Amazon, and benefit its peoples.

II. Principles

1. Participatory Governance.

Establish inclusive, representative, and transparent governance mechanisms that ensure the effective, informed, and equitable participation of all stakeholders.

2. Cross-Sectoral Collaboration.

Promote collaboration among governments, scientific institutions and networks, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

3. Equitable Partnerships.

Establish partnerships that integrate traditional and local knowledge with modern technologies, ensuring equity and respect.

4. Recognition of Existing Initiatives.

Acknowledge and strengthen existing biodiversity monitoring efforts, supporting their harmonization, integration, and enhancement.

5. Respect for Public Policies.

Recognize and support existing national and regional public policies related to biodiversity conservation, climate adaptation, and sustainable development, ensuring that monitoring efforts are aligned with and contribute to policy implementation and effectiveness.

6. Capacity Building.

Invest in training and capacity development for all stakeholders, including data management and analytical skills.

7. Technological Innovation.

Promote and invest in new technologies to scale biodiversity monitoring and improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

8. Open Data and Governance.

Promote open data infrastructure and governance by applying the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics), and TRUST (Transparency, Responsibility, User Focus, Sustainability, Technology) principles, in accordance with national legal frameworks and respecting the informational sovereignty of Amazonian countries.

9. Science-Based Indicators.

Develop and apply indicators grounded in science to support timely and effective decision-making at local, national, and global levels.

10. Transparency and Accountability.

Ensure transparent reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of biodiversity actions to build trust and credibility.

11. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Affirm the right of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to give or withhold consent for any activity affecting their lands, resources, or cultural heritage.

12. Adaptive Management.

Commit to adjusting strategies based on monitoring results, emerging challenges, and new scientific knowledge.

13. Sustainable Financing.

Promote innovative funding mechanisms and long-term resource mobilization to guarantee continuity of biodiversity monitoring and development of new technologies.

14. Risk Management and Safeguards.

Implement safeguards to prevent social, environmental, and governance risks, ensuring the protection of human rights and biodiversity integrity.

15. Regional Cooperation.

Strengthen collaboration among Amazonian countries through agreed mechanisms, with the aim of technically harmonizing monitoring efforts and facilitating the

exchange of data and knowledge, while respecting the legal frameworks and sovereignty of each State.

III. Priority Actions for Implementation

To operationalize the principles outlined in this Declaration, signatories commit, within their scope of action, to the following priority actions:

1. Regional Coordination Platforms.

Establish inclusive mechanisms for cross-border collaboration, enabling governments, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, researchers, and civil society to share knowledge and coordinate biodiversity monitoring efforts.

2. Standardized Monitoring Protocols.

Co-develop compatible indicators and methodologies between countries that articulate scientific knowledge with traditional and local knowledge, respecting national legal and institutional frameworks, with a view to technical interoperability and strengthening regional cooperation.

3. Capacity Strengthening.

Invest in training, infrastructure, and digital tools to empower stakeholders – especially local communities and Indigenous organizations – to lead and sustain monitoring activities.

4. Sustainable Financing.

Mobilize long-term resources through national and international mechanisms – including public budgets, climate and biodiversity funds, philanthropic capital, and innovative blended finance models – fostering synergies between sectors and instruments.

5. Ethical Data Governance.

Apply the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), CARE (Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics), and TRUST (Transparency, Responsibility, User Focus, Sustainability, Technology) principles, in addition to adopting best practices and international biodiversity data standards and protocols, to guide responsible data stewardship.

6. Respect for Indigenous Rights.

Ensure Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for all activities affecting Indigenous territories, resources, and cultural heritage, in accordance with international human rights standards.

7. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning.

Develop transparent systems for tracking progress, assessing outcomes, and adapting strategies based on scientific evidence and stakeholder input.

IV. Integration with National Policies

To maximize impact, signatories will work to align the principles and actions of the Mamirauá Declaration with national biodiversity strategies, climate adaptation plans, and sustainable development policies. This includes incorporating the Declaration's principles, priorities, implementation frameworks and ethical standards into national legislation and planning frameworks and fostering intergovernmental dialogue to harmonize approaches across Amazonian countries.

V. Implementation Framework

To ensure the effective realization of the Mamirauá Declaration, signatories commit to a phased and collaborative implementation approach. This framework outlines key stages and responsibilities to guide coordinated action across Amazonia and ensure steady progress, transparency, and accountability in achieving the Declaration's objectives:

1. Short-Term (1–2 Years)

- Establish regional coordination platforms and inclusive governance mechanisms.
- Co-develop standardized biodiversity monitoring protocols and indicators and adopt international standards and protocols for biodiversity data.
- Initiate capacity-building programs for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, researchers and institutions supported by international knowledge exchange among Amazon Basin countries and global partners and strengthened through technical cooperation networks.
- Secure long-term financing through innovative and blended mechanisms combining public, private, and international resources, including climate and biodiversity funds.
- Expand and enhance technology-enabled monitoring systems and data infrastructure, considering interoperability with national biodiversity infrastructures.

2. Medium-Term (3–5 Years)

- Integrate the Declaration's principles into national biodiversity strategies and legal frameworks.

- Institutionalize adaptive management and continuous learning across monitoring networks.

3. Long-Term (Beyond 5 Years)

- Achieve technical interoperability between national biodiversity data systems, respecting the regulatory frameworks and informational sovereignty of each country.
- Consolidate Amazonian biodiversity monitoring as a key contributor to global environmental and biodiversity data infrastructures, such as those promoted through the Global Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the Global Research Infrastructure Forum, and other international science-policy interfaces, to strengthen early warning systems, guide climate adaptation, and inform global decision-making.
- As part of this long-term vision, the Mamirauá Declaration seeks to strengthen the Amazon as a global reference in scientific innovation and conservation, respecting national frameworks for research, development, and territorial protection.

Oversight and Coordination

A governance body or working group will be established to oversee implementation, facilitate collaboration, monitor progress, and ensure transparency. This entity will include representatives from governments, scientific institutions, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and non-governmental organizations, and will coordinate with existing regional organizations such as ACTO.

VI. Alignment with Global Frameworks and Agreements

The Mamirauá Declaration aligns with key global frameworks, including the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Rio Declaration, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AI for Good initiative. It also upholds the rights of Indigenous Peoples as outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and complements the regional cooperation goals of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), further reinforced by the Belém Declaration. By building on these commitments, the Declaration translates international principles into coordinated, inclusive action for biodiversity monitoring and conservation across Amazonia.

VII. Public Engagement and Communication

Recognizing the importance of public awareness and inclusive participation, signatories commit to disseminating the Mamirauá Declaration and its outcomes in accessible formats and languages, including Indigenous languages. Outreach efforts will include community engagement campaigns, educational materials, and open-access platforms for sharing biodiversity data and monitoring results, fostering transparency and public trust.

VIII. Signatories

We, the undersigned, affirm our commitment to the purpose, principles, and actions outlined in the Mamirauá Declaration on Biodiversity Monitoring in Amazonia. By endorsing this Mamirauá Declaration, we pledge to collaborate across borders, sectors, and communities to strengthen biodiversity monitoring, promote conservation and restoration, and uphold the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

We invite governments, Indigenous and local community organizations, research institutions, civil society groups, and private sector actors across the Amazon region and beyond to join this collective effort. Through our shared commitment, we aim to build a resilient, inclusive, and science-based foundation for safeguarding the ecological and cultural integrity of Amazonia for generations to come.