

The Tropical Andes Hotspot

Ecosystem Profile Summary



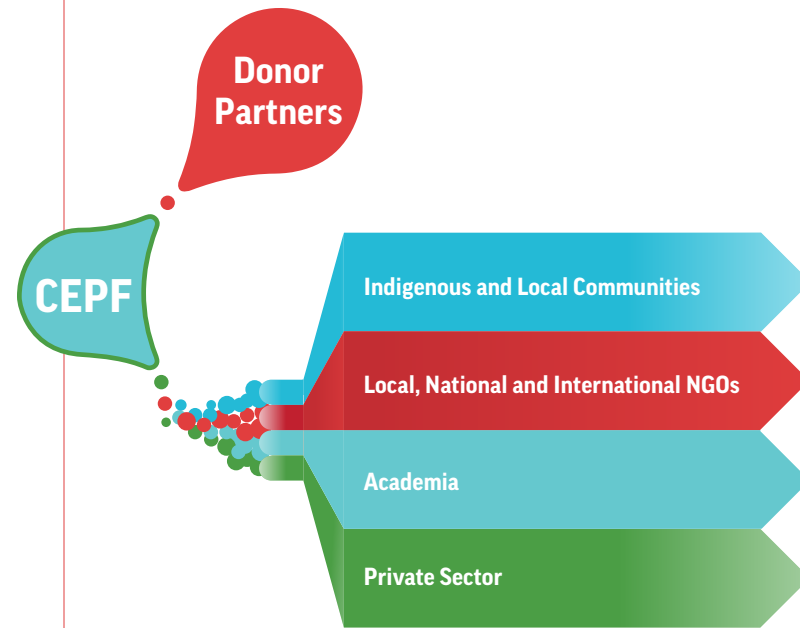
About CEPF

Biodiversity is fundamental to a healthy planet and thriving communities, but the world's species are under extreme threat.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) fills a unique, strategic role in addressing the extinction crisis by mobilizing and empowering civil society—nongovernmental organizations, communities, Indigenous peoples groups, academic entities and more—to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots. Since 2001, CEPF has catalyzed enduring, locally led biodiversity conservation through more than US\$278 million in grants to over 2,660 organizations in 109 developing and transitional countries. Results include more than 16 million hectares of new protected areas established, 1,100 threatened species supported, and more than 4,300 communities benefiting.

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. CEPF's program in Ecuador is financed by the German Government through KfW.

How CEPF Works



Forest of polylepis trees, Bolivia. © Marcia Salvatierra

Cover photos left to right:
 Páramo Los Nevados National Park, Colombia © O. Langrand
 Ecuador Cochran frog (*Nymphargus griffithsi*), El Plata community, Carchi Province, Ecuador © Victor Eduardo Obando Clavijo

The Hotspot

The Tropical Andes is one of 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world that together cover 16.7% of the Earth's land surface. Most hotspots are in tropical countries that have complex political systems and face major economic and human development challenges.

The Tropical Andes Hotspot covers vast areas of Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru as well as sections of Venezuela, Chile and Argentina. Its 158 million hectares exceed the area of France, Spain and Germany combined.

The hotspot's diverse climates along with its complex geography and geology have allowed for the evolution of multiple habitats and extraordinary biological diversity, resulting in the Tropical Andes having the highest level of biodiversity of any of the world's biodiversity hotspots. The mountains, valleys and plateaus of the Tropical Andes also have among the highest concentrations of endangered species in the world.

It is the main source of water for the 59.7 million people living in the hotspot—including four capital cities—and for millions who live outside the hotspot's boundaries. The Tropical Andes also has the second largest irrecoverable carbon stock of the 36 hotspots.

Tropical Andes Hotspot



Biological Importance of the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot

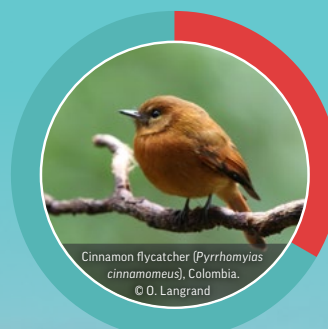
It is the
**MOST SPECIES-RICH
HOTSPOT ON THE PLANET,**
both in absolute number of species and in total
number of endemic species, except for reptiles.

IT IS HOME TO MORE THAN
30,000
SPECIES OF VASCULAR PLANTS,
accounting for about
10% of the world's
species.



IT HAS A COMPLEX
MOSAIC OF
**MORE THAN
130**

ECOSYSTEMS
WITH PARTICULARLY
HIGH BIODIVERSITY.



BIRD DIVERSITY IS GREATER IN THE TROPICAL ANDES
THAN IN ANY OTHER HOTSPOT—more than
2,000 SPECIES OF BIRDS ARE
FOUND HERE AND ONE-THIRD
OF THEM ARE ENDEMIC.

THE HOTSPOT'S RICH WILDLIFE
INCLUDES NEARLY
600 SPECIES OF
MAMMALS,
WHICH CONSTITUTES



OF THE GLOBAL
DIVERSITY OF
THIS GROUP.

WITH
1,120
SPECIES OF AMPHIBIANS,
IT IS THE
**MOST DIVERSE
AMPHIBIAN HOTSPOT**
IN THE WORLD.

Cultural Importance of the Hotspot

The Tropical Andes is a region of exceptional cultural diversity.



Indigenous women receive certificates at handicrafts workshop. © Charles Ebelio Romay Mérida

THE REGION IS
HOME TO 10 MILLION
 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
 FROM MORE THAN
50 ETHNIC GROUPS.



Resident of a community near the Q'eros-Koshipata Regional Conservation Area, Peru. © Michell Leon/Pronaturaleza



Threats

The greatest threats to the hotspot are climate change, mining, deforestation and agricultural encroachment.

Colombia, Ecuador and northern and central Peru are at the greatest risk.

3.9 million hectares were deforested in the region between 2001 and 2019.

New road construction is a catalyst for other threats (such as mining, agriculture and urban growth).

Tragically, environmental defenders and leaders are the targets of violence and assassinations in some areas.



Deforestation, Bolivia. © Trond Larsen

Key Results

of CEPF's 2015–2019 Investment



100
PROJECTS

implemented by 65 civil society organizations (55 local groups) with

US\$9.5 MILLION
in grants.



2.9

MILLION HECTARES

of Key Biodiversity Areas under improved management.

23 new protected areas covering

678,460 HECTARES

established with support from CEPF grantees.



286

SPECIES BENEFITED
(at least 70 Endangered or Critically Endangered).

74 SPECIES BELIEVED TO BE NEW TO SCIENCE DISCOVERED,
with
23 CONFIRMED.

39

Andean organizations strengthened.

9

Indigenous or ethnic groups supported.

5 CEPF Grantee Successes

1.

Support to the Consejo Regional T'simane Mosekene (CRTM) in Bolivia –which represents 23 Indigenous communities– resulted in the preparation of a management plan and “Life Plan” (Plan de Vida) for the Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve. The project represented a milestone in Bolivia, marking the first time that an Indigenous authority led the preparation of a management plan for a national protected area. The plan offered a guide to management priorities, which CEPF subsequently helped finance. One such project supported training of women in activities devoted to income generation and food security.



Pilon-Lajas, Bolivia. © Conservation International/photo by John Martin

2.

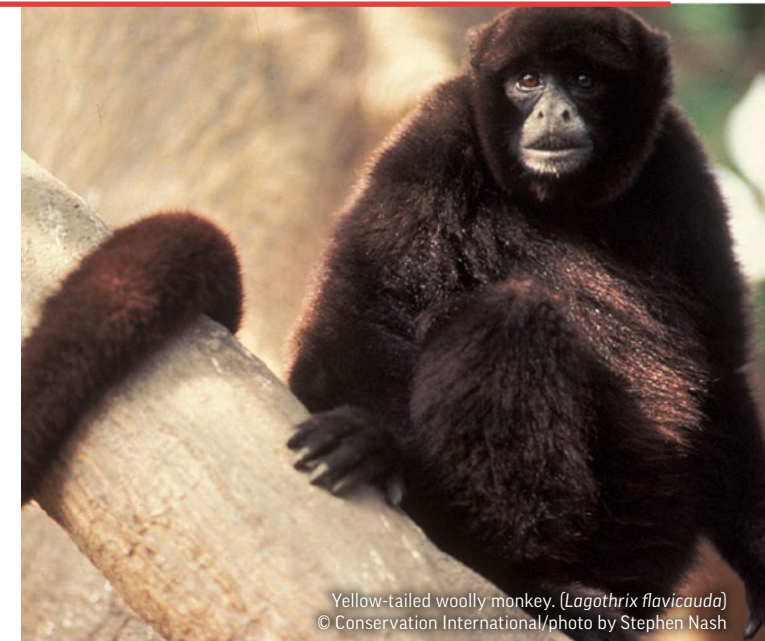


Pristimantis samanegoi. © UTPL

In southern Ecuador, the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja reported that its field surveys in the Abra de Zamora Key Biodiversity Area, a 6,671-hectare site located near the town of Loja, found 27 amphibian species of which 12 were new to science and 14 were endemic to the area. A single site with such localized amphibian endemism was considered a rarity in the hotspot. The field work and follow-up outreach galvanized local and national attention to secure funding and formal protection for the important site.

3.

In Peru, the regional government of Amazonas approved the action plan for the conservation of the Critically Endangered yellow-tailed woolly monkey (*Lagothrix flavicauda*) and the Endangered Andean night monkey (*Aotus miconax*). The plan was developed by the Peruvian organization Yunkawasi. As a direct result of Yunkawasi's efforts, the government of Peru issued 10 million commemorative one Sol coins to raise awareness of the plight and importance of the yellow-tailed woolly monkey. The action plan also contributed to Yunkawasi securing new funding to get vital habitat protected for the primates.



Yellow-tailed woolly monkey. (*Lagothrix flavicauda*) © Conservation International/photo by Stephen Nash

4.



Golden-naped tanager (*Chalcothraupis ruficervix*). © Guillermo Cantillo Figueroa

In Colombia, a grant to the Pialapí Pueblo Viejo Indigenous authority strengthened management of the La Planada Ecological Reserve through the establishment and implementation of a management plan. The associated installation of communications equipment proved to be a game changer. Previously, the reserve and surrounding communities worked in near isolation. The communications equipment gave reserve staff access to the outside world. The equipment proved to be essential during the COVID-19 shutdowns to communicate on public health and security concerns. In addition, youth in the community are learning how to use social media to raise public awareness of the site's importance for biodiversity and people.

5.

With the help of CEPF's Gender Toolkit and its Gender Tracking Tool, grantee Fundación Trópico in Colombia began factoring gender considerations into its projects and tracking its performance. While the organization scored 3 points out of 20 on the Gender Tracking Tool in 2017, it jumped to 13 points by 2020. Fundación Trópico achieved this improvement by weaving gender considerations into its projects, getting guidance and training from a consultant, and developing a monitoring system. It also worked with organization Asoriobravo to conduct gender workshops with 25 local leaders.



Woman prepares raw sugar in Colombia. © David Ramírez/ Fundación Trópico

Developing the Ecosystem Profile

Prior to providing funding to a hotspot, CEPF prepares an “ecosystem profile,” a hotspot assessment and conservation strategy. This document identifies the threats to biodiversity, the areas with the highest concentration of threatened species, the economic status of hotspot countries and conservation priorities.

The original ecosystem profile for the Tropical Andes was developed in 2001 and set the stage for CEPF’s initial investment in the hotspot, US\$8.13 million from 2001–2013. A new profile was developed in 2015, providing the strategy for CEPF’s 2015–2020 investment of US\$9.5 million. That profile was then updated in 2021 in advance of CEPF’s 2022–2027 investment. To read the complete ecosystem profile, visit cepf.net/TropicalAndesProfile2021.

Tibouchina granulosa, Coroico, Bolivia. © O. Langrand

CEPF Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

1

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Strengthen protection and management of 52 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) to foster participatory governance, green recovery from COVID-19, climate change resilience, species conservation and financial sustainability.

2

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In the seven priority corridors, collaborate with public and private-sector stakeholders to enable biodiversity conservation, a green recovery from COVID-19, and environmental, financial and social sustainability in benefit of the priority KBAs.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Facilitate the establishment, upgrading and/or expansion of public and private protected areas.
- Prepare and implement participatory management plans and other relevant KBA management instruments that support broad stakeholder collaboration.
- Strengthen land tenure, management and governance of Indigenous territories and campesino communities.
- Enable local communities to enter and remain in incentive programs that benefit biodiversity conservation.
- Promote and strengthen bio-enterprises that support biodiversity conservation and provide gender-equitable benefits to local communities.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Support participatory land-use and development plans and governance frameworks to foster a shared vision of conservation and sustainable development to guide future investments.
- Support the preparation of policies, programs and projects that foster biodiversity conservation, particularly at subnational levels, and that leverage funding for their implementation.
- Support the dissemination and integration of the conservation outcomes (threatened species, KBAs and corridors) in the strategic plans and public policies of governments, donors and the private sector.
- Establish and strengthen traditional and innovative financial mechanisms and leverage financing initiatives for conservation, including payments for ecosystem services, carbon credits and compensation mechanisms.
- Promote and scale up bio-enterprises to benefit communities, biodiversity, connectivity and ecosystem services.
- Promote private-sector actors and their associations to integrate conservation into their business practices and to implement corporate social responsibility policies and voluntary conservation commitments.
- Integrate biodiversity conservation objectives into policies and programs related to mining and infrastructure and promote related demonstration projects.
- Strengthen local capacity, facilitate public consultation, and support partnerships to implement mitigation measures (assess, avoid, mitigate and monitor impacts) in projects that present a risk to priority KBAs, with a focus on mining and infrastructure.

3

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Safeguard priority globally threatened species.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Prepare, implement and institutionalize conservation action plans that include climate change resilience for 183 Critically Endangered and Endangered species, and for select genera, presented in Appendix 13.3 of the ecosystem profile.
- Support strategies and information campaigns to combat illegal wildlife trafficking and hunting in the KBAs and conservation corridors.

4

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Cultivate a well-trained, well-coordinated and resilient civil society sector at the local, corridor and hotspot levels to achieve CEPF's conservation outcomes.

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

- Strengthen the institutional capacities (administrative, financial, fundraising, communications, governance and project management) of CEPF's strategic partners to implement biodiversity conservation programs.
- Strengthen the technical knowledge and skills of civil society through short-term courses to implement practical conservation actions based on an evaluation and training strategy.
- Support a security strategy and alliance to safeguard at-risk environmental and Indigenous defenders.
- Strengthen the strategic communication capacity of the media and civil society networks to create conservation awareness among the public and decision-makers.
- Strengthen the capacities and involvement of women in CEPF initiatives.
- Improve stakeholder cooperation and strengthen alliances, and foster information exchange and lessons learned. Strengthen the capacities and involvement of women in CEPF initiatives.

5

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In the hotspot, provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team (RIT).

INVESTMENT PRIORITIES

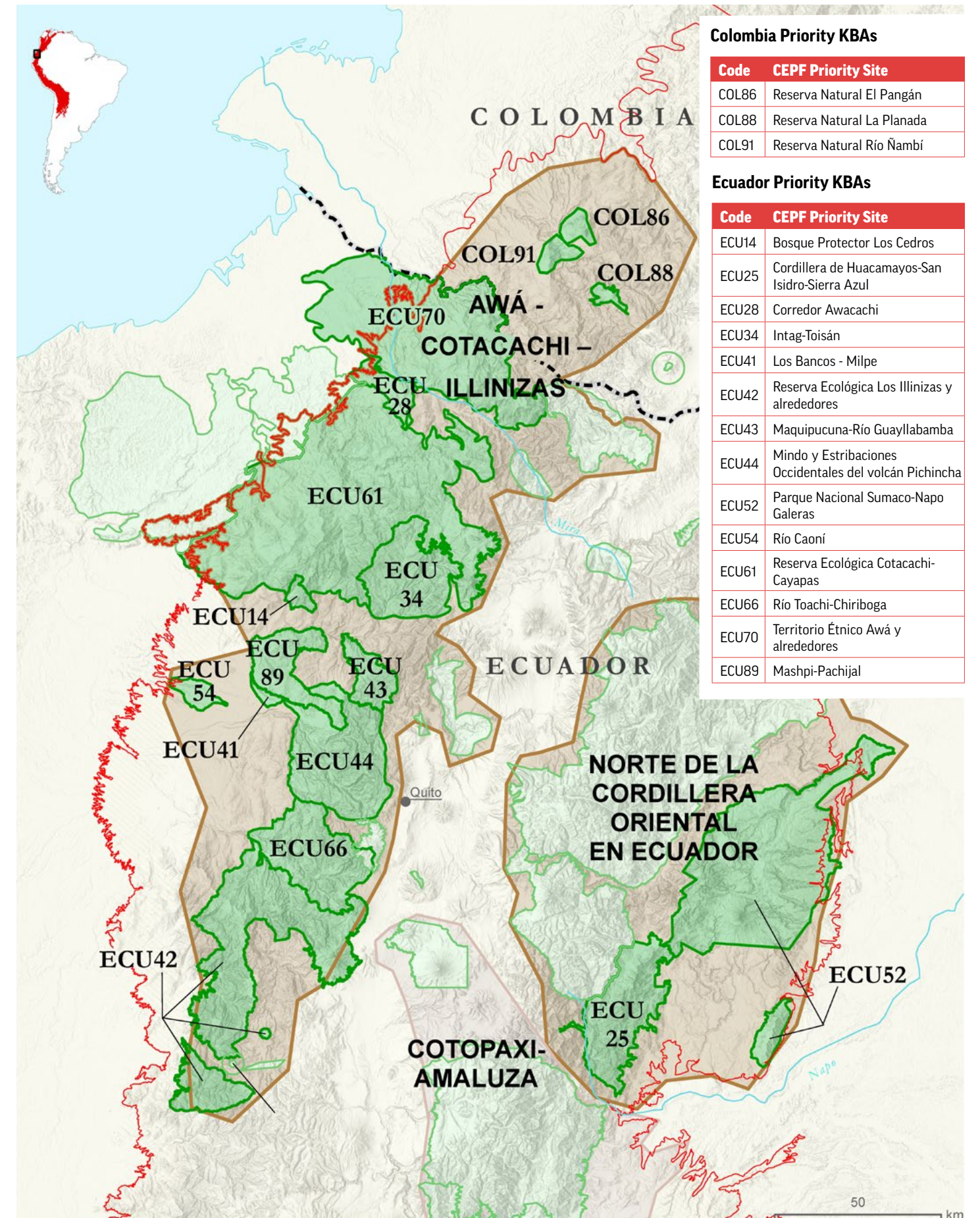
- Create a broad community of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries to strengthen their capacities and promote their long-term resilience, and to support CEPF's mission and conservation goals.

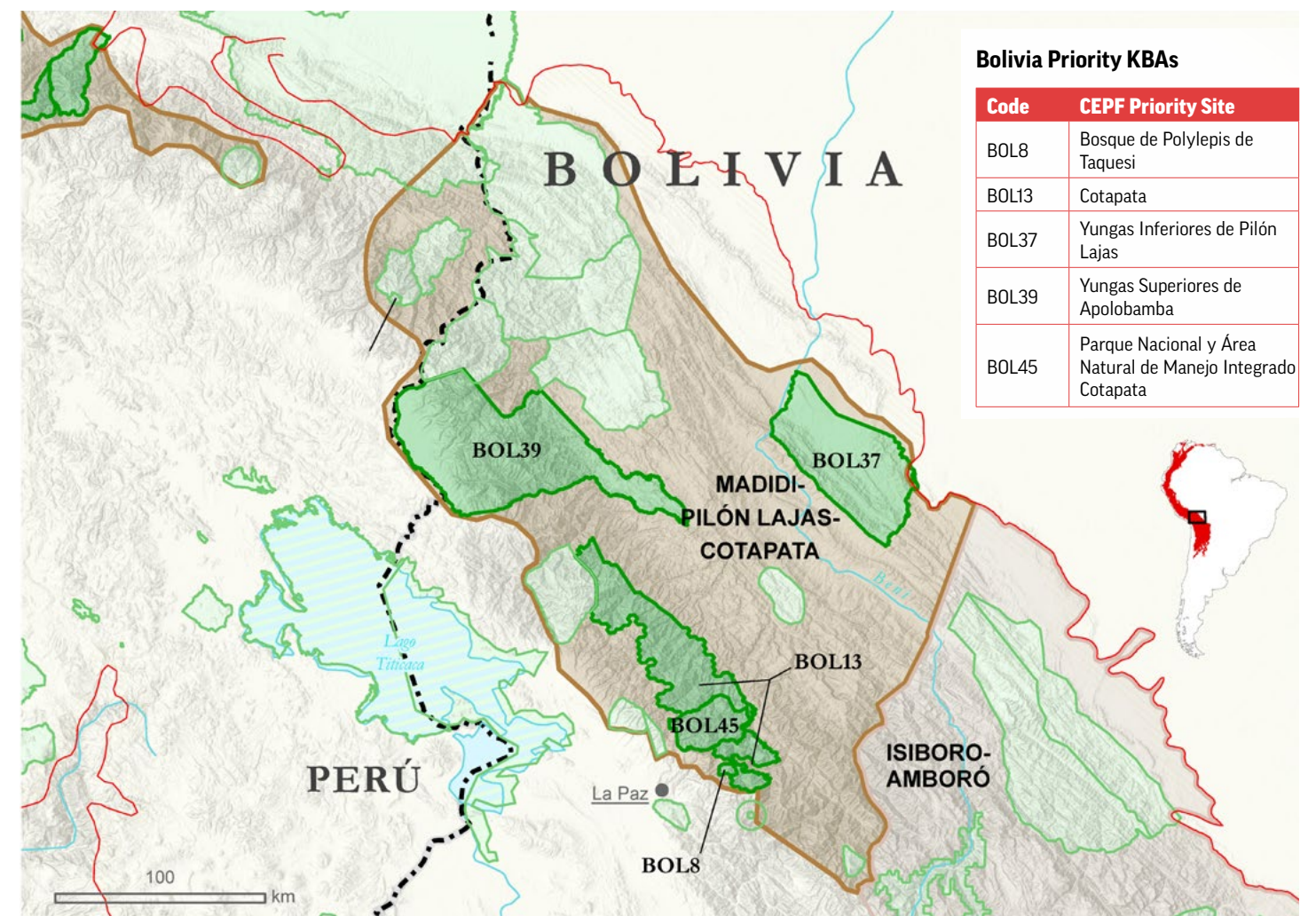
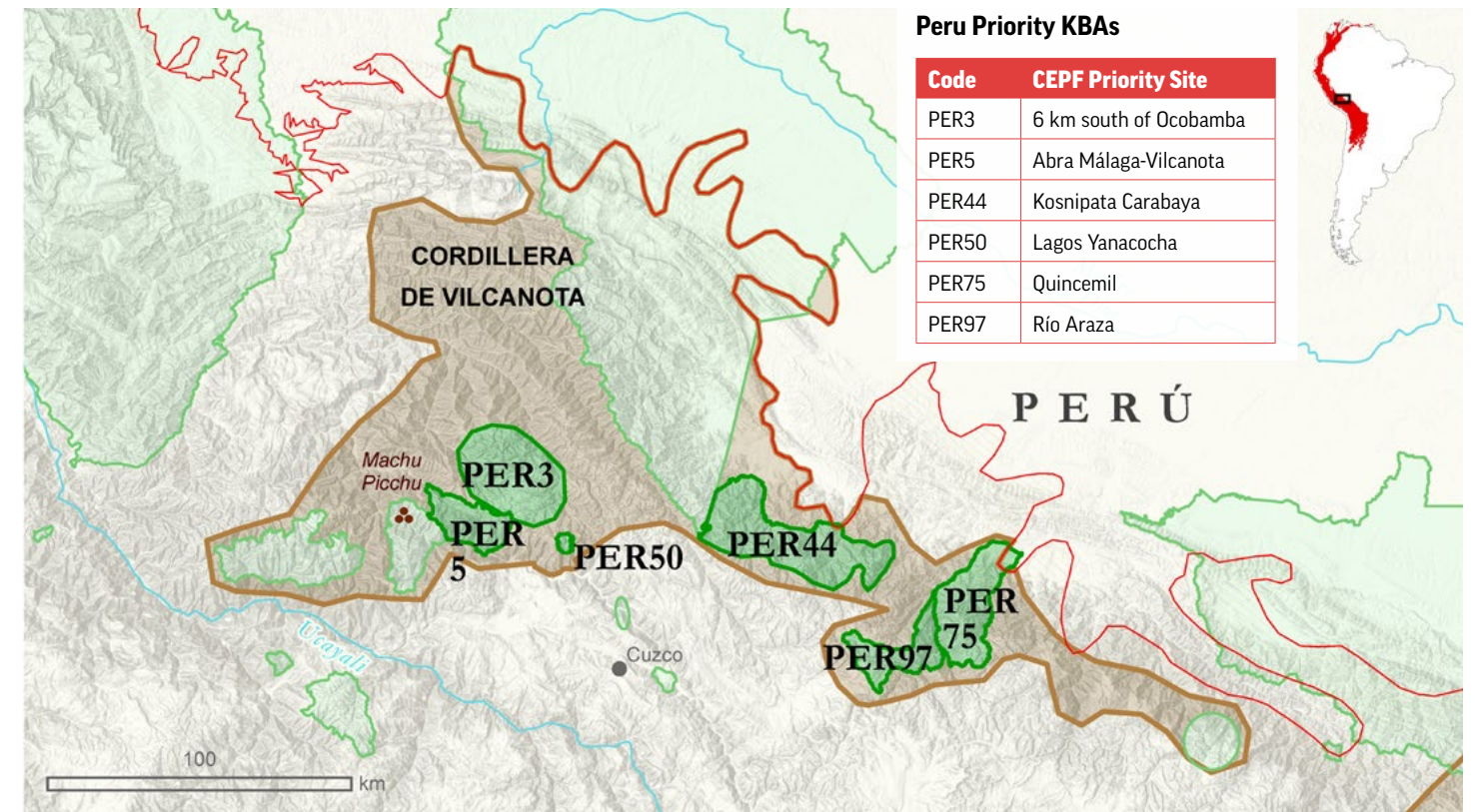
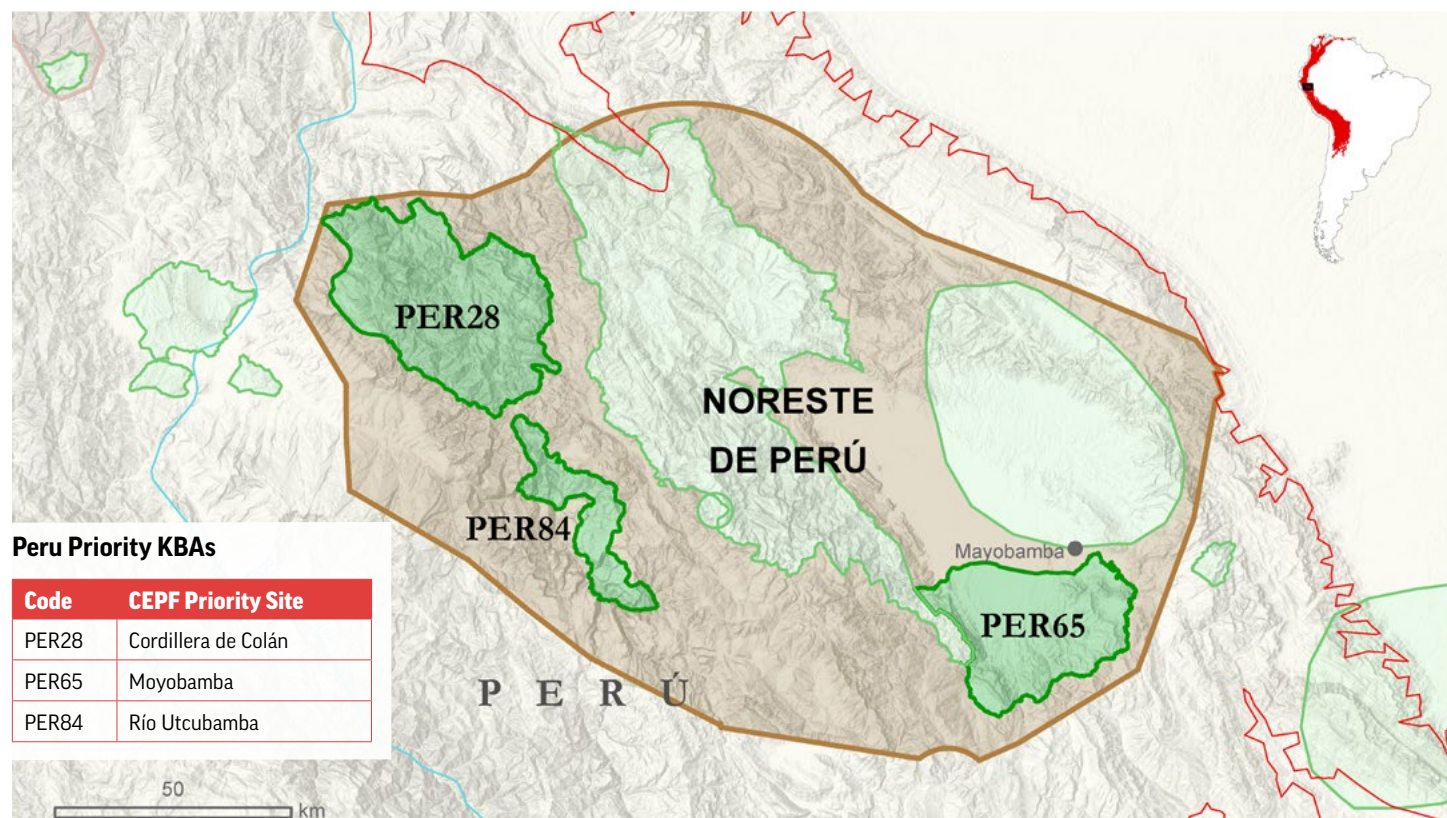
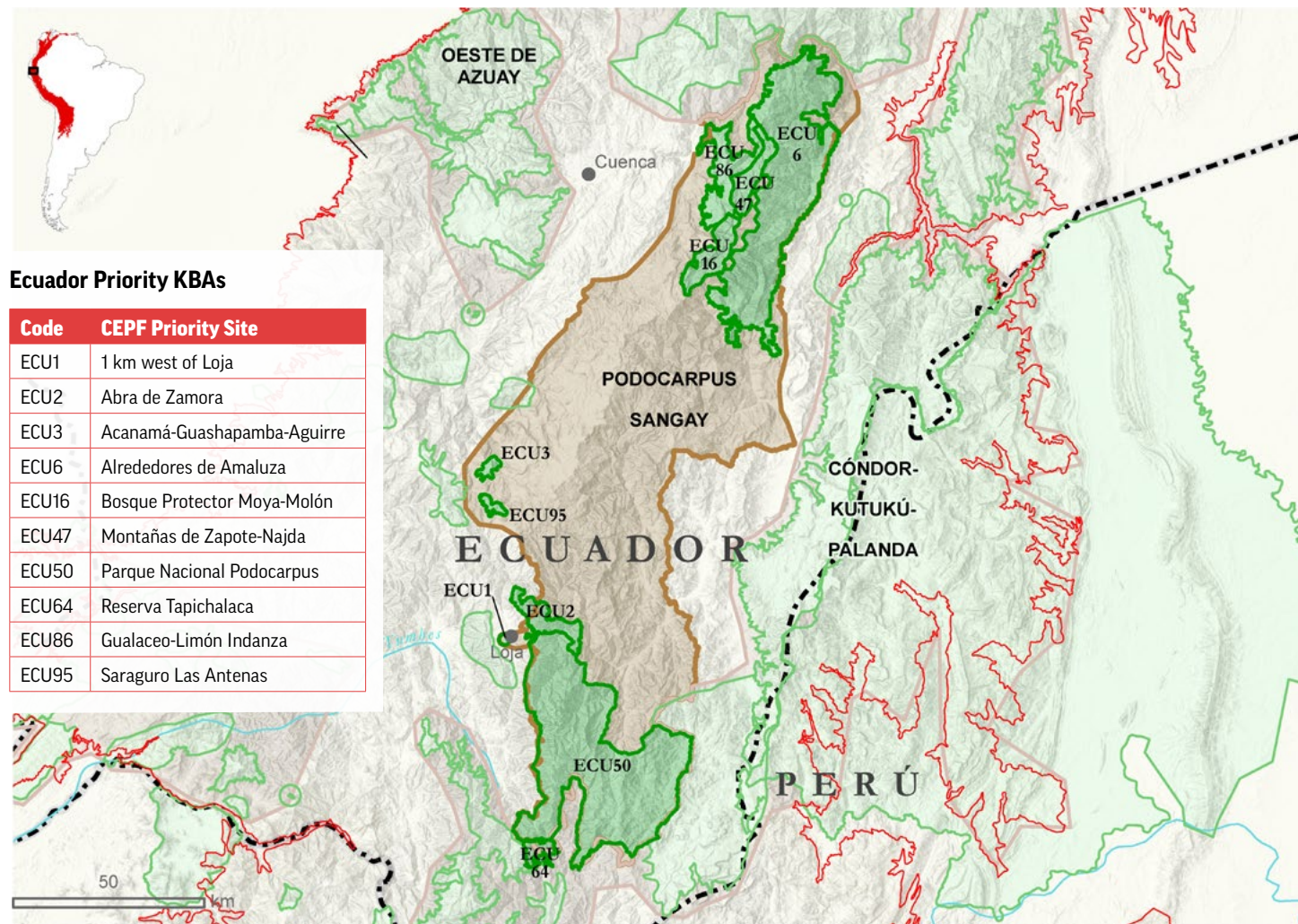
Priority Sites and Corridors for CEPF Investment

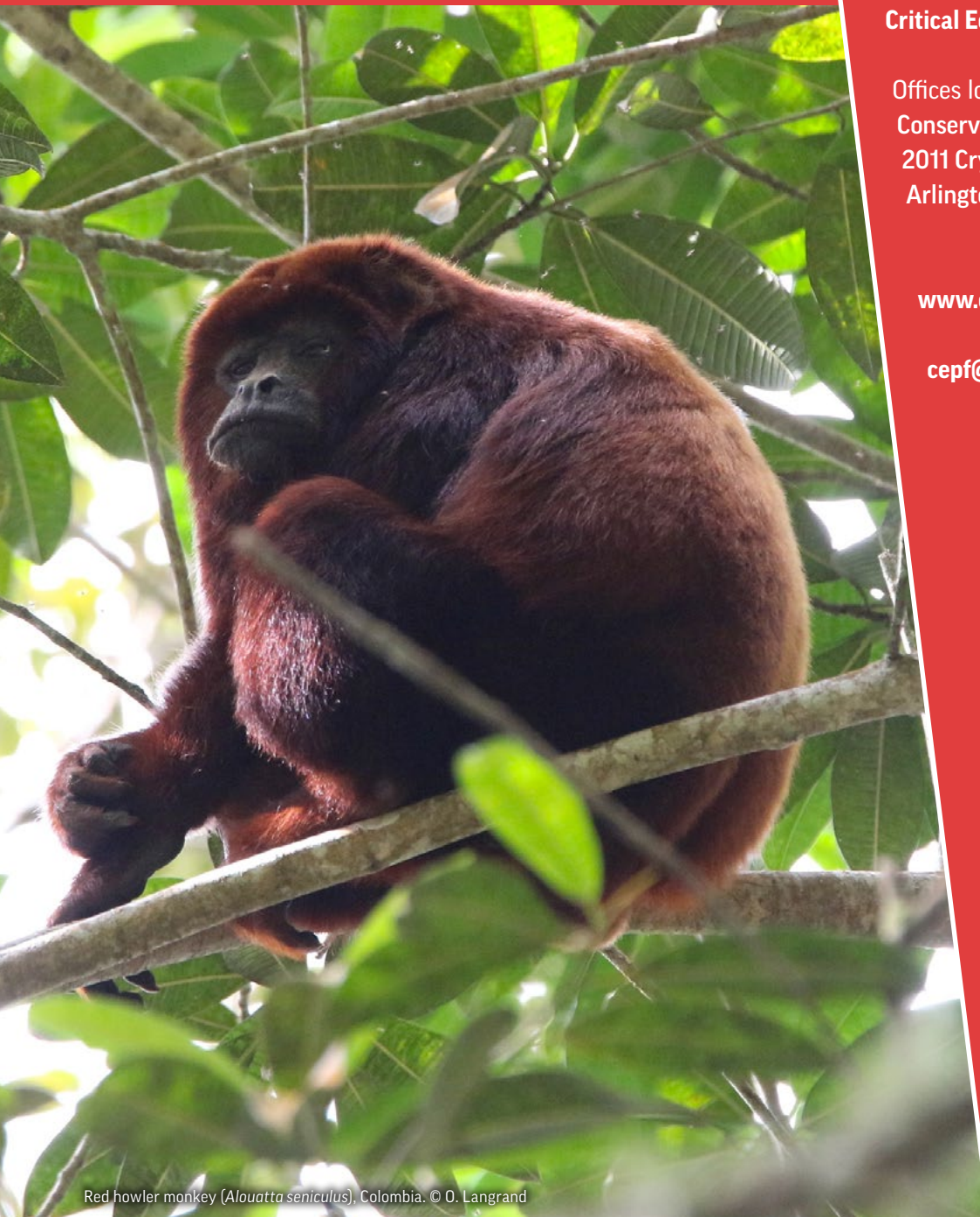


Priority Corridor

Roster	NatName
2	Awá- Cotacachi - Illinizas
9	Cordillera de Vilcanota
15	Madidi-Pilón Lajas-Cotapata
16	Noreste de Perú
19	Norte de la Cordillera Oriental en Ecuador
21	Paraguas-Munchique-BM del Sur de Antioquia
22	Podocarpus Sangay







Red howler monkey (*Alouatta seniculus*), Colombia. © O. Langrand

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CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank.

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