

How to remediate the territories of the Amazon in a sustainable way?



Cocha Ushpayacu, located in the basin of the Pastaza River, Loreto.

For the last four months, the Peruvian State, indigenous federations* and the UNDP have been working together to develop an **Independent Technical Study (ETI)** that will identify strategies to sustainably remediate the territories impacted by oil activity in **what used to be Lot 1AB** located in Loreto, north of the Peruvian jungle.

The former Lot 1AB covers around 500,000 hectares of Amazon rainforest where more than 200 oil wells have operated, with some of them still active to this day. These territories are also inhabited since by the **Quechua, Achuar and Kichwa indigenous peoples**, who have witnessed for generations the consequences and impact of oil activity.

After years of dialogue on how to address the situation in former Lot 1AB, one of the agreements reached between Indigenous Federations and Government was to prepare an ETI. **This mission was entrusted to the UNDP**, who proceeded to gather a team of experts and arranged for a visit to the impacted territories.

Regarding fieldwork required for the ETI

Together with **environmental monitors and interpreters** from the Quechua, Achuar and Kichwa peoples, fieldwork for the ETI was carried out from March 28 to April 20, 2018.



The UNDP team and environmental monitors during fieldwork carried out in the Pastaza river basin.

The UNDP team visited 236 impacted sites in the Pastaza, Corrientes and Tigre river basins, as well as 14 communities, where 210 surveys and 49 interviews were conducted with local villagers, in order to collect their perceptions on the impacts of oil activity and their views on what remediation encompasses.

Dissemination activities regarding the ETI were also carried out among community members, through joint work with environmental monitors and the use of community media and spaces.

Throughout the process, UNDP has collected knowledge and experiences from indigenous peoples who live within the territories where former Lot 1AB was established. This exchange is fundamental to enrich and make feasible any proposal presented by the ETI.



A "talking maps" exercise during the ETI Environmental Workshop.

Second session of the ETI Monitoring Committee

From its inception, the ETI has been supervised by a Monitoring Committee made up of the Ministry of Energy and Mines (Minem), the Indigenous Federations and the UNDP. Its objective is to accompany the process, facilitating and guaranteeing all necessary coordinations required for the preparation of the ETI. Its second session was held on Thursday, April 26, in Iquitos, Loreto.



A summary of the fieldwork was presented during the second session of the ETI Monitoring Committee.

During the session, an evaluation and some reflections on the ETI fieldwork were presented, as well as the next steps to be taken. In addition, the work of systematizing and reviewing the more than 1000 documents related to the situation of former Lot 1AB was especially underscored, particularly in that they constitute the ETI's most important database.

All work regarding the ETI is guided by the principles and objectives of **the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations**, and thus all resulting proposals and recommendations promote respect for the rights of the people and the protection of the environment.

Experience is scarce when it comes to proposals for sustainable remediation in Amazonian territories inhabited by indigenous peoples. For that reason, **the ETI constitutes a milestone** that will open the way for more dialogue and consensus regarding strategies aimed to **remediate territories in the** Peruvian Amazon.



Dialogue between the Minem, indigenous federations and the UNDP during a Monitoring Committee session

** Quechua del Pastaza Indigenous Federation (FEDIQUEP), Federation of Native Communities of the Corrientes Basin (FECONACOR), the Kichwas Indigenous Peoples Organization, Amazonian Peoples at the Border between Peru and Ecuador (OPIKAFPE) and Cocama Association for the Development and Conservation of San Pablo de Tipishca (ACODECOSPAT).*

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