

Programa Noreste de ProNaturaleza: Experiencia comunitaria para el desarrollo sostenible y la conservación del medio ambiente en la Reserva Nacional Pacaya-Samiria
(ProNaturaleza's Northeast Program: Community work for the sustainable development and conservation of the environment in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserva)

Summary

The *Fundación ProNaturaleza* (ProNature Foundation) has created a sustainable development model that protects a large area of the Peruvian Amazon, and, at the same time, insures the generation of income for its residents.

It is a conservation and income generation model that works with the community and the government authorities. Today, thanks to this sustainable development model, species on the path to extinction are protected, and, at the same time the population of the reserve can benefit from them without eradicating them, since they have understood and put a greater value on the importance of conservation for their own wellbeing. This conscientiousness has led to an enormous commitment level, which clearly reflects the fact that the community itself assumes the responsibility of the vigilance in this widespread region, work that would be impossible if only the public sector tried to carry it out.

It is a model in which the conservation and income generation are complementary. The types of concrete actions that the inhabitants have developed are, for example, a repopulation system of Amazonian palm trees (tagua, moriche palm and palmetto) and using their benefits without cutting them down. Another example is the tarijaya turtle, which now reproduce thanks to the protected nests that the community constructs and cares for. Once the conservation quota established in conjunction with the environmental authorities is achieved, the community benefits through the sale of the turtle eggs. In addition, the paiche, an Amazonian fish, is only fished when it has reached adulthood and has reproduced.

At this time, the main challenge consists in generating marketing channels for these products that insure higher income creation for the population of these isolated zones of the Amazon. It is a challenge in which the active and dedicated participation of the public sector is essential.