

July 2026 — Project Update

Peru: Los Amigos Conservation Concession

Field Partner: Conservación Amazónica – ACCA

I wanted to send you a mid-year report and express our hearty thanks for your support for this project.

First, the background: Established in 2001 as Peru's first private conservation concession by agreement with the national government, Los Amigos Conservation Concession (LACC) has very high conservation value. Located in the Los Amigos watershed in the Department of Madre de Dios in southwestern Peru, LACC protects a mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic habitats of more than 146,000 hectares. It also borders the world renowned Manú National Park and Tambopata National Reserve and serves as a buffer zone for the remote Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve—a region used by Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation or Initial Contact (PIACI, for its acronym in Spanish), safeguarding this vulnerable group. In 2011, Biome created a trust fund to endow positions for LACC's *Promotores de Conservación* (rangers).

In the first half of 2026, the *Promotores* carried out 41 patrols (8 fluvial, 5 terrestrial, and 28 mixed). The strategy of combining state-of-the-art technology (e.g., drone overflights and satellite monitoring) with ground patrols has continued to yield positive results. During patrols, no new evidence of illegal activity was found within the concession. In fact, the *Promotores* report that remnants of the old trails and camps once used by illegal loggers, are now disappearing. This is a testament to Biome's long-term support for LACC—eight out of the ten *Promotores* working in the concession are fully funded by Biome—and ACCA's long-term commitment to protect LACC.



Promotora Ibis Castro

Besides doing patrols, Promotores provide support for researchers and visitors, and conduct biological monitoring. In May of this year, the Promotores found a harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) and its nest in a shihuahuaco tree (*Dipteryx micrantha*)—a massive, dominant emergent tree species native to the Amazon rainforest, recognized for its extreme longevity, dense hardwood, and critical ecological role. The harpy eagle appears to be a juvenile building its very first nest. A drone overflight showed that the nest is still under construction and has not yet been used.

Please keep confidential – Lastly, during one of the Promotores' patrols this year, they came across signs that PIACI (Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact) had been present in the concession. The evidence consisted of a dead animal and several bent trees – a signal system used by these remote tribes. Recognizing the markers, the Promotores immediately suspended the patrol, as protocol requires, and alerted ACCA leadership.

ACCA held a technical meeting with the Promotores to reinforce the security measures in ACCA's PIACI Contingency Plan, and informed the Special Commission for the Defense of Indigenous Peoples, of which ACCA is a member. The commission, which meets regularly to safeguard PIACI, inspected the area and found no further evidence of recent illegal activity or an ongoing PIACI presence. The last direct encounter between ACCA personnel and PIACI was in 2013.

Thank you again for your generous support to this very important project. If you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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PIACI (Indigenous Peoples in Isolation and Initial Contact) use bent trees/vegetation as signal of territorial control.

