

**DECLARATION OF THE 10th BINATIONAL MEETING OF THE JURUÁ–YURÚA–ALTO TAMAYA
TRANSBOUNDARY COMMISSION
“IN DEFENSE OF PEOPLES, WATERS, AND AMAZON FORESTS”**

**To the Governments of the Republic of Peru and the Federative Republic of Brazil,
and to the international community and the broader public:**

We, the Indigenous peoples, traditional communities, and representative organizations that make up the Juruá–Yurúa–Alto Tamaya Transboundary Commission (CT Juruá–Yurúa–Alto Tamaya), represent 35 territories and 14 Indigenous peoples along the border and protect 3.5 million hectares of forest between Ucayali (Peru) and Acre (Brazil). From our territories and together with collaborating/supporting organizations (including Indigenous and other independent organizations, that are not part of the Commission, but that participated in and supported it), we raise our voices to demand immediate action in the face of threats that endanger our existence and the balance of the Amazon.

We met for our 10th official meeting and convened the conference “Transboundary Alliance in Defense of Peoples, Waters, and Amazon Forests,” held from March 24 to 26, 2026, in Cruzeiro do Sul, Juruá valley, Acre state, Brazil. The event brought together researchers, Indigenous leaders, civil society organizations from Peru, international partners, and representatives of the Brazilian government and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO).

During the event, we discussed the environmental and humanitarian emergency we are facing as a result of the expansion of illicit, irregular, and criminal activities in our territories. These activities have increased the risk of violence against our communities and led to the unlawful appropriation of our territories, all under conditions of systemic impunity. In response, we call for dialogue with state authorities in both Peru and Brazil to establish mechanisms for binational coordination, with the goal of adopting concrete measures in consultation with the communities of the Juruá–Yurúa–Alto Tamaya Transboundary Commission on the issues set out below.

We reiterate the following findings, reached through years of extensive research and dialogue, based on studies in our territories and on analysis of policies, legal systems, and geopolitics of the borderlands:

1. **It is essential to establish a binational mechanism to combat organized crime in the border region.** We warn that the expansion of cross-border organized crime, linked to global markets, has—amid the absence of state oversight—transformed our rivers and forests into illicit corridors that undermine our peace and social fabric. In light of this critical situation, we call for a binational security strategy that includes joint actions between the States and Indigenous organizations, with full respect for human rights. This coordination must recognize and support community-led initiatives for territorial monitoring and surveillance carried out by Indigenous peoples themselves as strategic actions for territorial protection. The State must **support and**

promote Indigenous governance by strengthening its social, political, and institutional organizations.

2. **The Brazilian and Peruvian governments have failed to fulfill their duty to guarantee the safety of Indigenous peoples in their territories and to ensure access to justice in cases of human rights violations.** As Indigenous leaders, our lives are at risk each time we report violations to the State—a risk that only increases with visibility. We do not want to become another documented statistic of the violence faced by Indigenous peoples. **For this reason, we propose the establishment of effective protection mechanisms that allow us to act in a preventive, efficient, and immediate manner to guarantee our right to life.**
3. **We raise the alarm regarding the Saweto Case.** It is urgent that the convicted individuals—José Estrada Huayta, Hugo Soria Flores, Josimar Atachi, Segundo Atachi, and Eurico Mapes Gomes—be imprisoned, as they remain at large despite the fact that 11 years have passed since the murders of Edwin Chota Valera, Jorge Ríos Pérez, Leoncio Quintísima Meléndez, and Francisco Pinedo in the borderland Indigenous community of Alto Tamaya Saweto. This is a landmark case for border security, Indigenous rights, and the protection of environmental defenders in the Amazon. Nature cannot be protected if its defenders are killed with impunity. Similar situations have occurred in Brazil, including the cases of Bruno Pereira, Dom Phillips, and Maxiel Pereira, and justice must be served.
4. **The “UC-105 Nueva Italia–Puerto Breu” highway is illegal; it is being constructed without free, prior and informed consent, any studies or permits and violates our rights as Indigenous peoples.** We demand the permanent suspension of this illegal road, as well as of any and all illegal routes that facilitate the entry of settlers, loggers, and drug traffickers into our ancestral territories. This project should have been classified as “Very High Complexity.” However, it is being carried out informally, without studies of its impacts on our people and territories and without our consent, which is required by law for such a project to proceed. Until the necessary studies are conducted and the applicable legislation is respected, we call for improvements to transportation and mobility in the border region, including the restoration of airport connections (such as Breu–Pucallpa and Pucallpa–Cruzeiro) and the facilitation of free trade between both countries.
5. **It is time to protect all the headwaters of binational rivers that sustain the region and to annul forestry concessions in Peru, particularly those that overlap with these headwaters.** In recent years, we have observed that areas granted under forestry concessions in Peru function as spaces that facilitate illicit activities, violate the collective rights of Indigenous peoples, and weaken aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that support great biological diversity. We call for the annulment of forestry concessions, and that any state intervention affecting Indigenous peoples must guarantee the right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.

In this regard, we clarify that the areas granted to logging companies in Peru are not simply patches of trees to be sold as timber; rather, they form part of our ancestral territories, with which we maintain spiritual and cultural ties, supported by studies demonstrating their historical occupation by our ancestors.

Furthermore, these areas should be specially protected and not exploited, as they contain the headwaters of rivers that flow through our territories on both sides of the border, as well as springs that benefit the world. For this reason, we demand that the Amonia, Tamaya, Breu, Yurúa, Dorado, and Sheshea rivers be effectively protected and recognized as subjects with rights, whose headwaters are sources of life and sacred spaces, as well as global climate regulators.

6. **Indigenous territorial stewardship must be prioritized in climate change adaptation and response policies.** In the lead-up to COP31 in Turkey, we urge the governments of Brazil and Peru to move beyond international rhetoric and take concrete territorial actions to prevent the collapse of our ecosystems. States must implement policies that prioritize Indigenous territorial management to ensure the protection of forests, rivers, and springs, as well as projects that promote the protection and autonomy of Indigenous territories.
7. **It is urgent to implement policies and protective measures for Indigenous people in voluntary isolation and initial contact.** The border between Brazil and Peru is home to the largest population of Indigenous people in isolation. These people are being pushed into increasingly restricted areas by the expansion of roads, logging concessions, coca cultivation, and drug trafficking routes. It is essential to establish international cooperation agreements between Brazil and Peru to implement actions for the comprehensive protection of territories that recognize the presence of peoples in isolation and initial contact, and to support the monitoring work carried out by Indigenous communities in the areas surrounding the territories inhabited by isolated peoples. These people occupy vast territories and require integrated protection.

The failure of our countries to ratify international agreements, such as the Escazú Agreement on access to justice in environmental matters and the protection of defenders, further weakens the already insufficient response of the States on this issue. In this regard, we call for coordination, the strengthening of alliances, and the establishment of cooperative actions that guarantee our rights and secure our territories, reaffirming our existence. Without territory there is no water, and without water there is no life. Our resistance is for the future of humanity and the planet.

Transboundary Indigenous Governance!
Defend our land, defend all life!
Without water, there is no life!
For the unity of border communities!

Juruá – Yurúa – Alto Tamaya Transboundary Commission

Cruzeiro do Sul, March 26, 2026

The following organizations sign this Declaration:

Amazon Watch

Ashéninka Community Environmental Association – Pocharipankoky Pikiyaco – Yurúa (AACAPPY)

Association of Native Communities for the Integral Development of Yurúa (ACONADIYSH)

Yurúa Communal Conservation Association (ACCY)

Ashaninka Association of the Amônia River (Apiwtxa)

Association of Rubber Tappers and Farmers of the Alto Juruá Extractive Reserve (ASAREAJ)

Pro-Indigenous Commission of Acre (CPI-AC)

Conexão Cipó

National Council of Extractive Populations (CNS)

Conservation International – Brazil (CI-Brasil)

Upper Amazon Conservancy (UAC)

Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB)

Environmental Defender Law Center (EDLC)

Federation of the Huni Kuĩ People of the State of Acre (FEPHAC)

Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development – Peru (FCDS-Perú)

Igarapé Institute

Fronteiras Institute

Yorenka Tasorentsi Institute (IYT)

Applied Geoprocessing Laboratory for the Environment (LabGAMA), Federal University of Acre

Observatory for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Isolation (OPI)

Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Juruá River (OPIRJ)

AIDSESEP Ucayali Regional Organization (ORAU)

Amazon Borderlands Spatial Analysis Team (ABSAT) Project / University of Richmond

Rainforest Foundation Norway

Society for Threatened Peoples (GfbV – Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker)

SOS Amazônia