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*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

EVENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

5-9 September 2022

Lima Convention Center, Lima, Perú

Indigenous leaders from nine Amazon Countries to Convene in Lima to Release New Research, Present Case Studies of Community-led Conservation Initiatives, and Demand Action to stop Destruction of Endangered Rainforests

With Climate on Global Agenda, Indigenous COP assembles Researchers, Civil Society Organizations, and Government Representatives in Bid to Save 80% of the Amazon by 2025, Critical for Meeting Global Climate and Biodiversity Goals

Indigenous leaders from the nine countries of the Amazon basin (Brazil, Guyana, Venezuela, Bolivia, French Guiana, Colombia, Peru, Suriname and Ecuador) will gather in September for a week-long congress in Lima, Peru, to present new research and discuss strategies for protecting the Amazon biome, one of the world's most vulnerable and important ecosystems for meeting global climate and biodiversity goals, and vital for ensuring food security and reducing pandemic risk.

Discouraged by the UNFCCC process and glacial pace of climate and biodiversity negotiations, Indigenous leaders with COICA, the Coordinating Organization of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin (COICA), will host presentations by scientists, conservation NGOs, and government representatives, revealing biodiversity hotspots at imminent risk and requiring urgent action to stop a process that would turn large swaths of the Amazon into a dry savannah.

Recent satellite [data](#) released by the Brazilian Space Agency suggests that in the first half of 2022, the Brazilian Amazon experienced the highest deforestation rates since 2016 with an area five times the size of New York cleared since January.

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The evidence to be presented at the congress will reveal that this pattern of deforestation is affecting, not just Brazil, but all of the Amazonian countries.

At the end of the week-long event and following an intense dialogue with stakeholders, the leaders will present a plan of action to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025, a goal that goes far beyond what governments in the region have committed to as part of a global effort to conserve 30 percent of the planet by 2030.

In September, at the [IUCN Congress](#) in Marseille, IUCN members voted overwhelmingly to support the expansion of the land rights of Indigenous peoples as part of a new motion aimed at protecting 80 percent of forests in the region by 2025.

Although non-binding, the vote by the IUCN Congress was symbolically significant and unprecedented. It was submitted by COICA, an organization that represents two million Indigenous Amazonians belonging to communities that manage more than XX hectares of tropical forests, rivers, and other important ecosystems.

The IUCN includes among its members the world's most influential conservation organizations. Their vote was seen as a game changer, suggesting Indigenous organizations, and COICA in particular, has reached a new level of influence, supported by a growing body of evidence.

Also available for interviews are some of the experts whose work has raised the visibility of Indigenous and local communities efforts, traditional knowledge, and belief systems as critical for conserving intact ecosystems the World Economic Forum says are worth [\\$44 trillion](#) to the global economic sector.

WHAT:

A **series of press briefings and events organized by COICA** will bring together researchers and Indigenous leaders to report new findings, recount stories, and reveal new case studies that demonstrate local peoples' ability to protect forests and biodiversity, promote sustainable development, and increase global food security and resilience to climate change.

PRESS CONFERENCES & SIDE EVENTS:

RSVP Required

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5:
 - Press conference with Indigenous leaders and researchers with the Amazonian Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information Network, a network of scientists and policy experts, to present new research revealing the extent of deforestation and degradation the Amazon has suffered and what solutions, if implemented urgently in partnership with Indigenous and local communities, can save the world's largest carbon-sink from extinction.

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- **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5:**

- Inauguration of the V Amazon summit of Indigenous Peoples: Solutions for a Living Amazon, where the current situation of the Amazon will be presented as well as the call to action of the indigenous leaders of the nine countries of the Amazon basin.

Time: 09h15 PET (Lima) // 10h15 EDT (Nueva York) // 16h15 CEST (París)

- **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9:**

- Press conference to reveal the newly elected leader of COICA and present a joint plan of action to scale-up and support Indigenous and local communities in the protection of nature.

WHEN/WHERE: For information on timing, to RSVP for events virtually or in-person, or to request interviews and embargoed information in advance, kindly contact Wanda Bautista at wbautista@burness.com or +1 302 233 5438 (WhatsApp) or Eugenia Blaubach at eblaubach@burness.com or +1 954 937 5846 (WhatsApp), Jessika García at jessika.garcia@coicamazonia.org or +593 0984686770 (Whatsapp) Dayán Garzón at dayan.garzon@coicamazonia.org or +593 0987395338(Whatsapp).

WHO: Please note that the list below represents a small selection of the Indigenous Leaders and experts available for interviews. For a full list of spokespeople, please write to the contacts listed above.

- **VENEZUELA:** **José Gregorio Diaz Mirabal**, a Kurripako Indigenous leader from Venezuela and General Coordinator of the Congress of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin ([COICA](http://coica.org)).
- **ECUADOR:** **Tuntiak Katan**, an Indigenous Shuar leader from Ecuador and vice-coordinator of the Congress of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin River (COICA).
- **PERU:** **Jorge Perez Rubio**, president of the Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest (AIDSEP).
- **COLOMBIA:** **Fany Kuiru**, leader of the Huitoto people and Women's Coordinator of OPIAC - Colombia.
- **BRAZIL:** **Nara Baré**, leader of the Baré people and former coordinator of COIAB.

Do you want to follow the whole process of the V Amazon Summit?

Register on our website: <https://vcumbreamazonica.coicamazonia.org/>, in the press room section.