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We would like to thank
Aldo Soto
Aldos@rainforestuk.org

Samuel Dieval
SamuelD@rainforestuk.org

ForestLink: Real-Time Community-based Monitoring and Alert system

Objectives:

To empower communities to manage and protect forests by reducing illegal resource extraction in targeted areas.

To strengthen community and civil society participation in forest management processes.

To provide policymakers and authorities with the information needed to more efficiently control forestry activities by making law enforcement more transparent and open to scrutiny, and improving the detection of forest illegalities.

Methodology:



MONITORING > COLLECTION > REPORTING > DATABASE > VERIFICATION > ENFORCEMENT

The **ForestLink** system was designed by the Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) and utilises a bespoke user-friendly app to enable members of local communities to report illegal logging, illegal mining or oil spills, in real-time. Downloadable onto most Android devices, the app can be easily customised to suit community needs; an icon-based system can be used, for example, so that people who are unable to read can participate and report a range of incidents. Alerts are sent by trained community monitors via satellite connection to a secure database where non-governmental organisations (NGOs), indigenous peoples' organisations and government enforcement agencies can access and analyse the data.



FORESTLINK

The Rainforest
Foundation UK
233a Kentish Town Rd.
London NW5 2JT

Synthesis

This technology aims to improve Amazonian indigenous peoples' capacities to protect their forests. It is built on indigenous people representative organisations' experience in forest monitoring programmes, reinforcing them with real-time monitoring.



Get more information on the program supported by Fondation Ensemble:



Technology to save Amazonian Forest
(Animation)



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The alert prompts the relevant government enforcement agency or indigenous organisation to visit the location of the reported incident, verify it and initiate the necessary enforcement measures.

The project emphasises the important link between human rights and the environment, supporting those at the frontline of rainforest protection. RFUK does this by working with multiple stakeholders (state, private sector, international NGOs and donors) at interlinking levels:

Local Level: Tools like **ForestLink** enable local communities to play an active role in forest management and protection. Local partner organisations are involved at every stage of **ForestLink**'s development and implementation. Civil society partners receive training and support in using the real-time monitoring technology.

National Level: The project ensures that community voices are heard and are central to policy decisions, promoting a collaborate framework between communities, representative organisations and local and national authorities.

Working with local partner FENAMAD (Native Federation of the Madre de Dios River and Tributaries), which represents all indigenous peoples in the Madre de Dios region, and other local indigenous organisations, in collaboration with AIDSEP (Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest), the main national indigenous organisation of the Peruvian Amazon, the project supports existing forest monitoring programmes to report illegal logging, illegal mining and oil spills in coordination with local and national authorities.

This experience in Peru in the Madre de Dios Amazonian region follows a first pilot phase implemented in Cameroon in 2015.

Results:

- Training of 21 indigenous monitors on the use of **Forestlink**, community forestry management, identification of forest illegalities.
- Setting up of Forest Monitoring programmes (“*Veedurias Comunes*”) in nine communities.
- Identification of main threats and deforestation hotspots in communities.
- Signing of collaboration agreements with local and national authorities.

For more details:

RFUK 2017: [Community-Based Real-Time Monitoring in the Congo Basin and Amazon Rainforests](#) (Brochure)

FORESTLINK: [An animated overview of real-time monitoring](#) (English, French subtitles)

FORESTLINK: [The Future of Rainforest Protection](#) (English, French subtitles)