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*** ZOOM MEDIA BRIEFING ***
Monday, July 12, 2021
3:00 PM EDT// 2:00 PM PET

MEDIA ADVISORY: NEW EMBARGOED REPORT
Embargo lifts on July 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM EDT // 2:00 PM PET

Peer-Reviewed Findings: New study to reveal impact of arming forest communities with new remote technologies to monitor and report illegal miners, loggers, on tropical deforestation

Researchers, forest-monitoring experts, and Indigenous leaders to propose scaling up model for reducing tropical forest loss in Amazon; Parallel meta-analysis to suggest interventions globally can help local communities prevent environmental damage linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and pandemic risk

Editor's note: To request the embargoed study, press release, images, and Zoom press call link, please contact Wanda Bautista or Claudia Lievano.

On Monday, July 12, 2021 at 3:00 PM ET, researchers with the Rainforest Foundation US and Global Forest Watch will join independent researchers and Indigenous leaders from Peru and Venezuela to present the results of a pioneering, peer-reviewed study that looks at the impact on deforestation of investing in Indigenous peoples in the Amazon and arming them with satellite images, maps and smartphone GPS technology.

The experiment in Peru is included in a larger study, which analyzes the impact of outside interventions to support community monitoring in five other countries – Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Liberia and Uganda.

In Peru, Uganda and Liberia, the researchers focused on forest management; in China, Costa Rica and Brazil, the researchers sought to improve the quality of surface and groundwater.

The studies propose a new scalable approach for engaging with communities as part of a strategy for addressing deforestation and other environmental damage linked to climate change, biodiversity loss and pandemic risk. The Peru study in particular adds to a growing body of scientific evidence suggesting that Indigenous, Afro-descendant and other local communities in Latin America could serve as powerful partners in the battle against the climate crisis.

WHAT:

A press call with report co-authors, experts, and Indigenous leaders to present the peer-reviewed findings, hosted by Rainforest Foundation US.

WHEN:

Monday, July 12th at 3:00 PM EDT // 2:00 PM PET

WHO:

- **Jakob Kopas** is a lawyer and one of the lead authors of the Peruvian study and meta analysis that analyzes six studies of community monitoring globally.
- **Tom Bewick** is a program manager at Rainforest Foundation US, and coordinates operations, research, fundraising, and outreach for RFUS' Peru program.
- **Jorge Perez** is the president of the Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Eastern Amazon (ORPIO).
- **Jessica Webb** is senior manager for Global Engagement with Global Forest Watch at the World Resources Institute.
- **Gregorio Mirabal** is the general coordinator of the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA).
- **Kim Chaix** is the director of Strategic Impact at Rainforest Foundation US. He will be moderating the press call.

WHERE:

To receive embargoed materials and the Zoom link to register for the press call, please contact Wanda Bautista at wbautista@burness.com.