

Amazon: New paths for the Church and for an integral ecology

CLOSING REMARKS

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1. On behalf of FAO, I would like to thank all the speakers and participants for attending this seminar. It has been an honour for us to receive you today.
2. Our speakers put in the spotlight those who for hundreds of years have known how to preserve the environment whilst ensuring food security and nutrition.
3. Thank you for sharing with us all the results of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region.
4. I would like to highlight a key theme of the Synod that is also a priority for FAO: the work for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the respect of their food and knowledge systems, cultures and traditions.
5. The final document of the Amazon Synod recognizes the role of Indigenous Peoples in the preservation of the environment and their ability to live in harmony with their territories, water bodies, resources, cultures and communities to achieve a plentiful life.
6. FAO understands and recognises the ability of Indigenous Peoples to sustain and maintain a harmonious relationship with their environment, to be part

of it and to protect it. Their cosmovision are deeply rooted in this relationship, likewise their food and knowledge systems.

7. In fact, FAO works closely with Indigenous Peoples towards the preservation, strengthening and promotion of their food and knowledge systems, as well as their land, territories and natural resources.
8. This is also why we are currently expanding the Indigenous Peoples' biocentric restoration initiative in the Amazon basin.
9. We believe that this process, led by Indigenous Peoples, will allow restoration of degraded ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, contributing at the same time to climate action and Indigenous Peoples' food security.
10. The Amazon basin is home to the largest remaining expanse of tropical rainforest on Earth. These forests play a vital role in regulating the global climate and providing other services, like water purification and carbon absorption.
11. The preservation of this lung of the world, owes a lot to Indigenous Peoples who live in it, respect and care for it.
12. As we heard today, 34 million people inhabit the Amazon and about 420 Indigenous communities rely on its resources.
13. FAO recognizes that Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods and lifestyles in the Amazon basin are intrinsically linked to the preservation of the forests and to the conservation of its biodiversity.

14. Our FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples is aligned with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and right of Free, prior and informed consent.
15. The policy guides our work in recognizing the role of Indigenous Peoples as game-changers in food systems transformation, climate action and biodiversity conservation whilst respecting their right to self-determined development.
16. Spaces such as the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum, hosted by FAO, are critical for Indigenous Youth, governments, academia and other relevant actors to exchange concrete ideas and policy recommendations for this joint endeavour.
17. FAO remains committed to work with Indigenous Peoples of the Pan-Amazon Region, implementation of the FAO Policy on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, working together to implement and lead transformative processes for the benefit of all.
18. Thank you very much.