



São Paulo School of Advanced Science Sustainable and Inclusive AMAZONIA

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Biologist, currently in the last year of a Master's degree in Ecology at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. My research interests are focused on biodiversity, ecology, conservation and wildlife management. Since June 2013, I have been working at Provita, a Venezuelan environmental NGO with more than 30 years of experience in conservation projects. In recent years I have focused on spatial analysis and protected areas of the Venezuelan Amazon, using geographic information systems (GIS). I also contribute to generating and disseminating multi-temporal, statistical and socio-environmental geospatial information on the Venezuelan Amazon.

Main current and planned research topics, including motivations, issues and challenges in relation to sustainable, inclusive Amazon and related topics.

Provita is part of the Amazon Network of Georeferenced Socio-environmental Information (RAISG, <https://www.raisg.org/>), with the aim of producing and disseminating knowledge, statistical data and geospatial socio-environmental information on the Amazon, developed through common protocols to all the countries of the region, allowing an integrated vision of the Amazon. I currently support RAISG in the updating of the Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories databases and in the quantification and characterization of the main threats and pressures in the Venezuelan Amazon (particularly deforestation and illegal mining). I am also part of the team that maps land cover and land use change in Venezuela through the MapBiomias Amazon Initiative (figure 1) (<https://amazonia.mapbiomas.org/>).

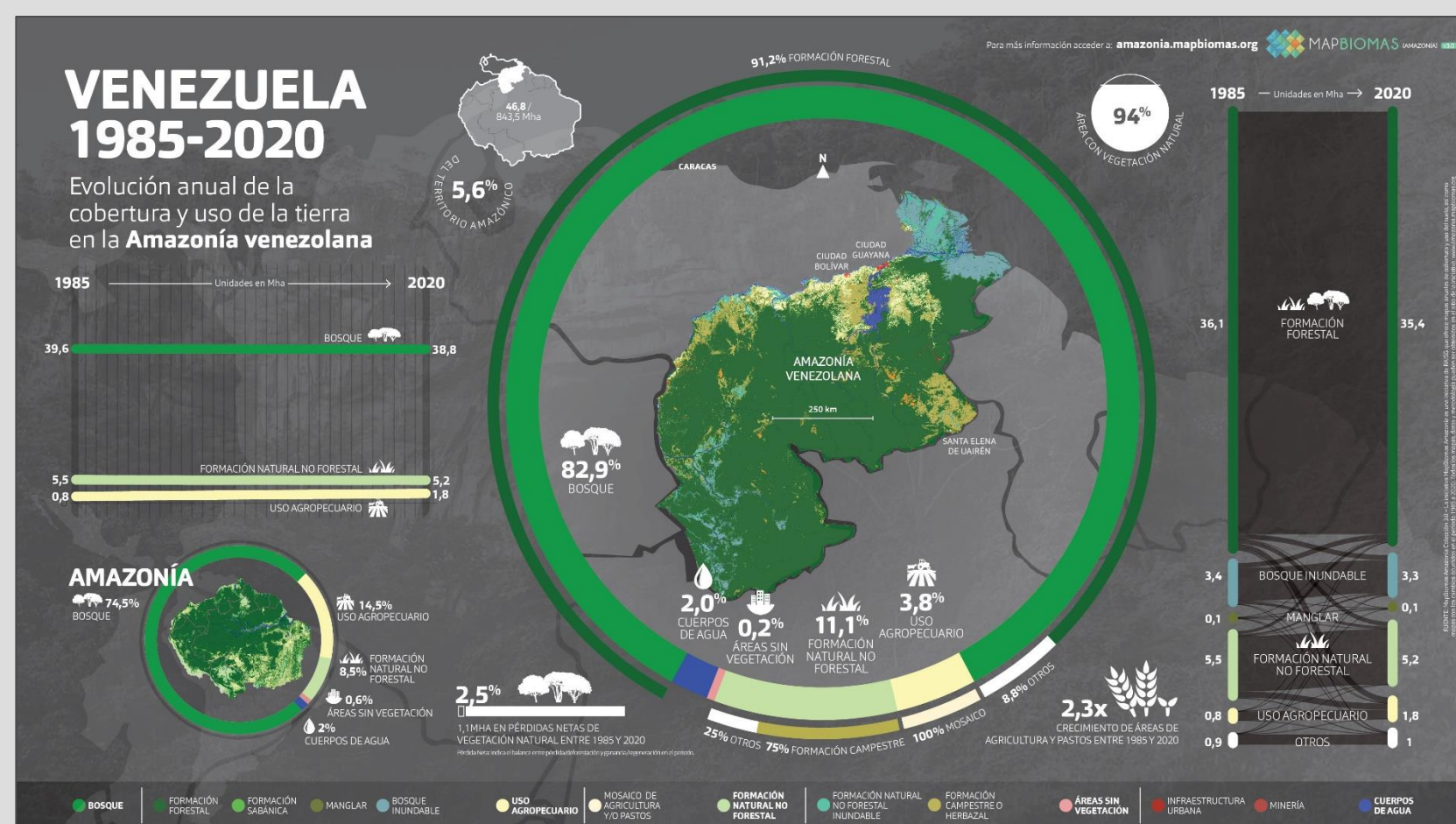


Figure 1. Coverage and land use in the Venezuelan Amazon 1985-2000.

Here we have found that agriculture (figure 2) and mining (figure 3) activities have been increasing; on the contrary, forests have decreased in the last two decades (figure 4).

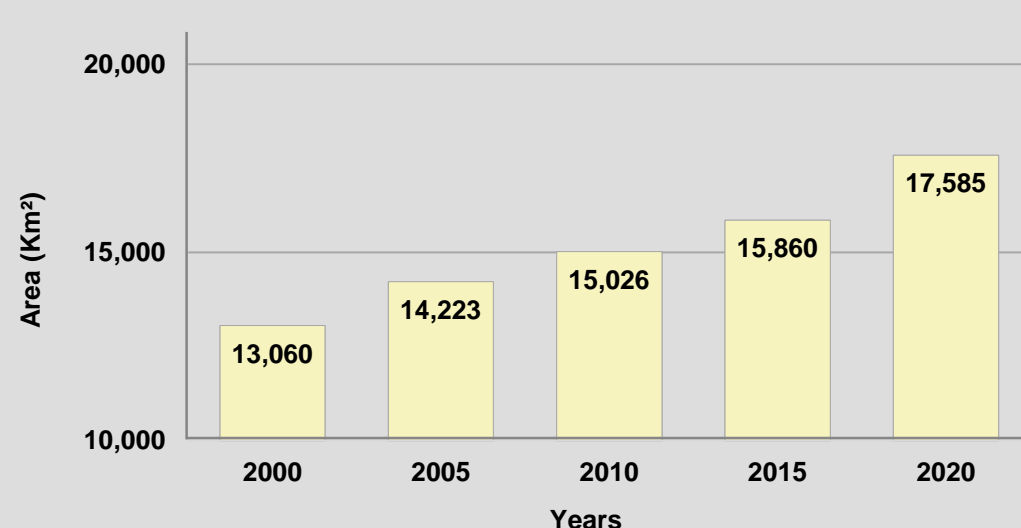


Figure 2. Agriculture activities 2000-2020.

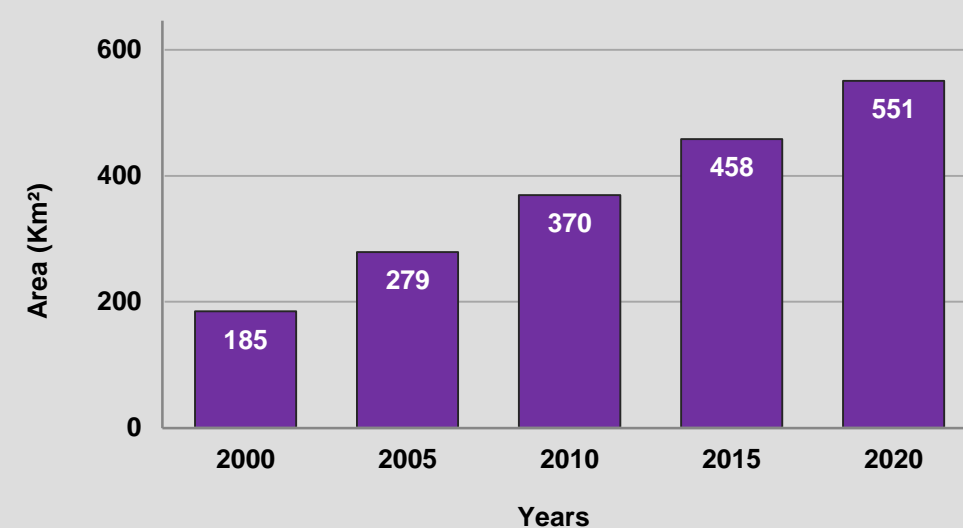


Figure 3. Mining activities 2000-2020.

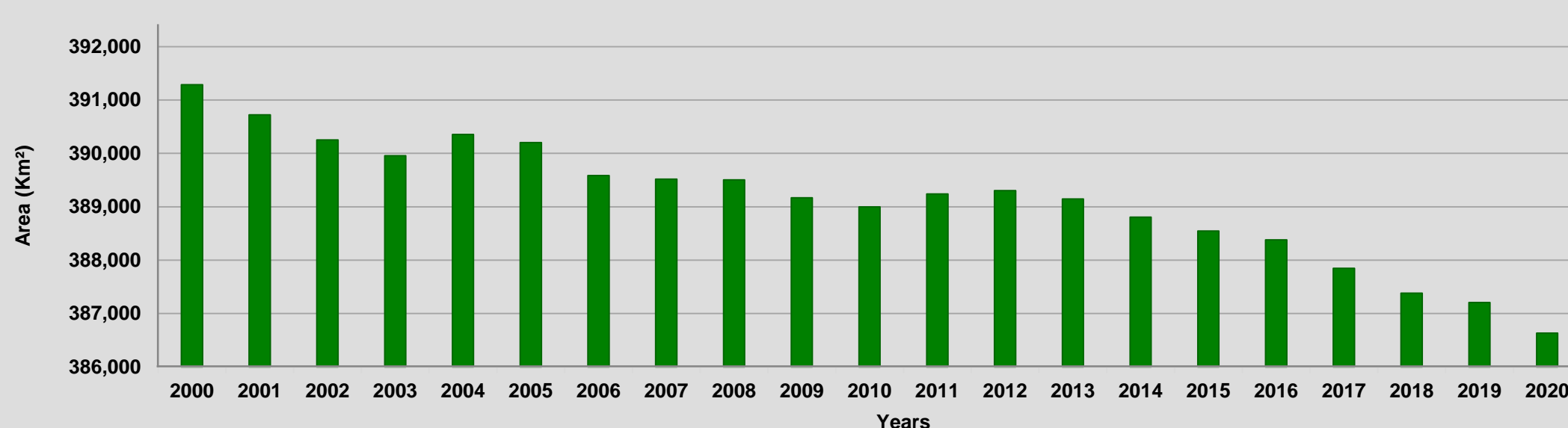


Figure 4. Forest cover 2000-2020.

Currently I am starting my master's thesis project with the objective of evaluating priority conservation sites in ecosystems of the Venezuelan Amazon. For this, I will be doing an analysis of intact forest and human footprint within the region, to apply this and other information in the ecorregional planning methodology developed by The Nature Conservancy. This work will support the Amazonia for Life initiative in Venezuela.

The Amazonia for Life initiative aims to achieve the protection of 80% of the Amazon by 2025, following IUCN's Resolution 129. The initiative is led by the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA, <https://coicamazonia.org/>) and supported by Stand.Earth (<https://stand.earth/>). Provita is part of the national steering committee and we are working together with the Regional Organization of Indigenous Peoples of Amazonas (ORPIA) as well as other organizations. A first workshop was already held with representatives of 12 indigenous peoples (figure 5) where we consulted on the draft national plan of Amazonia for Life.



Figure 5. Workshop Amazonia for Life in Venezuela (September, 2022).

Expectations and suggestions for cooperative and comparative work and how this can contribute to your research agenda.

As mentioned in the recent **Amazonia Against the Clock** report (<https://amazonia80x2025.earth/>): "The loss of Amazonian ecosystems impacts the planet and all forms of life and, in an inverse relationship, climate change affects the ways of life of indigenous peoples". Therefore, it is essential to join forces and preserve this region. Although this report gives a diagnosis on where and how to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025, it is at a regional level. Therefore, a local study with more detailed information is needed in Venezuela to allow for a more robust analysis at the national level; a result that my master's thesis could help.

With the Amazonia for Life initiative, in Venezuela we will be working hand in hand with indigenous peoples, something that until now within my work team (Provita) we had not done in many years. Now, in alliance with ORPIA, this will be a great contribution to unite those of us who work for the same cause, with different visions and knowledge about the region.

Among my expectations is to acquire a more comprehensive vision of the problems that arise throughout the region and to learn about related experiences in other countries. At the same time, establish relationships and alliances that allow working together on projects that generate information that serves as input for decision makers. Something important when it comes to making comparisons is that the studies use the same methodologies, otherwise it will be difficult to make comparisons between countries and even regions of the Amazon. Therefore, establishing work alliances and knowledge exchange groups is important so that we all work in the same direction and not separate, which in the end dilutes efforts.

It is important to learn mechanisms on how to really influence actions that lead to protecting and conserving the Amazon. Often valuable information is generated, but it is not taken advantage of and the decision-makers are not able to do the things they need to do for real conservation.

*"If you serve nature, she will serve you", (Confucius)
If you don't, the balance will be broke and you will be broke with her.*