### Amazonia 2019

**Protected Areas and Indigenous Territories**

Published since 2009 by the Amazonian Database and Environmental Information Network (RAISG), this new updated edition of the maps Protected Natural Areas and Indigenous Territories in the Amazon includes Biosphere Reserves and Ramsar Sites, which are conservation tools that use ecosystem approaches within a sustainable development context.

Ramsar Sites are areas that include representative portions of regional ecosystems - for they extend to rivers – and which are especially suited to the environmental conservation and sustainable human development. Their objective is to achieve human-commodities consistency in projects focused on preservation, consideration of neighboring areas and sustainable use of the resources. They function as centers of environmental monitoring, research, environmental education, and recognition of management, which has the potential of solving problems such as deforestation of tropical forests, desertification, atmospheric pollution and the greenhouse effect.

They are part of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB), launched in 1971. The MAB is an interdisciplinary scientific program, which aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relations between people and their environment.

Currently, the global network of Biosphere reserves has 680 areas in 120 countries, and includes 20 cross-border areas. In the Amazon, 51 Biosphere reserves have been created, with an area of 737,880 km² (of which 925,215 km² overlap with Ramsar Sites).

Ramsar Sites are wetlands protected by the Ramsar Convention - an international treaty, also approved in 1971, at a meeting held in the Egyptian city of Ramsar. The list of wetlands of international importance on Ramsar List is the convention's tool to promote cooperation among countries for the conservation and rational use of the world's wetlands.

Ramsar Sites are among the most productive environments in the world; they are of biological diversity that provide water, and the habitat on which innumerable species of plants and animals depend to survive. This also makes them vital areas for the survival of humanity.

Indigenous Territories have legal recognition as areas to be protected by indigenous peoples, and this support in order to promote projects that aim to favor the protection and the sustainable use of the natural resources, which favors the conservation, in such areas, of a development model that promises quality of life to its inhabitants.

Currently, 190 countries are signatories to the treaty, with more than 3,500 wetlands included in the Ramsar List of wetlands of international importance. The Amazon region, except Suriname, contains 14 Ramsar sites. The Ramsar Convention does not protect areas that are already protected under the figure of NPA or are within IT.

For more information about RAISG maps, please visit: www.amazoniasocioambiental.org

**NOTE:** The information on the maps is provided for educational and research purposes only. The boundaries shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply the expression of any opinion or endorsement by RAISG. The use of such information is subject to examination of the maps and their corresponding data and reports. The RAISG Database and Environmental Information Network (RAISG) is not responsible for any actions taken based on this information.