

## Setting Priorities and Measuring Impact in Conservation and Sustainable Development Projects in Madre de Dios, Peru

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The Madre de Dios region, located in the Southern Peruvian Amazon, is the “Capital of Peru’s Biodiversity” and the home of several indigenous groups. Despite its cultural and environmental importance, this region faces serious problems, including high levels of poverty and environmental degradation. The various entities working to address these problems, however, struggle to identify the most effective approach for making progress and achieving sustainability at the same time. This difficulty is compounded by the fact that, in many cases, the data that would be necessary to make these determinations is inadequate or lacking entirely. For this reason, some experts have begun stressing the need for a more evidence-intensive approach to addressing these problems. The Effective Altruism (EA) movement was formed to address this need. One high priority area that receives relatively little attention from EA, however, is the linkage between Conservation and Sustainable Development (CSD). My research aims to help fill this gap by investigating what impact means in the CSD context, and how this value may be measured. The data I collect will be used to develop new, or strengthen existing protocols and improve interventions over time.