



APPLYING LIFE METHODOLOGY TO THE AMAZON BIOME

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Should there be any questions or inconsistency between versions, please consult the original document (Portuguese version).

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OBJECTIVE

Presenting the general guidelines to apply the LIFE Methodology of Business and Biodiversity to the Amazon biome, aiming to ensure the high-integrity global principles of certification and the credibility of the LIFE Certification system.

APPLICATION

Applicable to organizations or producers, Certifying Bodies accredited by the LIFE Institute and other stakeholders interested in the Certification LIFE of Business and Biodiversity in the Amazon biome. It covers the following countries¹: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guiana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

¹ Source: W.S. Walker *et al.*, **The role of forest conversion, degradation, and disturbance in the carbon dynamics of Amazon indigenous territories and protected areas**, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 117 (6) 3015-3025, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1913321117> (2020).

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Amazon is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world. In addition to supporting the conservation of a wide variety of species, the biome also plays a crucial role in regulating the global climate maintaining the hydrological cycle.

However, conserving the biome is a challenging task. Among the many other issues, illegal land occupation – commonly associated with land grabbing, a practice that involves falsifying documents to simulate legal ownership – stands out as one of the most serious. This causes significant harm to both local communities and the environment.

In addition, this crime is directly connected to illegal logging and the predatory exploitation of natural resources, often resulting in violence against Indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

Given this scenario, and taking into account the governmental measures being implemented in search of solutions, LIFE Institute has decided to suspend the issuance of new “LIFE Certification of Business and Biodiversity” in the Amazon biome for an INDEFINITE PERIOD, as described in item 2 of this document.

2. GUIDELINES TO APPLY THE BAP IN THE AMAZON BIOME

According to LIFE Methodology's **Technical Guide 02²**, the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan (BAP) comprises ongoing conservation projects and actions, that go beyond legal requirements and are developed and/or supported by an organization or producer.

Furthermore, according to LIFE Methodology, the BAP is the main component of the Biodiversity Positive Performance (BPP), as it provides the metric used to assess conservation performance. This evaluation is carried out by categorizing conservation projects and actions under LIFE's strategic lines and assigning scores based on their hierarchy.

LIFE's strategic lines, which represent biodiversity conservation priorities, are organized into a hierarchy of four Groups. Within each Group, conservation projects and actions are classified based on their potential to deliver effective biodiversity conservation outcomes. The Groups are:

- **Group 1: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FORMALLY PROTECTED AREAS**
- **Group 2: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF NON-FORMALLY PROTECTED AREAS**
- **Group 3: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SPECIES AND/OR ECOSYSTEMS**
- **Group 4: INITIATIVES ASSOCIATED WITH CONSERVATION STRATEGIES, POLICIES AND/OR PROGRAMS**

Temporarily, until specific rules to address the aforementioned challenges are well established, only conservation projects categorized under LIFE Methodology's **Group 1** will be eligible to apply for new LIFE Certification processes within the Amazon biome.

In other words, only the projects and actions developed within Formally Protected areas, in accordance with the legislation of each country. Additional guidelines can be found in the current **Technical Guide 02**.

² **LIFE TECHNICAL GUIDE 02 - Biodiversity and ecosystem services Action Plan (PABS) and Biodiversity Positive Performance (DPB)**, available at LIFE Institute's website: <https://lifeinstituteglobal.org/>.

To verify whether a project is located within the Amazon biome, LIFE Institute recommends consulting the Amazon Online Map³, developed by RAISIG – Amazon Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information Network.

3. GLOSSARY

The terminology employed in this document is available in the LIFE Glossary.

³ **Amazon Online Map.** Available at: <https://www3.socioambiental.org/geo/RAISGMapaOnline/>.

NOTES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS DOCUMENT

Version 1.0: approved on 05/09/2025 by LIFE Institute's Board of Directors. Initial issuance of the document.