



Solve pollution. Save lives. Protect the planet.

PERU

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE MERCURY POISONING



For 25 years and across 50 countries, Pure Earth has been pioneering evidence-based solutions to the pollution crisis. Pure Earth currently focuses on two of the most dangerous neurotoxins—lead and mercury—with a goal of reducing the poisoning and brain damage of children in target countries.

2024–2026

PURE EARTH'S GLOBAL MERCURY PROGRAM STRATEGY focuses on decreasing mercury emissions to the environment from the main source of pollution—artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM)—and reducing human exposures with an emphasis on the most severely affected populations, namely miners and surrounding communities.

Exposure to mercury—even small amounts—may cause serious health problems, and is a threat to the development of the child in utero and early in life. Mercury may have toxic effects on the nervous, digestive and immune systems, and on lungs, kidneys, skin and eyes.

Discover how you can make a sustainable impact over the next 3 years in Peru.

SITUATION IN PERU

- Peru is ranked the **6th largest** gold producer in the world, with approximately **250,000** artisanal and small-scale miners operating in the country, producing roughly one quarter of Peru's gold exports.
- Peru is the second mercury emitter country of South America releasing **145 tons** of mercury each year.
- Our focus is on the region of Madre de Dios where the government declared a national emergency in 2016. The Minister of Environment estimated as many as **50,000** people, or **40%** of the population, in Madre de Dios had been exposed to mercury.
- Madre de Dios is home to the **second largest** portion of the Amazon rainforest after Brazil and considered the biodiversity capital of Peru.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Pure Earth's work in Peru has focused on the Madre de Dios region and has leveraged the commitment and support of the mining community, industry, and government.

Our work is focused on supporting miners in their transition to a responsible mining model based on the use of clean and efficient technologies to eliminate the use of mercury, the restoration of degraded areas as part of mine closures and collaborate with the developing of supply chains to markets that value these commitments. Some specific results include:

- The reforestation of over **9.75** hectares of previously degraded mining land and planting of over **12,635** seedlings with over an **80%** success rate.
- The **first Fairmined** certified mine in all of the Amazon region and a supply chain to the US jewelry market.
- Mercury-free technology implemented in the community of AMATAF located in the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Park.

THE WAY FORWARD: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES 2024–2026

- Expand the comprehensive model of responsible mining to new miners' cooperatives and associations in Madre de Dios with the goal of creating a self-sustaining, profitable model in the region.
- Expand our collaboration with the Women's Mining Network of Madre de Dios to bolster their leadership skills and help them become agents of change in the region.
- Support local partners in expanding ecological mine-closure using reforestation in degraded mining areas, including expanded research on reforestations impact on biodiversity.
- Support certified and mercury-free gold producers in commercialization activities and advocate for a proper legislation facilitating management and transportation of gold out of Madre de Dios in a more efficient and competitive way.
- Develop, pilot, and scale mercury epidemiological surveillance in areas at risk of acute poisoning using new and existing technologies and techniques. Include government and healthcare partners to integrate data from treatment of mercury poisoning as well as from sampling.
- Train agents from government and university partners to conduct toxic site identification activities in order to measure, map, and prioritize toxic mercury sites.



PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

- **US Department of State**
- **Industry Support: Brilliant Earth, JCK Industry Fund and The Tiffany & Co. Foundation**
- **NGO's include the Alliance for Responsible Mining, CINCIA & Cite Minero**
- **Minister of Energy and Mines**
- **AIDSESP (represents the indigenous community, including 9 regional organizations, 109 federations and 2,439 communities in the Peruvian Amazon)**
- **AMATAF Mining Association**
- **Women's Mining Network of Madre de Dios**

