



## 2021 TOP 100 GOOD PRACTICE STORY

Title of the Story: Recovery our Tambopata Refuge

Destination Name: *(include any state, province or region)*

Reserva Nacional de Tambopata

Country: Peru

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Position: Cordinator

Nomination Category : *(Please check the boxes that indicate the focus of your story)*

*Please find detailed information for the categories below in the Top 100 training module 'Good Practice Story'.*

- Localizing the destination supply chain
- Decarbonizing the destination supply chain
- Culture & Communities
- Environment & Climate
- Nature & Ecotourism
- Tourism Reset & Recovery

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

*Find detailed instructions for submitting good practices in the Top 100 training module "Good Practice Story".*

*Should you have any questions on your submission please refer to our FAQ page or contact [top100@greendestinations.org](mailto:top100@greendestinations.org)*

## DESCRIBE YOUR GOOD PRACTICE STORY

Address each aspect of your good practice story in the different sections being specific including relevant quantitative and qualitative information.

### Issues faced

What was the problem/issue solved with the good practice? Click to add your text

*Tambopata, (Tampu - collection center and Pata - edge), a Quechua word meaning "collection center at the edge" - is a natural protected area located in the province of Tambopata, in the southeast of the Peruvian Amazon. It was created in 2000 with the objective of protecting the flora, wildlife and scenic beauty, as well as generating conservation processes with the local population, in order to contribute to regional development through the sustainable use of resources such as chestnut forests and the landscape for nature tourism.*

*Mining activities have been developed since pre-Hispanic times in places near the department of Madre de Dios, due to their easy exploitation, such as Quincemil and Huepetue. In these localities, mining began as artisanal mining in the early years, and later increased in size and technology with the use of motors, heavy machinery and dredges, without the proper environmental and social precautions. As a result, serious alterations to the relief have been generated, affecting, among others, areas near the Tambopata National Reserve and its buffer zone.*

*One of the factors that intensified the development of mining activities in Tambopata Province was the paving of the southern inter-oceanic road corridor, which facilitated the transport of supplies, equipment and tools used in illegal mining activities. The first incursions date from 2007 onwards where miners, mainly from the department of Puno, entered the Guacamayo and Jayave rivers, giving rise to mining development in the sector known as "La Pampa", Tambopata National Reserve's buffer zone.*

*In 2015, the presence of illegal mining was reported within the RNTAMB. For this, through the Budget Program 0128 "Eradication of Illegal Mining" and with the Trust Fund a budget allocated to SERNANP, actions were developed to address illegal mining in the Reserve. This budget provides logistical support to the competent authorities for the development of illegal mining interdiction activities. These actions were successful in eradicating illegal mining within the RNTAMB and recovering the 750 hectares affected. However, illegal miners who were displaced from the sectors where SERNANP intervened are now present in new sectors of the ZA, continuing the latent threat to the ANP.*

*The environmental impacts of illegal mining can be summarized as follows: mercury contamination, soil degradation, deforestation, deterioration of water quality, hydrocarbon contamination, noise emissions, landscape alteration, ecosystem degradation, disappearance of aquatic flora and fauna, and unplanned population growth.*

*Illegal mining within the Tambopata National Reserve affected 750 hectares of forest, lakes, wetlands, streams, and riverbanks, which led to a decrease in wildlife such as giant otters, jaguars, tapirs, and other fauna and flora. The total number of hectares affected was not only due to deforestation but also to soil removal and degradation, as well as the appearance of permanent pools of water.*

*The indiscriminate use of mercury for gold recovery by amalgamation in illegal mining causes intoxication not only to the artisanal miner but also to the rest of the family and neighbors, and by contaminating the water and the fish that serve as food, it contaminates the entire population of the region. This mercury contamination is compounded by the spillage of hydrocarbons and other fuels used in the thousands of*



engines and camps.

Trafficking of people for labor exploitation is the highest level of exploitation of minors for high-risk activities such as mining, without any guarantee or mechanism for occupational safety, let alone social security. In addition to this problem, there is trafficking of people for prostitution, where many women are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, who are generally brought from other regions - especially Cusco, Apurimac, Puno - by deception, through the offer of a decent job, usually as cooks or saleswomen. Unfortunately, these women end up being forced into prostitution, subjected to deplorable living conditions, mistreated, malnourished, overexploited and who finally acquire sexually transmitted diseases, and are cured with overpriced medicine or excessive prices and facilitated by the same "bosses", often the miners' preference is for minors or new arrivals, since they argue that they have no diseases and therefore can not catch sexually transmitted diseases that normally "adults" have.

The main impacts on regional and national security are the following: informality and illegality, the weakening of the Regional Government of Madre de Dios and the loss of the principle of authority. All of

this allows the proliferation of power groups, with great influence in the region, and they even use weapons and force to impose their illegal activities, as well as blatant non-compliance with taxation, mining and labor laws (environmental licensing and others).

It is unfortunate that a relatively ephemeral activity, although very profitable (it is estimated that the mining deposits in the department of Madre de Dios will be exhausted in 20 to 30 years) and possibly fickle (the international price of gold can fall at any time) is destroying a millenary natural capital that also belongs to future generations of Peruvians, and a tourist image that cost a lot to build.

## Methods, steps and tools applied

How was the good practice implemented? Click to add your text

To address illegal mining, a strategy was developed to identify, eradicate and mitigate illegal mining within the Tambopata National Reserve, with the following actions:

Interdiction actions against illegal mining, here SERNANP, provides logistical support to the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office, the Peruvian Navy and the Peruvian National Police, for the development of interdiction activities, before (verification and deployment of personnel), during and after interdiction (withdrawal of personnel). Since 2016, SERNANP achieved the technical strengthening and staff capacities to map the advance of illegal mining activity, managing to incorporate the participation of other actors in the development of a Work Plan for the eradication of illegal mining in the ÁNP; as well as, the control of transportation, commercialization of inputs and equipment used in such activity.

Actions to mitigate the advance of illegal mining activities into the interior of the RNTAMB, here SERNANP used the mechanisms that contribute to the process of formalization of mining activities that are being developed in the buffer zones of the NPA, in order to reduce the pressure of illegal mining activities into the interior of the RNTAMB. To this end, the RNTAMB issued 5 favorable technical opinions for the formalization of an equal number of miners. We also developed awareness and environmental education talks on the importance of our biodiversity and the dangers of mercury to entities, aimed at the population located in the areas of the RNTAMB.

Actions to promote sustainable economic activities in the RNTAMB and its ZA, through the enhancement and use of natural resources and existing forest products as an economic alternative, associated with commercial articulation and that also does not contravene the objectives of creation of the ANP, To this end, SERNANP, in coordination with the Regional Government of Madre de Dios and 40 other public and private institutions, developed the "Buffer Zone Strategy," which includes Sustainable Economic Activities (AES) and other economic alternatives implemented by institutions at different levels of government, the private sector, and local associations. In this process, tourism activity within the area was strengthened through infrastructure improvements and promotional actions, as well as the granting of rights to use the landscape resource for tourism.

Actions to recover areas degraded by illegal mining activities, here SERNANP with the support of the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (IIAP), the NGOs: CINCIA, AIDER and FZS, were able to join forces and consolidate a reforestation strategy. These reforestation actions began in 2018 with 5 hectares, and then in 2019 increased to 30 hectares, with what they learned and having the methodology in 2020 and 2021 they managed to reforest 641 hectares degraded by illegal mining within the RNTAMB. For this process, from the search for seeds to germination in nurseries, transportation, road preparation and reforestation, skilled and unskilled labor was hired from the local population, for a total of more than 62 thousand workdays.



## Key success factors

*What helped you tackle the issues? Click to add your text*

*In order to eradicate mining, different stakeholders were involved, such as local, regional and national governments, private entities, organized society, as well as the local population, and the strategy to fight illegal mining was articulated with the direct participation of the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office, the Peruvian Navy and the Peruvian National Police.*

*Environmental awareness-raising activities were carried out on the loss of biodiversity, mercury contamination and the importance of the forest. These activities were carried out with school children and teachers from educational institutions located in the buffer zone, near the illegal mining camps. We also worked with university students on the conservation of natural values for tourism and other sustainable economic activities.*

*At the beginning of 2019, a State of Emergency was decreed in the Tambopata Province and at the same time the "Mercury Plan" was implemented to eradicate illegal mining in the Buffer Zone, thus reducing mining threats in the Tambopata National Reserve.*

*Tambopata is considered a tourist destination because of its natural attractions and biodiversity. This characteristic allowed public and private institutions to join synergies to promote nature tourism in this part of the department of Madre de Dios by formalizing 100% of the tourism operators, improving tourism infrastructure and linking Tambopata with Machupicchu, taking advantage of the proximity to this world wonder.*

## Lessons learned

*The eradication of illegal mining in the RNTAMB was an almost impossible task, due to many factors, such as the strong migration from the Andes, the price of gold, the inaction of the competent authorities and the limited presence of the State. However, by working in coordination with the public and private sectors and organized civil society, illegal mining was eradicated from the entire RNTAMB.*

*The lack of knowledge about the importance of biodiversity and the harmful effects of mercury and contamination by solid waste and hydrocarbons, committed us to carry out environmental awareness actions with children, university students and teachers, so that all of them have a positive and reflective attitude about their personal and environmental health.*

*In the RNTAMB, there were 750 hectares of deforested soils degraded by illegal mining; its recovery and reforestation seemed a difficult task to carry out, this because we did not have the logistics and methodology for this type of scenarios, but the articulation and joint work between public and private entities allowed us to reforest 641 hectares, planting 741,000 seedlings of 15 native species in the areas degraded by illegal mining.*

*In this scenario of conflict with illegal miners, the constant interdictions and declarations of emergency by the State, made the tourist activity unattractive for visitors as well as for businessmen. Knowing that working in an articulated and coordinated manner between SERNANP, DIRCETUR, the business community, the local population and public and private institutions, Tambopata was able to become the first nature tourism destination in the Peruvian Amazon, it is because of this synergy that in 2019, more than 65,000 tourists visited the Tambopata National Reserve.*

## Results, achievements and recognitions

*What were the qualitative and quantitative results of the good practice? Has it received any rewards? Click to add your text*



### *Illegal mining eradicated from RNTAMB*

*Recovered the 750 hectares taken from the RNTAMB by illegal miners.*

*Reforested 641 hectares with 74100 seedlings of 15 native plant species.*

*The first camera-trap monitors show the return of fauna such as jaguars, river otters, among others.*

*The number of local tourism ventures increased by 2 per year.*

*The number of tourism rights granted increased by 2 per year.*

*From 2014 to 2019 the increase in visitors was 8% per year.*

*The number of right grants for the use of non-timber natural resources increased by 2 per year.*

*All of the above resulted in the employability of thousands of people and therefore improved the quality of life.*

### **Additional references**

*Provide links to further information. Pictures and videos should be available for download either from Youtube, Vimeo or other Cloud-based (Google/ One Drive) download URL.*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-UDj\\_uAwaM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-UDj_uAwaM)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxIOE\\_MfjIM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxIOE_MfjIM)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9geFNU\\_D6m0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9geFNU_D6m0)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Y9q5vEVt8E&t=64s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtohM-8WcYM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ienSC5ZWIDs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PC-Z3NLhjD0>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04sqj\\_s9yTo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=04sqj_s9yTo)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36vLgTat61E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXeL5yIEUYE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNXiNYMgdNk>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_lXfi8J-Fs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_lXfi8J-Fs)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7NGH1rpkrg&t=544s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUyD7-YKfXk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTETHmLap90>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-lq3M\\_yQ74](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-lq3M_yQ74)



