

# Statement on the assassination of environmental leader Victorio Dariquebe Gerewa

The Wyss Academy for Nature strongly condemns the murder of the environmental leader Victorio Dariquebe Gerewa, park ranger of the Amarakaeri Communal Reserve and member of the Queros native community and the Harakbut-Wachiperi Indigenous people. We express our deepest condolences to his family and community, and to the Harakbut-Wachiperi Indigenous people during this time of grief.

This crime not only represents an irreparable loss for the community and the region, but also poses a serious threat to the invaluable work of park rangers and environmental advocates who protect our natural heritage. The Amarakaeri Communal Reserve in particular, and all communal reserves in general, harbor rich biodiversity and are essential for the well-being of local communities and for environmental balance in the Amazon.

We join the call for a prompt, thorough, and impartial investigation to identify and punish those responsible for this crime. Impunity for such acts only encourages violence against Indigenous peoples and environmental defenders, and hinders the protection of our ecosystems, biodiversity, and protected areas.

Furthermore, we support the demand of Indigenous organizations to continue actions within the framework of the Intersectoral Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, as well as compliance with the provisions of Peru's Park Ranger Law.

This regrettable event occurs precisely during the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement. It reminds us of the importance in Peru of ratifying and implementing said treaty, which recognizes the right to access environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters. The effective ratification and implementation of this agreement will be crucial to ensuring the protection of environmental defenders, and to promoting participatory environmental governance in the region.

We call on the international community to unite in condemning this crime and in supporting effective measures to protect Indigenous peoples and environmental defenders, and ensure the conservation of nature.