

CONNECTIVITY IN THE AMAZON:

Recommendations to combat the digital divide

Latin America today faces critical connectivity challenges that reveal significant gaps between regions and communities. These inequalities not only limit access to technology but also perpetuate discrimination in education, health, freedom of expression, and self-determination for historically marginalized groups. Addressing this problem requires an intercultural approach that guarantees internet access for these communities within a paradigm of respect, protection, and defense of their rights as collective subjects.

The construction of public policies requires the active participation of those who live in the territory. Therefore, in the following pages, you will find some recommendations from those who live on Amazon and see why meaningful connectivity is an essential tool for the exercise of human rights.

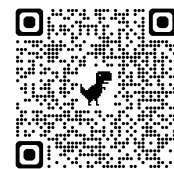
THE PROBLEM

Internet access in the Amazon remains unequal. Limited infrastructure, high costs, and lack of coverage affect rural and isolated areas. Extreme weather conditions, such as droughts, exacerbate these problems, affecting connections and electricity access.

OUR ACTION

Derechos Digitales, in collaboration with Internet Bolivia Foundation (Bolivia), Institute for Consumer Protection (Brazil), Dejusticia (Colombia), and Fundamedios (Ecuador), has been studying the reality of the Amazon region in various countries since 2023. This evaluation, along with participative workshops held with indigenous and rural communities, has generated a set of recommendations for overcoming the digital divide in the Amazon region. This material intends to provide a starting point for future consultations and actions by governments, the private sector, and civil society to promote meaningful connectivity in the region.

Read the key recommendations based on input from communities in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador.



Scan here to review the full report

CONNECTIVITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- Coordinate efforts among sectors to guarantee the electricity supply as a basis for connectivity, prioritizing clean and sustainable sources of energy.
- Increase investment in infrastructure to improve internet coverage in rural and areas with difficult access.
- Prioritize investments in infrastructures resistant to extreme weather conditions.
- Encourage private investment in alternative connectivity technologies in rural and hard-to-reach areas (e.g., through community networks and local providers).
- Improve transparency and accountability in the execution of connectivity policies and involve communities in evaluating their implementation.

TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATION

- Implement training programs on safe use of digital devices, focusing on security and privacy, and conduct periodic diagnostics on training needs in vulnerable communities.
- Promote the creation of content in native languages and about local culture to maintain cultural identity.
- Facilitate access to digital tools to foster the creation of digital content that enhances the cultural identity of communities and supports local economic activities.

IT'S TIME TO TAKE ACTION!

Connectivity policies must be flexible, with a holistic approach that incorporates both the creation of infrastructure and the strengthening of capacities that enable the social appropriation of technologies. They must be inclusive, sustainable and people-centered.

The recommendations that emerged from the workshops are essential to making the voices of the communities visible and moving towards effective policies that consider their needs, thus contributing to a more inclusive and fairer approach for the region.

This is the only way to bridge the digital divide in a region as diverse and vital as the Amazon.