



KILLIAN'S TREES

In Memory of Killian Doherty
1983-2021



When we lost Killian in February 2021, ELAW Staff Scientist, Dr. Meche Lu, coordinated with colleagues in Colombia and Peru to plant trees in Killian's honor in the Amazon.



THE ALLPAHUAYO MISHANA NATIONAL RESERVE (RNAM)

The Allpahuayo-Mishana National Reserve (RNAM) is a protected area in the Peruvian Amazon, 14 miles southwest of Iquitos, in the province of Maynas, region of Loreto. It has an area of 224.209 square miles (58,069 hectares) and was created in 2004 to guarantees the traditional use of renewable natural resources by the communities settled in the area and to protect the diverse forest types and watercourses which provide drinking water to the city of Iquitos.

LOCATION OF KILLIAN'S TREE IN RNAM

Killian's tree was planted in the Allpahuayo-Mishana Natural Reserve on February 22nd, 2021.

Coordinates: S 03°58.682',
W 073°25.342

Planted by Cristina López, a Peruvian biologist and coordinator of the office in Iquitos of the NGO Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR) www.dar.org.pe.



IMPORTANCE OF THE RNAM

The rainforests around Iquitos are famous for the incredible diversity of habitats that are home to unique species of plants and animals. The RNAM protected area's main objective is to conserve the biological diversity and the habitat of the *varillal* and *chamizal* rainforests on white sandy soil, which belong to the Napo Ecoregion, as well as the forests flooded by black waters adjacent to the middle basin of the Nanay River.



RNAM presents two notable types of habitat: the *varillajes* and the *flooded forests*. *Varillajes* develop on white sand and form a very special ecosystem with a high diversity of soils and different drainage conditions. *Flooded forests* are seasonally inundated by the Nanay River and are home to many endemic species.

The Nanay River is similar to that of the Amazon River in that there are two distinct periods: the one of high waters, "rising", with its maximum peak in May, and the one of low waters, "emptying", with its maximum point in September. The river fluctuates about 6 meters on average each year.



PERLITA DE IQUITOS

One of the attractions of the RNAM is the presence of the Iquitos "perlita" (*Poliioptila clementsii*), a bird that is only found in the varillales forests on white sands, in the north of the Reserve. It is estimated that its population does not exceed one hundred birds. This insectivorous bird is listed as a species in imminent danger of extinction.

THE MARUPA TREE

Cristina chose to plant a marupa tree (*Simarouba amara*), also known as the "Paradise Tree", a fast-growing, evergreen tree that grows up to 35 meters (115 feet) high and 125 (4 feet) in trunk diameter. It has small yellow or purple flowers, compound leaves comprising 9-16 leaflets each. The fruits are green to purplish black containing large seeds which are dispersed by large birds and mammals.

The seeds contain edible oil used in the preparation of food and cosmetics. The fruit pulp is rich in sugars and can be used in preparation of beverages consumed as tonics. The bark is used as medicinal plants for numerous diseases including skin, gastrointestinal and liver diseases, fever, and wounds, and is used traditionally in Brazil to treat malaria





KILLIAN'S TREE IN COLOMBIA

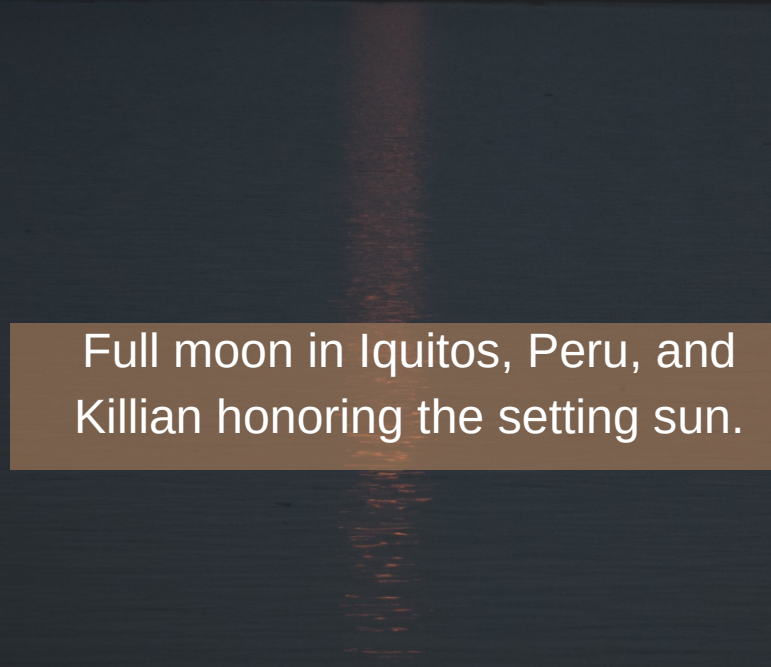
Translation of Video:

Good morning. On behalf of my community (Wayúu indigenous people), Yazmina Uriana, of the Indigenous Reservation El Provincial, on behalf of the group of defenders of the territory, we planted this tree as a symbol of struggle, of permanence, this tree means a lot to us as a community, it is a tree called ceiba (Ceiba pentandra) is already on the way to extinction today. We planted this tree especially on behalf of Mr. Killian. Killian we thank you for your life, your work that has contributed to different causes in defense of the [indigenous] territories. Thank you for your solidarity in supporting us in our processes within the community. Greetings to you, to your family. We will continue to fight in our territory to remain and continue fighting for the well-being of our community.



Video link: <http://bit.ly/wayuutree>

Yazmina Uriana is a Wayúu leader and plaintiff in a legal case protecting the Wayúu people of the Reservation El Provincial, from 30+ years of pollution by the Cerrejón open pit coal mine, the largest in Latin America.



Full moon in Iquitos, Peru, and Killian honoring the setting sun.