

Proposal Regarding the Amazon

Whereas the Amazon basin is a region formed by nine countries and is the second most strategic geopolitical region in the World;

Whereas the Amazon basin represents 80% of the biodiversity of the planet, has a great genetic richness, has an abundance of fresh water, and is being devastated by an economic model that seeks to exploit its natural resources in a predatory manner;

Whereas the diversity and plurality of ethnic and cultural groups, composed of approximately 400 different peoples, are threatened by the exploitation and destruction of their cultures, traditions and religiosity;

Whereas, in spite of the presence of fraternities from eight OFM Entities in this region, the presence of the Order is very fragile and at times isolated;

And wanting to respond to the needs of the Church, to the missionary vocation of the Order as a specific part of our charism, and to the urgent needs of society;

We Propose

1 – That the Amazon region be considered a Mission Area for the whole Order. And that the Order, primarily through the Secretariat of Evangelization and the JPIC Office, should support this effort by providing friars, resources, structures and information.

2 – That the Secretariat of Evangelization and the JPIC Office, through the Conferences of the Amazon river basin and through their respective Secretariats and Commissions, help promote the interchange between the friars in this region. This should be done to deepen the study of the reality, and to design a more integrated project of the Franciscan presence and the mission of the Order in this area.

Submitted by:

Brazilian Conference JPIC Commission

Bolivarian Conference JPIC Commission

The vote of the delegates: Yes: 63; No: 3; Abstain: 7.