

Abstract

The Amazon River headstream was defined on the basis of the Hatun Mayu 2000 expedition results. It is the water catchment area of Apacheta and Carhuasanta streams down to their confluence in the Lloqueta River in the Cordillera Chila. The characteristic feature of these streams and their tributaries is the presence of the wetlands dominated by *Distichia Muscoides*. This plant here and elsewhere in the High Andean wetlands creates up to several meters of peat deposits. These deposits slow down and block waterways, causing wide wetland spreading. This specific alpine habitat, called bofedales, is crucial for the survival of a number of animal and plant species as well as for people living in these inhospitable areas. Defining these wetlands is one of the important steps to understanding what role these wetlands have in nature, as well as protecting them, as they appear to be very sensitive to environmental changes. Due to the isolation of the Amazon headstream the Remote Sensing Methods seem to be ideal for defining them.

Keywords: Amazon River headstream area, bofedales, wetlands, remote sensing, NDVI, NDMI