

The Amazon forest plays a critical role in climate regulation as well as in the region's environmental and economic prosperity. It harbours 40 percent of the planet's remaining rainforest and is the single largest repository of biodiversity on the planet, with over 40,000 species of plants, close to 500 species of mammals, 1,300 birds, and 2,500 species of fish. One in ten known species in the world lives in Amazon ecosystems. Shared by 8 countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela) and the overseas territory of French Guiana, the Amazon is inhabited by around 34 million people, most of whom derive their livelihoods from its forests and rivers.

The GEF-funded **Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL)** is a regional initiative where Brazil, Colombia and Peru have come together with the objective of protecting biodiversity of global importance and implementing policies to promote the sustainable use of land and the restoration of the Amazon's native vegetation cover.

The ASL Program comprises national projects executed in Brazil, Colombia and Peru and a regional coordination project. The World Bank (lead agency), WWF and UNDP act as GEF Implementing Agencies. The Program builds on and has been enriched by experience from over a decade of work by these agencies, governments and other partner organizations in the Amazon.

The Program operates under the rationale that if:

- (a) An adequate area of the Amazon is conserved under various regimes (protected areas and indigenous lands);
- (b) Agriculture, degraded, and forest lands are managed sustainably, restored and with zero illegal deforestation tolerance;
- (c) National policies and strategies are supporting sustainable development that minimizes deforestation and loss of ecosystem services; and,
- (d) Capacity of and regional cooperation between key players is improved, then, the protection of significant biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystem services of the Amazon region can be achieved.

Following this rationale, the Program has set up the following targets:

- Strengthening management effectiveness of more than 66 million hectares of protected areas;
- Facilitating the creation of 4.3 million hectares of new protected areas;
- Promoting sustainable productive practices in approximately 11 million hectares;
- Restoring 35,000 hectares of forests; and,
- Supporting actions to help mitigate 164 MtCO₂e of emissions.





Photo: Marizilda Cruppe/ FUNBIO

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Protected and productive landscapes in 9 Brazilian Amazon States (Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Maranhão, Mato Grosso, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima and Tocantins)

GEF grant: \$60 million **Cofinancing:** \$374 million

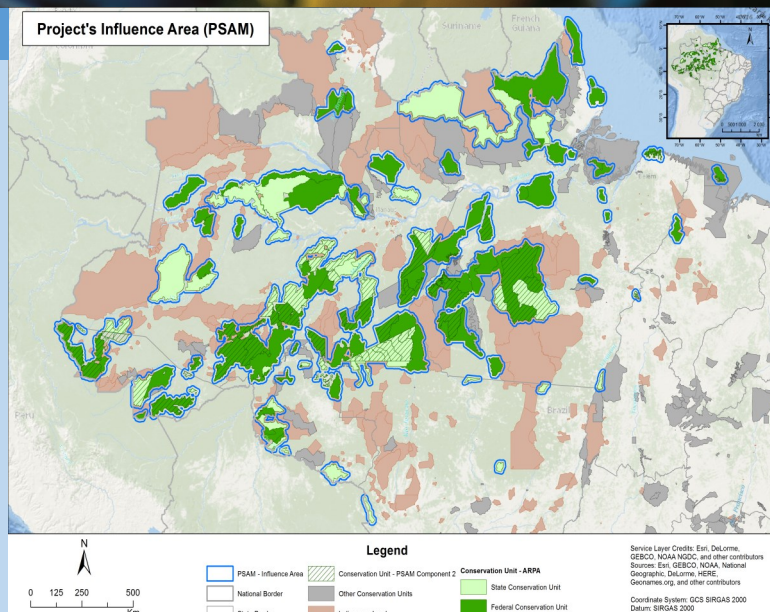
Executing Partners: Ministry of Environment (MMA), Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (Funbio), Conservation International (CI-Brazil).

Contact: Rodrigo Martins Vieira, rodrigo.vieira@mma.gov.br

GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank

Contact: Adriana Moreira, amoreira@worldbank.org

Project Coordinators: Rodrigo Martins Vieira, rodrigo.vieira@mma.gov.br, Neila Maria Cavalcante da Silva, ncavalcante@conservation.org



CONTEXT

The Amazon biome ranges over nine countries. It represents the planet's largest continuous tropical rainforest and possibly harbors the world's greatest biological diversity. With 60 percent located in northern Brazil, the Brazilian Amazon, it contains approximately 70 billion tons of carbon and influences regional and global climates. The region is inhabited by 22 million people, including at least 200,000 indigenous peoples from 200 ethnic groups. Such communities are economically and culturally dependent on the region's natural resources. The conservation of the Amazon with its cultural and biological diversity, and the protection of the ecological balance that allows climate regulation, are vital to Brazil and the planet.

Over the past two decades, government policies towards conservation and sustainable development in the region have significantly reduced deforestation, achieved in large part through expanding the protected area (PA) system, improving PA management, strengthening local community participation, and engaging with State governments. Despite these achievements, deforestation and degradation continue to threaten the region. Building on past experience, the project will address these threats by supporting implementation of the environment policy and legislative framework, aiming to maintain and further expand efforts to protect and restore the Amazon, and to promote adoption of sustainable production systems.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to expand the area under legal protection and improve management of Protected Areas, and increase the area under restoration and sustainable management in the Brazilian Amazon. Expected outcomes for the project relate to:

- Creation of new protected areas
- Increase in protected areas management effectiveness
- Restoration and reforestation of strategic areas (including natural regeneration)
- Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management Plans

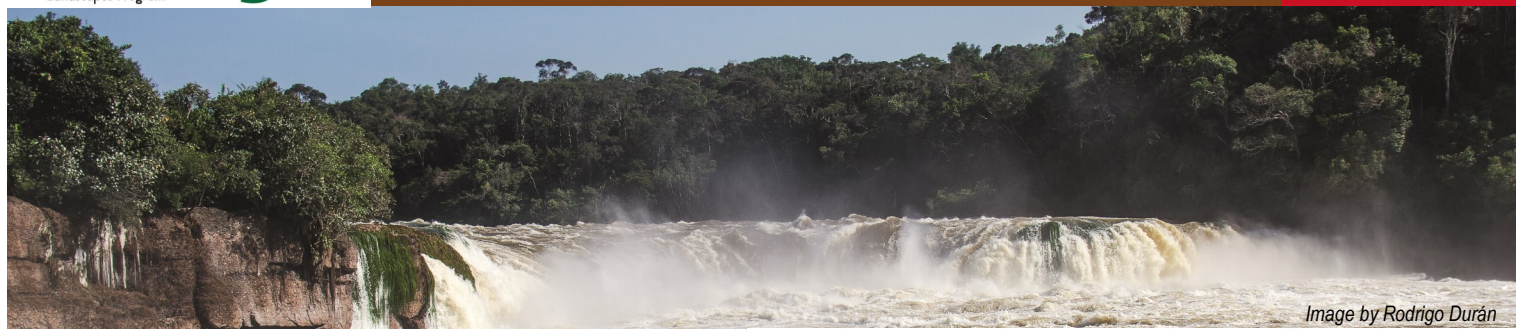


Image by Rodrigo Durán

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Climate Change Management Strategy and Integrated Climate Change Plans developed for the Amazon region; two focalized areas for landscape design: Sabanas del Yari (Caquetá - Meta) and La Perla Amazónica Campesino Reserve Zone (Putumayo); two focalized areas for strengthening conservation and sustainable, inclusive value chains: Piamonte (Cauca) and La Uribe (Meta).

GEF grant: \$9 million **Cofinancing:** \$46 million

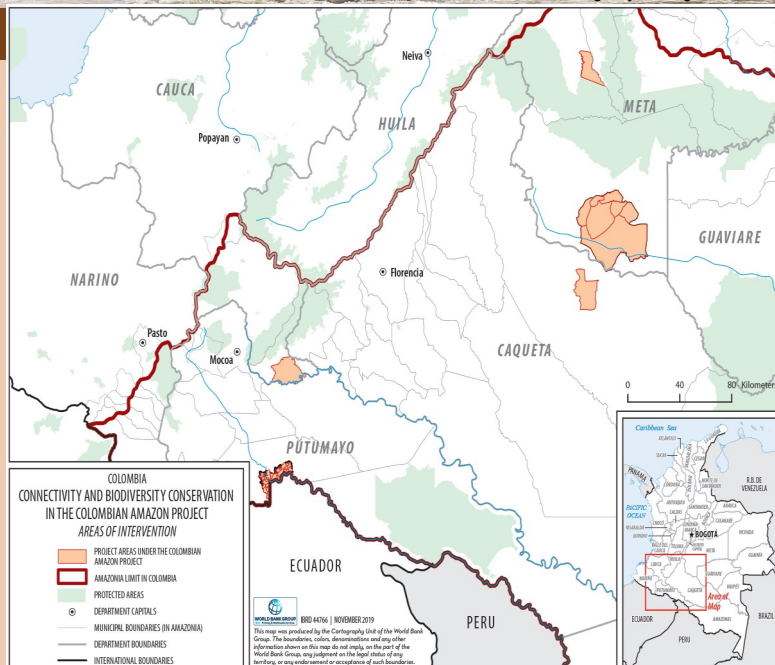
Executing Partners: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Patrimonio Natural Fund

Contact: Laura Bermudez, lbermudez@minambiente.gov.co

GEF Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

Contact: Jimena Puyana, jimena.puyana@undp.org

Project Coordinator: Miguel F. Mejia Alfonso, miguel.mejia@undp.org



CONTEXT

The Colombian Amazon forest represents 6.5% of the biome's rainforest and 42% of the country's landmass. Deforestation is threatening the region's biodiversity and its capacity to act as a store of biomass and organic carbon, affecting its ability to mitigate GHG emissions and provide environmental services for the 1.2 million people living in this region. Deforestation in the region is closely linked with colonization processes, aggravated by poverty, social inequities, lack of productive alternatives and the armed conflict dynamics.

In 2013, the Government of Colombia presented the "Visión Amazonía", an initiative that promotes a low-carbon development model and states that the Amazon "cannot simply be a large protected area, but needs to provide alternatives for the development and economic integration of its population, as well for the progress and prosperity for the country at large." In 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that the Amazon is a "subject of rights" related to its protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration.

The Colombian ASL intervention has been implemented through two interrelated projects: 1) Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation in the Colombian Amazon—Sustainable Amazon for Peace (implemented by the UNDP), and 2) Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon (implemented by the World Bank).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project strengthens the capacities of communities and institutions to promote adaptation to climate change and build nature based economic opportunities that contribute to forest connectivity and the territory social and ecological resilience. The main outcomes relate to:

- Sustainable productive landscapes designed and implemented to improve forest cover, connectivity and reduce carbon emissions
- Strengthened community organizations in productive sustainable landscapes management, as a contribution for the construction of peace and reparation for the victims of conflict
- Integrated climate change plans and regional climate change management strategy formulated and implemented with local governments
- New knowledge about sustainable productive landscapes



Image by Álvaro Gaviria

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Serranía de Chiribiquete National Park (NP); Alto Fragua Indi Wasi NP; Paya NP; Serranía de Churumbelos Auka Wasi NP; Medicinal Plants Orito Ingi-Ande Flora Sanctuary; Corridor Páramos Miraflores/Picachos Regional Park, Bajo Caguan and Serranía La Lindosa, Capricho, Cerritos and Mirolindo; 22 indigenous reserves.

GEF grant: \$12 million **Cofinancing:** \$60 million

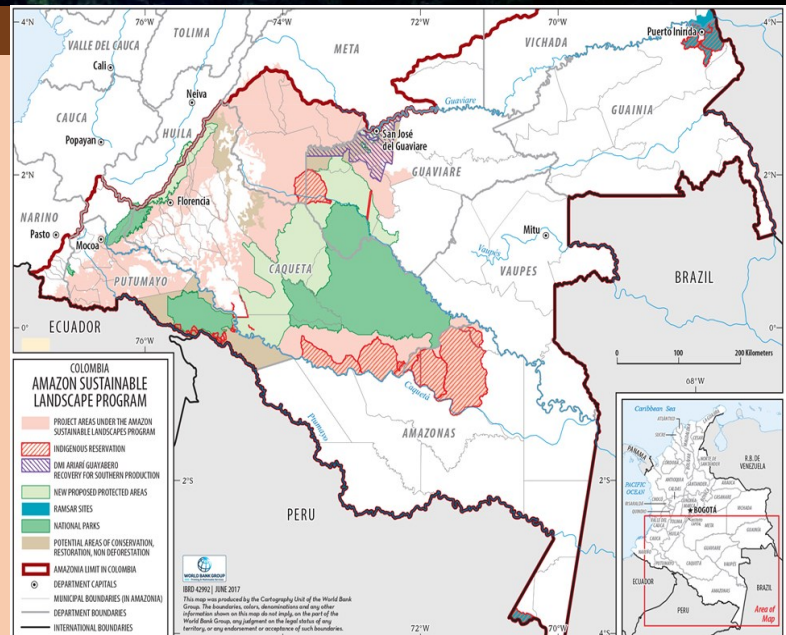
Executing Partners: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Patrimonio Natural Fund.

Contact: Laura Bermúdez, lbermudez@minambiente.gov.co

GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank Group (WB)

Contacts: Adriana Moreira, amoreira@worldbank.org, Ana María González, vgonzalez3@worldbank.org

Project Coordinator: Luz Adriana Rodríguez, lrodriguez@patrimonionatural.org.co



CONTEXT

The Colombian Amazon forest represents 6.5 percent of the biome's rainforest and 42 percent of the country's landmass. Deforestation is threatening the region's biodiversity and its capacity to act as a store of biomass and organic carbon, affecting its ability to mitigate GHG emissions and provide environmental services for the 1.2 million people living in this region. It has been estimated that, if current rates of deforestation continue, ecosystem connectivity between the Andes and the Amazon forests will be lost by 2030. In 2013, the Government of Colombia presented the "Visión Amazonía", an initiative that promotes a low-carbon development model, stating that the Amazon "cannot simply be a large protected area, but needs to provide alternatives for the development and economic integration of its population, as well for the progress and prosperity for the country at large." In 2018, the Supreme Court ruled that the Amazon is a "subject of rights" related to its protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration.

The Colombian ASL intervention has been implemented through two interrelated projects: 1. Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon (implemented by the WB), and 2. Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation in the Colombian Amazon –Sustainable Amazon for Peace (implemented by the UNDP).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to improve governance and promote sustainable land-use activities to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the project area. The main project outcomes involve:

- Expanding and strengthening protected areas management and financial sustainability
- Strengthening forest governance, including capacity to monitor deforestation and enforce policies
- Mainstreaming environment criteria in sectors that drive deforestation
- Promoting conservation, restoration, and no deforestation agreements



Image by Walter Wust / www.semarnp.gob.pe

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Eleven districts located in the regions of Ucayali and Huánuco.

GEF grant: \$18.3 million **Cofinancing:** \$129 million

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment (MINAM)

Contact: Martha Cuba de Cronkleton, mcuba@minam.gob.pe

GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

Contacts: Lyes Ferroukhi, lyes.ferroukhi@undp.org; James Leslie, james.leslie@undp.org

Project coordinator: Diana Rivera, diana.rivera@undp.org



CONTEXT

Nearly 60% of Peru's national territory, almost 70 million ha, is considered part of the Amazon region. Despite its size, the region is markedly different and isolated from the rest of the country. Ucayali, for instance, remains one of the poorest areas of the country. The region is losing its capacity to provide ecosystem services mainly due to forest cover loss. While in 2001 the average annual deforestation rate was estimated at almost 84 thousand ha/year, by 2017, the rate had increased to almost 156 thousand ha/year. This deforestation is mainly due to illegal logging and conversion of forest to agriculture.

The project supports the implementation of Peru's National Strategy for Forests and Climate Change, contributing to the reduction of deforestation and the recovery of forests in targeted production landscapes. The goal will be achieved by supporting natural resource management and production systems that incorporate environmental sustainability considerations, and through an integrated landscape management approach that recognizes the complexity of local livelihoods and the drivers of deforestation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to generate multiple global environmental benefits through the application of an integrated approach to the management of Amazonian landscapes.

The project outcomes relate to:

- Improved planning and governance frameworks to enhance sustainable production
- Strengthened market and incentive mechanisms promoting sustainable production practices
- Reduced rates of forest loss
- Improved capacity to restore and sustain ecosystem services



OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Thirty eight protected areas in the Peruvian Amazon. On the ground interventions in 4 prioritized areas (Rio Abiseo National Park, Tingo Maria National Park, Tabaconas Namballe National Sanctuary, and the Machiguenga Communal Reserve)

GEF grant: \$9 million **Cofinancing:** \$55 million

Executing Partners: National Service of Natural Protected Areas (SERNANP) and Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (PROFONANPE).

Contact: Rodolfo Valcarcel, rvalcarcel@sernanp.gob.pe

GEF Implementing Agency: WWF

Contact: Isabel Filiberto, isabel.filiberto@wwfus.org

Project Manager: Lorenzo Beck, lbeckgef6-pdp@sernanp.gob.pe



CONTEXT

Peru hosts the second-largest portion of the Amazon biome, accounting for over 11% of the biome and nearly 60% of Peru's territory. The region is characterized by rich biodiversity and extensive forest land cover which provide critical environmental global and national benefits. In recent years, accelerated development in Peru has translated into new infrastructure that has opened up the region to multiple activities, such as shifting small- and medium-scale agriculture, cattle grazing, illegal gold mining, and illegal crops.

A key strategy of the Peruvian Government to safeguard its portion of the Amazon biome has been the expansion of the national protected area system and improvement of its management. However, the system still faces significant challenges to guarantee long-term conservation and effective management of the protected areas.

This project was designed to develop and implement a financial sustainability strategy. The strategy will not only help close the funding gap for its improved management, but also build institutional capacity, promote agreements among key governmental stakeholders, catalyze long-term strategic planning, coordinate different funding institutions, and develop a vision for the landscape where the protected areas are keystones for sustainability.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project aims to promote long-term financial sustainability for the effective management of the National System of Protected Natural Areas of Peru for the protection of globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Amazon Biome.

The project main outcomes relate to:

- Development of a multi-partner, public, private initiative (Patrimonio del Peru) for long-term financial sustainability of the Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) in the Peruvian Amazon
- Improve management effectiveness and conservation status of selected protected areas

Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program

Regional Coordination Project



Image by Walter Wust /SERNANP

OVERVIEW

GEF grant: \$5 million
Cofinancing: \$20 million

GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank

Program Coordinators: Adriana Moreira,
 amoreira@worldbank.org; Ana Maria Gonzalez,
 vgonzalez3@worldbank.org



Figure 1: Boundaries of the Amazon Region¹⁰
 Basemap source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, Geoeye, Earthstar, Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, awisstopo and the GIS User Community Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, ©OpenStreetMap contributors and GIS User Community

Key

- Amazon basin
- Amazon biome
- Amazon extended (includes Brazil's geopolitical Amazon boundary, the "Legal Amazon")

Source: WWF Living Amazon Report 2016

The regional coordination project supports the exchange of technical and practical knowledge and experiences among national project executors and their partners in Brazil, Colombia and Peru, to accelerate positive changes from the designed interventions. The strategy of the regional project is to promote a demand-driven collaborative learning platform that fosters a harmonized and common vision for the Amazon region.

The coordination project is built to facilitate the regional and integrated landscape approach promoted by the ASL Program. The project brings national interventions together, helps tackle common threats, scales up innovative approaches and best practices and allows for projects to achieve greater impacts than if implemented independently.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

The coordination project aims to strengthen coordination, access to information and capacity of the national projects' stakeholders under the ASL Program.

The project components include:

1. Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

- Support strategic plans and processes
- Best Practices and Lessons Learned
- Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building
- Community of Practice

2. Coordination and Communications

- Coordination
- Monitoring of Program Results
- Communication

