

STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS PROVIDED BY ENVIRONMENTAL FUNCTIONS IN THE CHIQUITANO DRY FOREST IN BOLIVIA

(Jan to Oct, 2022)



CONTEXT

With an area of more than 24 million hectares, the Chiquitano Dry Forest (ChDF) is the largest and best preserved tropical dry forest in the world (FCBC, 2022), and one of the 200 priority ecoregions for conservation identified by World Wildlife Fund. However, in the last 20 years it has been suffering from significant vegetation loss due to agricultural expansion, territorial encroachments, and forest fires.

From 2001 to 2020 the total loss was approximately 25%.



OBJECTIVE

Assess environmental functions to generate proposals and/or intervention models that promote economic development and the conservation of the Chiquitano Dry Forest ecoregion's natural resources.

GUIDING NATIONAL POLICY WITH GPS SUPPORT

The Regional Government of Santa Cruz, in alliance with the World Bank, requested the study to contribute to the sustainable development of the ChDF ecoregion and generate technical-scientific arguments for national and regional policy discussions on agricultural expansion and restoration program implementation.

KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Biophysical Assessment of Environmental Functions.
2. Economic Valuation of Environmental Functions.
3. Estimate the Opportunity Costs of Conserving the ChDF.

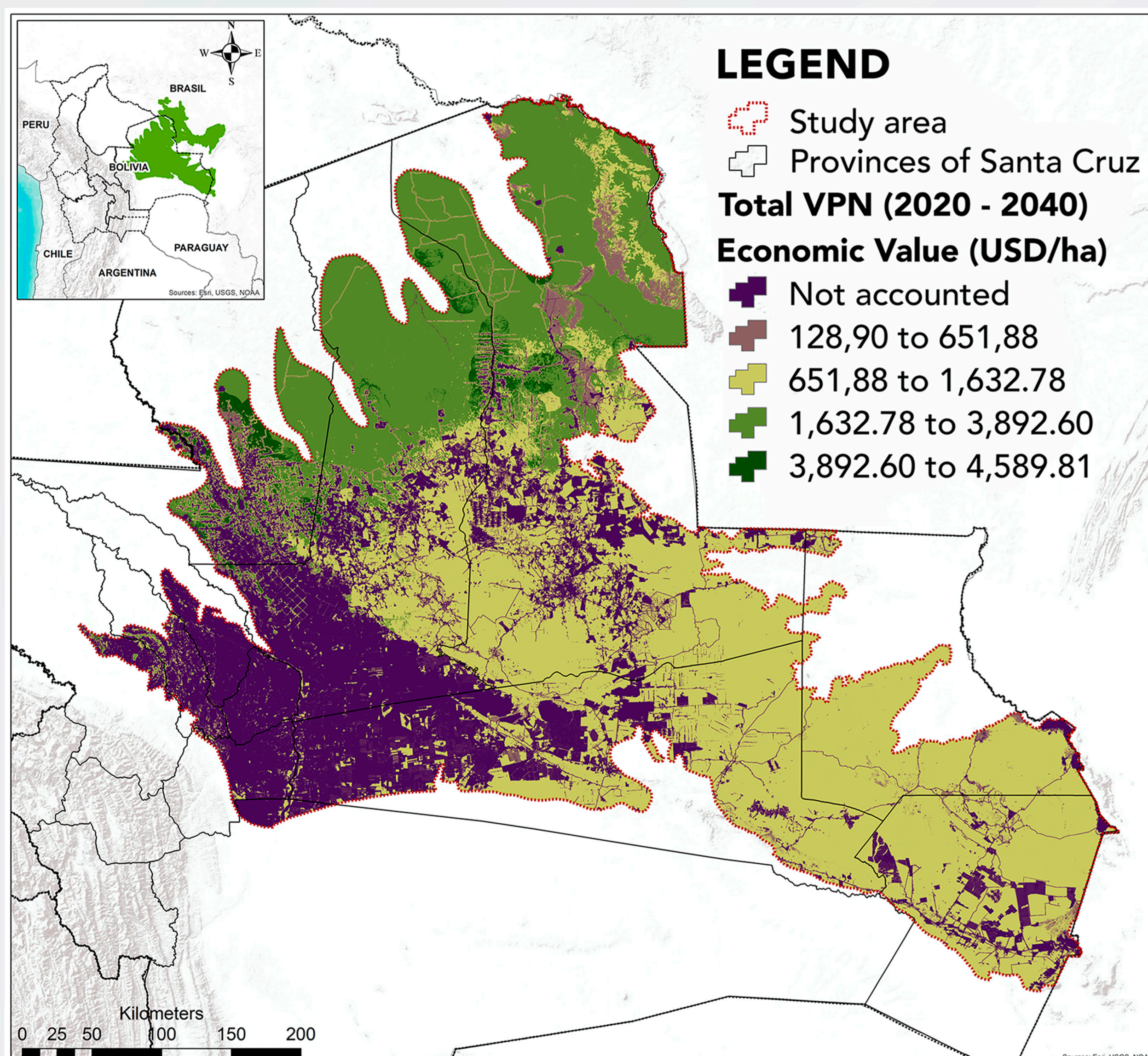


Figure 1: NPV 2020-2040: Carbon + Water + Pollination + NTFP + TFP + Wildlife.

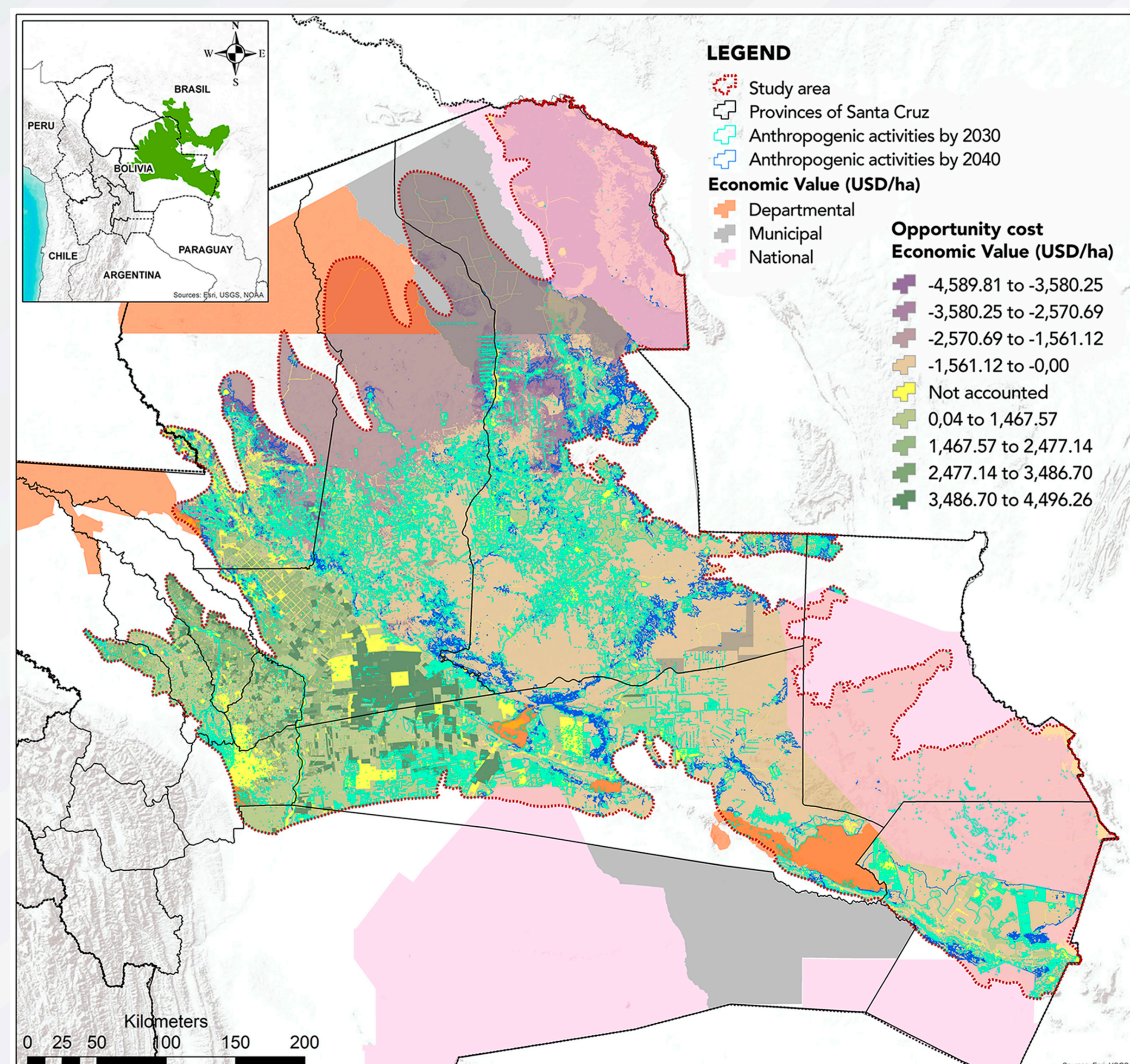


Figure 2: Opportunity Costs of Conservation (NPV loss 2040: USD 2,472 MM).

GPS INDICATORS

PROGRESS IN USING DATA AND EVIDENCE TO INFORM POLICIES

The ecosystem valuation results were used to inform further work supported by the WB on local land use planning in Santa Cruz, and concluded:

1. Some of the areas with high value environmental services are not protected.
2. Municipalities need this information to protect such sites, and related measures should be included in their Territorial Plans for Integrated Development (PTDIs).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Protective actions in areas with high value in environmental functions.
2. Strengthen protective actions in conservation areas.
3. Promote the use of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP).
4. Support the generation of greater added value in wood offered by communities.
5. Encourage the development of sustainable agriculture in areas where agricultural expansion is imminent.
6. Explore Results-Based Contributions agreements on carbon and biodiversity.
7. Inform local governments about land-use planning tools.

PARTNERS

