



# ASL

Amazon Sustainable  
Landscapes Program

## AMAZON SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) was designed to bring together three countries—Brazil, Colombia and Peru—with the objective of **protecting globally significant biodiversity and implementing policies to foster sustainable land use and the restoration of native vegetation cover**. Over \$113 million (U.S. dollars) in funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have been allocated to the ASL, with an estimated leveraged co-financing of \$683 million from national governments, bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies, GEF implementing agencies, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector.

Three agencies act as the GEF Implementing Agencies for the program: The World Bank Group (WBG) as lead agency, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).



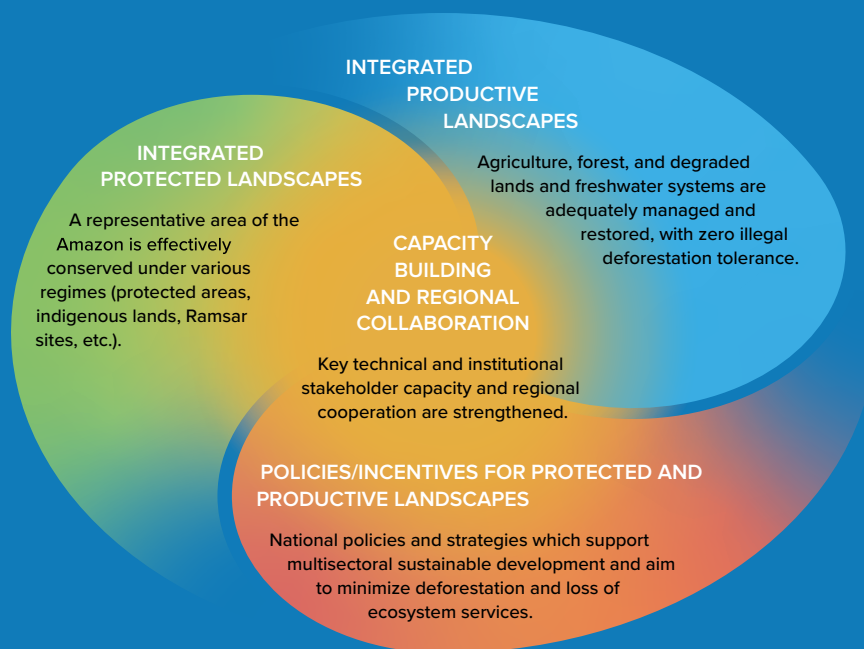
The ASL comprises national projects in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, as well as a project for regional coordination and knowledge management. The Program operates under the rationale that the protection of significant biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystem services of the Amazon region can be achieved if:

- (a) an adequate area of the Amazon is conserved under various regimes (protected areas and indigenous lands);
- (b) agricultural, degraded, and forest lands are managed sustainably, restored and with zero tolerance for illegal deforestation;
- (c) national policies and strategies are supporting sustainable development that minimizes deforestation and loss of ecosystem services; and,
- (d) the capacity of regional cooperation between key players is improved.

**Figure 1** illustrates how these elements relate to the four ASL program components.

**FIGURE 1. ASL PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

Protect globally significant biodiversity and implement policies to foster sustainable land use and restoration of native vegetation cover in the Amazon



A collaborative approach that combines these components with national and regional action constitutes the foundation of the ASL's integrated landscape management approach. This harmonized approach ensures that national projects can achieve larger impacts than if they were implemented in isolation. By working together under one large program, national project teams can learn from one another, attract partners to work nationally and regionally, be part of a network that coordinates and collaborates to achieve a common goal, voice concerns, share ideas and best practices, and align efforts to safeguard the connectivity of the Amazon landscapes.





## NATIONAL PROJECTS

With different contexts and priorities, each of the ASL National Projects has made important progress contributing to the program-level objective (See **Figure 2**). The National Projects receive support from the regional coordination project, led by the WBG, that facilitates the exchange of technical and practical knowledge and experiences among project executors and their partners to accelerate positive changes from the project interventions.

The national projects are implementing multiple activities that reach national and subnational scale and involve design or strengthening of policies, financial mechanisms, incentive structures, and knowledge exchanges. Other activities and on the ground investments are focused on specific and priority areas in each country (see **Map 1**).

**MAP 1. AREAS OF INTERVENTION FOR THE ASL**

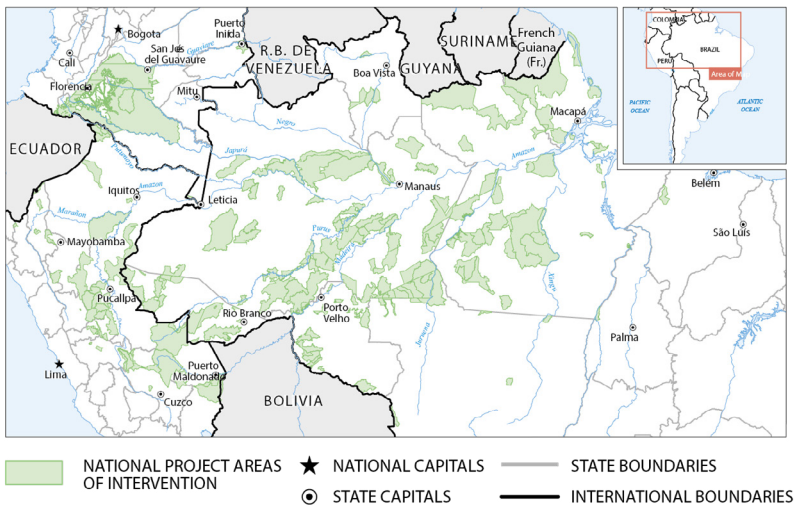
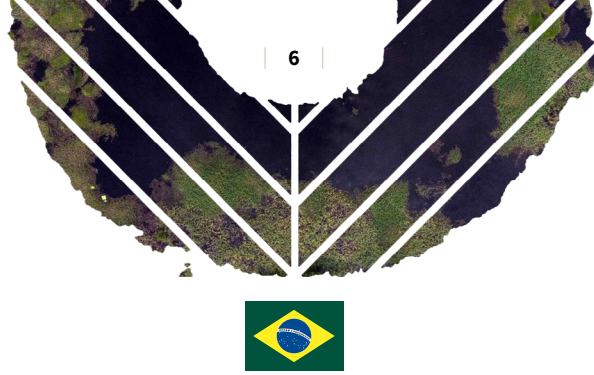




FIGURE 2





## BRAZIL: AMAZON SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROJECT

**Objective:** 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.

**GEF Implementing Agency:** World Bank Group (WBG).

**Executing Partners:** Ministry of Environment (MMA), Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (Funbio), Conservation International (CI-Brazil); Instituto Chico Mendes de Conservação da Biodiversidade (ICMBio).

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

**GEF grant:** \$60 million **Co-financing:** \$374 million.

The Brazil ASL project builds on decades of government policies that successfully reduced deforestation and expanded the protected areas (PA) by improving PA management, strengthening local community participation, and engaging with state governments.

**More information about the project:** Website [Projeto Paisagens Sustentáveis da Amazônia](#) (in Portuguese).

## MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2018/2019



### INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS

**PAs Creation:** Five new PAs created with a total area of 863,461 hectares.

**Management effectiveness:**

**High effectiveness category:** 34,885,985 hectares.

**Moderate effectiveness category:**

14,183,198 hectares.

**Low effectiveness category:**

11,813,235 hectares.

**Transition fund:** Currently, 117 PAs are being supported by the Protected Areas trust fund (Transition Fund). Of these, 77 have been fully consolidated and are moving to maintenance, 36 have “improved management”.

Transition Fund currently has a capital of \$156,361,174 (including \$20 million of the planned \$30 million to be disbursed under the project).



## INTEGRATED PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPE

**Natural regeneration:** Approximately 2,500 hectares are under natural regeneration in the State of Rondônia.

**Cooperation agreements:** Cooperation agreements for integrated landscape management in the states of Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, and Acre have been signed and are under implementation.

**Environmental Regularization Program:** 171 properties (an estimated 17,100 hectares) enrolled in the Environmental

Regularization Program (Programa de Regularização Ambiental, PRA) and developing sustainable land management practices.

**Fishing accords:** 12 fishing accords, corresponding to 597,251 hectares, established in Amazonas State, involving 169 communities and 3,331 families. Approximately 616,851 hectares are being managed with sustainable land practices.



## POLICIES/INCENTIVES FOR PROTECTED AND PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

**Rural Environmental Registry:** 19,818 rural properties registered and validated in the Rural Environmental Registry (Cadastro Ambiental Rural, CAR): 12,000 in Acre, 6,000 in Pará, 1,816 in Rondônia, and two in Amazonas.

**Incentive mechanism:** Development of incentive mechanisms launched at the state level, including fishery agreements, Acre's socio-biodiversity law, extractive reserve management agreements, and forest concessions.

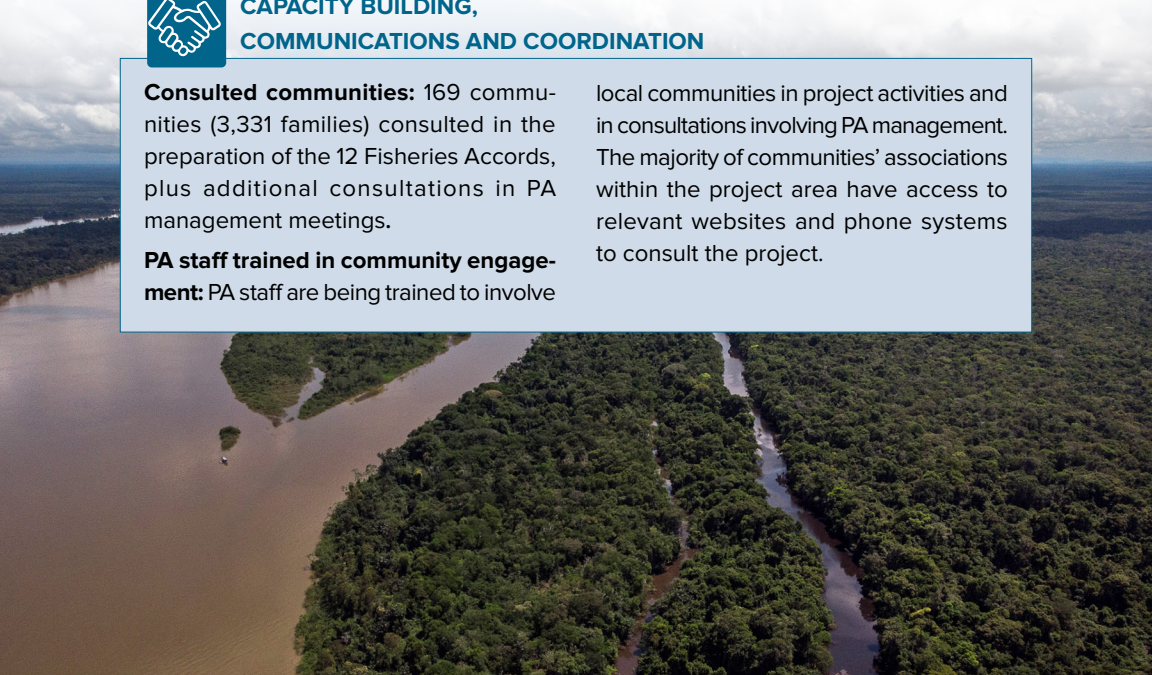


## CAPACITY BUILDING, COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION

**Consulted communities:** 169 communities (3,331 families) consulted in the preparation of the 12 Fisheries Accords, plus additional consultations in PA management meetings.

**PA staff trained in community engagement:** PA staff are being trained to involve

local communities in project activities and in consultations involving PA management. The majority of communities' associations within the project area have access to relevant websites and phone systems to consult the project.







## COLOMBIA: CONNECTIVITY AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE COLOMBIAN AMAZON

The Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation project in Colombia is made up of two separate interventions led by separate GEF Implementing Agencies that have complementary actions but separate implementation, monitoring and reporting processes:

- **Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon** with the WBG as implementing agency; and
- **Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation in the Colombian Amazon—Sustainable Amazon for Peace** with UNDP as implementing agency.

## COLOMBIA: FOREST CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE HEART OF THE COLOMBIAN AMAZON

**Objective:** The project aims to improve governance and promote sustainable land-use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the project area.

**GEF Implementing Agency:** World Bank Group (WBG).

**Executing Partners:** Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINAMBIENTE); Patrimonio Natural Fund; Amazonic Institute of Scientific Research (SINCHI); National Natural Parks of Colombia; Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM); Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Southern Amazon (Corpoamazonia); and the Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the northern and western Amazon (CDA).

**Project Sites:** Serranía de Chiribiquete National Park; Alto Fragua Indi Wasi; Paya; 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. RAMSAR sites Lagos de Tarapoto y Estrella Fluvial del Inírida; forest management zones and connectivity corridors between protected areas.

**GEF grant:** \$12 million **Co-financing:** \$60 million.

The project is an Additional Financing on a previous GEF intervention, which aligns with the policies and strategies of the government and has been regarded as a pioneer in the implementation of Amazon Vision, the government's low-carbon development strategy for the Amazon. The project has also become an important support to the government, ensuring compliance with the Colombian Supreme Court ruling (STC 4360-2018) that recognized the Colombian Amazon as a "subject of rights" related to its protection, conservation, maintenance, and restoration.

**More information about the project:** Website [Corazón de la Amazonía](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) (in Spanish).

## MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2018/2019



### INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS

**PA Expansion and creation:** The Serranía de Chiribiquete National Park area was expanded in 1.5 million hectares (to achieve a total area of 4.3 million hectares), becoming the world's largest tropical rainforest national protected area. In December 2018, the first subnational protected area in the Colombian Amazon was created (Miraflores y Picachos Regional National Park).

**Land management plans:** Land management plans for two Ramsar sites and plans improving the management effectiveness in five protected areas under implementation.

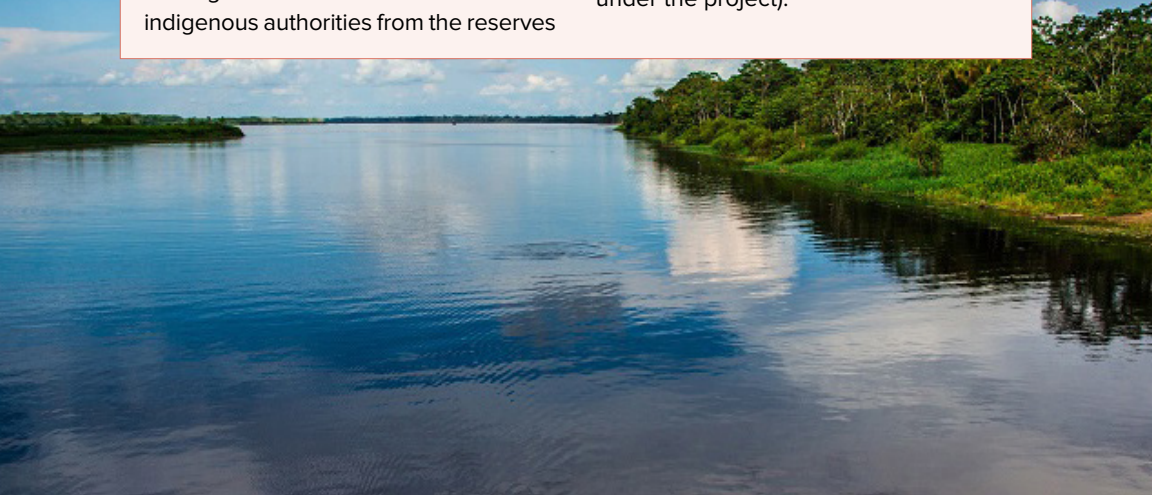
**Conservation agreements:** Conservation agreements established with the indigenous authorities from the reserves

of Nonuya de Villazul and Mirití-Paraná, leading to a Special Protection Zone that includes over 651,035 hectares.

**Indigenous Peoples' Plans:** Implementation of Indigenous People's Plans in seven indigenous reserves in the target area.

**PA Financial sustainability:** Assessment of the financing gap; national fundraising targets for short, medium and long terms established, and institutional arrangements in place for the Colombia Heritage mechanism to provide financial sustainability to the PA system.

Transition Fund currently has a capital of \$156,361,174 (including \$20 million of the planned \$30 million to be disbursed under the project).





## INTEGRATED PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

**Establishment of agreements:** Establishment of 362 conservation, restoration, and non-deforestation agreements covering 43,745 hectares. The agreements include 40 percent of the farm area allocated for conservation (with an effectiveness rate of 83 percent).

**Land management:** By June 2019, 1,113 hectares of land are being managed with sustainable agroforestry practices, and 11,301 hectares are being conserved as standing forests.



## POLICIES/INCENTIVES FOR PROTECTED AND PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

**Monitoring activities:** Forest and deforestation monitoring activities underway, producing Early Warning and quarterly reports.

**Agreements with different sectors:** 10 agreements established with agriculture, infrastructure (roads) and hydrocarbon sectors on land-use planning and development.



## CAPACITY BUILDING, COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION

**Training events:** Attendance to training events organized by ASL coordination project.

**Communication strategy:** Communication strategy in place, including the design and management of a project website, Facebook and Twitter account.







## COLOMBIA: CONNECTIVITY AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN THE COLOMBIAN AMAZON– SUSTAINABLE AMAZON FOR PEACE

**Objective:** This project aims to improve connectivity and conserve biodiversity through the strengthening of institutions and local organizations to ensure integral low-carbon emission management and peacebuilding.

**GEF Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

**Executing Partners:** Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

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

**GEF grant:** \$9 million **Co-financing:** \$46 million.

The project aligns with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Colombia 2015–2019, which centers around peacebuilding and sustainable development, focusing on actions to increase social/environmental sustainability, climate change resilience, the sustainable use of natural resources, and effective disaster risk management.

**More information about the project:** Website [Amazonía Sostenible para la Paz](#) (in Spanish).

## MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2018/2019



### INTEGRATED LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

**Community involvement:** Two community nurseries have been established and will produce plant material needed for restoration activities under the project. The process included capacity building in nursery matters and to date 224 people have benefitted (129 men and 95 women).

**Value chains:** Six value chains have been identified to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and transformation of

Amazonian products including açai, seje, and moriche palms, and nature tourism.

The project is also working on three sectoral strategies to ensure that value chains of beef, milk, and non-timber forest products minimize potential negative impact on biodiversity. This project activity together with the UNDP-supported initiative “From commitment to action” aims to ensure zero- deforestation for beef and milk value chains.



## POLICIES/INCENTIVES FOR PROTECTED AND PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

**Amazon Pact for Forests and Climate:** “Amazon Pact for Forests and Climate”, was signed on May 3, 2019, by the Minister of Environment, Governors of Putumayo, Caquetá, Guaviare, Amazonas, Guainía and Vaupés, regional environmental authorities CORPOAMAZONIA and CDA, research Institutes SINCHI and IDEAM, the UNDP and a representative of the government of Norway. The Pact aims on developing and implementing a joint regional strategy for the protection and proper management of forests and implementing the necessary climate change adaptation measures, thereby reducing the vulnerability of the local communities and territories in the Colombian Amazon.

**Ecosystems Connectivity Model:** An ecosystems connectivity model has been developed and applied to identify the best areas to promote functional and structural connectivity among areas generating the highest ecosystem service values. The model covers an area of 70,561 hectares.

**Jaguar Conservation Strategy:** A conservation strategy for the jaguar corridor is being implemented to reduce human-wildlife conflict. The monitoring process, included in the strategy, uses camera traps and is being developed in association with [Panthera Foundation](#).



## CAPACITY BUILDING, COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION

**Communication strategy:** The project is implementing a communication strategy targeted to local communities.

**Exchange of experiences:** Three exchanges of experiences held between the communities from the different regions participating in the project implementation in the following topics: Analysis and

transformation of açai palm; the role of women in conservation strategies; and community-based methodologies for biodiversity monitoring.

**Capacity building:** 535 people participated in capacity building spaces promoted and led by the project (311 men and 224 women).



## PERU: SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

**Objective:** The objective of the project is to generate multiple global environmental benefits through the application of an integrated approach to the management of Amazonian landscapes.

**GEF Implementing Agency:** United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

**Executing Partners:** Ministry of Environment (MINAM).

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

**GEF grant:** \$18.3 million **Co-financing:** \$129 million.

The project supports the implementation of Peru's National Strategy for Forests and Climate Change, contributing to the reduction of deforestation and forest recovery in productive landscapes in Huánuco and Ucayali Departments in the Peruvian Amazon.

The objective will be achieved by supporting natural resource management and productive systems that incorporate an integrated and comprehensive territorial approach that recognizes the complexity of local livelihoods and the landscape-wide scale of the drivers of deforestation, while taking targeted actions to modify producer behavior that have driven deforestation in selected sectors.

**More information about the project:** Website [Paisajes Productivos Sostenibles](#) (in Spanish).

## MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2018/2019



### INTEGRATED PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

**Community life plan:** The methodology for developing community life plans with 12 indigenous communities has been developed. A participatory process with indigenous organizations has been conducted aimed at identifying the native communities the project will support with their life plan's elaboration.

A socio-environmental diagnostic in 28 native communities was developed, using a participatory instrument to collect data validated with the National Forest Program (PNCB) of MINAM and indigenous organizations.

**Territorial Development:** A territorial development model, through which private on-farm conservation agreements will be connected to public-private financial flow commitments for sustainable production, was elaborated and adopted by the project stakeholders.

**Participatory research:** A participatory, decentralized, and technically sound process for conducting several studies is being developed including an analysis of ecological connectivity and restoration practices.





## POLICIES/INCENTIVES FOR PROTECTED AND PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES

### **Cocoa & Chocolate Value Chain:**

The formulation of the National Development Plan for the Cocoa and Chocolate Value Chain has started. A detailed roadmap has been defined under the Global Green Commodities Program (GCP) multi-stakeholder dialogue platform, under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture. This has resulted in a participatory, decentralized, and technically sound process. Seven decentralized meetings have been held to conduct the cause-foot diagnoses and analysis in the framework of the cocoa & chocolate value chain formulation.

### **Regional Development Plans with sustainable land management:**

The formulation of the Regional Development Plans of Ucayali and Huánuco with a sustainable land management approach has started in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, the regional governments of Ucayali and Huánuco, and the municipal governments of Padre Abad and Puerto Inca. Four booklets have been developed that help mainstream environmental issues in the formulation of these plans within the framework of the national strategic planning process. A document for the Environmental Priorities Monitoring Plan related to forests and productive chains was prepared. The planning and governance processes in Ucayali are being supported by the project which is providing technical

assistance to incorporate environmental and sustainability issues and develop environmental indicators. By supporting the integration of these elements into the Regional Development Plan for Ucayali, at least 1,135,507 hectares will benefit. Similarly, 1,021,341 hectares in Puerto Inca in Huánuco will benefit from improved management through forest zoning.

### **Public-private coalition for deforestation-free commodities:**

A public-private coalition for deforestation-free commodities has been established and a multi-stakeholder process, under the collective leadership of the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment and the Regional Governments. To date, the coalition has 37 members (public, private, and civil society members), with the engagement of the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) also underway.

### **New financing schemes:**

The design of new financing schemes and products that promote zero- deforestation practices in value chains are underdevelopment, in coordination with the National Federation of Municipal Banks. A proposal was pre-approved that will mobilize \$65 million in conditional financing for zero deforestation production. The detailed design is projected to begin implementation in 2020, with partners Agence Française de Développement (AFD), World Agroforestry Center, and the NAMA Facility.



## CAPACITY BUILDING, COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION

**M&E and Communication Strategy:** The monitoring and evaluation system and the communication strategy and plan are being implemented.



## PERU: SECURING THE FUTURE OF PERU'S NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

**Objective:** This project objective is to promote long-term financial sustainability for the effective management of the National System of Natural Protected Areas of Peru (SINANPE), for the protection of globally important biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Amazon Biome.

**GEF Implementing Agency:** World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

**Executing Partners:** National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State (SERNANP); Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (Profonanpe).

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

**GEF grant:** \$9 million **Co-financing:** \$55 million.

Expanding and improving the management of national protected areas constitute a key strategy of the Peruvian government to safeguard its portion of the Amazon biome. The financial sustainability strategy, will not only help to close the funding gap for improved management of the National Protected Area System (SINANPE), 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.

**More information about the project:** Website [Patrimonio Natural del Perú](#) (in Spanish).

## MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF 2018/2019



### INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS

#### **Commitment for the national protected areas:**

The most important achievement to date occurred on May 24, 2019, when the government of Peru, WWF and partners met in the Peruvian Amazon to celebrate the \$140 million financing commitment to effectively manage almost 17 million hectares of protected areas in the Amazon. The dosing agreement of the PdP Initiative (Patrimonio del Peru) was the culmination of a year of technical work and negotiations, led by the project on May 28th, the Peruvian President officially launched the PdP Initiative.

#### **Conditions approved by the PdP Steering Committee:**

- \$70 million raised for the Transition Fund.
- A financial model developed for the PdP Initiative.
- An agreement from the Peruvian government to ensure the financial sustainability of the PdP Initiative and the prioritization of at least two new financial mechanisms that will generate at least \$2 million per year for the SINANPE.
- The declaration of PdP as an Initiative of national interest by the Peruvian government, through Supreme Decree N° 003-2019-MINAM.
- Institutional arrangements developed to implement PdP.
- Technical and financial reporting of the PdP Initiative agreed upon.

- Implementing Strategy (10 years Conservation Action Plan) of PdP developed and approved by the Peruvian Government through Presidential Resolution N° 085-2019-SERNANP and by donors.

- PROFONANPE financial management system (EMMA) implemented.

- SERNANP's Sustainable Financing Commission was operationalized to facilitate the implementation of the PdP Initiative, especially to support the development of sustainable financing mechanisms needed to increase public revenues at the national and National Protected Area (NPA) level.

- Update of Master Plans of the first NPA group (11 Amazon NPAs) that will receive PdP funds in 2020.

- Prefeasibility and feasibility studies of 25 potential national financing mechanisms were developed. From the initial list of 25, SERNANP prioritized the development of an environmental compensation mechanism and the feasibility assessment of a carbon tax mechanism.

- Final selection of NPAs to be funded with GEF contributions through the Transition Fund was approved: Tingo Maria National Park, Rio Abiseo National Park, Tabaconas Namballe National Sanctuary, and Machiguenga Communal Reserve.

- Updated Master Plans for the four selected NPAs are under implementation.

The selected NPAs will start receiving PdP funding in 2020.



### CAPACITY BUILDING, COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION

**Safeguards screening tool:** The project safeguards screening tool is under implementation. Safeguards mitigation plans will be ready before on-the-ground project activities start.

**Capacity building for NPA Managers:** In June 2019, a national workshop was organized to socialize and train Amazon NPA managers on

the PdP Initiative approach and its implementation strategy.

**Exchange of experiences:** A knowledge exchange activity was developed with more than 16 participants from Peru, Brazil, and Colombia, representing government, communities and indigenous peoples to share experience in governance of the territory of protected areas.

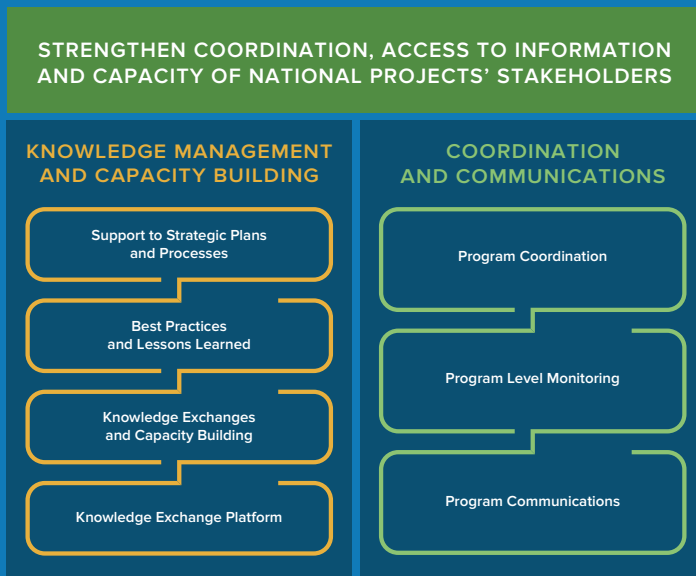




## REGIONAL COORDINATION PROJECT

The ASL coordination project facilitates the regional and integrated landscape approach. The project brings national interventions together, helps tackle common threats, scales up innovative approaches and best practices, and offers tools so the projects achieve greater impacts than if implemented independently. This project consists of two interrelated components: **1) Knowledge Management and Capacity Building**, and **2) Program Coordination and Communications** (see **Figure 3**).

**FIGURE 3. PROJECT COMPONENTS**



## Component 1 — Knowledge Management and Capacity Building

### SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC PLANS AND PROCESSES

The project has provided support to several processes that involve the design and implementation of regional strategies towards the conservation and sustainable use of the Amazon's natural resources. During this period, the ASL provided technical and financial support for the following activities:

- Regional dialogue among indigenous authorities “World Conversations II”** - Leticia, Colombia, February 10–15, 2019. Representatives from 15 indigenous groups of the Brazilian, Colombian and Peruvian Amazon met to exchange experiences related to governance and traditional territorial management as an effective conservation model. See the full [report](#) for the event and [video](#) here (both in Spanish).



- Regional collaboration process for identifying joint actions in the Putumayo-Içá watershed** - Leticia, Colombia, December 2–5, 2019. Representatives from public and civil society organizations from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, met to discuss future interventions towards integrated watershed management. See report [here](#) (in Spanish).



### BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

- “Comparative study of conservation agreement programs in the Amazon.”** The study developed by the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) assessed selected conservation agreement programs developed in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, identifying characteristics that determine their effectiveness and generating recommendations for the design of similar program. See the report [here](#) (in English).
- Sustainable Financing of Protected Areas National Systems.** The knowledge exchange and research activity initiated in 2019 aims at promoting knowledge exchange, enhancing learning, and strengthening capacity to achieve the national projects and program's protected area sustainable financing goals, especially using the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach.

## KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Knowledge exchange is an integral part of the ASL programmatic approach, and the coordination team has conducted several face-to-face workshops, field immersion, and virtual knowledge events. The Project supported international events to promote relevant issues for the region, allowing to promote the results and goals of the program. The members of the ASL Steering Committee have identified priority themes to research, exchange and learn from, and working groups have been established to design proposals to deliver on the themes.

### Study Tours and Workshops

**Governance and co-management between protected areas and indigenous territories**

**MADRE DE DIOS, PERU** November 2–9, 2019

Event [website](#) and [presentations](#) (in Spanish).



**Knowledge Exchange of Forestry Community Selva Maya – Amazonia: Working Together for the Forest, Life and Peace**

**PETEN, GUATEMALA** July 14–20, 2019

[Video](#) and [article](#) (in Spanish) about the event ([article](#) in Portuguese).



**ASL Program Second Phase Formulation Workshop**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL** September 25–28

[Report](#) (in Spanish) and [slide show video](#).



**Sustainable Productive Activities to Conserve the Amazon**

**RIO BRANCO, ACRE, BRAZIL**

January 9–31, 2018

[Agenda](#) (in Portuguese) and [article](#) (in English).





## International Events

### Selvagem – Study circle about life

**RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL** November 13–15, 2019

Event [website](#) (in Portuguese).



### 7th International Wildland Fire Conference (WILDFIRE 2019)

**CAMPO GRANDE, BRAZIL** November 4, 2019

[Website](#) and a [video](#) of the event.



### First High-Level Conference of the Americas on Illegal Wildlife Trade

**LIMA, PERU** October 3–4, 2019

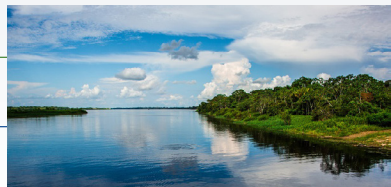
The “[Lima Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade](#)” and the [website](#) (in Spanish).



### Conservation Technology Conference

**LOS AMIGOS, PERU** June 24–28, 2019

[Article](#) about the event (in English).



### Symposium on Energy Solutions for Amazon Communities

**MANAUS, BRAZIL** March 25–28, 2019

[Report](#) (in Portuguese).



### Connectivity - What Are the Criteria for Establishing Ecological Corridors Through Restoration and Landscape Management?

**SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL** December 5–7, 2017

[Summary](#) of the event (in Portuguese).



## Side Events

### A High-Level Panel on the Regional Challenge to Connect Protected and Productive Landscapes in the Amazon

**LIMA, PERU** October 14–17, 2019

Invitation to the event (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)).



### Patrimonio del Perú: The Challenge of Financial Sustainability for the Effective Management of Protected Areas Systems

**LIMA, PERU** October 16, 2019

[Presentations](#) of the side event (in [Spanish](#)).



### An Integrated Initiative for Sustainable Management of Amazonian Ecosystems

**DA NANG, VIETNAM** June 25, 2018

[Agenda](#) and [presentations](#) of the event.



## Virtual events (Webinars)

Conservation Agreements in the Amazon	December 11, 2019	<a href="#">Presentation</a> and <a href="#">report</a> (in English)
Fires in the Brazilian Amazon – What's Happening in 2019	September 18, 2019	<a href="#">Presentation</a>
Citizen Science for the Amazon	August 28, 2019	<a href="#">Presentation</a> (in Spanish)
How Brazil Has Reduced 80% of the Amazon Deforestation in 10 Years - Lessons Learned and Recommendations	May 2019	<a href="#">Presentation</a> (in English)
Measuring the Economic Value of the Amazon's Ecosystem Services	August 2018	<a href="#">Study</a> and <a href="#">website</a> (in English)

## Component 2 — Coordination and Communications

The Coordination and Communications component aims to strengthen coordination, monitoring and communications among ASL national projects' stakeholders and beneficiaries.

### COORDINATION

Through coordination, the program connects, engages, and grows a community that supports one another and collectively delivers on the project and program goals.

- **National Project Coordination**

The Program Steering Committee (PSC) serves as the main regional coordination forum for the program. The PSC meets virtually at least every quarter and in person during the annual conferences to share the projects' progress, discuss themes of common interest, and coordinate knowledge events. The PSC includes the GEF Secretariat, the GEF Implementing Agencies, and executing agencies for each of the projects. The ASL annual conferences bring together national project leaders and other partners to exchange knowledge and lessons learned, and plan future actions.

#### ASL First Annual Conference

**IQUITOS, PERU** May 7–10, 2018

[Report](#) and [Website](#) (in Spanish)



#### ASL Second Annual Conference

**LETICIA | COLOMBIA** September 3–5, 2019

[Report](#) (in Spanish)





- **Donor Coordination**

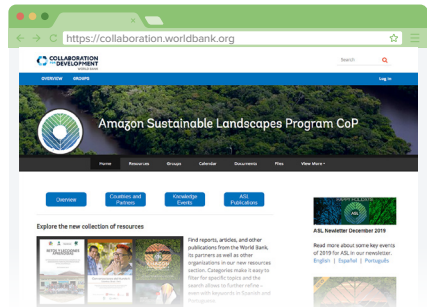
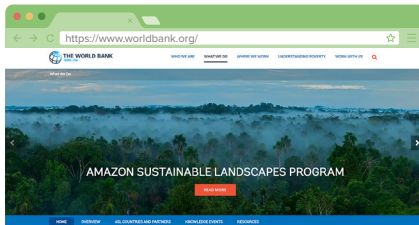
The ASL has initiated work to establish a donor exchange platform that will allow a better understanding of the current financing flows and potential investments in the Amazon, strengthening collaboration, and gathering lessons that will help implement effective strategies for conservation and sustainable development in the Amazon. Currently a donor portfolio georeferenced system is been designed. This system will analyze the conservation and sustainable development donor portfolio in the Amazon. The portfolio analysis will include funding information from bilateral agencies, multilateral agencies, foundations, NGOs and the private sector, and will update previous reports commissioned by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The ASL communication strategy aims to raise awareness on the importance of the Amazon and display the ASL value-added in safeguarding and protecting this biome. Achieving this goal includes highlighting the activities taking place across the national projects, the knowledge events promoted by the ASL, and promoting partners' complementary work.

- **Online Engagement**

The ASL program produced a [webpage](#) hosted on the World Bank website. In addition, an [online site](#) has been created to serve the Amazon community of practice (CoP), including thematic subgroups.



- **Newsletters**

Three ASL newsletters have been published ([October 2018](#), [June 2019](#) and [December 2019](#)) resulting from a collaborative effort between the coordination team and the national teams.



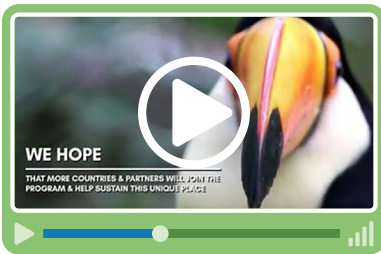
- Blogs and Featured Stories**

ASL's coordination team published several blogs and featured stories to highlight specific accomplishments or themes of interest for the ASL community. Guest contributors, including [Thomas Lovejoy](#) and [Martin Von Hildebrand](#), have collaborated with the ASL to provide diverse perspectives regarding the future of the Amazon.

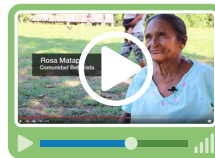


## ASL Videos

A video was created to showcase the ASL program and highlight the forest's biodiversity, explain the threats to the Amazon and how Brazil, Colombia, and Peru have joined together to protect the vast and diverse ecosystem, support communities, and ensure landscape connectivity.



## Other Videos



[Entrepreneurs in the middle of the jungle](#)



[Community Forestry Learning from Peten](#)

- Other Communication Products**

To disseminate key information about the program and projects, the coordination team designed a brochure (available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), and [Portuguese](#)) and brief fact sheets (also available in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [Portuguese](#)).

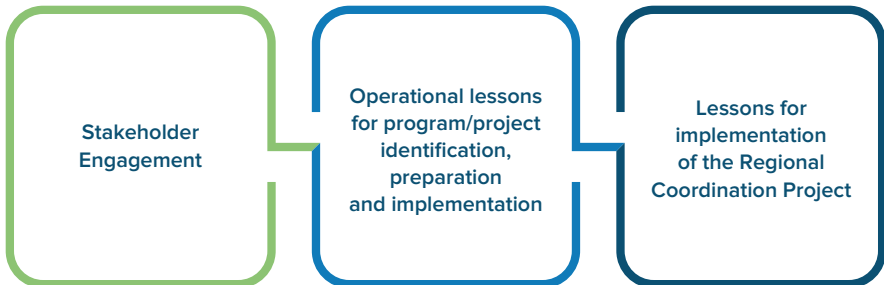




## LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASL

A video was created to showcase the ASL program and highlight the forest's biodiversity, explain the threats to the Amazon and how Brazil, Colombia, and Peru have joined together to protect the vast and diverse ecosystem, support communities, and ensure landscape connectivity (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4



### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- **A shared vision/common and framework** built in collaboration with governments, implementing agencies, and other stakeholders, is critical for effective joint actions. This vision involves adaptive management, flexibility, political sensitivity, know-how and understanding of stakeholder context and agendas.
- **Establishing relationships with multiple stakeholders** in each national project builds program support and can facilitate political buy-in for project activities. Periodic in-person meetings help establish the foundation for trusting and cooperative relationships, which can be further maintained and deepened from the distance using technology (virtual meetings, WhatsApp groups, communities of practice, among others).

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT *(continued)*

- **Promoting engagement at regional levels** needs to bear in mind the sovereign rights of each country to line up with collaborative efforts that address threats that cross borders and generate impacts from local to global scale.
- Building and fostering an **environment of trust** where different stakeholders can interact (national and local governments, NGOs, scientists, international agencies and donors, local communities, etc.) is key to successful coordination. Building trust requires **finding common issues and a common language** that cuts across national and institutional borders, allowing to **work with “the brain and the heart”**.
- Beyond the direct program participants, **engaging with the multiple stakeholders** active in the Amazon maximizes impact by **finding synergies and avoiding overlaps**. Co-financing, cross-invitation to events, participation in regional or international events, etc. It is important to engage with people and consolidate collaboration.

## OPERATIONAL LESSONS FOR PROGRAM/PROJECT IDENTIFICATION, PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

- Focus on the technical aspects of the program and constituent projects and build ownership and empowerment among technical staff to ensure continuity in the face of changing political and social contexts.
- Constant communication is key to quality and coherent program and project design.
- Actively involve stakeholders in designing theory of change.
- Jointly agree on a common basic architecture for the Program and reflect this in the design of the individual projects (as relevant), to build a common narrative that harmonizes the approaches, monitoring and reporting.
- Having a common framework allows countries to focus on specific areas of national interest while ensuring efforts for a common goal.
- Managing expectations is necessary to ensure that planned activities are doable within the available resources (people, time, funds).
- Recognize that for all projects, there will be implementation learning curves, both within individual projects and at the regional/programmatic level.
- The concept of learning-by-doing and adaptive management is key to successful Implementation of the Program's Coordination Grant (and national projects too).
- The team needs to be ready to respond to unexpected events, by effectively using the information gathered and adapt actions according to changing and unexpected circumstances.
- Promoting stability in technical teams working on the program/projects is important, while recognizing that changes are inevitable. Having a strong ASL community and good communication products can help build institutional memory, continuity, and resilience at the local, national and regional levels.
- Coordination, management, administration of the program and execution of the regional coordination project demands hours of time and expertise. A Program Management Unit is needed. Time and effort are needed.



## LESSONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATION PROJECT

### **Coordination within the program governance structure:**

- Establish a permanent forum, such as a Steering Committee, with clear roles and responsibilities, with representation from the lead stakeholders from each participating country, as well as from the associated GEF Implementing Agencies and the GEF Secretariat and that ensure transparency and equity in decision making.
- Appoint specific individuals as the members of the Steering Committee to ensure continuity in the dialogue and to foster a team spirit.
- Motivate members of the Steering Committee by empowering them to make decisions, request activities, and take responsibility for showing results.
- Be flexible with respect to the structures/rules for engagement, allowing them to evolve over time.

### **Keeping the ASL community dynamic**

- Speak the language—or create a collective one: “portunhol”, translate as much as possible.
- Regular communications is important and requires dedicated staff time (with technical knowledge and language skills) to ensure relevance and quality of the message and product.
- Encourage feedback and incorporate recommendations to ensure the activities and communications under the program are meeting stakeholders’ needs and expectations.

### **External communication**

- Involve communications personnel as core team members so they are constantly aware of the program’s activities and understand the nuances of what needs to be communicated.
- Spreading the word about other initiatives relevant to the ASL facilitating the coordination and building of partnerships.
- It is important to acknowledge all partners’ contributions.
- Regular reminders are needed about use of logos and description of the program.
- Review and keep distribution lists up to date to ensure all are informed.

## LESSONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL COORDINATION PROJECT *(continued)*

### Knowledge Management (KM)

- Investing in building a stakeholder network helps identify experts with relevant knowledge and experience to share.
- Knowledge activities should be demand driven and tailored to projects'/ countries' needs. Themes must be relevant, doable and with potential for replication and scaling up.
- Establishing thematic working groups builds ownership, promotes in-depth exchanges and learning between specialist professionals.
- Promote collective responsibility and ownership of KM events, including through sharing of costs between coordination and national projects.
- Value and respect everyone's knowledge, recognizing that everyone has something to contribute.
- Support capacity building of key stakeholders, because capacity will last longer than the program/projects.
- Capacity building is not limited to formal initiatives (training, workshops, study tour, internships, etc.), but is also achieved on the job while preparing and implementing projects, through preparatory and organizational work.
- A successful KM event requires being clear about the objectives of the KM event, a good understanding of the expectations of participants, of their potential individual contributions, and a well-structured approach that fosters a good group dynamic.
- Explore ways of fostering permanent engagement between event participants around KM themes. Including through establishment of thematic working groups and Communities of Practice, that also become open access repositories of information among the teams.
- Ensure participation in international events on behalf of the program are well aligned with the ASL objectives and plan them strategically so they become an opportunity to showcase the program and projects, but also to establish networks, partnerships with others attending.

### Reporting/Monitoring and Evaluation

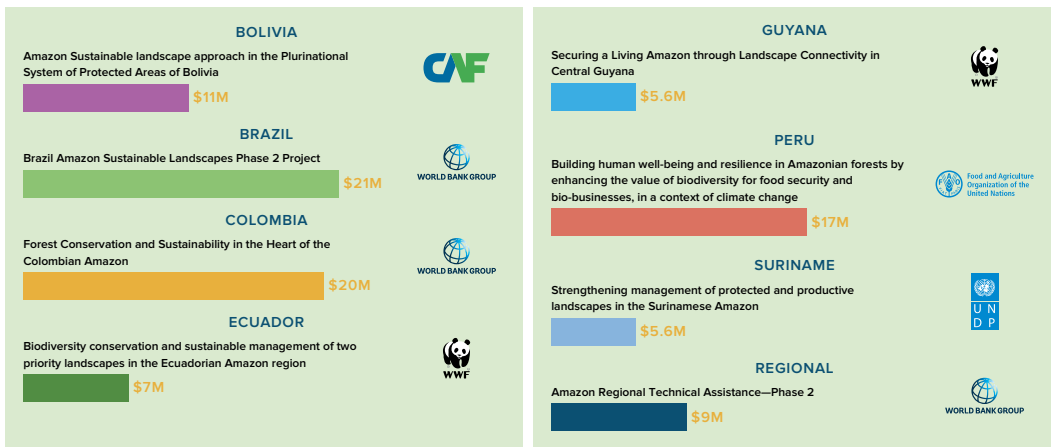
- Coordinated monitoring between projects is necessary to facilitate and ensure harmonized program-level reporting.
- Identify a set of core program-level indicators, so that each project incorporates them (as appropriate) in their specific results monitoring framework. This promotes an aggregated results analysis that builds on national-level inputs.
- Simplify procedures to minimize burden to projects, for example by building on existing Indicators (GEF core Indicators) plus a few extra ones that will report on progress at the program level.
- Create an M&E working group with dedicated specialists.



## A NEW PHASE FOR THE ASL

In June 2019 at the 56th GEF Council Meeting, governments approved programs and projects worth almost \$1 billion to “tackle growing threats to the natural world, and to help some of the Earth’s most vulnerable people adapt to climate change.” A second phase of the ASL (ASL2) was among the programs approved. Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, and Suriname will join Brazil, Colombia, and Peru to collectively aim to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region. The new program implemented with the support of the World Bank (as lead agency), WWF and UNDP, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (See **Figure 5**). ASL2 will consist of seven national projects and a regional coordination grant, building on the current ASL components, expanding the program’s geographic scope, and helping reinforce and improve coordination of actions to foster synergies within and between the participating countries.

**FIGURE 5**





**ASL** Amazon  
Sustainable  
Landscapes  
Program

SUPPORTED BY



## IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES



## COUNTRY EXECUTING AGENCIES

### BRAZIL



MINISTÉRIO DO  
MEIO AMBIENTE



### COLOMBIA



### PERU



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