



ASL

Amazon Sustainable
Landscapes Program

The Amazon forest plays a critical role in global climate regulation as well as in the region's environmental and economic prosperity. It is the single largest repository of biodiversity on the planet, with over 40,000 species of plants, 16,000 known tree species, 2,000 species of mammals and birds, and 2,500 species of fish. One in ten known species in the world lives in amazonian ecosystems. About 33 million people live in the Amazon watershed, deriving their livelihoods from its forests, rivers, and tributaries.

For the first time, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru (which together contain 83% of the Amazon basin) and partner agencies have come together to develop an integrated program for the sustainable management of a significant portion of Amazon ecosystems.

*The **Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL Program)** was approved by the GEF Council in October 2015, as a pilot Impact Program, with incentives for an integrated regional approach under the Sustainable Forest Management Strategy. With a commitment of US\$113 million of GEF resources and an expected US\$682 million leveraged in additional financing, the ASL Program aims to protect globally significant biodiversity and implement policies to foster sustainable land use and restoration of native vegetation cover.*

The Program comprises four national projects executed by Brazil, Colombia, and Peru and a regional coordinating project. Together, the program aims to maintain 82,000,000 ha of forest land, promote sustainable land management in 8,000,000 ha, and support actions that will help reduce CO2 emissions by 166 million tons. The World Bank (as lead agency), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), each serving as GEF implementing agencies for the projects.

The Theory of Change of the ASL Program and each of its projects is built on the notion 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.

The ASL Program has been enriched with the experience from a decade of work in the Amazon. The interventions aim to strengthen biodiversity conservation, reduce deforestation, and improve living conditions of the local communities and maintain the integrity of the local, regional, and global ecosystem services that the region provides, including biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and a well regulated hydrological cycle.

Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program

Coordination Technical Assistance - Brazil, Colombia, and Peru



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

OVERVIEW

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

GEF Implementing Agency: World Bank

Program Coordinator @ WB: Adriana Moreira
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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

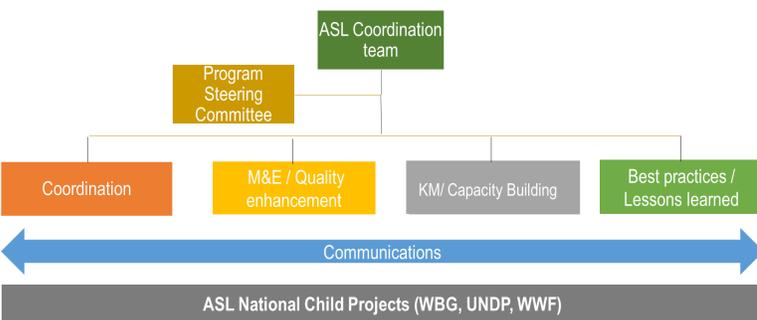
- Amazon basin
- Amazon biome
- Amazon extended (includes Brazil's geopolitical Amazon boundary, the "Legal Amazon")

Source: WWF Living Amazon Report 2016

CONTEXT

Under a regional and landscape approach, each of the countries involved in the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL Program) contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, reduction of deforestation, and improvement of the living conditions of local communities, as well as to maintaining the integrity of local, regional and global ecosystem services offered by the region.

Instead of operating as isolated projects, each of them benefits by: (i) following the GEF's programmatic approach that seeks to develop a global vision to address critical issues of global impact; (ii) enabling actions which foster the connectivity of the Amazon ecosystems; (iii) increasing the synergies and hence impact; and, (iv) being part of a knowledge exchange network. The ASL Program includes a coordination project that promotes coordination, collaborative work and the establishment of synergies among the national efforts.



PROJECT COMPONENTS

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

The project components are:

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



Photo: Marizilda Cruppe/ www.funbio.org.br

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: 75 million ha (including Protected Areas) in 9 Brazilian Amazonian States.

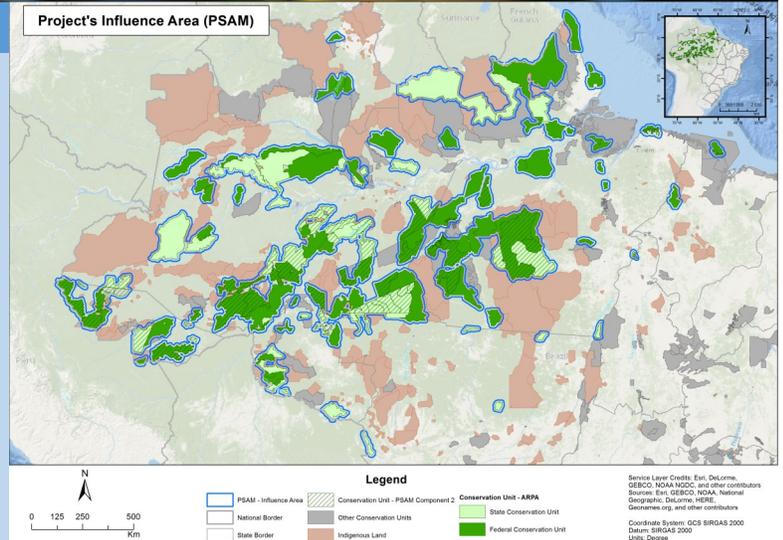
GEF grant: \$60.33 M, **Cofinancing:** US\$373.8 M

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

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GEF Implementing Agency: WB

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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% of it 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, the Government of Brazil has established several policies to promote a new vision for sustainable development in the Amazon. Positive results regarding reduced deforestation have been achieved through expanding the protected area (PA) system, improving PA management, strengthening local community participation, and engaging with state governments. Despite the achievements, deforestation and degradation continue to threaten the region. Building on the 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 COMPONENTS

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

The project components are:

1. Amazon Protected Areas System;
2. Integrated Landscape Management;
3. Policies for Protection and Recovery of Native Vegetation;
4. Capacity Building, Cooperation and Project Coordination.



Image by Rodrigo Durán/www.patrimoniounatural.org.co

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: Caqueta: Guayas-Caguán Corridor, axis of connectivity Chiribiquete National Park (NP): San Vicente del Caguán; Guaviare: Integrated Management District (IMD) – Guayabero Sector, axis of connectivity Macarena NP – AMEM: San Jose del Guaviare; Putumayo: Caqueta River and Putumayo river Corridor, axis of connectivity La Paya NP: Puerto Leguizamo

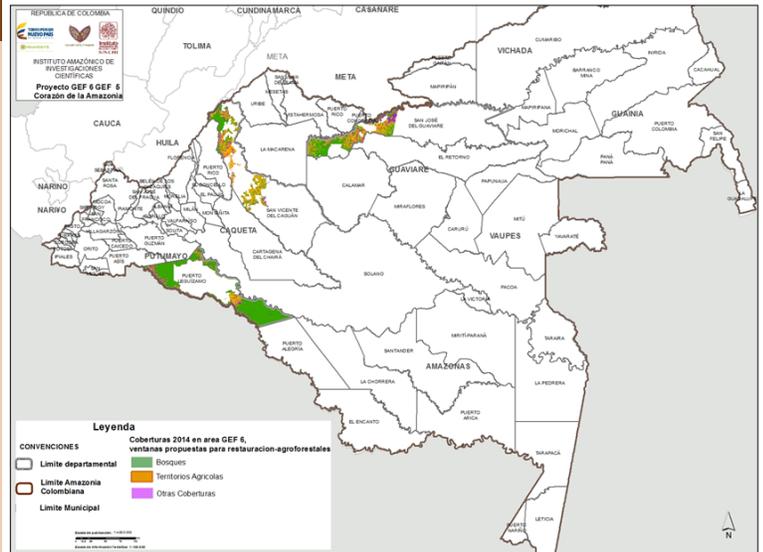
GEF grant: US\$9 million; **Cofinancing:** US\$46 million

Executing Partners: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Heritage Natural Fund for Biodiversity and Protected Areas.

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GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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CONTEXT

The Colombian Amazon forest represents 6.5% of the biome’s rainforest and 42% of the country’s landmass. Deforestation (at an annual rate of 82,883 ha/year) is threatening the region’s biodiversity and its capacity to act as a store of biomass and organic carbon, helping mitigate GHG emissions and providing 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 (GoC) presented the Visión Amazonía, an initiative that promotes a low-carbon development model and establishes a goal of net-zero deforestation by the year 2020. The initiative 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.”

The Colombian Amazon project is part of the ASL Program and consists of two interrelated components : 1) Forest conservation and sustainability in the heart of the Colombian Amazon (implemented by the WB); 2) Connectivity and Biodiversity Conservation in the Colombian Amazon (implemented by the UNDP).

PROJECT SUBCOMPONENTS

The component of the Amazon Colombian project implemented by the UNDP aims to improve connectivity and conserve biodiversity through the strengthening of institutions and local organizations to ensure integral low-carbon-emission management and peace building.

The subcomponents are:

1. Rural development with a low CO₂ emission approach and capacity-building for mainstreaming environmental management and peacebuilding;
2. Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation.



Image by Alvaro Gaviria / storagegoogle

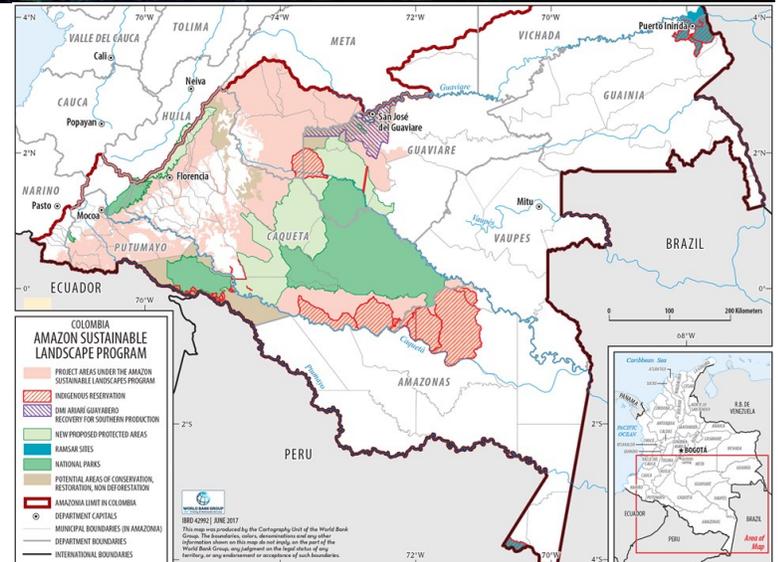
OVERVIEW

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 Paramos Miraflores/Picachos, Bajo Caguan and Serranía La Lindosa, Capricho, Cerritos and Miro lindo; 22 indigenous reserves.

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

Executing Partners: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Heritage Natural Fund for Biodiversity and Protected Areas
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GEF Implementing Agency: WB
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PROJECT SUBCOMPONENTS

The Colombian Amazon project implemented by the WB aims to improve governance and promote sustainable land-use activities to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the project area.

The project subcomponents are:

1. Protected Areas Management and Financial Sustainability;
2. Forest Governance, Management and Monitoring;
3. Sectoral Programs for Sustainable Landscape Management;
4. Coordination, Management, and M&E.

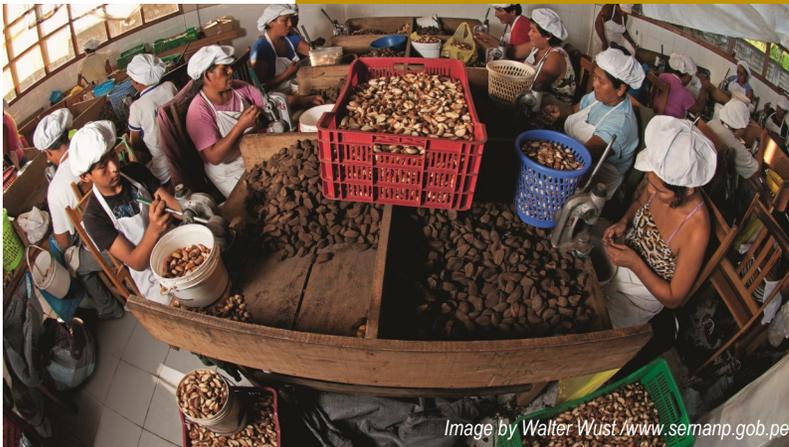


Image by Walter Wust / www.semanp.gob.pe

OVERVIEW

Project Sites: 8 districts located in the regions of Ucayali and Huánuco.

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

Executing Partner: Ministry of Environment (MINAM)

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GEF Implementing Agency: UNDP

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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 2013 the rate had increased to 113 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 the landscape-wide deforestation.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

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

The project components are:

1. Improved policy planning and governance to reduce deforestation and enhance sustainable production;
2. Market and incentive mechanisms promote sustainable production practices; and
3. Technical capacity installed to restore and sustain ecosystem services in target landscape.



OVERVIEW

Project Sites: The project will benefit the protected areas system that includes 38 protected areas in the Amazon forest. On the ground interventions will be supported in prioritized areas including: Pacaya Samiria Natural Reserve (NR), Allpahuayo Mishana NR, Río Abiseo National Park (NP), Tingo María NP, Communal Reserve Machiguenga and National Sanctuary Tabaconas - Namballe.

GEF grant: \$ 9.01million; **Cofinancing:** \$54.5 million

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

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GEF Implementing Agency: WWF

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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 COMPONENTS

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 components are:

1. Development of a multi-partner, public, private initiative for long-term financial sustainability of the Natural Protected Areas (NPAs) in the Peruvian Amazon.
2. Diversification of sources to increase NPA financing.
3. Implementation of "Peru's Natural Legacy" (PdP) Action Plan Measures to consolidate and improve the effective management of Amazon NPAs.