

**AMAZON SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROGRAM  
PHASE 2 (ASL2)  
SUMMARIZED VERSION CHILD PROJECTS**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	Amazon sustainable landscape approach in the Plurinational System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of Bolivia
<b>Country:</b>	Plurinational State of Bolivia
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	CAF
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$ 10,056,189
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$ 31,026,605

**Country Context**

Loss of biodiversity is a critical problem. Protected Areas Systems continue to be the main mechanism for fighting against it at both the species and ecosystem levels. Bolivia aims to ensure the conservation of the Amazon through an improved Plurinational System of Protected Areas (SPAP<sup>1</sup>) and improved management of strategic ecosystems (SPAP ECOS<sup>2</sup>).

Bolivia contains 6% of the Amazon biome, and for this project we will consider the biogeographic criterion (tropical forests cover 475,278 km<sup>2</sup>, 43% of the country). The project sites include up to seven protected areas under Bolivian law, three RAMSAR sites in the Bolivian Amazon and indigenous communities' territories, so they become central instruments for Amazon conservation. The Bolivian Amazon is threatened by land use change, wildlife crime, deforestation, land grabbing, illegal activities, illegal mining activities, non-planned tourism activities, and climate change.

The Constitution states that the Amazon in Bolivia is a strategic protection area in which the state will prioritize integrated sustainable development, due to its high environmental sensitivity. In Bolivia integrated development is defined as the continuous process of generation and implementation of social, community, citizen and public management measures and actions to achieve Well Living in harmony with Mother Earth (Law 300). Protected Areas are recognized in the Constitution (article 385), and the SPAP is explicitly included in the patriotic Agenda 2025. The National Development Plan 2016-2020 (PDES) and in the Integrated Development Plan of the Ministry of Environment and Water provide the political framework for SPAP ECOS. These policies clearly state the importance given to the PAs as a key element for integrated sustainable development.

The SPAP in the Bolivian Amazon, along with other strategic areas for conservation (in this case RAMSAR sites and indigenous territories), and the SPAP ECOS, are the frameworks through which Bolivia will provide its significant co-financing effort to GEF financing. Internal bylaws and technical rules have already been developed to strengthen the management and sustainable financing of protected areas and to ensure the institutionalization process of SPAP ECOS.

The project will increase the forest area under integrated sustainable management, building on the established policy framework, focusing on forests where agricultural expansion and forest resource extraction activities are common. A dual emphasis approach is proposed that will strengthen protected area management, consistent

<sup>1</sup> **SPAP (in Spanish):** *Sistema Plurinacional de Áreas Protegidas*, Plurinational System of Protected Areas.

<sup>2</sup> **SPAP ECOS (in Spanish):** *Programa para la Gestión Integral del Sistema Plurinacional de Áreas Protegidas y Ecosistemas Estratégicos*, Program for the Integrated Management of the Plurinational System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems.

with granting priority to the policy framework places on protected areas as an engine of sustainable development, along with sustainable use and sustainable management of natural resources both within and outside the protected area system. Environmental governance will be enhanced by strengthening capacities of a wide array of stakeholders—both men and women-- to reach conservation benefits that will go beyond the SPAP and the lifespan of the project.

## **Project Overview and Approach**

### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed***

In the Bolivian amazon forest, six national protected areas will be part of the project, summing 6,127,263 ha:

- *Área Natural de Manejo Integrado y Parque Nacional Madidi*
- *Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado*
- *Reserva de la Biosfera Estación Biológica del Beni*
- *Reserva Nacional Amazonica Manuripi*
- *Territorio Indígena y Parque Nacional Isiboro Sécuré*
- *Territorio Indígena y Reserva de la Biosfera Pilon Lajas*

The most biogeographically representative subnational protected area, the *Reserva de Vida Silvestre Bruno Racua*, will be part of project (74,152 ha). Finally, the project will include three RAMSAR sites that contribute to the conservation of the Madera basin, with a total area of 6,941,173 ha, corresponding to watersheds of the following:

- Yata River
- Matos River
- Blanco River

Outside PAs, four strategic ecosystems will be selected for conservation and sustainable productive landscapes activities in recognized indigenous territories (*Yaminahua, Tacana, Esse Ejja, Machineri* and *Cavineño* communities) organized in the *Central Indígena de Pueblos Originarios de la Amazonia de Pando* (CIPOAP), covering an initial estimation of 183,742.00 ha. Activities outside the formal SPAP will positively impact 7,308,657 ha, for a project total of 7,124,915 ha, for a project total of 13,510,072 ha.

The most important external problems to biodiversity and the ecological integrity of protected areas are the expansion of unsustainable practices on agriculture and livestock, the conflicts due the rights of use (land grabbing) and forest loss and fragmentation. The threats linked to climatic variability and climate change that affect both life systems and species are mainly related to the increase in floods, droughts, heat and other extreme climatic events. Obviously, these threats are widespread outside of protected areas and even within them, so real solutions will necessarily be systemic.

Institutional weakness, extending to land-use planning and sectorial (forestry, agriculture, mining) regulation and also including the protected area system, make planning, governance, monitoring, and enforcement problematic. Communities lack opportunities, examples and knowledge and capacities for sustainable livelihoods, so they revert to unsustainable practices, while protected areas remain institutionally weak, with difficulties for monitoring and enforcement. Mercury, used for gold amalgamation in a non-environmentally friendly way, affects riparian species and areas with little-known impact.

In that framework, concrete factors such as the proximity of roads ( Pilon Lajas, Maidid), gold mining (Manuripi, Madidi, Bruno Racua) or mere remoteness (Noel Kempff, Bruno Racua) render planning theoretical, governance unruly, monitoring uncertain and enforcement limited in forestry, agriculture and mining, amid a gold-rush atmosphere that brings deforestation and habitat fragmentation through land-use change, species overharvesting and traffic, and pollution. Although reports of deforestation in protected areas and inside Indigenous Native Campesino Autonomous entities (AIOCs) indicate that the levels of deforestation in both are significantly lower than those outside of them, in consistence with wider findings (Porter-Bolland et al, 2011)<sup>3</sup>, both protected areas and communities are in need of incremental support to strengthen and scale up their stewardship capacity.

***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

Specific policies and bylaws have been approved to guide and improve the management of biodiversity and protected areas. All SPAP sites in the Bolivian Amazon have developed management plans, but not all can carry out all foreseen programs and activities due to budgetary constraints and governance issues. Monitoring systems and management effectiveness methodologies are seldom implemented in the areas included in the project, and without incremental support the SPAP budget and capacities will remain limited.

Management committees are the main governance mechanism to ensure participation in the management of Bolivian protected areas, but the mechanism needs strengthening and improvement. In a wider sense, and despite of the clear policies for planning at all levels and sectors, coordination still needs improvement, especially with and within subnational levels such as the one tackled in this project. This applies both to protected areas and indigenous peoples and local communities. Involvement of knowledge providers in the capacity building processes is necessary to strengthen the capacities of local stakeholders and protected area staff.

Although sustainable agricultural practices are promoted by government agencies, the local enabling environment is still not adequate to scale up those practices and requires incremental support to get up to speed. Similarly, mercury pollution due to gold mining is perceived to have a growing footprint in the Bolivian Amazon, for which Bolivia will assess its mercury pollution footprint and support mercury-free gold mining, as part of the commitments to the Minamata convention. This will, nonetheless, occur in an overall scenario in which there is a lack of enforcement of the laws in the field, so without incremental support its reach will remain limited.

During the last decade, women's organizations in Bolivia have joined the discussion and political participation at the different levels of the government. Evidently, gender inequalities have old roots and their elimination is a long-term task. It is notorious that the region presents a frontier-like gender balance (overall women-men proportion is around 48-52%), so the baseline is very low and intervention in this field will have to adjust to this starting point.

***Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits***

As mentioned above, weak local governance for integrated landscape management, shortcomings in the SPAP institutional framework, shortcomings in national policy and legal frameworks, weak capacities and coordination to enforce policy and regulations between interested parties, poorly connected sectoral strategies and plans, and insufficient technical extension and networks for SLWM lead to lack of opportunities and conflict at the

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<sup>3</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2011.05.034>

landscape scale, reflecting both outside protected areas, in the strategic ecosystems, in poverty and marginalization, and within them, in land grabbing, illegal logging, species trafficking and mercury pollution.

The project aims to improve the management, capacities and sustainable financing of the Bolivian Amazon protected areas (national and subnational ones) and the sustainable management of natural resources in the ecosystems that the protected areas represent, thus providing a boost to existing, but currently undervalued, opportunities for integrated landscape management and conservation. The project will do so both through direct intervention in protected areas (Components 1 and 2) and outside them (Components 3 and 4), and through systemic intervention to enhance planning, governance and capacities of the agents more capable of developing the perceived sustainable management opportunities provided by the protected areas and the important ecosystems they represent.

The project will consolidate the policy and legal framework of the SPAP, focusing in project sites in the Amazon Basin but in a replicable way to all other protected areas in Bolivia and beyond. Also, sustainable use activities inside protected areas will serve as demonstrative model for neighboring communities outside protected areas building a mixed land use mosaic that will enhance functional continuity between neighboring ecosystems.

The participating protected areas will improve management effectiveness and financial sustainability, based on social participation and the sustainable generation of income. Successful experiences will be replicated in different areas outside of the project area and can be adapted to subnational protected areas.

Communities implementing project activities outside protected areas will learn and share experiences and knowledge to replicate successful management experiences enhancing functional continuity between neighboring ecosystems. Private sector will have an important role as collaborative partners in order to improve local capacities, specifically in the tourism activities. This partnership model can be replicated where a tourism attraction or product is developed by local communities gaining knowledge and experience from private tourism entrepreneurs.

The project will endeavor to invest in activities that strengthen the well-being of women in the community and in their families, with women participation at all levels. For the monitoring of this commitment, all project indicators involving persons (community participation, beneficiaries, staff) will be disaggregated by sex.

Transboundary activities will be focused on improving coordination between the project's protected areas and RAMSAR sites with those from neighboring countries (Madre de Dios department in Peru; Acre, Rondonia and Mato Grosso states in Brazil, among others).

### ***Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components***

As mentioned above, weak local governance for integrated landscape management, shortcomings in the SPAP institutional framework, shortcomings in national policy and legal frameworks, weak capacities and coordination to enforce policy and regulations between interested parties, poorly connected sectoral strategies and plans, and insufficient technical extension and networks for SLWM lead to lack of opportunities and conflict at the landscape scale, reflecting both outside protected areas, in the strategic ecosystems, in poverty and marginalization, and within them, in land grabbing, illegal logging, species trafficking and mercury pollution. The project proposes to provide an incremental effort to address climate change and its impacts, unsustainable land and water use practices, insecure land tenure and widespread planning, governance, monitoring, and enforcement weaknesses. The SPAP in the Bolivian Amazon, along with other strategic areas for conservation (in this case RAMSAR sites and indigenous territories), and the SPAP ECOS, are the frameworks through which Bolivia will provide its significant co-financing effort to GEF financing.

The project will build on recently completed efforts and current political will to consolidate the Plurinational System of Protected Areas and strategic ecosystems. The project will upscale, refine and validate progress made in different initiatives implemented by SERNAP and the DGBAP with EU Funds. Also, the project builds on various sustainable development programs and efforts by local, national and international institutions. At a larger scale, the project contributes to the ASL-2 program, which builds on previous effort by the GEF. Internal bylaws and technical rules have already been developed to strengthen the management and sustainable financing of protected areas and to ensure the institutionalization process of SPAP ECOS.

The project will provide a measurable boost to existing, but currently undervalued, opportunities for integrated landscape management and conservation. The project will do so through direct intervention in protected areas and outside them, and through systemic intervention to enhance planning, governance and capacities of the agents more capable of developing the perceived sustainable management opportunities provided by the protected areas and the valuable ecosystems they represent. In so doing, the project will provide systematized knowledge and best practice that will be exchanged both nationally and within the Program.

### **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework**

The five components of the project are fully aligned with the four components of the ASL program and knowledge management, learning and lessons learned will be a continuous activity among the PAs, RAMSAR sites and indigenous territories that participate in the project in Bolivia. The project will coordinate with the ASL program managers and all the national projects to promote and foster the participation of PAs staff and indigenous people and local communities in the different transboundary and regional activities.

The project will strengthen local capacities among project stakeholders and support their engagement in regional key events. Key knowledge-exchange activities will also be coordinated with neighboring protected areas (e.g. Tambopata and Bahuaja Sonene in Peru with Madidi in Bolivia or Pampas del Heat in Peru with Manuripi in Bolivia). Correspondingly, sustainable use practices in the project will consider and use information and knowledge generated in the other countries participating in the ASL program.

The project will carry out monitoring, reporting and evaluation of its input, throughput and output, providing opportunities for knowledge sharing through the systematization and communication of activities, best practice and learning.

It can be expected that the project will produce or foster innovation and early adoption in water sanitation, policy innovations (as the harmonization of different public policy realms, including sustainable financing of protected areas, is central to the project idea) and governance innovations (new institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks will be developed and implemented).

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	Brazil Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Phase 2 Project
<b>Country:</b>	Brazil
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	WB
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$ 19,284,404
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$ 116,000,000

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Country Context

Brazil hosts 59% of the Amazon forest, substantial freshwater resources, at least 10% of known biodiversity, valuable agricultural land, multiple minerals and other natural capital.

The Amazon's forest, biodiversity and freshwater carry immense potential for Brazil's economic growth and environmental conservation goals and are important for rural populations and indigenous peoples, constituting a significant share of their wealth. Sustainable forestry and biodiversity use, climate resilience, and agriculture are key to poverty reduction and growth. However, tension exists between growth and conservation goals, compounded by global food demand, climate change and weakening economic growth. Efficient land use, promoting sustainable forest and agricultural production alongside biodiversity protection, is central to achieving these goals.

Brazil aims to harmonize ecosystem protection, biodiversity conservation, climate change risks and forest and agriculture productivity gains, with progress made toward: establishing environmental legislation, reducing deforestation and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, setting aside large conservation areas that reconcile conservation, development, and poverty reduction.

Brazilian Amazon development policies include: (a) Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (PPCDAm) – reduced annual deforestation from 27,772 km<sup>2</sup> to around 6,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and aims to continuously reduce deforestation and transition towards a sustainable development model through land tenure and territorial planning; (b) Amazon Region Protected Areas Program – reduced 37% of Brazilian Amazon deforestation; (c) Terra Legal Program – federal lands allocation to conservation, indigenous peoples, small-scale farming, land titling, colonization; (d) Native Vegetation Protection Law –new integrated landscape approaches; (e) 2015 Nationally Determined Contribution - commitment to achieve zero illegal deforestation, GHG emissions compensation from legal vegetation suppression, restore/reforest 12M ha by 2030 and enhance sustainable native forest management systems; (f) National Landscape Connectivity Program (CONNECTA) –to connect landscapes and sustainable development policies through nature conservation, maintaining ecological processes and socio-economic and cultural prosperity; (g) National Water Resources Policy and National Water Resources Management System –water resources plans and basin committees; (h) National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNA) –biodiversity vulnerability reductions, ecosystem adaptation in other sectors; (i) National Policy for Territorial and Environmental Management of Indigenous Land (PNGATI) and National Policy for Sustainable Development of Traditional Peoples and Communities (PNPCT) - territorial and environmental management plans for recovery, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, improving quality of life and conditions for physical and cultural preservation of indigenous peoples; (j) National Commission on Sustainable Development of Traditional Communities (CNPCT) - coordination and monitoring of the National Policy of Sustainable Development of Traditional Peoples and Communities; (k) National Strategy on Invasive Alien Species - prevent and mitigate invasive alien species impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems; and l) National Strategy on Threatened Species Conservation - improve threatened species' conservation status. These policies aim to achieve benefits for the global environment, notably biodiversity and ecosystem protection and carbon storage and guide Brazil's second phase ASL project. The study tour to Acre Rural Development program that reduce

deforestation and increased social and economic benefits to local communities and indigenous peoples illustrates how ASL's approach fosters such benefits and accelerates national projects' results.

## **Project Overview and Approach**

### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed***

The project will intervene at scales ranging from sub-regional to local. Sub-national level interventions will focus on the legal nine Amazon states, to be further prioritized. 32 protected areas (PAs) were already identified as priority. Over the past two decades, the Brazilian Government has promoted a new vision for Amazon's development, achieving significant results. Between 2004 and 2012, annual deforestation was reduced from 27,772 km<sup>2</sup> to 4,571 km<sup>2</sup>, the lowest rate on record. Despite these achievements, the integrity of the Amazon continues to be threatened by deforestation and degradation, with negative impacts on endangered Amazonian species, of which 267 species are currently identified at risk of extinction. Recently, a significant uptick in deforestation rates was observed, reaching almost 8,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2016 and 7,000 km<sup>2</sup> in 2017. Fluctuations around these numbers over the past few years highlight the challenge to continue reducing deforestation rates. Several interrelated factors underpin this trend, including export markets (for example, agricultural and forest goods, minerals, and energy) and transport infrastructure development. Specific challenges include the absence of specific governance and territorial management mechanisms for large PA clusters; lack of support for sustainable productive chains, shortcomings in sectoral policy frameworks to support sustainable development and value ecosystem services; governance weaknesses, including legislative gaps and weak enforcement for nature conservation and other sustainable development policies, including because of insufficient capacity; lack of appropriate land-use planning; deficiencies in the environmental licensing process; insufficient knowledge of, capacity for and dissemination of sustainable land and water management (SLWM) practices. These threats are likely exacerbated by the lack of regional coherence in laws and policies among the Amazonian countries as well as among Brazilian Amazonian states.

### ***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

The Amazon Fund, with more than a billion US dollars investments in the Region, together with the USD 60.33 M GEF financed Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project (Br-ASL) phase I, aims to establish an additional 3M ha of PAs, improve management of 60M ha of existing PAs, restore/reforest 28,000 ha, and bring 1.4 M ha of forest area under sustainable management, actions that will help conserve biodiversity and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, are ongoing instruments that help the implementation of conservation and combatting of deforestation in the Region.

A National Landscape Connectivity Program (law No. 75, March 26th, 2018), coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, and implemented by a multi-institutional committee, has been established to promote ecosystem connectivity and landscape management in Brazil through a combination of integrated public policies to promote sustainable development by reinforcing the synergies between nature conservation, maintenance of ecological processes and economic, cultural and social prosperity, and contribute to reducing the effects of climate change. The Amazon is one of its priority biomes.

The Project will utilize a highly participatory and integrated approach, including gender dimensions, that emphasizes consensus and community participation in PA management and the broader productive landscape, including sustainable productive activities and value chains, prioritizing native species. The assessment of social

impacts and benefits will incorporate a gender-sensitive lens to the extent possible and propose specific actions to close identified gender gaps (e.g. analyze woman participation in the Protected Areas Council meetings supported by the project).

***Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits***

The proposed project is well aligned with the overarching ASL Program's Theory of Change, seeking to maintain ecological resilience of the Brazilian Amazon through:

- i) Promoting consolidation and improvement of the management of areas under protection, including Ramsar sites, as well as identifying and strengthening governance mechanisms to ensure their terrestrial and aquatic connectivity at a landscape level and adaptation to climate change under Component 1.
- ii) Integrating Landscape Management to contribute to climate change resilience and enhance sustainable land use by improving forest, land and water management and reducing carbon emissions from deforestation in the respective project areas. Component 2 and 3 activities will help expand the geographic scope of and deepen ongoing efforts (including those of phase I) to foster practices which reduce deforestation, promote forest recovery, foster new/adapted sustainable value chains of native species (including fish), restrict use of alien species, conserve biodiversity (including migratory species) and induce sustainable practices.
- iii) Improving policies for protected and productive landscapes, focusing on incorporating biodiversity management principles (both conservation and sustainable use, including native biodiversity, protection of threatened species and the prevention and mitigation of invasive alien species impacts) into selected sectors that are deforestation drivers, through sectoral agreements and/or instruments that engage private sector stakeholders. All components will contribute, but particularly Component 3 which aims to strengthen national and state governments capacity to develop and implement sectorial policies and financial mechanisms to raise private impact investment capital for implementing integrated landscape management.
- iv) Capacity building and regional cooperation. Component 4 will improve the capacity of Brazilian stakeholders to participate in and implement the regional ASL program, exchange knowledge with other participants, build capacity and communicate about the Amazon's value and sustainable development practices.

***Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components***

Despite ongoing efforts illegal timber, land grabbing, unplanned agriculture expansion, infrastructure, extractives, etc. continue to threaten forest and freshwater resources, resulting in negative impacts on global and regional environmental values, including biodiversity, carbon stocks, and ecosystem services, while negatively affecting the livelihoods and well-being of indigenous and local communities. The proposed project strengthens achievements of ASL1 and explores new areas of cooperation. GEF financing will play an incremental role as follows:

Component 1 - Amazon Protected Areas System - consolidate and strengthen area under protection, and identify and strengthen governance mechanisms: (a) improve existing PA management effectiveness, especially important areas with climate vulnerability; (b) help define criteria for and identify Other Effective Area-based



Conservation Measures (OECM) and support indigenous territory planning and implementation; (c) identify PA and OECM sustainable financing models; (d) strengthen integrated and shared governance for landscapes and ecological connectivity; and (e) promote threatened species conservation and invasive alien species management in PAs. Focus areas include mosaics, biosphere reserves, Ramsar and heritage sites, ecological corridors, Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites, and federal/state forests.

Component 2 - Integrated Landscape Management - scale up interventions to: (a) foster native vegetation recovery through selection of key areas for threatened species, promotion of sustainable use of threatened species and restrictions to alien species; (b) develop sustainable production systems; and (c) strengthen sustainable value chains (timber/non-timber, fisheries), prioritizing native biodiversity. Expand geographic scope of and deepen efforts to foster practices which reduce deforestation, promote forest recovery, foster sustainable value chains and induce agro-silvo-pastoral sustainability thus improving livelihoods, and landscape level ecological connectivity and resilience. It would promote innovative technologies/best practices; increase capacity and uptake; and enhance stakeholder forest management and restoration capacity.

Component 3 - Policies for Promoting Integrated Landscape Management, Conservation and Recovery of Native Vegetation - aim to: (a) scale up efforts to strengthen capacity to develop, implement and monitor sectoral policies and financial mechanisms to reduce deforestation and promote forest recovery; (b) address sustainable forest-economy knowledge and policy gaps, e.g., innovative products/value chains of native biodiversity, blended financing models; (c) promote an enabling environment for coordination with other Amazon countries around shared concerns, e.g., ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, including migratory species, surveillance and law enforcement; and (d) strengthen the implementation of policies related to conservation of threatened species and prevention and mitigation of invasive alien species' impacts.

Component 4 - Capacity Building, Cooperation, and Project Coordination - improve stakeholders' implementation and collaboration capacity, further compliance with international commitments, and promote effective and efficient project implementation through: (a) regional knowledge exchange; (b) building implementation capacity; (c) systematizing lessons learned; and (d) ensuring effective implementation.

### **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework**

One of the most important impacts of the proposed project probably relates to the capacity building of government institutions at central and decentralized levels. Enhanced capacities of government institutions should improve public service delivery and enforcement of legislation, which in turn will result in numerous benefits and positive economic impacts, including a level-playing field for economic stakeholders. Enhanced functioning of government institutions will also facilitate the implementation of future projects and investments that would build upon the expected achievements of this proposed Project, helping maintain the integrity of the Amazon biome over the long term. Capacity building of other stakeholders such as local populations, indigenous groups and the private sector will also have important implications in developing sustainable solutions for the Amazon. Knowledge generation and management to be achieved by the proposed Project will be key for future actions.

Experience gained under the Brazilian project will develop approaches and lessons which can subsequently be replicated in other areas of the Amazon, and Brazilian stakeholder will benefit from approaches and lessons learned in other countries through participation in Regional Coordination Project activities.

Local communities are the main beneficiaries of the proposed project, and even though the project activities will generate benefits at national and global scale, improvement of local livelihoods defined in accordance with cultural beliefs and traditions, will be key to project success. To this end, special attention will be given during

both preparation and implementation to ensure the participation of local and indigenous people at the site level. The proposed Project will adopt proven consultation and participation mechanisms. Participation of indigenous people in project design will be further facilitated by collaboration with various local or national organizations that represent indigenous communities' interests, such as the Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), and the Coordination of Indigenous Nations of the Brazilian Amazon. The participation of the other countries in ASL2 will also facilitate taking into account indigenous tribes living in several countries (e.g., on both sides of a river acting as a national frontier).

Strong stakeholder participation will be key to success and the Project will seek to actively involve a wide range of stakeholders from the local and indigenous communities, civil society, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academia, as well as state governments and actors across the central government throughout preparation and implementation. The proposed Project design would also include activities to strengthen both government and nongovernment stakeholder's capacity and to promote an enabling environment for private sector participation and compliance.

The proposed Project also seeks to enhance revenue generation from restored areas, a new area of intervention, outside the traditional roles and responsibilities of the environmental agencies. To this end, the proposed Project will support cross-sectoral collaboration and integration with private sector initiatives. Additionally, the Project will engage and coordinate with bilateral donors, development agencies (such as USAID, Fundo Amazônia, private foundations (such as the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation), and NGOs (such as CI-Brazil, WWF, IUCN).

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	Landscape Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Colombian Amazon
<b>Country:</b>	Colombia
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	WB
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$ 18,366,972
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$ 109,300,000

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Country Context

The Colombian Amazon, where 1.2 million people live, represents 42 percent of the country's land area and 8 percent of the Amazon basin's rainforest. Deforestation is the biggest environmental challenge in the region. The IDEAM Institute estimates that between 1990 and 2017, the country accumulated more than 6.7 million hectares deforested, 2017 being the worst year<sup>4</sup>. Of the national deforestation, 65% happened in the Amazon (144,147 ha), while it was 39% in 2016. By 2030, if not controlled, 13 million hectares of forest could be lost in the Colombian Amazon, leading to the loss of ecological connectivity between the Andean and Amazonian forests, which is crucial for hydrological regulation, climate stability and the vital mobilization of species. Degradation, fragmentation of strategic ecosystems and over exploitation of natural resources aggravate the challenge. Main drivers are the expansion of the agricultural frontier, extensive cattle ranching, land grabbing, road infrastructure<sup>5</sup> and growing of illicit crops.

The activities to be carried out under the proposed project will address these challenges, in line with with the strategic approach of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL), as these challenges are not unique to Colombia and as their scale requires coordinated actions among countries. In addition, the project activities will be aligned with the national policy and institutional framework that promotes the conservation and sustainable development transformations that the ASL requires and which will result in benefits at multiple scales. This framework starts with the 1959 Forest Law that declared most of the region a Forest Reserve Area with a granted basic degree of protection. In 2013, the Government presented the *Amazon Vision*, an initiative, in line with the country's Integral Strategy for Control of Deforestation and Forest Management, that promotes low-carbon development with a goal of net-zero deforestation by the year 2020. Amazon Vision has become the umbrella program under which cooperation efforts are aligned, contributing to its five pillars: (i) improvement of forest governance, (ii) development and sustainable sectorial planning, (iii) development of agro-environment, (iv) environmental governance with indigenous populations, and (v) enabling activities. In line with these, the current Government announced the creation of the National Council for the Control of Deforestation with executive and judicial powers to address the drivers of deforestation<sup>6</sup>. Regional Environmental Dialogue Centers have been created to prevent and mitigate environmental conflicts, with SINCHI being the Center's lead agency in the Amazon. Finally, several public agencies have designed action plans to prioritize efforts towards reducing deforestation in the region to counteract the effects of climate change, as per the Supreme Court declaration<sup>7</sup> that demanded the harmonization of local population's quality of life with the protection and sustainable use of the natural resources.

### Project Overview and Approach

#### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed***

<sup>4</sup> 219,973 hectares were lost in the country, i.e. 23 percent more than in 2016.

<sup>5</sup> According to the IDEAM, 75% of the deforestation in the amazon deforestation hotspots occurred near a tertiary roads

<sup>6</sup> The previous intersectoral Commission didn't have as strong executive and judicial competencies as the Council will have.

<sup>7</sup> Declaration 4360 from April 2018

The geographical targets include priority deforestation *hotspots* in the northwest region of the Colombian Amazon forming a crescent shape advance toward the agricultural frontier. These areas, in Caquetá, Guaviare, Meta and Putumayo<sup>8</sup>, have the highest deforestation rates in the country and are also experiencing degradation and overexploitation of their natural resources. Fragmentation is a significant challenge considering these are the last remaining areas connecting the Andes and the Amazon, with an important function in providing water for the Amazon plain, besides other goods and services for its inhabitants. The region, with 11.2 million hectares of natural forests, including diverse ecosystems (mountains, savannahs, flooded forests and jungles in dryer areas), include unique areas acting as refuges or corridors for its high biodiversity. The region has historically suffered from inadequate government presence, limiting opportunities to promote sustainable land/water use practices. Main drivers of deforestation and degradation are the clearing/burning of forests for extensive cattle ranching and presence of illegal activities (land grabbing, illicit crops, logging and mining) as well as the construction of roads that alter the landscape and facilitate illegal activities. This complex situation is aggravated by incipient land-use planning and unstable land tenure. In addition to these hotspots, the Amazonas department, with 10,622 hectares of forest, important cultural and biological terrestrial and aquatic diversity, will be targeted given its significant role in maintaining the connectivity of national and transnational ecosystems. Specific sites to promote connectivity will be selected based on the prioritization methodology developed by SINCHI.

***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

The project will align with different regional initiatives developed with Colombia's participation including from ACTO, USAID'S Amazon Promotion of Best Social and Environmental Management Practices project and the Integration of Amazon Protected Areas project financed by the European Union. Nationally, current ongoing or planned projects and initiatives in the areas of intervention, that would complement the project, include: (i) REDD Early Movers program, based on verified emission reductions from reduced deforestation supported by Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom; and, (ii) USAID Conservation and Governance Program that implements landscape-level conservation efforts to address threats to the Amazonian biome until 2020. At subnational scale, investments with public and cooperation funds for Natural Parks Unit, Sinchi, regional environmental authorities enrich the baseline. Sinchi, for instance, has received financial support from EU to develop projects<sup>9</sup> with producer organizations for sustainable local development and governance following the peace accords. Corpoamazonia made an agreement with Conservation International for its Green Business Program. The baseline also includes GEF support, with the GEF 5 Heart of the Amazon project and its 2017 GEF6 expansion, when Colombia joined the ASL. GEF7 will build on these efforts, collectively aiming to ensure proper land use, restore degraded areas and prevent further deforestation.

The proposed project will utilize participation and stakeholder engagement mechanisms already established and proved successful in the past with gender and ethnic considerations. These include the Amazon Regional Roundtable and the Environment Climate Change Indigenous Amazon Roundtable, assemblies with local indigenous authorities and Community assemblies with farmers. The project will also build on existing gender sensitive strategies developed by its partners and already implemented in previous interventions.

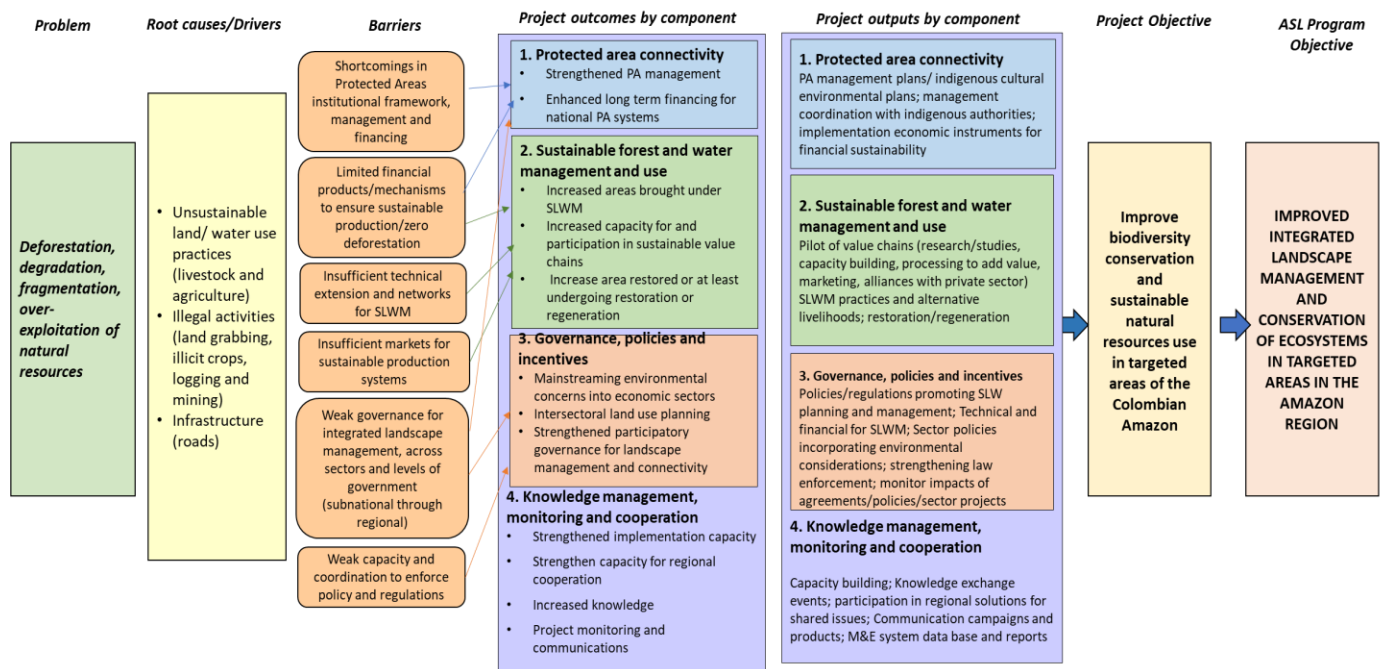
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<sup>8</sup> Within these departments, hotspots of deforestation are located in the municipalities of: San José del Guaviare (Guaviare), Uribe and Mesetas (Meta), San Vicente del Caguán, Cartagena del Chairá and Solano (Caquetá), Puerto Guzmán, Leguízamo and Puerto Asís (Putumayo). Latest IDEAM report (supported by GEF6 ASL project) indicated that the departments with high levels of deforestation in the country are: Caquetá (45.9%), Meta (13.1%) and Guaviare (9.8%)

<sup>9</sup> "Desarrollo Local sostenible y gobernanza para la paz" y "Más capacidades para la paz Mascalpaz".

**Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program’s Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits**

The proposed project has been structured along the ASL program theory of change, contributing nationally as well as regionally to address the barriers that the program has identified as impediments to the transformational changes needed to reduce the region’s environmental systemic challenges. The relevant barriers to be addressed as well as the expected outcomes and objectives are included in the graph below. The project will contribute to Amazon’s resilience and connectivity by: increasing the area of protected landscapes effectively conserved, managed and financed; increasing areas of ecosystems restored; and strengthening local economies and productive value chains that disincentivize deforestation and improve wellbeing. Policies, incentive structures, multisectoral strategies and land use planning as well as capacity building, knowledge exchange and national/regional collaboration will enable these achievements.



**Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components**

The deforestation/mining/degradation crisis in the Colombian Amazon still requires strengthened, integrated actions that focus attention on the drivers of these threats. Through the following components, the project will contribute to restore and prevent further deforestation focusing in areas under high risk, strategic for connectivity and of biological significance.

**1. Protected area (PA) connectivity:** the project will support actions to increase management effectiveness of strategic national and regional PAs created/expanded with GEF support, under risk of deforestation<sup>10</sup>. Actions include: implementing management plans (including for watershed management in Ramsar sites and actions to facilitate natural regeneration); strengthening prevention, vigilance and control mechanisms; coordinated

<sup>10</sup> According to IDEAM’s latest national level deforestation report -supported by GEF6 ASL project-, deforestation is happening in protected areas including Chiribiquete

management in overlapping indigenous territories; and, supporting indigenous Environmental Management Cultural plans. The project will also support capacity building and implementation of the economic instruments identified by the financial sustainability program (*Herencia Colombia*) for the Amazonian PAs.

**2. Sustainable forest and water management and use:** the project will promote a sustainable economy based on timber, nontimber and aquatic goods and services. Pilot sustainable value chains will be promoted with community associations in areas with forest zoning and use plans<sup>11</sup> and/or with potential for sustainable activities such as ecotourism. To desincentize further deforestation, halt agricultural expansion, allow for restoration, improve socioeconomic conditions, and incentivize sustainable forest management, the project will support: capacity building for producer organizations (business planning, market development, service provision, accounting, management); processing techniques to add value and marketing strategies (based on research and feasibility studies); commercial alliances and credit lines with private sector<sup>12</sup>; and, complementary productive livelihood alternatives to improve food security. Participation in project activities will be formalized through conservation/restoration agreements, scaling up the efforts developed by SINCHI with GEF6 support<sup>13</sup>. The project will support restoration in key corridors for connectivity, productive landscapes as well as within the protected areas.

**3. Governance, policies and incentives:** The project will strengthen governance structures and land use planning from national to local levels (government, private sector, traditional authorities, community organizations, military and police units) through multisectoral dialogue and agreements, impact studies, capacity building, improvement and harmonization of regulatory frameworks to: better enforce legislation against illicit activities; avoid policies that promote the expansion of agriculture/cattle, mining/energy and infrastructure activities beyond the agricultural frontier and in areas of biological significance; monitor impacts of these activities on degradation and provision of environmental services; incorporate environmental principles into guidelines/instruments that engage the private sector; encourage and monitor the use of financial and technical incentives towards sustainable use of natural resources and the promotion of environmentally friendly infrastructure and energy activities.

**4. Knowledge Management, monitoring and Regional Coordination:** The project will improve the capacity of key stakeholders through: targeted studies in relevant topics; participation in national and regional knowledge sharing events; design of joint solutions for issues of regional interest (e.g wildlife trafficking, fisheries management, law enforcement, water pollution, illegal mining, productive best technologies to add value, blended finance mechanisms); establishment of a monitoring system to measure project's performance and promote adaptive management; and, implementation of a communication strategy.

### **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework**

Knowledge management is an essential element in the project's design and implementation, particularly through component 4. The project will generate, share and manage its own knowledge and best practices building on knowledge platforms and research systems. This will be shared at local, sub-national and national levels and with peers from other ASL projects. Research and scientific institutions like Sinchi and IDEAM are key executors of the project and have in their mandates the generation and sharing of applied knowledge. For instance, the methodology designed and successfully implemented by Sinchi towards the establishment of conservation and restoration agreements, is being transferred to the regional environmental authorities and will be scaled up as a best practice incentive in the proposed project. Also, Corpoamazonia hosts the Amazon Experimentation Center that aims to share knowledge, raise environmental awareness, and transfer adequate technologies to the

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11 These forest use plans were designed with GEF support in Tarapaca, Yari Caguán, Calamar and Mecaya Senceya in the Amazonas, Caquetá, Guaviare and Putumayo departments respectively.

12 For instance, Bioguaviare and Corpocampo have indicated interest in commercializing Asai

communities. Partnerships with universities and other research centers will be promoted to bring technology and innovation to the project activities. Information from the project and for the project will come from existing knowledge systems such as SIAT-AC which is the Amazon version for the Colombian Environmental Information System coordinated by Sinchi and IDEAM's carbon and forest monitoring system supported with GEF6 funds.

Knowledge sharing and learning will be promoted by the project under a cultural perspective. Indigenous groups in the Amazon possess a wealth of traditional knowledge that has been in use for centuries. The project will support activities to conserve this knowledge, facilitate process of transfer of knowledge from the elders to the young population, and incorporate relevant knowledge in the sustainable practices to be promoted.

Being part of the ASL, the Colombian project will benefit from the regional project that will promote knowledge exchange between the participant countries, ensuring that emerging knowledge is captured, and capacity building activities are well tailored to the needs of the countries' and their stakeholder groups at all levels. Criteria and mechanisms will be defined to ensure participation in knowledge events is prioritized and the participants will be chosen to maximize the possibility of implementing the lessons and/or share with peers. The project will also take advantage of the services and platform offered by the regional project to participate in partnerships and have access to data, resources and knowledge that will benefit the conservation of the Colombian Amazon landscapes and improve the wellbeing of its inhabitants. ASL2 will allow the project to expand its network and community of people and agencies with whom to share knowledge, experiences, and best practices. Communications and awareness raising strategies to be developed in the project will also be aligned with those guidelines provided by the regional project.

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of two priority landscapes in the Ecuadorian Amazon region.
<b>Country:</b>	Ecuador
<b>GEF Agencies:</b>	Conservation International (CI) & World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US)
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$ 6,423,853
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$ 56,378,000

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Country Context

Ecuador is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world and holds an extraordinary biological wealth, harboring 8% of mammal species, 10% of amphibians, 18% of birds and 18% of orchids at a global level. The Ecuadorian Amazon (*Circunscripción Territorial Amazónica de Ecuador*, CTEA) contains 74% of the country's total forest cover, corresponding to 9. million ha and 41% of the country's total area. Indigenous people live in 64.8% of the land and rely on the land's natural resources for their social and economic growth.

The Ecuadorian amazon is at high risk of deforestation and degradation. The region has an annual net deforestation rate of 61,111.76 ha per year (2014-2016), with important repercussions on biodiversity loss. The pressure on forest ecosystems is increasing as competing land uses from extractive and agricultural activities continue to rise, due in part to lack of sustainable economic alternatives for local population. The main deforestation drivers have been attributed to unplanned land use expansion, unsustainable land-water use practices (Agriculture, Livestock, Extractive activities), poorly planned infrastructure development, and unplanned demographic expansion over forested areas.

Recognizing the described drivers, the Government of Ecuador is promoting a new legal and institutional framework that seeks to promote a new development model for the CTEA, prioritizing biodiversity conservation and natural resource management as strategic sectors and establishing collective rights so that local populations, especially indigenous peoples, can benefit from the environment.

The Organic Law for Integrated Planning of the Special Amazonian Territorial Circumscription (CTEA, 2018) establishes an integrated approach to planning, economy, education, culture and environment in the CTEA territory. The policies and programmatic interventions of the MoE and Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) are being aligned to this CTEA integrated approach. One of those interventions is the Socio Bosque Program (PSB), that offers economic incentives to owners of land with native forests in priority areas to guarantee its protection over the medium to long-term. Another important policy related to biodiversity conservation is the Environmental Organic Code (COA), that includes provisions to create biological corridors under legal protection.

Despite the important efforts of the Government of Ecuador, a set of institutional, policy, legal, administrative and financial barriers continue to aggravate the identified drivers. Those barriers are directly linked to shortcomings in the protected area institutional framework, capacities and opportunities for implementing forest friendly and sustainable value chains; and weaknesses in stakeholder coordination at local, national and regional levels.

Based on the drivers, baseline and barriers, the project proposes to work at both regional and local level. At regional level the project will strengthen institutional framework for the integrated management of the CTEA. At local level, the project will work in two priority landscapes (1. Putumayo-Aguarico and 2. Palora-Pastaza) by promoting integrated landscape management to improve biodiversity connectivity and conservation and sustainable productive alternatives for local populations. Through these strategies, the project will contribute to



the ASL program's vision of long-term conservation of globally important biodiversity and connectivity of key Amazon landscapes.

## **Project Overview and Approach**

### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed***

The project area includes the following two landscapes, which provide important potential as biological corridors for wildlife movement, as buffers for existing protected areas, and to provide additional protection to forested areas:

The Putumayo-Aguarico landscape (144,915 ha.) includes the provinces of Sucumbios and Orellana. It has 78,956 ha of indigenous land (Kichwa, Cofánes, Secoyas, Sionas and Shuar). 28% of the landscape correspond to agricultural land and 69% of the landscape corresponds to natural vegetation. The landscape is adjacent to the Limoncocha, Cuyabeno and Yasuní Protected Areas, has two forest and vegetation protection areas and 52 PSB agreements.

The Palora - Pastaza landscape (230,982.27 ha) includes the provinces of Pastaza and Morona Santiago. It includes 173,491 ha of indigenous territory (Achuar, Shuar and Kichwa). 24.6% of the landscape corresponds to agricultural land and 72.6% to natural vegetation. The landscape includes the Sangay National Protected Area, three forest and vegetation protection areas, and 36 PSB agreements.

Ecuador has defined 13 areas with homogenous deforestation processes (*Zonas de Procesos Homogeneos de Deforestación* ZPHD). The Putumayo-Aguarico landscape is in ZPHD 1 (Northern Amazon), with the second largest percentage of forest cover in country and with historically high deforestation rates. The agricultural sector is currently the main driver of deforestation, through cultivation of pastures for livestock. The Palora - Pastaza landscape is in ZPHD 2 (Central Amazon), with the largest percentage of forest cover in the country. In this landscape, deforestation almost doubled between 2000-2008, with 2.846 ha deforested in 2014-2016.

Some of the identified barriers are:

- Weakness in PA management to ensure biological connectivity and biodiversity conservation.
- Lack of economic alternatives for people living in or around protected areas.
- Low technical and financial capacities, lack of markets or financial incentive access, that perpetuate unsustainable models of productive development and forest exploitation.
- Shortcomings in legal, institutional and policy frameworks for integrated territorial management of CTEA, and lack of regulations for the implementation of biological corridors This is exacerbated by weak multi-sectoral coordination at national and local levels (MoE, MAGAP and GADs).
- Insufficient regional coordination to address common problems in the Amazon region. Insufficient mechanisms to share knowledge at local, national and regional level.

### ***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

The Technical Secretariat of the CTEA's objectives include the promotion of comprehensive participatory planning, through community integration processes, consolidating a culture of peace and sustainable development of the Amazon territory, with a special focus on biotrade to diversify the productive matrix. The project will work with the CTEA to strengthen its institutional framework and capacity in sustainable integrated landscape management.

- The project landscapes include 4 provincial governments and 9 municipal governments, and 21 parishes. Each level has GADs (Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados), local government agencies responsible for development projects. GADs have important competences on development and land use planning, and environmental management, including designation and management of provincial conservation areas. The project will work closely with GADs at different levels to strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue and ILM institutional capacities on the two prioritized landscapes.
- In the proposed landscapes, there are 88 Socio Bosque Program (PSB) agreements. The project will work closely with PSB partners to strengthen the environmental conservation approach of current agreements and provide forest friendly sustainable production activities to support the long-term sustainability of the conservation areas.
- Seven indigenous peoples' groups are located in the project landscapes. The Project will work with these groups to strengthen their indigenous conservation efforts and support development of forest friendly productive activities, fostering and strengthening indigenous peoples' participation in ILM stakeholder platforms.
- The project will build off national REDD+ Action Plan investment portfolio implementation, with territorial planning, indigenous peoples, environmental conservation and forest friendly value chains. PROAmazonía is a \$53.6 Million dollars investment aligned to REDD+ action plan in the CTEA. The ASL project will collaborate with ProAmazonia, complementing and scaling up successful conservation and production strategies.
- WWF works in the Napo-Aguarico-Putumayo area since 2011 and CI is currently working in the Central and Southern Amazon territory. Both organizations work on projects related to territorial planning and governance strengthening, environmental conservation and natural resource management, effectiveness of protected area management and, with indigenous and rural communities, supporting the development of production systems, community tourism ventures, ecological monitoring and citizen science.

#### Stakeholder engagement and gender integration

Ecuador has a constitutional framework on gender equity, human rights, and stakeholder participation, and has ratified international binding instruments.

The National Agenda for Gender and LGBTI 2018-2021 is the main tool for integration of gender and stakeholder participation aspects in the national and local governments' land use and economic planning processes. It identifies a set of policies, plans, programs and processes to close the gender gap. During the PPG phase the project will develop a gender action plan to mainstream gender equality throughout activities of the project.

The Project Team has developed a preliminary stakeholder analysis. During PPG, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be developed, based on the stakeholder analysis, and implemented during project execution. As the project will involve indigenous peoples' rights and interests, additional measures will be implemented to ensure their full and effective participation through the FPIC process.

#### ***Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits***

The project intends to improve ecological connectivity, biodiversity conservation and forest friendly productive value chains through an integrated landscape management (ILM) approach that aims to deliver sustainable land management and improved local livelihoods, and conservation of globally significant biodiversity. It recognizes the need to bring together multiple stakeholders, who collaborate on integrating policy and practice for different land use objectives, ensuring sustainable land use with benefits for local populations, and biological corridors

between protected areas. The project landscapes have been selected based on their ecological functions as biological corridors and on their proximity to existing deforestation fronts.

The project ToC is aligned to the overall strategy of the ASL Program. Biodiversity conservation in the Amazon will improve if a set of appropriate tools are implemented at a landscape level: (1) key areas of the Amazon Biome are legally protected and better managed; in Ecuador's case as Connectivity Corridors strategically located; (2) within those same landscapes work with local communities to apply sustainable forest friendly value chains as sustainable economic alternatives opportunities to local communities and; (3) national and local governance platforms, legal instruments, and land use planning are strengthened. With this, the project aims to improve biodiversity conservation in the amazon region while delivering global environmental benefits (GEBs).

***Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.***

**Component 1: Integrated management of protected and conservation areas** - The project will expand conservation areas by creating connectivity corridors. In close coordination with CTEA, GADs, MAE and indigenous organizations, the project will establish local stakeholder platforms, to strengthen the governance of the conservation areas, develop and implement participatory management plans, building off the work that PROAmazonia is doing with GAD land use plans and indigenous development plans.

**Component 2: Forest-friendly actions for productive landscapes management** - The project will implement actions to increase areas with sustainable production practices, providing support to local producers towards sustainable forest-friendly value chains and identifying financial and market's incentives opportunities. The project will work with groups linked to the PSB, close to conservation areas, and complementing PROAmazonia intervention areas.

**Component 3: Enabling conditions for integrated landscapes management** - The child project will strengthen the institutional and legal framework for integrated productive and protected landscape management and connectivity corridors. The project will provide technical support to the Technical Secretary of CTEA, and local GADs.

**Component 4: Knowledge management and coordination-** The project will ensure effective monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management activities and training on key topic areas and will strengthen national and regional coordination with ASL partners.

**Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework**

Component 4 of the Ecuador ASL Child Project includes the project strategy for Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Knowledge Management and National and Regional Coordination. The outcomes proposed align and complement the strategies proposed by the ASL Program Coordination Child Project.

As part of the Monitoring and Evaluation efforts of the Ecuador Child Project, an M&E system will be designed and implemented during the length of the project. In preparation for the Annual Project Progress Reports, GEF funding in Ecuador will support the organization of annual stakeholder workshops, where both direct and indirect project stakeholders (at local, regional and national levels) will share and reflect on project strategies, risks and assumptions, and adjustments to achieve expected results and lessons learnt. The project M&E tools and reports, along with the outcomes from the reflection stakeholder workshops, will be integrated into the ASL Program M&E system, measuring program level outcomes and lessons learned. This platform will inform the adaptive management of the Ecuador child project. In addition, a M&E staff will be part of the PMU to support the coordination and integration of the M&E system for the project landscapes.

Knowledge Management and learning exchanges are core elements of the ASL Program and Ecuador Child Project. In both component 1 and 2 the project will be developing new and innovative approaches for protected and productive landscape management (i.e. biological corridors, forest-friendly value chain). The project will place an emphasis on (i) identifying valuable and applicable knowledge from the local level (such as indigenous communities traditional knowledge) to the national and regional levels; (ii) capturing and capitalizing on that knowledge (through documentation of lessons learned, project reports and specific knowledge management tools); and (iii) sharing knowledge with key audiences, including stakeholders not necessarily involved in project implementation in order to scale up lessons learned and knowledge management throughout the country and at a regional level.

The Knowledge Management activities at the local and national level will be integrated within the Program's regional activities through the ASL regional knowledge platform. The Ecuador Child Project will utilize the platform and relationship with other ASL partners to share information on key topics, such as productive landscape management, and to broaden and strengthen the current capacity of the program. Through collaboration with other ASL partners, Ecuador will share experiences and benefit from lessons learned on biological corridor management and forest-friendly value chains, (for example, local communities developing bioeconomy entrepreneurship in the two target landscapes) as part of the sustainable production activities enhanced by this project.

Coordination of the Ecuador Child Project will be carried out by the Project Steering Committee and the Technical Committee. Additionally, the project will promote the establishment of other local working groups focused on sustainable integrated landscape management. Coordination at the Program level, through the Program Steering Committee (PSC), will ensure collaboration between national project activities and will facilitate coordination with other key partners at regional level, such as donors and private sector platforms.

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Central Guyana
<b>Country:</b>	Guyana
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	WWF-US
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$ 5,152,753
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$ 16,809,291

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Country Context

Guyana sits entirely within the Amazon biome. Forests cover 88% of the country<sup>14</sup> and deforestation rates are remarkably low (0.048% in 2017<sup>15</sup>). Part of a geological formation known as the Guiana Shield, the country is home to unique ecosystems and biodiversity, with approximately 8,000 species of plants, 224 mammals, 815 birds, 309 herps and 922 freshwater fishes<sup>16</sup>. Among these are many globally threatened and endemic species. The project intervention contains some of the most biologically diverse forests in the country.

Guyana's forests are experiencing degradation, fragmentation, and unsustainable exploitation of forest resources. The drivers of these problems include unplanned land-use expansion and unsustainable land/water use from logging and mining sectors, new infrastructure (e.g. roads and trails), and wildlife harvesting. As Guyana shares borders with Suriname, Venezuela, and Brazil, addressing these challenges at a national and regional scale is important for maintaining the overall integrity of the Amazon biome.

Recognizing these drivers of forest degradation, fragmentation and exploitation, the Government of Guyana (GoG), in 2016, committed to protecting an additional 2 million hectares towards achievement of Aichi Target 11. Guyana has also signed and ratified several multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) including: UNCBD and Nagoya Protocol, UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, UNCCD, CITES, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Minamata Convention, and Escazu Agreement.

Guyana's constitution promotes sustainable use and protection of flora, fauna, water and other natural resources and establishes that citizens have a duty to participate in activities designed to improve the environment. Legislation, policies, strategies have been enacted to support this, including the:

- Protected Areas Act, 2011, which provides for the management and expansion of a national protected area system (NPAS)
- Environmental Protection Act, 1996, which provides for the protection, conservation and management of natural resources and the environment.
- Amerindian Act, 2006, which addresses conservation and resource management in indigenous territories and the exercise of traditional user-rights over resources.
- The Forests Act, 2009, which promotes sustainable management of state forests and provisions exists for the establishment of specially protected areas; and National Forest Plan and Policy 2018
- Green State Development Strategy, 2018 (draft), which is a long-term national development strategy

At the regional level, Guyana participates in technical and political fora as member of Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO); Guiana Shield Facility (GSF); and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

Building on these commitments, Guyana's Child Project will aim at strengthening and improving landscape connectivity through the establishment of conservation areas and the management of productive areas within

<sup>14</sup> Global Forest Resources Assessment, Country Report – Guyana. 2015. United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

<sup>15</sup> Guyana REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting and Verification System (MRVS), Year 7 Summary Report (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017). 2018. Guyana Forestry Commission.

<sup>16</sup> State of the Environment Report-Guyana. 2016. Government of Guyana.

the eastern half of central Guyana. Through these strategies, the project will contribute to the ASL programme's vision of long-term conservation of globally important biodiversity and connectivity of key Amazon landscapes.

## **Project Overview and Approach**

### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed***

The project area lies in the eastern half of Central Guyana and is part of an area of interest in relation to conservation. It shares boundaries with the North Rupununi Wetlands, Iwokrama Forest Reserve and Kanuku Mountains Protected Area (KMPA), and links with Brazil (west) and the Central Suriname Nature Reserve (east). The project area includes the headwaters of the Demerara and Berbice rivers. It represents the last landscape in central Guyana without some form of protection or integrated planning effort. Thus, securing its ecological integrity will support a biological corridor of continuous natural habitats in the wider Guiana Shield and Amazon basin. The project will focus on two areas to ensure connectivity:

#### **(i) Area Proposed for Protection**

Area A (800,000 ha) was a cluster of former timber concessions south of the 4<sup>th</sup> parallel which have been identified for conservation and protection. It consists of intact, dry and seasonally flooded forests and is rich in biodiversity. No communities live within the area, but some indigenous people live close by and access the area.

While the area has faced limited threats to date due to its inaccessibility, the development of roads and concessions in Area B is potentially opening the area to fragmentation and increasing access. To address this, the project will support the process towards establishment of a PA, including assessing community support (via FPIC); build capacities, and design a financial plan for long-term sustainability of the area.

#### **(ii) Productive Landscape**

Area B lies immediately north of Area A, and has multiple land-uses including forestry, gold mining, and wildlife harvesting. It covers approximately 400,000 hectares of forest, savannah and wetland habitats, surrounding the uppermost reaches of the Demerara River watershed.

Threats include degradation and fragmentation driven by small/medium gold mining (legal and illegal); forestry operations; wildlife harvesting; unsustainable fishing; and infrastructure. Paving of the Linden-Lethem road is planned within the next 2 years, leading to greater accessibility in Area B.

Together, these two areas and existing PAs will create a contiguous, managed forested area in central Guyana.

### ***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

The project will build off government commitments to protected area expansion and management:

- In 2016, the GoG committed to protecting an additional 2 M hectares under the NAPS for which the Protected Areas Commission (PAC) is finalizing an expansion strategy, which includes a part of Area A.
- The Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) repossessed several large timber concessions and made these areas available for some form of protection.
- Iwokrama Reserve, as part of the NPAS, is alongside the productive landscape, and is managed to demonstrate sustainable forest management
- The KMPA, which borders the proposed new PA, is actively managed by PAC. A new KFW-funded initiative will improve PA management and infrastructure

- WWF supports community-based conservation, sustainable livelihoods and Community MRVS with more than 40 communities in the Rupununi
- North Rupununi Wetlands integrated landscape planning and management initiative is led by North Rupununi District Development Board<sup>17</sup> in partnership with Government and supported by WWF, CI and Chicago Field Museum.
- A project led by Parc Amazonien de Guyane, with Guyana's PAC and Ministries of Regional Development and Planning, Land and Forest Management, Suriname, will strengthen expansion and management efforts of Guiana Shield PAs.
- The Guyana Protected Area Trust has an established mode of operation and provides financing for PA management.

The project builds off a baseline of activities in the productive landscape:

- The project area is currently monitored by Guyana's Monitoring Reporting and Verification System (MRVS) for REDD+, with deforestation and degradation being remotely calculated
- Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) is conducting geological surveys
- Extractive industries in the project area are governed by several regulations, but have minimal enforcement and compliance activities by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), GFC, GGMC, etc.
- WWF supports mercury-phase out and responsible mining nationally by improving practices, policies, value chains, markets and transboundary cooperation.
- The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is working on the Minamata National Action Plan and chairs the multi-stakeholder Minamata Working Group which seeks to coordinate the phasing-out of mercury-use in ASGM sector.
- The Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC), is developing a harmonized national land policy and legislative framework

The project will coordinate with the GEF 6 project on responsible mining in the landscape.

In terms of regional coordination, the project will build off the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization work programme on conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The project also aligns with integrated management and bilateral cooperation advanced through the Guyana/Suriname Cooperation Council.

Integrated land-use planning, and management is coordinated through several state agencies, led by the GLSC. Other state agencies, including GFC, EPA, PAC and GGMC, oversee the day-to-day management of specific uses on state lands. Village rules, plans, and the Amerindian Act, 2006, inform resource management on indigenous lands. Stakeholder mapping was conducted during EOI/PIF development and numerous governmental agencies informed the project strategy. A full stakeholder engagement plan will be developed and implemented during project development.

A full gender action plan will be elaborated during project development and mainstreamed within the project.

***Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits***

The project will employ an integrated landscape approach in the State forests of central Guyana: by supporting designation of a new protected area, and improving environment management of an adjacent productive landscape, and connecting these to existing protected areas, the project will create a contiguous area of

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<sup>17</sup> The North Rupununi District Development Board is a community-based organization comprising indigenous communities in the North Rupununi.

managed forests - the country's first sustainably managed corridor of integrated protected and productive landscapes.

This strategy aligns to the programmatic approach. Through these interventions the project will yield Global Environmental Benefits including increased area under PA status (800,000 hectares) and increased area under improved landscape management (400,000 hectares). This will support the overall ASL vision of improving the connectivity of key Amazon ecosystems and conserving globally and nationally significant biodiversity.

As co-benefits to the program, the project is expected to result in tons of carbon being stored, mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and climate regulation. The project intervention area includes approximately 1.2M hectares of forests, with a total of 335.2M tC (109.5M tC in the northern portion and 225.7M tC in the south).

### ***Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components***

Building off a baseline of commitment for expansion of protected areas and management of existing PAs in Central Guyana, and a baseline of extractive industries operating in a productive landscape, the project will establish a new protected area (Component 1), improve management of a productive landscape (Component 2), and improve the regulatory framework for environmental management of productive landscapes (Component 3) to improve habitat connectivity in central Guyana.

Component 1 will support the establishment of a protected area in Area A, as well as management planning and capacity for sustainable financing of the proposed area. Component 2 will address threats of small/medium scale gold mining, timber harvesting, wildlife extraction and road development, which together are contributing to fragmentation and degradation of the landscape, through a multisectoral planning process and training and operational support for government to promote best practice and undertake compliance monitoring of the relevant industries. Component 3 will support productive and protected area landscapes in Guyana, including Area A and B, through improved regulatory frameworks and capacity to implement new and existing frameworks. Component 4 is focused on monitoring and evaluation and coordination for the project and program.

### **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework**

#### ***Monitoring and Evaluation***

The project's Monitoring and Evaluation approach will support national and regional learning. The results framework will include both project-specific indicators and core indicators (core indicator 1, 4, 11) that will contribute to the wider ASL strategy. An annual reflection workshop will be organized with landscape and national level stakeholders to evaluate the child project's strategies and approach. Bi-annual (6 monthly) reporting, a midterm evaluation, and a terminal evaluation will track project-level progress and allow for learning and synthesis of experiences.

#### ***Knowledge Management and Learning Events/Exchanges***

The project will develop a knowledge management strategy during project development to ensure knowledge is appropriately (i) captured, (ii) analyzed, (iii) shared and incorporated into the project strategy when relevant. One focus of the knowledge management strategy will be documents lessons/steps towards PA creation and productive landscape integrated planning and management, allowing the approach to be scaled up in other parts of Guyana and regionally.

The project has allocated budget to attend regional learning events organized by the ASL Program Coordination Child Project. The project will document and share national-level experiences at these events and will benefit from the experiences of other ASL projects on protected area creation, planning and sustainable management



of productive areas (including extractive sectors), and best practice regulatory frameworks to guide protected and productive areas.

In addition, the project will finance exchange visits under Component 1 for national and landscape level stakeholders to learn about best practice for PA management in other ASL countries. These activities will be designed in close coordination with ASL partner countries to maximize learning exchange during the life of the project.

### ***Communications***

A communications strategy will be developed during project development to support knowledge management and information sharing. Communication products such as a project website will be developed and linked to the ASL program. Information will be disseminated to local, landscape, national, and regional level stakeholders.

### ***Coordination***

The Project Management Unit will ensure consistent coordination with the ASL program through program-level calls and information sharing. At the national level, inter-agency cooperation and coordination will be mainstreamed throughout Component 1, 2, and 4 strategies. The private sector will be engaged in Component 2 and 3. Finally, the Project Steering Committee will be designed to ensure both efficient decision-making and will include representation from the national/landscape level.

<b>Child project title:</b>	Building human well-being and resilience in Amazonian forests by enhancing the value of biodiversity for food security and bio-businesses, in a context of climate change
<b>Country:</b>	Peru
<b>Lead agency:</b>	FAO
<b>GEF agency(ies)</b>	UNIDO IFAD
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$ 15,599,083
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$ 120,000,000

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **Country Context**

Peru's main environmental challenges include: (1) reducing Amazon deforestation and degradation in colonization fronts and pathways of penetration, one of the main sources of GreenHouse Gas (GHG) emissions<sup>18</sup>; (2) protecting biodiversity and ecosystem services (ES) threatened by unsustainable extraction of natural resources, including many endemic and endangered plant and animal species; (3) reducing the contamination of water and wetlands, associated with resource extraction, deforestation and urbanization; (4) improving governance and articulation among different State sectors and levels, in their policies, strategies and investments; (5) improving the adaptation and resilience of territories and communities to face climate change-related extreme events, which affect the livelihoods of the most vulnerable populations; (6) strengthening economic mechanisms, incentives and financial instruments, both public and private, for biodiversity conservation and sustainable ecosystem management, with benefits for citizens and communities; and (7) improving the regional coordination, cooperation and connectivity for the sustainable management of Amazonian landscapes.

The country has ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity and developed the National Biodiversity Strategy 2021. Peru also ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, approved the National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change, and is committed to implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to reduce by 30% GHG emissions foreseen in the "BAU" scenario for 2030. Peru has also ratified the CITES and Ramsar Conventions. Nationally, it approved the Climate Change Law, the Protected Natural Areas Law, the Forestry and Wildlife Law, the National Water Resources Law and Plan, the National Wetland Strategy, among others. Peru is part of the Rio Declaration that highlights the massive forest destruction; the Global Restoration Initiative, Tropical Forest Alliance, the Bonn Challenge and the 20x20 Initiative, with a commitment to restore 3.2 million ha of land at national level; as well as other Amazon-related bilateral and multilateral agreements, such as ACTO and REDPARQUES for the sustainable development of the Amazon. Peru has signed a Declaration Of Intent with Norway and Germany for reducing GHG emissions. Besides, Peru is part of the ASL1 GEF6 Program (2 child projects: *Securing the Future of Peru's Natural Protected Area*, and *Sustainable Productive Landscapes in the Peruvian Amazon*).

These commitments are supported by a solid baseline comprising 12 budget programs and public investment projects that are implemented in the targeted regions and provinces. National interventions are oriented towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, ecosystems and their services, business development, promotion of technology and innovation, integrated water management, reduction of land degradation, support for trade and tourism, among others. Likewise, there are technical cooperation initiatives, including with USAID, GIZ, among others, for the conservation and valuation of forests. This proposed project strategy is aligned with the ToC of ASL2 Program and will contribute to generating Global Environmental Benefits in biodiversity, land

<sup>18</sup> See Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

<http://www.minam.gob.pe/cambioclimatico/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2015/12/LA-CONTRIBUCI%C3%93N-NACIONAL-DEL-PER%C3%9A1.pdf>.

degradation and Climate Change (see Table F). In addition, actions implemented will contribute to the conservation of wetlands of global importance (Ramsar sites).

## **Project Overview and Approach**

### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed***

Target areas include two watershed landscapes dominated by primary forests and wetlands. They include areas designated as indigenous territories (IT), including villages in voluntary isolation<sup>2</sup>, and protected areas for biodiversity conservation and cultural survival. 1) **The Tigre river basin and the Marañón tributaries**: Basin shared with Ecuador, in the province of Loreto, Loreto region. The Pucacuro National Reserve (NR) and the Pacaya Samiria NR are located in this landscape. The landscape contains flooded forests and palm swamps with high levels of carbon fixation and high conservation importance. The Alto Nanay- Pintuyacu Chambira Regional Conservation Area (RCA) is adjacent to the landscape. Main threats include: a) the degradation of wetlands due to unsustainable agricultural practices, b) water pollution, and c) the overexploitation of species (e.g. paiche, arahuana). Deforestation is increasing (1,250 ha deforested in 2017). 2) **The Alto Ucayali river basin** (Tambo, Perené and Inuya sub-basins), in the adjacent provinces of Satipo, Junín region and Atalaya, Ucayali region. The El Sira Communal Reserve (CR), the Ashaninka CR, the Otishi National Park and the Murunahua Indigenous Reserve (IR) are located in the landscape. The Otishi NP protects the Vilcabamba mountain range, which has a very high biodiversity. The IR protects indigenous villages in isolation, and the headwaters of the Yurúa and Inuya Rivers act as a BZ for the Alto Purús NP. The San Matías San Carlos Protection Forest forms a continuous extension of PA and primary forests on both sides of the Alto Ucayali basin. Main threats include: a) a high incidence of illegal logging and timber extraction; b) deforestation and forest degradation associated with colonization and agricultural practices; and c) water pollution. Deforestation in Satipo reached 111,460 ha in the 2000-2017 period. Since 2012, Atalaya has experienced similar annual deforestation rates compared to Satipo.

### ***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

Important actions are implemented by Peru in the Amazon; with 12 budget programs and investment projects of US\$ 29.6 M and US\$ 39.2 M per annum (p.a) in the areas of intervention. In Atalaya, US\$ 14.7 million p.a. are projected, for erosion control, flora and fauna conservation, sustainable use of forest biodiversity. In Loreto, US\$ 82.8 p.a. are planned for forest conservation, fishery production, land title, and sustainable management of wildlife. In Satipo, US\$ 8.6 million p.a. are budgeted for land rights, recovery of water regulation services, PAs and soil productive capacity improvement. The Forest Investment Fund (2019-2023) has a budget of US\$ 10 million. The National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) implements interventions with a budget of US\$ 11.7 million. Bilateral and multilateral agencies, such as USAID, GIZ, UN, and others, contribute with more than US\$ 5 million. There is, however, a need to continue supporting national efforts to reducing deforestation and conservation of ES under climate change scenarios.

The project will promote synergies among different sectors, levels and stakeholders (including governmental organizations at the national, regional and local levels; indigenous organizations; native and riparian communities; NGOs; and private companies. The various stakeholders will be identified and involved, through a participatory consultative process<sup>19</sup>. Similarly, existing national policies that promote gender equity and women's empowerment will be implemented in a cross-cutting manner throughout the project. Intercultural public management, the reduction of ethnic-racial gaps, and the promotion of public services with cultural relevance are also a priority<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> The National Law of the Right to Prior Consultation, approved in 2011, guarantees that all public entities consult with indigenous peoples on any policy,

<sup>20</sup> During the formulation phase, agencies will carry out the analysis of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), a specific right of indigenous peoples recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). With the FPIC, indigenous peoples can give or deny their

***Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits***

The four project's components respond to the ASL integrated approach and associated ToC. By working in landscape mosaics made up of PAs, BZ and adjacent IT, where ecosystems are still healthy, but under threat, the project will reverse current trends of degradation and deforestation and will prevent further loss of biodiversity, ES and GHG emissions. This will be achieved through coordinated government policies, sustainable and interconnected management of protected and production areas (through a river basin approach), and the development of value chains that correspond to the natural supply availability and cultural features (mainly indigenous) of the Amazon.

**Collaborative, coherent and synergist governance (Component 1)** is aligned with ASL's Component 3, and will strengthen existing institutional frameworks (policies, incentives, capacities, and mechanisms) for coherent territorial planning, innovations for decision-making and generate financial and administrative incentives for policies integrated through different State sectors and levels in the territories. **Strengthening ecological connectivity in conservation mosaics of PA (Component 2)** is aligned with ASL's component 1, and will strengthen the sustainability of PAs and BZ through the implementation of co-management plans and financial sustainability models. This component will be focused on PAs, and will include broad participation of indigenous communities. New PAs will be considered as well as improvements in the management of existing PAs, for achieving the sustainable provision of ES. The conservation and recovery of ES will include restoration actions in PAs and BZs. **Sustainable productive practices, eco-businesses and bio-trade (Component 3)** is aligned with ASL's component 2 and will introduce sustainable eco-business models as a mean to enhancing the value of timber and non-timber products and services from the Amazon forest. This will be carried out by strengthening technical capacities of stakeholders in bio-trade and bio-businesses and promoting the diversification and value addition of biodiversity products, developing partnerships and supporting green incentives. The project will work to improve emerging partnerships and innovations. **Knowledge management and adaptive M&E (Component 4)** is aligned with ASL's component 4 and will contribute to capacity-building and regional cooperation (exchange of lessons learned and good practices). M&E systems will be implemented to contribute to monitoring GEBs and SDGs.

***Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components***

In the BAU scenario, anthropic activities, land-use change and pressures on forest areas, PAs and indigenous reserves will continue to increase in intervention sites, including unsustainable productive practices. In the institutional sphere, tools and approaches will be insufficient for integrating conservation and sustainable use, managing protected and productive landscapes, and promoting environmentally-friendly practices and sustainable natural resources management. By adopting an integrated approach for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, the vulnerability of ecosystems and their services will be reduced, increasing their resilience and improving livelihoods, generating experiences and lessons, which can be scaled up to national and regional level through public and private investments. The project will generate the following **Global Environmental Benefits**: restoring and maintaining the integrity of ES and the sustainable use of biodiversity, enhancing the value of biodiversity, improving the integrated management of PAs and BZ; reducing GHG emissions. **Socioeconomic benefits**: consolidating bio-businesses, public and private partnerships; empowering women, communities and youth; increasing green jobs and related income; among others. In the Amazon basin, the project will strengthen cooperation for the valuation and conservation of biodiversity and effective governance in the use of natural resources, which have not been sufficiently strengthened so far. It will also contribute to international and national agreements aimed at guaranteeing healthy, and functional ecosystems.

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consent to a project that affects them or their territories. Once they have given their consent, they can withdraw it at any stage of the process. On the other hand, the FPIC allows them to negotiate the conditions under which projects are designed, implemented, supervised and evaluated. This principle is enshrined in the universal right to self-determination.

## Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework

The Project will contribute to information generation, exchange of experiences, approaches and good practices, as well as to feeding the monitoring and capacity-building systems, in a crosscutting manner, directly through actions proposed in Component 4 but more broadly through all project components, thus contributing to the Amazon regional cooperation agenda. ASL2 will be an important opportunity for countries to collaborate and disseminate information. This will be reinforced by the use of shared and consolidated platforms such as REDPARQUES and the Global Landscape Forum, among others. Selected intervention sites are representative of complex situations where ecological and cultural values coexist with the overexploitation and degradation of ecosystems. There is a high potential to scale up project outcomes and achieve great impact, an essential input being the participation of public multisectorial stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and academia. The project proposes an innovative approach aligned with national, sectoral, regional, and local policy frameworks. The participation of **governmental entities** will ensure the scaling-up and replication of interventions: 1) PRODUCE will provide support through its Innovate Peru and PNIPA programs; 2) MINAGRI will support land use planning and add value through INIA, SERFOR, SSE and ANA; 3) MINAM will lead and guide the implementation of the project components, SERNANP will lead the strategy for PAs; 4) MINCETUR will support the promotion of biodiversity and biotrade products; 5) CONCYTEC will support the development of researches to enhance added value; and 6) MIMP will provide support with gender equity methodologies and guidelines. Regional and local governments will support environmental planning and land-use processes and facilitate intersectoral coordination spaces. **Academic/Research institutions** including universities, innovation and research centers, IIAP and CITEs, will support processes of adding value to biodiversity products and ecosystem services. At least thirteen **indigenous organizations** (already identified), including AIDSESEP, Regional Coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples of Atalaya, Confederation of Amazonian Nationalities of Peru, Regional Union of Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon of the Province of Atalaya, Central Ashaninka of the Tambo River, among others, will facilitate the development of the FPIC process in the intervention areas, and the implementation of the environmental and social management guidelines, national and international. The **private sector** will be essential to promote strategic partnerships in the pursuit of innovation and technology for sustainable and resilient production and ecosystems. An analysis and identification of market needs for value-added biodiversity products and services will be carried out, and trade associations will be developed for differentiated markets within the global and regional bio-trade strategies. This will allow the articulation of native communities and their products/services with the markets, promoting a business model for bio-trade and developing inclusive businesses. Companies and associations identified include Candela Peru, Stingray Aquarium SAC, Natura, Chamber of Commerce of Indigenous Peoples of Peru, National Society of Industry, among others. Likewise, financial institutions (banks, financial funds) will be engaged to facilitate credit options available to producers through an analysis on credit needs and financial feasibility, subject to the application of sustainability criteria.

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	Strengthening management of protected and productive landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon
<b>Country:</b>	Suriname
<b>GEF Agency(ies):</b>	UNDP
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$ 5,165,138
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$40,000,000

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Country Context

Despite its vast forest cover, Suriname is facing environmental challenges leading to deforestation and degradation, driven by the mining sector, increasing forestry activities, and to a lesser extent, infrastructure and urban development, agriculture, and others. There is an urgent need to manage the valuable biodiversity, carbon stocks and natural resources of the country by adopting integrated approaches that address ecosystem services across landscape scales. This should entail land use planning to balance conservation and economic development objectives, strengthened management of protected areas and reduced threats within these areas, and promotion of alternative sustainable livelihoods, among others.

Suriname is currently implementing a GEF-funded project related to gold mining, as the largest driver of deforestation, to strengthen the institutional, policy and planning framework and demonstrate more environmentally responsible mining techniques for the ASGM sector. This ASL-II child project will be highly complementary by focusing on promoting more sustainable forestry practices (as this is the second most important driver of forest degradation), while strengthening protected areas (PA) management, promoting sustainable livelihoods through agroforestry systems, nature tourism and non-timber forest products (NTFP), improving land use planning and monitoring. As Implementing Agency for both projects, UNDP will ensure close coordination between the two initiatives.

Suriname has ratified various multilateral environmental agreements, signaling its commitment to address these environmental challenges, including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2006, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1997 and the Paris agreement in February 2019. It has also put in place planning instruments and policies that are fully aligned with the ASL-II program and child project. These include the National Development Plan 2017-2020 and the national REDD+ strategy, which highlights the need to introduce integrated land use planning, more effectively manage forest resources and update information systems. Improving the effectiveness of PA management is in line with the 2006-2020 Biodiversity Strategy and the National Development Plan. The National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2021 is consistent with the Program and child project's emphasis on more effective conservation of forest ecosystems in protected landscapes and more sustainable forest management (SFM). Furthermore, strengthening nature tourism through the project is linked to the underlying objective of the National Tourism Strategy 2030 (2018). The government is committing resources to implement these different policies and executing various projects to contribute to these objectives, in addition to investments being made by the private sector and NGOs.

Suriname's policy and investment framework is therefore aligned with the ASL-II Program's goal of contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of the Amazon. Furthermore, at the COP 23 in 2017, it announced its commitment to maintain its 93% forest cover. Suriname's vast repository of biodiversity and the important carbon sequestration role played by its forests put it in a highly strategic position to contribute to the ASL-II program's objective and to produce global environmental benefits in terms of increased area of protected and productive landscapes under improved management for conservation and sustainable use, land restoration and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

## **Project Overview and Approach**

### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;***

The project strategy addresses the national scale by strengthening institutional capacities for integrated landscape management and conservation and promoting enabling policies for SFM and nature tourism, among others. The total territory of Suriname covers 16.38 million ha. The proposed two target productive landscapes for project interventions include: 1) Samaaka/Matawai landscape; and 2) The Coeroeni/Paroe landscape. The four protected areas targeted by the project include: The Central Suriname Nature Reserve (CSNR), the Sipaliwini Nature Reserve, Brownsberg Nature Park, and the Brinckheuvel Nature Reserve.

The main driver of forest degradation and deforestation is mining, which accounts for approximately 73% of deforestation and is leading to contamination of waterways and fish, biodiversity loss, land degradation and GHG emissions. This sector is being targeted by the ongoing GEF project in Suriname to improve the environmental management of ASGM. Other drivers of deforestation and degradation include forestry, infrastructure development, urban development, agriculture, and others. Forestry has experienced rapid expansion in recent years, with annual timber production increasing from 150,000-200,000 m<sup>3</sup> during 2000-2010 to an estimated 856,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2017. Insufficient mechanisms have been established to ensure sustainable management of large-scale concessions and community forests, leading to degradation, carbon emissions and biodiversity loss.

Four systemic barriers are currently impeding SFM within protected and productive landscapes: weaknesses in the management effectiveness of PAs in the Amazon and limited involvement of local communities; limited benefits from the sustainable utilization of productive landscapes in the Amazon flowing to local communities and inadequate planning and environmental management of sectoral activities, including forestry and mining; weak policy, planning, institutional and monitoring frameworks for SFM, and uncoordinated knowledge management, low levels of awareness and limited regional collaboration to promote conservation of the Amazon forests.

### ***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

The government of Suriname is expected to make investments from the key line ministries and agencies, including the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Land and Forest Management; Ministry of Natural Resources; Foundation for Forest Management and Production Control; Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries; Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism; and Ministry of Regional Development, including for recurrent expenses in PA system management, implementing and monitoring SFM approaches, extension services for smallholders, etc. Private sector investment is expected from the forestry, mining, tourism and agricultural sector and NGO investments are envisaged for complementary initiatives, e.g., involving the Coeroeni/Paroe landscape, improved PA management and rural development in ITP communities. Investments for complementary development initiatives operating during the project's timeframe and contributing to the project's objectives include the second phase of the REDD+ capacity development project, second phase of the EU-funded GCCA+, IDB grant funding, and the EU-funded Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Program.

GEF funding has been allocated for a project to improve the environmental management of the gold mining sector of Suriname. In addition, Suriname is participating with Guyana and French Guiana in the EU-funded

project, “Strengthening the network of Protected Areas in the Guiana Shield and their contributions to sustainable development in respect of local cultures, values and lifestyles”.

The Suriname government includes a Bureau for Gender Affairs under the Ministry of Home Affairs, charged with formulating, coordinating and evaluating gender policy. This agency will provide a vehicle for gender integration in the project. In addition, during the PPG phase, a Gender Mainstreaming Strategy will be developed. The Ministry of Regional Development has a stakeholder engagement mechanism (through the District Commissioners) that will be further explored for its applicability to this project. In addition, a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan and an Indigenous Peoples Plan will be developed for the project.

***Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program’s Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits***

The proposed integrated project strategy is fully consistent with the ASL-II Program’s Theory of Change (TOC). The child project interventions are aligned with several activities/outputs as per the Program’s Theory of Change, including strengthening PA management effectiveness, sustainable value chains, rehabilitation, enabling environment, landscape planning, policy, technical and institutional capacity, knowledge management and awareness, and regional coordination. In turn, these activities/outputs of both the child project and the ASL-II Program will contribute to the short-term outcomes described in the Program TOC, including improved management of PAs, strengthened management of productive landscapes between PAs, enhanced governance (and policies) for protected and productive landscapes, and strengthened capacity and regional cooperation. These outcomes are then expected to contribute to the medium-term outcome of the ASL-II TOC, namely, improved integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas of the Amazon region, and over time, to the expected long-term outcomes of the ASL-II Program: connectivity of key Amazon ecosystems maintained and improved, globally and nationally significant biodiversity conserved, improved resilience and livelihoods of local communities and indigenous populations, and reduced global greenhouse emissions. The project adopts an integrated approach that includes work both within and outside PAs, recognizing PAs’ role as critical repositories of biodiversity and carbon, at the same time as the fact that they are not enough and that sectoral based mainstreaming and land use planning are critical. This approach is focused on tackling the systemic drivers of land use change and providing incentives for sustainable production and conservation and is expected to bring about global environmental benefits in a country that still houses vast quantities of forests, biodiversity and carbon.

***Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.***

Planned baseline investments will help offset the recurrent expenses of PA management, though a funding gap remains. In addition, there will be some investments in promoting and monitoring SFM practices, among other sector-based initiatives. While these may lead to some improvements in protected areas management effectiveness and in sectoral mainstreaming of environmental considerations, the investments are unlikely to be sufficient to lead to systemic change and to significantly reduce the deleterious impacts on biodiversity, land degradation and climate change. With the GEF Trust Fund additional funding, global environmental benefits will be achieved by working under Component 1, “Improved management of protected landscapes” with the critical involvement and training of local stakeholders, piloting of rehabilitation work, and support for the strengthening of the legal framework for PA management, among others. Under Component 2, Gender-inclusive participatory management of productive landscapes strengthened, the project will promote sustainable forestry in large concessions and community forests in Suriname’s forest belt, focusing on the Samaaka/Matawai landscape. GEF funding will support the development of green value chains related to non-



timber forest products, agroforestry systems and nature tourism, critical to providing livelihoods benefits to offset the opportunity costs involved in maintaining forest cover. Component 3 will facilitate the strengthening of the policy framework for SFM and nature tourism and will support the participatory development of a jaguar conservation plan and implementation of priority actions. A land use plan will be developed over a 3.31 million ha, near pristine area in Southern Suriname (Coeroeni/Paroe landscape), thus helping safeguard biodiversity, carbon stocks and critical ecosystem services. The project will increase institutional capacity in conservation and SFM and improve environmental monitoring and reporting capacity to improve management of conservation areas. Updating the log-tracking system with the expanded inclusion of processed wood aspects will help incentivize the added value industry and reduce pressures from the forestry sector on pristine forests. Under Component 4, the project will carry out an awareness raising strategy to promote greater understanding of the vital ecosystem services provided by the Amazon and to strengthen SFM. Finally, a key added value of Suriname's participation in the ASL-II program will include knowledge transfer among participating Amazon countries on conservation and SFM and uptake of these lessons learned.

### **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework**

Under Component 4, the child project will implement a knowledge management and awareness raising strategy to promote greater understanding of the important ecosystem services provided by the Amazon and to strengthen SFM, focusing on communities in target sites and associated stakeholders. The project will also engage in regional cooperation through South-South Cooperation, knowledge transfer and cross-border exchanges among communities. During the PPG phase, the specific nature of this regional cooperation will be further defined, but it is expected to include learning and information sharing on best practices in PA management, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation in sectoral activities, and addressing ecosystem threats, which are similar across the region. For Suriname, the emphasis will be on sharing information with countries with which it shares its border, including Guyana and Brazil, which are also participating in the ASL-II Program. For example, there may be opportunities to share information between indigenous communities involved in managing ICCAs in Northern Brazil and Surinamese communities. As we understand, both the Guyana and Suriname child projects will be working in savannahs in the south and in forest areas in the middle of the respective countries, which provides opportunities for sharing and cross border collaboration in these types of ecosystems.

The ASL-II Program regional coordination component will also provide a vehicle for regional information sharing and learning among the seven participating Amazon countries to facilitate upscaling of best practices. Suriname will benefit from activities such as regional/inter-governmental coordination; technical and institutional capacity and knowledge management; and communication strategies and products to raise awareness about the values of the Amazon. This could include collaboration on the analysis of issues of regional concern, such as threats from illegal gold mining, logging or illegal species trafficking, social tensions and weak governance, among others. This may include participation by project stakeholders in coordination meetings, knowledge exchange events, specialized workshops, field visits, and access to tools and guidelines to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems, among others, as described in the PFD.

Various elements of the project design will facilitate upscaling and involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, including government agencies, indigenous peoples, local communities, the private sector and others. Improving PA management effectiveness in the project's target sites through the increased involvement of rangers, women and youth will provide a practical approach that can be upscaled across Suriname's PA system; this upscaling will be facilitated by project-supported capacity building and by a government-endorsed certification for community rangers. The development of a nature tourism policy and promotion of increased participation of communities in this sector will contribute to the national strategy on the responsible development of tourism. Project support to promote participatory, sustainable forestry

activities, both within and outside of community forests, and for the development of an SFM code of practice, also has high potential for upscaling throughout the forestry belt, as will the project interventions to implement agroforestry systems and promote non-timber-forest-products in target landscapes to build sustainable value chains with local communities.

<b>Child Project Title:</b>	Amazon Knowledge and Coordination Technical Assistance
<b>Country:</b>	Regional
<b>Lead Agency</b>	WB
<b>Total project cost (GEF Grant):</b>	\$8,256,881
<b>Estimated cofinancing:</b>	\$ 30,000,000

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Country Context

The Amazon is currently facing a multitude of environmental challenges<sup>21</sup>. Each country suffers from these challenges in varied degrees, but overall these include deforestation, degradation (including water pollution), fragmentation, and over-exploitation of forest and water resources. The challenges not only have impacts at national level, but regionally given the ecosystem connectivity of the biome. Water pollution for instance generated by illegal mining upstream moves along the watershed, crossing borders and contaminating fish migrating along the rivers. Also, perpetrators of illegal activities take advantage of differences in law enforcement between countries and move from one country to escape strong prosecution. Overall, the integrity of the Amazon biome needs to be maintained and deforestation and fragmentation at a national level will decrease the resilience of the biome to deliver global environmental benefits and services.

Each Amazon country has achieved significant results in addressing national level challenges. These efforts reduced deforestation and resulted in measurable biodiversity gains. However, the need to react to spatially-explicit deforestation and comprehensively address the mounting deforestation pressures caused by several drivers in the Amazon Basin has been clearly recognized. It has equally been recognized that while necessary it is insufficient to act only at the national level, and that collaboration across borders is a critical component of any long-term strategy as many of drivers of deforestation are Pan-Amazonian in nature.

The first and proposed second phase of the ASL has the unique feature that each country carries out actions on the ground nationally, and in addition, through this coordination project, receives significant technical assistance and capacity building in the themes relevant to their actions on the ground both nationally and at regional scale. By promoting strategic knowledge exchanges and innovations, and increasing partnerships with other regional actors, the coordination project will accelerate the stakeholders' learning, resulting in improved implementation and desired transformational changes. Promoting coordination in key strategic actions, will generate outcomes with greater impact than if countries were working in isolation. The scale of the challenges requires a large-scale intervention which will be better addressed with a harmonized collaborative approach through a regional knowledge and collaboration platform.

The coordination project is the glue that will bring together the ASL2 national projects and other regional initiatives to: (a) strengthen and expand the activities launched under ASL1 in the original three countries and launch them in the four new countries (Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname), which will increase the area under effective conservation, reduce deforestation, promote sustainable use and restoration of native vegetation and ensure the conservation of species, habitats, ecosystem services and cultural values; (b) expand the range of thematic issues tackled from a predominantly terrestrial perspective to include the management of freshwater ecosystems and aquatic resources including strategic international waters; and (c) advance the regional dimensions of the Program, enhancing the ongoing multi-country collaboration around knowledge exchange and learning and complementing it with concrete efforts to identify and jointly manage transboundary and/or issues of shared concern.

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<sup>21</sup> The Amazon environmental challenges are described in detail in the ASL Program Framework Document (PFD)

## **Project Overview and Approach**

### ***Description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed***

The coordination project will provide technical assistance to all the ASL national projects and as such, its direct geographical target will be the sum of their target areas. These ASL2 geographic areas suffer in varied degrees from drivers which include, presence of illegal activities (land grabbing, timber, gold, illicit crops, wildlife), unplanned land use expansion, unsustainable land/ water use practices (livestock, agriculture, logging, fishing, extractives (minerals and oil/gas)), loss of traditional knowledge, Infrastructure (roads, dams & hydropower) and climate change (drought, fires). Reducing these drivers requires investments in the national agendas but there are certain barriers that stand in the way of securing the maintenance of the forest cover and flow of ecosystems services in the long term and can only be addressed through regional approaches. These include: (i) weak capacity and coordination to enforce policy and regulations; (ii) poorly connected/sectoral strategies and plans at all levels (subnational through regional); and (iii) knowledge and innovation gaps, insufficient knowledge transfers and awareness.

The individual national projects supported by the coordination and technical assistance project will contribute to advancing national and regional level actions towards reducing deforestation, conserving biodiversity, increasing connectivity, improving freshwater management, and improving livelihoods for local populations. The coordination project will promote collaboration and learning amongst neighboring countries to tackle common threats and accelerate the implementation and upscaling of innovative approaches and best practices. Coordination and knowledge sharing actions are expected to generate an “influencing effect” that will reach additional areas beyond the target areas of each national project; e.g. public officials will have a strengthened capacity to promote conservation and sustainable productive activities in areas beyond the ASL targeted ones.

### ***Existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration***

The project builds on baseline investments that promote knowledge and capacity building from the ASL phase 1 coordination project that provided technical assistance to Brazil, Colombia and Peru. In ASL1, the coordination project has supported: four face to face workshops to coordinate project activities and bring expert opinion on key issues related to conservation and sustainable development, one study tour on Acre’s success with sustainable value chains, two analytical studies on deforestation control and community conservation agreements, and multiple communication products (ASL Newsletter, calendar, website and brochure). The lessons learned from implementing this over multiple years will show the type of activities that bring high value to the project teams, increase capacity and collaboration and engaging all relevant stakeholders.

Over the past year, ASL1 has identified existing knowledge platforms such as those of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO); the Amazonian Network of Georeferenced Socio-Environmental Information (RAISG); the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Amazonia (UN/FAS); REDPARQUES, the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC) and; the Amazon Waters Initiative (WCS) to establish collaboration and exchange of knowledge. In addition, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation with its Andes-Amazon Initiative will be a strategic partner in promoting strategies to increase management effectiveness of protected areas and mainstreaming environmental considerations in infrastructure and transport projects.

Stakeholder engagement for the coordination project will be ensured through the Program Steering Committee and the thematic working groups to be established on priority themes. In addition, ASL has consistently made

efforts to integrate gender considerations and this will be reflected in the second phase<sup>22</sup>. The Program seeks to (a) strengthen access to and control of land, water, and other productive assets and biological resources for women; (b) increase the participation and leadership in decision-making processes relating to the environment; (c) ensure economic benefits coming from the sustainable use of forest resources are shared fairly between men and women. In addition, the ASL1 coordination project is in the process of preparing a Women in Nature Network (WiNN) Event in the Amazon and become part of the all-women's international network to support and empower women in nature conservation, to be scaled up with ASL2.

***Description of how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits***

The proposed regional coordination project is a key component of the ASL2 Program supporting its premise that proposes that the ecological resilience of the Amazon biogeographical region can be maintained if: (a) a representative area of the Amazon is effectively conserved under various regimes; (b) agriculture, degraded, freshwater and forest lands are adequately managed, with zero illegal deforestation tolerance and adoption of sustainable land and water management approaches; (c) national policies and strategies support sustainable development; and (d) technical and institutional capacity of and coordination between key stakeholders across the region improves. The proposed project will accelerate learning thus increasing countries' capacity to achieve the above national and regional outcomes that contribute to the desired resilience. Under a demand driven approach, the project will tackle the barrier identified in the ASL's ToC that involves weak capacity and coordination to enforce policy and regulations, poorly connected/sectoral strategies and plans, and knowledge gaps and insufficient knowledge transfers and awareness at both national and regional level.<sup>23</sup>

***Incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components***

The coordination project aims to increase national and regional capacity and coordination amongst ASL stakeholders for improved integrated landscape management and conservation in targeted areas in the Amazon. In the business as usual scenario, each ASL national project could partner with the baseline initiatives but not coherently with the other projects or regional platforms under a common goal. A collaborative approach will promote coherence among the multiple country level initiatives and provide key stakeholders with capacity building tools and knowledge that are relevant for the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon ecosystems. It will strengthen collaboration between projects and with governments, NGOs and donors; contribute to strategic knowledge at regional scale; reach multiple stakeholders from project community beneficiaries to decision makers at the highest levels; and streamline reporting, access to tools and ongoing technical support. Through the following components, the ASL will be able to deliver more products, share more

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<sup>22</sup> For example, for each knowledge management event ASL has invited women leaders. For the Acre Study Tour on productive value chains several participants were women including a mayor from Peru and the director of International Affairs of the Colombian Ministry of Environment. Each national project has incorporated gender sensitive activities and is targeting women to empower them as leaders in conservation and sustainable development.

<sup>23</sup> The coordination project will explore and support opportunities for bi-lateral and multi-lateral coordination and collaboration around biodiversity conservation and sustainable development concerns, including inter alia creating collaborative spaces for establishment and management of transboundary conservation targets (e.g., Ecuador-Colombia, and Ecuador-Peru); identification and management of shared threats and challenges facing protected areas in border regions (e.g., Ecuador-Colombia, Guyana-Suriname); development and implementation of joint monitoring programs for migratory species, including fish; developing common plans to improve coordination and effectiveness of efforts to combat illegal timber and wildlife trafficking especially focusing on possible cross-border illegal transfers; establishing market-based instruments and benefit sharing mechanisms that will increase viability of productive value chains in productive landscapes; promoting cross sectoral land use planning that addresses the drivers of deforestation, among others.

lessons, generate, manage and disseminate knowledge, and coordinate better in a setting with additional projects, countries, partners and new topics.

## **1. Coordination.**

1.1 Coordination and partnerships with Regional initiatives leading to agreements, bi- and/or multi-lateral strategies and activities to promote conservation and sustainable development in transboundary areas or regarding shared issues of concern, including<sup>24</sup>: governance and comanagement of natural resources, watershed management, Public private partnerships for productive value chains, mercury contamination, traditional knowledge, participatory monitoring programs, law enforcement to combat illegal activities, among others. The project will aim to reinforce synergies with other programs making them partners of regional initiatives to be supported by the ASL<sup>25</sup>.

1.2 Donor Coordination. ASL1 donor platform will be updated to collect and analyze information about the interventions in the Amazon from private, bilateral and multilateral agencies. Meetings will be convened with strategic donors to identify gaps for future investment, support potential synergies and identify case studies to analyze.

1.3 Coordination mechanisms for Program implementation through (i) the Program Steering Committee (PSC) composed of representatives from the participant countries, GEF Implementing Agencies and the GEF Secretariat that will be a key advisory mechanism to facilitate coordination and promote synergies between the national projects<sup>26</sup>, and (ii) the annual Conference where all key stakeholders will discuss prioritized themes of interest and identify future collaborative actions.

## **2. Knowledge Management and Communications**

2.1 Knowledge management. The project will support (i) analytical work and systematization of best practices, tools, and guidelines to improve integrated landscape management and conservation in the Amazon; (ii) knowledge exchange virtual and in-person events; (iii) and, a curated knowledge repository that will help identify gaps in best practices and provide the national projects stakeholders with access to experts, tools and guidelines. It will connect project teams with the right people and the right information, so they are able to adopt this knowledge, reach an open collaborative network and improve project activities<sup>27</sup>. A system will be set up to make knowledge flow from existing sources and hubs of knowledge<sup>28</sup> to the child projects and back from these to knowledge repositories.

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24 These areas of interest were identified during the ASL2 preparation workshop held in Rio de Janeiro, as well as the following meetings with the ASL2 working group with representatives from the participant countries and the agencies.

25 Regional initiatives to invite as partners of the ASL will be identified based on previous experience, driven by demand from the country projects but also based on a stakeholder mapping that will identify organisations developing actions in the ASL areas of intervention. Preliminary conversations have been established with the following organizations/initiatives: (a) WCS, with its Citizen Science Project for community level monitoring using easy access technology piloted in remote areas; (b) the Instituto Geofísico del Perú, for analytical studies and scenarios of climate change impact on the targeted areas; (c) Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM) to expand the work in Brazil with the system of Observation and Monitoring of Conservation Units; (d) the Spatial Planning for Protected Areas in Response to Climate Change (SPARC) funded by the GEF and as an opportunity to guide the creation/expansion of protected areas; (e) Field Museum of Chicago, to conduct rapid inventories of targeted sites and promote landscape planning; (f) Gaia Amazonas foundation, to support strengthening of indigenous governance structures with a regional perspective; (g) CATIE, to tailor their training programs in sustainable forest management for ASL clients; (h) WBG's Disruptive Technologies for Development Network, to understand the opportunities and threats of technologies to help projects achieve their goals, promote innovation and minimize risks; among others.

26 Working groups will be established within the PSC to coordinate on specific topics or activities to develop jointly. The terms of reference for the PSC for ASL1 will be updated during project preparation.

27 This will include a repository of the studies conducted by the ASL, project/program reports, results from donor mapping, and publications of special interest from partners. It will also include a database of knowledge partners who are essentially resource people or organizations that can deliver expert guidance on specific issues and help project teams with issues that arise during project design or implementation.

28 ASL1 has made a compilation of existing knowledge platforms. Most relevant to establish synergies are: Regional Amazon Observatory, UNDP Amazon Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Red Latinoamericana de Cooperación Técnica en Parques Nacionales, otras Áreas Protegidas, Red de Fondos Ambientales de Latinoamérica y el Caribe (RedLAC), Red Amazónica de Información Socioambiental Georreferenciada (RAISG) and WBG Spatial Agent.

2.2. Communications. The project will deploy communications tools to disseminate results of the ASL and reach a broad audience to raise awareness about the importance of the Amazon and critical regional issues, promote project activities and solutions, disseminate knowledge products, and showcase partnerships with stakeholders. This will be implemented with the use of digital platforms and other products like newsletters, brochures, publications, videos, as well as awareness campaigns. The project will also provide guidance to national level communication initiatives so there is harmonization of messages and tools with the overall program goals.

### **3. Monitoring and Evaluation**

An M&E system will keep track of project results and aggregate these to measure program level outcomes and facilitate adaptive management. Based on lessons learned from ASL1, different M&E instruments will be utilized to collect data: (i) a tailored ASL tracking tool to capture results for ASL outcomes and that are not captured in the GEF core indicators; (ii) GEF core indicators. Qualitative and quantitative data will also be collected from the project annual reports submitted by the implementing agencies. Guidance, quality assurance and training will be provided to support national teams. This will help harmonize the approaches and ensure an effective portfolio-level M&E system.

### **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework**

Knowledge management and learning exchanges are core elements in the ASL Program and the proposed project will foster these among the participant country projects and an expanded community involved with the region's conservation and sustainable development. The project will facilitate the transfer of experience and best practices between stakeholders, contributing to capacity building, dissemination of innovation and promoting scaling up of successful activities and approaches emerging from the national projects as well as those of other partner initiatives. These regional knowledge management efforts will be demand driven and complemented by national level efforts, in a mutually reinforcing approach. The demand-driven approach will ensure that themes will be relevant, scale-able, doable and prioritized by key stakeholders, and that focused solutions and thus improved outcomes will be deployed on time. The approach will also be gender sensitive to involve women in knowledge sharing events and to incorporate gender analysis in the environmental mainstreaming<sup>29</sup>. It will also consult and be sensitive to indigenous communities' understanding and willingness to share knowledge.

The approach involving generation of knowledge (and recovery of traditional knowledge), sharing and storage for easy access, will flow both ways from the local and national level within the child projects (researchers, public officials, practitioners, local farmers, indigenous groups, private sector, etc.) to a broader audience of partners and experts involved in the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon. The coordination project will have the means to collect and gather data from prioritized topics, monitor and analyze source information to turn it into applicable information and knowledge, and then share it with all key stakeholders including those in charge of taking decisions that will impact the region's ecosystem, economic and social stability (individuals, communities, organizations, authorities). The ASL will provide technical tools and analysis to reduce subjectivity of political decisions.

This project will expand ASL's goal of connectivity, going beyond the ecosystem connectivity between productive and protective landscapes, connecting knowledge (networks/exchanges) and institutions (partnerships). The project will aim to mirror successful initiatives such as Connect4Climate which communicates change and accelerates real-world solutions through partnerships, competitions, events, and knowledge sharing, connecting about partners around the world. Research<sup>30</sup> found that shared knowledge (horizontally – across actors and

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<sup>29</sup> Initiatives promoted in ASL1 where women have been leaders in recovery of sustainable development practices will be scaled up for ASL2.

<sup>30</sup> For example, see paper from Gerhardinger Leopoldo C., Gorris Philipp, Gonçalves Leandra R., Herbst Dannieli F., Vila-Nova Daniele A., De Carvalho Fabiano G., Glaser Marion, Zondervan Ruben, Glavovic Bruce C. (2018) Healing Brazil's Blue Amazon: The Role of

institutions, and vertically – across system levels and scales) enhances research and communication capacities; and mobilizes decision-makers to address problems at multiple governance levels. This will generate an influencing effect, expanding the results of the interventions in each national target area in a larger scale. Enhanced donor coordination and a better understanding of current financing flows will help build stronger investment collaboration to mount a more effective response to conserve and promote sustainable development in the Amazon.