



The World Bank

AF (2) Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon (P171227)

Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: September 14-2020 | Report No: PIDISDSA27693

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Colombia	Project ID P171227	Project Name AF (2) Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon	Parent Project ID (if any) P144271
Parent Project Name Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon	Region LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Estimated Appraisal Date 15-Sep-2020	Estimated Board Date 18-Feb-2021
Practice Area (Lead) Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Patrimonio Natural	Implementing Agency Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Parques Nacionales Naturales, IDEAM, Instituto SINCHI de Investigación Amazónica

GEF Focal Area

Multi-focal area

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

The project's global environmental objective (GEO) is the same as the project's development objective (PDO), namely, to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the Project area.

Components

- Component 1 - Protected Area Connectivity
- Component 2 - Sustainable forest and water management and use
- Component 3 - Governance, Policies and Incentives
- Component 4 - Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	18.37
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Total Financing	18.37
of which IBRD/IDA	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	18.37
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	18.37

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Have the Safeguards oversight and clearance function been transferred to the Practice Manager? No

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Background

The Colombian Amazon represents 6.5 percent of the biome's rainforest and 42 percent of the country's land mass. Approximately 1.2 million people live in the Colombian Amazon, of which 12.4 percent are indigenous people and 2 percent are Afro descendants. Forty two percent live in the main urban centers. The region's population is highly diverse and includes indigenous peoples, farmers (*campesinos*) and recent migrants, big landholders and urban settlers. The diversity of ethnic groups also results in different forms of relationship with the environment. In the Amazon, poverty rates tend to be higher, and social development indicators are often lower than in the rest of the country. Despite representing over 40 percent of the national territory, the region contributes only 1 percent to national GDP. The depth and duration of the Covid-19 epidemic and economic recession are uncertain in the country but will most likely have a significant negative impact in the Amazon region¹.

¹ In mid May 2020, the department of Amazonas had the highest rate of people diagnosed with COVID19 – 90 per 10,000 people- in the country, indicating its high vulnerability, isolated areas and limited social services.



The region's physical and biotic components explain its high levels of biodiversity, as they result from evolutionary, biogeographical and ecological processes that involve areas of the Guiana Shield (Caquetá state), the Amazonian basin (Caquetá, Putumayo and Amazonas States) and the Andean foothills (Putumayo and Caquetá). This variety includes different ecological systems, both terrestrial and aquatic, with all its habitats. The SINCHI Institute has identified 1,625 species of plants, as well as 1,158 species of birds and 193 species of amphibians. According to the Biodiversity Diagnostic conducted by SINCHI and Humboldt Institutes, of the 15 orders of mammals identified in the country, 13 are present in the region and include 32 families, 118 genus and 195 species. There are other species yet to be identified, as they have been seen in neighboring countries. The species identified in the southern region of the Colombian Amazon for example represent around 44% of the species identified for the country.

Deforestation in Colombia and particularly in the Amazon continues to be a major challenge. The IDEAM Institute estimates that between 1990 and 2017 Colombia lost over 6.7 million hectares of forest nationwide, with 2017 being the worst year on record.² The year 2018 provided positive results registering a 10 percent deforestation rate reduction at national level³; however, large-scale forest cover loss persisted and was particularly severe in the Amazon. Data released in 2020 from IDEAM indicate a further reduction in deforestation for 2019, with a 19 percent reduction at national level of which 62% happened in the Amazon region (98,256 ha). Early months of 2020 has shown an important reversal of the positive trend, as reports⁴ show that up to June, clearing and fires leading to deforestation has increased, and an estimated 76,000 hectares have been deforested⁵.

Deforestation is a severe threat that if uncontrolled can cause irreversible loss of ecological connectivity between the Andean and Amazon ecosystems. Indeed, this loss would irreversibly disrupt regional hydrological and climate patterns and fragment vital species exchange processes. Key deforestation drivers in the Colombian Amazon include: conversion of land into pastures, expansion of the agricultural frontier, extensive unsustainable cattle ranching, land grabbing (for profit speculation and/or titling), logging, road infrastructure⁶ and cultivation of illicit crops. More recently, historical and political factors contribute to an increasing pressure on pristine habitats and forests: oil and mineral exploration, increasing colonization, rapid population growth, ongoing civil unrest and instability in the Peace process accord implementation, as well as incipient land use planning and tenure mechanisms.

An arc of deforestation in the region includes multiple hotspots that have been lately particularly critical⁷ in: (i) the department of Guaviare, where deforestation alerts indicate hotspots in areas within the Calamar, San Jose del Guaviare and Miraflorres municipalities; (ii) the Meta department and particularly in La Macarena and Uribe municipalities and within national protected areas; (iii) the Caquetá department, with a concentration of deforestation alerts in the San Vicente del Caguán, Cartagena del Chairá, Solano municipalities, and (iv) Putumayo and its municipalities of Puerto Guzmán, Puerto

² In 2017, 219,973 hectares of forest were lost in the country, 23 percent more than in 2016 (IDEAM).

³ In 2018, deforestation was estimated at 197,159 hectares, with the departments of Guaviare, Caquetá and Meta accounting for 17%, 23% and 24% respectively of the country's total deforested area. Source: IDEAM, "Resultados: Monitoreo de la Deforestación 2018"

⁴ <https://maaproject.org/2020/colombia-2020/>

⁵ According to SINCHI, during March 2020, 12,958 heat spots -related to forest fires- were identified in the Amazon region, registering an increase of 279% (4,691) over the same period in 2019.

⁶ According to the IDEAM, 75 percent of the deforestation in the Amazon hotspots occurred near a tertiary road.

⁷ <http://smbyc.ideam.gov.co/MonitoreoBC-WEB/reg/indexLogOn.jsp>



Leguízamo and Puerto Asís and San Miguel (closer to the limit with Ecuador), Orito, Villagarzon and Mocoa, national parks and indigenous reserves. In 2019⁸, despite a reduction in the region's deforestation, 10 municipalities of the region represent almost 40% of the total country's deforestation. The collective impact of this deforestation jeopardizes the natural connectivity of the Amazon region's protected areas systems, particularly between four globally significant havens for biodiversity and climate stability: Chiribiquete National Park in Caquetá, Paya National Park in Guaviare, Nukak Natural Reserve and the Macarena National Park in the Meta department. Economic pressures during the CoVID-19 recovery phase, could strengthen even further the current pattern of deforestation and natural resource degradation associated with agricultural commodity expansion and land grabbing/speculation.

As successful, longstanding interventions in the region supported by the GoC and WB/GEF have demonstrated, curbing deforestation in project areas requires an integrated landscape management approach that harmonizes sustainable development with conservation goals, mainstreams environmental considerations in economic sectors, promotes land use planning and restoration of degraded areas, and establishes collaborative, participatory, public-private partnerships and decisionmaking mechanisms with active community participation. The GEF-financed Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon project (known as Heart of the Amazon or *Corazon de la Amazonia* project), has successfully promoted this approach resulting in important achievements, namely (i) improved management effectiveness of protected areas and increased areas under protection regimes, (ii) increased areas under sustainable production systems, and (iii) strengthened multisectorial agreements; all of which combined have led to a reduction in deforestation. Indeed, in 2018 deforestation in the project area was reduced by 13% over 2017 (compared to a reduction of 4% in the whole Colombian Amazon region).

The proposed second Additional financing (AF2) for the Heart of the Amazon project will continue consolidating and scaling successful results achieved by local beneficiaries, the GoC, national and regional government institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. The project will continue safeguarding an increasing number of biologically and culturally critical areas (amounting to over 10 million hectares⁹), as well as strengthening management effectiveness of national and regional protected areas and buffer zones created and/or expanded with GEF support. To safeguard critical areas, the project will continue strengthening indigenous organizations, recognizing their authority and ancestral knowledge for land use management, and establishing co-management agreements with national parks that overlap with their territories. In addition, the proposed AF2 will increase hectares under restoration and strengthen local economies through sustainable production and forestry activities, in order to disincentivize deforestation, empower and strengthen local community capacity and improve wellbeing. To mainstream project outcomes, the AF will support incremental policies and incentives, multisectoral strategies, land use planning, capacity building, knowledge exchange and national/regional collaboration. As such, the proposed AF2 will continue strengthening implementation capabilities and ongoing alliances with key partners, including national and regional authorities and the private sector, to secure the long-term sustainability of project results. In addition, the COVID19 crisis, has strengthened the case for

⁸ During 2019, 6 municipalities showed a decrease in deforestation rates: San Vicente del Caguán, Cartagena del Chairá, La Macarena, San José del Guaviare and El Retorno. These municipalities represent 67% of the national level reduction in deforestation (25,699 ha)

⁹ This amount includes national and regional protected areas, Ramsar sites and indigenous territories that are part of the project's current area of intervention plus new areas to be covered with AF2.



supporting strong alignment with productive value chains and environmental considerations and for introducing economic and environmental resilience within agriculture, forestry and food production systems. The need to generate livelihood opportunities while preserving the environment is increasingly relevant in the post-COVID environment, and the AF2 will provide rich opportunities to do so, while capitalizing on significant knowledge generation and effective conservation results generated by longstanding project implementation.

Institutional context and legal framework

Proposed AF2 activities will be aligned with national policy and institutional frameworks that support the conservation and sustainable development processes required for systemic change. The project aligns with the Government *National Development Plan (NDP)* 2018-2022¹⁰ and particularly the Pact for Sustainability -“Produce while conserving and conserve while producing”- which recognizes the need to advance an environmental agenda that consolidates biodiversity as a strategic national asset. The NDP contains specific policies supporting the National Protected Areas System (NPAS). Also, NDP’s Article 7 supports the generation of non-deforestation and conservation agreements with project beneficiaries, promoting alternatives for sustainable use that are compatible with PAs conservation objectives, regulating the uses of agricultural economies while improving their conservation status, defining productive activities in accordance with living conditions, and supporting fundamental rights of inhabitants in target areas.¹¹ In addition, the NDP contains the Amazon Pact¹² that promotes equal opportunities for ethnic groups, and the “Sustainable Development for a living Amazonia” pact that promotes the use and protection of natural and cultural heritage based on a model of sustainable and differential development¹³.

The project is part of GoC’s *Amazon Vision* (VA in Spanish), the umbrella government program established in 2013 to promote low carbon development in the region, along five pillars: improved forest governance; (ii) sustainable sectoral development and planning; (iii) agro-environmental development; (iv) environmental governance in indigenous populations, and (v) enabling activities. Also part of VA, is the REDD+ Early Movers Programme (REM) financed by the Kingdom of Norway, the United Kingdom and

¹⁰ <https://www.dnp.gov.co/DNPN/Paginas/Plan-Nacional-de-Desarrollo.aspx>

¹¹ LAW 1955 OF 2019- PND 2018-2022. Article 7°. *Socio-environmental Conflicts in Protected Areas of the National System in Protected Areas (SINAP)*. The environmental authorities, in coordination with other public entities and within the framework of their functions, may enter into agreements with vulnerable rural populations that inhabit, occupy or carry out traditional uses associated with the rural economy in protected areas of the NPAS that derive their livelihood from these uses. Such uses may be legally recognized by the entities signing the agreements, as long as they support artisanal and traditional practices and contribute to resolve conflicts of use, occupation and ownership. These agreements promote alternative uses within the rural economy while also improving the conservation status of the areas, improving the living conditions of the population and guaranteeing their fundamental rights. These agreements may be undertaken to regulate conflicts of use and tenure, under a differential and comprehensive approach. The provisions of this article does not modify the property regime of the areas, or their environmental protection statutes.

¹²Agreements on the six proposed axes: indigenous ancestral territories; own government; cultural integrity; women, family and generation; harmony and balance for the defense of life and Pact to and for regions.

¹³ Relevant to the project, the PND also includes: the creation of the National Council to Combat Deforestation and other associated environmental crimes - CONALDEF - which includes the task of coordinating the monitoring and analysis of information to control and prevent deforestation and other environmental crimes; the provision that environmental authorities are allowed to enter into agreements with vulnerable, rural populations that inhabit, occupy or use environmental services within the national protected areas system; and, the article that establishes that 15% of the resources from the upcoming carbon tax (titled “Colombia in Peace”), will be allocated to the conservation of forests in the Amazon region.



Germany through KfW, under the approach of providing performance-based payments of verified emission reductions from reduced deforestation and its contribution to forest conservation and climate regulation. The project aims to reduce emissions from deforestation in the Amazon by implementing a sustainable low-carbon development model that generates multiple global, national and local benefits¹⁴. The original GEF5 project was the pilot for VA and pioneer in the application of tools and approaches to improve governance and promote sustainable land use in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the forests of the Colombian Amazon. This is being scaled up with the REM project, GEF6 AF, the proposed project and a future expansion of REM project under negotiations. Activities and areas of intervention have been aligned between the current AF and REM program and coordination will continue for the proposed AF2. The AF2 is also aligned with Colombia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in its adherence to the UNFCCC. Colombia's first NDC recognized the significant share of AFOLU emissions in its national emissions profile (about 58% of total GHG emissions) and states a national commitment to reduce deforestation. A revised NDC is being prepared by the Government providing new updated goals.

The most relevant national laws, policies and programs supportive of this Project are described below. The main legal instrument on forestry in the country is Law 2 of 1959, which introduced environmental planning and established the Forest Reserve Areas (Zonas de Reserva Forestal) and its Resolutions 1925-2013 and 1277-2014 formalizing the Forest Reserve Zone of the Amazonia (RFA). Also, the Natural Resource Code (Decree 2811-1974) sets out various uses for forest areas, and Decrees 877-1976 and 1791-1996¹⁵ regulate forest resource extraction and governance. More recently, the ruling from the Colombian Supreme Court of Justice (STC 4360-2018) issued in April 2018, recognized the Colombian Amazon as a "subject of rights" for its intrinsic value and thus, a region legally entitled to protection, conservation, maintenance, and restoration. This ruling ordered the preparation of a government Action Plan that will define preventive, educational, mandatory and corrective measures, at the national, sub-regional and local level, to reduce net deforestation to zero and ensure the GoC's low carbon development strategy.

The Comprehensive Rural Reform (Reforma Rural Integral -RRI-) established within the framework of the Peace Agreement subscribed with the FARC in 2016, seeks to transform rural Colombia by creating conditions for the integration of the agricultural production value chain and its competitiveness, while stabilizing the agricultural frontier¹⁶. As part of the RRI, the Government has put in place a 10-year "Development Program with a Territorial Approach" (*Programas de Desarrollo con Enfoque Territorial - PDET-*), created by Decree 893- 2017, to be implemented in selected municipalities most affected by the armed conflict, poverty, illegal economies and weak institutions¹⁷. The AF2 proposed areas of intervention coincide with some of the areas selected for PDET development and thus, multisectoral dialogues and agreements promoted under the AF2 will align with land management plans designed in the PDETs. The GoC has further prioritized some of these municipalities to declare them as "future zones" (*Zonas Futuro*) to address high levels of illicit crops and criminality that could potentially risk national security. These

¹⁴ In a joint declaration of intent signed between the Governments of Colombia, Germany, Norway and the UK in December 2019, donor countries commended Colombia for contributing to reduce over 34 million tons of CO₂eq in the Amazon between 2013 and 2016, and refreshed their future commitments going forward, pending on continued reductions in deforestation.

¹⁵ This defines, in its article 1, use as "the use, by man, of timber and non-timber resources from wild flora and forest plantations."

¹⁶ The agricultural frontier is defined as "the limit of the rural land that separates the areas where agricultural activities are allowed from protected areas, those of special ecological importance, and other areas in which agricultural activities are excluded by law or regulations." (Unidad Rural de Planificación Agropecuaria, 2018). Resolution 261 of 2018.

¹⁷ PDET municipalities include 9 in Putumayo, 12 in the region Macarena-Guaviare, 17 in the region Cauca-Caquetá,



“future zones” will have an accelerated implementation plan for PDET^s using a collaborative approach under a single roadmap integrating various instruments from the RRI, with a special emphasis in law enforcement. Two of the “future zones” prioritized by the Government includes the NNP Serranía de Chiribiquete, Sierra de la Macarena and neighboring National Parks, which overlap with the proposed project’s areas of intervention.

The Amazon Administrative Planning Region (RAP, due to its name in Spanish), adopted by the departments of Putumayo, Caquetá, Guaviare and Guainía, was approved within the framework of Law 1962-2019, including a recognized legal status and autonomy. The RAP promotes a regional vision to “build a sustainable, competitive, and peaceful sustainable development model”¹⁸ and will design a strategic plan with subnational governments, economic sectors and *Vision Amazonia* to support coordination with existing national and international cooperation initiatives. On January 29, 2020, mayors and governors from the Amazon signed the *Great Pact for Zero Deforestation* to promote sustainable development and reduce deforestation in the region. The pact encourages coordination among activities developed by national and local authorities to arrest deforestation.

A recent law related to indigenous communities, *Law-Decree 632-2018*, regulates transitional norms for indigenous territories¹⁹ located in non-municipal areas in the Departments of Amazonas, Guainía and Vaupés, with coordination mechanisms between indigenous authorities and other territorial entities, and regulations for their fiscal organization. Once this Decree is implemented, the proposed AF2 will strengthen current levels of engagement with these communities through Indigenous Councils that govern these territories according to their own traditions and systems.

Finally, at the international level Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname signed the *Leticia Pact* in September 2019. This agreement includes a commitment to generate a joint response to disasters that may arise in any country within the Amazon region; strengthens regional actions to curb deforestation, selective logging, and illegal mineral exploitation, and advances the generation of scientific knowledge. An Action Plan launched in December will materialize the Pact through five thematic components: (i) Reforestation, conservation, forest and biodiversity sustainable management and bio-economy; (ii) Security; (iii) Information and knowledge management; (iv) Women and indigenous people’s empowerment, and (v) Financing and international cooperation. Within the fifth component, the plan recommends a prompt formulation of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program, including the proposed AF2. In addition to this particular reference, proposed AF2 activities are aligned with several priorities contained in this Pact.

¹⁸ Five strategic lines are included in the RAP: (i) social, cultural, heritage and educational inclusion for peace; (ii) environmental sustainability and ecosystem services; (iii) management and competitiveness for the Amazon region; (iv) infrastructure and services for rural and urban productivity and (v) governance and good government. The RAP proposes advancing agrobiodiversity, biocommerce and agroforestry projects; protection and conservation of ecosystems, and consolidation of a multimodal transport system for the region, among others.

¹⁹ These territories are special political-administrative organizations, which will be governed by indigenous councils based on their traditions and regulatory systems. Among the main roles that the decree recognizes for indigenous territories is to identify, execute and evaluate their economic, social, environmental and cultural policies, within the framework of their life plans.



Alignment and incremental value from GEF Impact program

Being part of the ASL Program, the AF2 aligns with the GEF7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program designed to focus on key biomes and address challenges associated with sustainably managing and protecting forests and drylands. Together with the other national child projects, the proposed AF2 will address the drivers of forest loss and degradation through strategies aimed at creating a better enabling environment for forest governance; supporting rational land use planning across mixed-use landscapes; strengthening the management and financing of protected areas; and, utilizing financial mechanisms and incentives for sustainable forest management.

In addition, the AF2 project is well aligned with the following GEF focal areas and strategies: (i) *Biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors as well as landscapes* (BD 1-1) by supporting integrated land planning at landscape level and promoting agreements with key productive sectors (including agriculture, extractive, and infrastructure sectors); (ii) *addressing direct drivers to protect habitats and species and improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate* (BD 2-7), through supporting increased management effectiveness in 14 Protected Areas, promoting management plans in indigenous reserves and Ramsar sites, and capitalizing financial mechanism for protected areas; (iii) *demonstrate climate change mitigation options with systemic impacts for sustainable forest management impact program* (CCM-2-7) through avoided deforestation and by enhancing above and below ground carbon stocks, and in line with the NDCs issued and being updated by the GoC; (iv) *maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Sustainable Forest Management* (LD 1-2).

As done since in 2015, the GEF will provide *incremental value* across a range of project interventions to increase the areas under effective management and conservation, restoration and sustainable forestry practices; all of which promote sustainable and ecologically connected landscapes. The GEF funded project has been pioneer in multiple interventions and methodologies that have been scaled up and financed by others, including the participatory land use methodology leading to the conservation, non-deforestation and restoration agreements. The GEF funds have and will help leverage the intra governmental and sectoral agreements needed and change the dynamics of deforestation in this area. GEF funds have also supported the project's implementation arrangement that involves a nongovernmental organization which works with a collaborative network of public agencies, research institutions and civil society organization under clear objectives and common goals. This arrangement has required additional efforts in capacity building and coordination, but this capacity will remain in the region and beyond the project's duration.

Even with the economic crisis product of the COVID19, governments, NGOs and the donor community have committed substantial and significant cofinancing resources for the project. Project activities will be supported directly and indirectly with cofinancing from multilateral and bilateral agencies (European Union, UK, Germany, Norway), private donors (Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Andes Amazon Fund), international NGOs (WWF) and national NGOs (Tropenbos and FCDS). The proposed GEF investment is expected to leverage and find synergies with additional resources from other partners over overlapping periods.



C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original PDO

The project's global environmental objective (GEO) is the same as the project's development objective (PDO), namely, to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the Project area.

Current PDO

The project's global environmental objective (GEO) is the same as the project's development objective (PDO), namely, to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the Project area.

Key Results

- Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Hectare(Ha))
- Areas under new or improved integrated sustainable management plans as a result of project activities (excluding PA) (Hectare(Ha))
- New areas of environmental significance brought under legal protection (biodiversity conservation, avoided deforestation) (Hectare(Ha))
- Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (CRI, Hectare(Ha))
- GHG emission levels established annually for the Amazon Region by IDEAM (Number)

D. Project Description

The proposed second Additional Financing (AF2) grant for US\$18.37 million will strengthen and scale up project activities, building on notable achievements to date and aligning with the second phase of the Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program (ASL2) approved by the GEF Council in June 2019 with the objective to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region. The AF2 has been structured along the same theory of change (TOC) as the ASL2 program. The TOC is designed tackling barriers at national, subnational and multinational levels to the transformation required to address the region's systemic environmental challenges. It is also designed under the ASL premise that if: (i) an adequate area of the Amazon is conserved under various regimes (protected areas, communal territories, and indigenous lands); (ii) Agriculture, degraded, and forest lands are managed sustainably and restored, with zero illegal deforestation tolerance; (iii) National policies and strategies support sustainable development that minimizes deforestation and loss of ecosystem services; and, (iv) the capacity of and regional cooperation between key players is improved; then, the protection of significant biodiversity and the integrity and resilience of the Amazon ecosystems can be achieved. Relevant impediments to be addressed as well as expected project outcomes and objectives are included in the graph below.

The project's PDO to *improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity* will be achieved by: (i) increasing the area of protected landscapes effectively conserved, managed and financed; (ii) increasing areas under sustainable productive systems (SPS) aiming to disincentivize deforestation and improve wellbeing, and (iii) establishing new and



improving existing integrated, multisectoral sustainable development plans. AF2 activities will contribute to the region's resilience and ecological connectivity while curbing carbon emissions. Project areas in productive landscapes have been selected based on multiple criteria, including their potential to support connectivity with PAs. The project will continue to support and scale up policies, incentive structures and multisectoral strategies, as well as capacity building, knowledge exchange and national/regional collaboration required for achieving these outcomes.

The entry point to achieving the objective to improve governance will be through participatory design and implementation of integrated management plans at various scales and landscapes (Protected Areas, Ramsar sites, indigenous reserves, and designated forests), supporting stakeholder capacities in sustainable resource management and thus improving livelihoods. To safeguard critical areas, the project will continue strengthening indigenous organizations, recognizing their authority and ancestral knowledge in land use management, and establishing co-management agreements with national parks that overlap with their territories. AF2 will also scale up land use planning and decision processes by signing individual and collective voluntary conservation, non-deforestation and restoration agreements with local landowners while aligning them with regional and sectoral policies, thus strengthening ownership and commitment to regional sustainable development policies. In addition, AF2 support for prevention, vigilance and control strategies inside targeted PAs will become essential building blocks for effective forest sector management. AF2 activities will contribute to the region's resilience and connectivity by avoiding carbon emissions and contributing to national and global deforestation targets²⁰. The AF2 will continue supporting policies, conservation agreements, restoration, incentive structures, multisectoral strategies and land use planning, capacity building, knowledge exchange, and national/regional collaboration required to accomplish these outcomes, and, at a larger scale, support ecosystem connectivity and integrated landscape management. Strengthening governance and protection of indigenous people and their traditional knowledge will also continue to be a key project goal.

The project's objective of promoting sustainable land use activities to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity will be achieved expanding the uptake of sustainable practices and participation in productive chains linked to timber/non-timber and fisheries, as well as identifying opportunities for and fostering new sustainable uses of native biodiversity. Restoration activities inside and outside protected areas will also be promoted. The need to generate livelihood opportunities from forestry activities and, at the same time, contribute to preserving the environment is now more relevant than ever. To offset medium and long term changes in beneficiaries' overall economic situation due to COVID19, the project has been designed to contribute to building resilience in populations particularly vulnerable to the socio-economic impacts of COVID in the region. The project has been adjusted to better respond to a new reality in the post- COVID-19 situation, especially focusing on job creation, food security, and resilient livelihoods.

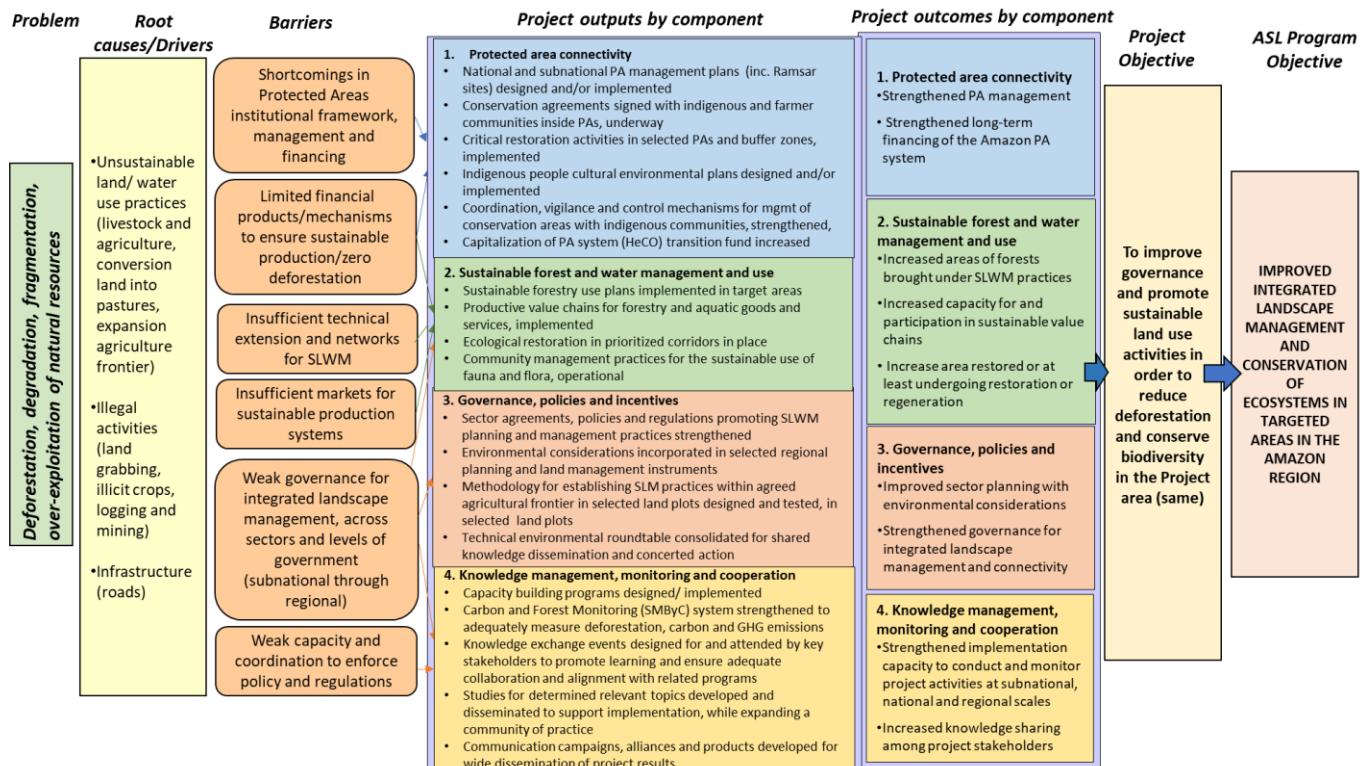
The project aims to reinforce the paradigm shift in which local communities become key actors of the conservation of ecosystems in an improved relationship with the public institutions. The project supports conservation efforts in areas that allow to move beyond the restrictive "do not touch, do not use" policy, changing the perception of forests as being a resource of zero value for local communities; a perception that has influenced in the acceleration of forest transformation into agricultural production areas with

²⁰ Preventing deforestation will also contribute in prevention of new diseases. As the current COVID19 pandemic has shown, the loss of natural habitat and deforestation increases contact between humans and wildlife, provoking outbreaks of vector-borne diseases.



unsustainable practices. This shift also involves a better understanding and compliance to restrictive regulations in areas that do require them.

Figure 1: Theory of Change for the AF2



The deforestation/degradation crisis in the Colombian Amazon requires increasingly integrated actions that can more effectively address systemic and pervasive threats. Through the following components, the proposed AF2 will contribute to restore and prevent further deforestation in high-risk areas that are strategic to connectivity between Andes and Amazon biomes and are of global biological and cultural importance, while promoting social and economic sustainable green growth in this region.

Component 1. Protected Area (PA) Connectivity

This Component will finance technical assistance, workshops, goods, works, services and operational costs in order to maintain and improve biodiversity conservation and connectivity between project PAs, Ramsar sites, indigenous reserves and other strategic landscapes; apply various conservation strategies under an integrated landscape management approach, and increase management effectiveness of national and subnational/regional areas PAs. To fulfill this objective, Component 1 will support participatory design and implementation of indigenous environmental management plans, PA and Ramsar management plans (including mechanisms for prevention, vigilance and control, research on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and community monitoring protocols and activities), restoration and conservation agreements,



productive value chains for forestry and aquatic goods and services in Ramsar project areas (including community tourism), and, institutional and community strengthening in selected areas. The project will also support the capitalization of the *Herencia Colombia* (HeCO) PA fund, designed to ensure long term financial sustainability of the Amazon PA system. Community actions towards conservation and restoration will be identified and concerted with indigenous communities and/or farmers living inside protected areas or buffer zones as part of PA management plans. Activities with indigenous and campesino communities will also involve alternative livelihoods, activities related to food security and other sustainable use practices²¹. The project will promote activities towards food security enhancing the capacity of families to grow garden orchards (*chagras*) and rescue native seeds-crops that raise non-monetary income. This will increase their resilience to risks such as COVID-19 or other climate-change related events. Protocols to monitor the accomplishment of the conservation, sustainable use and restoration agreements signed with the beneficiaries will be established and implemented.

Under this Component, improved management effectiveness and/or conservation status is expected to reach almost 9 million hectares in National Parks, national forest reserves, regional PAs, Ramsar sites and indigenous *resguardos*. While no new protected areas will be created or expanded under AF2, a select new group of existing PAs will be included in the AF2 based on detailed analysis of biological and social strategic and connectivity considerations. For example, interventions in the Nukak National Park are deemed essential for establishing a biological corridor around the Park and complying with recent legislation²² stressing the need to ensure the survival and wellbeing of the Nukak indigenous people. Likewise, based on recent deforestation studies, forest cover loss reached historical levels between 2017 and 2019 in NPs Tinigua and Picachos²³. Overall, new protected areas have been included in AF2 in order to restore critical areas whose degradation would risk connectivity with well-conserved areas within the Amazon and in the Andes, as well as to preserve well-conserved areas.

Table No. 1. Project areas for Component 1

Name	Size (ha)
Serranía de Chiribiquete National Natural Park* (including Itilla indigenous reserve overlapped)	4,268,095
Serranía de los Churumbelos Auka Wasi National Natural Park (PNNSCHAW)	97,819
Alto Fragua IndiWasi National Natural Park (PNNAFIW)	76,050
La Paya National Natural Park (PNNPaya)* (including indigenous reserves overlapped)	442,440
Flora and Fauna Sanctuary Orito Ingi Ande (SFPMOIA)	10,233
Nukak National Natural Reserve (RNNNukak)	889,421
Serranía de la Macarena National Natural Park *	620,583
Picachos National Natural Park *	287,935

²¹ This will happen in line with Law 1955 which allows for the establishment of agreements between environmental authorities and vulnerable rural populations living in protected areas allowing for alternative natural resource uses compatible with the conservation objectives of each area – without modifying the property regimes or environmental protection statutes.

²² The Judiciary Superior Council drafted a cautionary measure in 2018 ordering various government agencies to protect the ancestral territories of the Nukak indigenous population

²³ According to IDEAM's latest national level deforestation report -supported by the GEF6 ASL project- deforestation is occurring in project PAs, including Chiribiquete National Park. Indeed, average, aggregate deforestation as of 2019 in project PAs is 2%. However, this average masks underlying differences between 11% total deforestation in Tinigua NP, and 0.11% in Chiribiquete NP.



Tinigua National Natural Park *	214,361
Serranía de la Lindosa Forest National Protective Reserve	28,224
Alto Mocoa Basin – Forest National Protective Reserve (including indigenous reserves overlapped)	70,946
Alto San Juan Basin – Forest National Protective Reserve (including reserves territories overlapped)	61,745
Páramo Miraflores – Picachos Regional Natural Park	106,554
Bajo Guayabero Land Conservation District (Distrito de Conservación de Suelos)	69,953
Lagos de Tarapoto and Estrella Fluvial de Inirida Ramsar sites	292,739
Indigenous Reserves <i>Resguardos</i> Medio y Bajo Caquetá	3,097,532
TOTAL	10,634,630

*Project areas marked with an asterisk will be executed through the HeCO financial mechanism

In support of this Component, US\$2 million will be allocated to capitalize the Herencia Colombia (HeCO) financial mechanism whose creation has been supported by the AF (GEF6)²⁴ project. HeCO was established by the GoC after the Paris COP21 in 2015 as a funding-for-permanence scheme to address conservation gaps in 20 million hectares within the Colombia PA system through the blending of international, national²⁵ and private funding sources. HeCo is now included in the National Development Plan (PND) 2018-2022 as a governmental initiative that contributes to reaching national climate change and biodiversity conservation targets, supports the National Strategy for Comprehensive Control of Deforestation, and multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

The project will make a single disbursement to capitalize the Transition Fund in accordance with the following conditions: (i) HeCo is launched and fund established, to be verified with HeCo's single closing²⁶ agreement and opening of a dedicated account; (ii) Operational Manual section for the GEF funds management completed and satisfactory to the WB; (iii) Funds secured by other donor(s) to capitalize the transition fund in a 1:1 match. An operational manual agreed by the Bank will specify that funds capitalized by the GEF will be allocated towards the following PAs and indigenous reserves and for the following activities:

- PNN Serranía del Chiribiquete, PNN La Paya, PNN Serranía de la Macarena, PNN Tinigua and PNN Picachos: implementation of Management plans, restoration in strategic areas following a participatory process leading to the signature of restoration agreements with local communities, protocols for the sustainable use of selected non timber forest products.

²⁴ HeCO is a funding for permanence scheme established by the GoC as an umbrella mechanism aligning various governmental and non-governmental funding sources. In its 20 year, cost-based projection, the GoC identified a US\$200 million funding gap of incremental resources required, above baseline projected government funds, to ensure effective conservation in 20 million hectares of the national PA system. Additional national sources of funding have been identified to capitalize this fund, including the Carbon tax and other forced compensation contributions.

²⁵ As part of the national government commitment, HeCo was able to unlock public resources originating from 5% of the carbon tax towards conservation and integrated management goals.

²⁶ The single closing occurs after the initiative: Finalizes clear conservation management goals and activities that support those goals; Develops a financial model to 1) map the allocation of funds over a designated number of years and 2) stipulate how the national government and other in-country sources assume full responsibility for funding target protected areas in perpetuity when the pledged funds are spent; 3) Puts in place all key legal and financial conditions necessary to secure the deal.



- Indigenous reserves: Itilla and various smaller reserves that La Paya NP overlaps with (Witoto de Tukunare, Lagarto Cocha, Cecilia Cocha, El Progreso, La Paya, El Hacha, Jirijiri, Agua Negra, Bajo Casacunte and Perecerá): implementation of agreed action plans, under a special comanagement regime.

AF2 activities developed in the remaining protected landscapes included in the table No. 1 above that will not be financed via HeCo, will be executed by: the National Parks Unit; the Biodiversity and Forests Directorate of the Ministry of the Environment, and the regional CDS (under the interinstitutional agreement with PNF). National Parks Units and the Ministry of Environment identified priority needs for each PA, that this project can finance based on the status of each PA management plan in conjunction with other existing resources, and building on the accomplishments from the current project.

Actions supported by Component 1 will result in the following outputs:

- National and subnational PA management plans (including Ramsar sites) designed and/or implemented;
- Conservation agreements signed with indigenous and farmer communities inside PAs, underway;
- Critical restoration activities in selected PAs and buffer zones, implemented;
- Indigenous people cultural environmental plans designed and/or being implemented;
- Coordination, vigilance and control mechanisms for management of conservation areas with indigenous communities, strengthened, and
- Capitalization of PA system (Herencia Colombia) fund increased.

Component 2. Sustainable forest and water management and use

This Component will finance technical assistance, workshops, goods, works, services, sub-projects and operational costs, to incentivize rural economies based on forests and climate friendly activities, by supporting sustainable forestry management practices, value chains for sustainable forestry goods and services, community organizational strengthening within the forestry (timber and non-timber) sector, and alternative livelihoods to support food security. Component 2 will scale up activities under GEF5 and GEF6 aiming to disincentivize deforestation, halt agricultural expansion, improve socioeconomic conditions and promote sustainable forest management and restoration, achieving an increased area of forests brought under sustainable forestry management practices. Component activities are detailed below:

Community Forestry and subprojects

The project will focus most of the component's interventions in four key forest landscape areas (known as *áreas de ordenación forestal*)²⁷:

- (i) Guaviare Forest area (in Guaviare) (537,784 ha);
- (ii) Yari – Caguán Forest area (Caquetá) (159,058 ha);
- (iii) Mecaya – Sencella Forest area (Putumayo) (111,556 ha); and
- (iv) Tarapacá Forest area (Amazonas) (31,300 ha)

²⁷ Understood as geographic spaces that comprise mosaics of natural forests and mainly intervened vacant lots of the nation, with the presence of private and collectively owned titles, where their current or future owners, organized in associative figures, can participate in their management, generating community and environmental benefits.



These areas have been identified and prioritized as a result of studies conducted by SINCHI (with GEF support) for their contribution to landscape-level, ecosystem connectivity. Forest and other land use planning instruments have been developed for these larger regions, with support from cofinancing resources, legally allowing the sustainable use and development of timber and no timber products. A smaller area of intervention will be the Capricho-Calamar region in Guaviare (10.850 ha), where the AF2 will continue supporting a community forestry management pilot²⁸.

The component, under the leadership of SINCHI, CDS and IDEAM, will support the design and implementation of forest development nuclei (known as *núcleos de desarrollo forestal*) located inside the four prioritized areas and considered an innovative approach for the management and maintenance of standing forests. This will involve the following stages:

- (i) *social and technical participatory characterization* of the areas, identifying areas and potential organizations for the implementation of the nuclei;
- (ii) *establishment of the forest nuclei* through the design of management plans for timber and non-timber forest products, as well as alternative livelihoods and subsistence crops; and,
- (iii) *operationalization of the nuclei*. The operationalization of forest management activities in the selected landscapes will be a result of the participatory characterization, and the design of the management plans and will be done by community organizations²⁹ selected by the CDS, SINCHI and PNF to be recipient of subprojects in order to: support design of the management plans for timber and non timber forest products, and their implementation including the provision of forestry extension services and capacity building to farmers and support for the research on the forest species and restoration activities in the prioritized corridors. Selection of the organizations will be done based on a preliminary identification of existing community groups in the four landscape areas, assessment of the interest and capacity to participate in a selective and competitive process. Details will be included in the operational manual, but minimum criteria will be: organizations legally constituted, with a mission and objectives that involve sustainable use of forest resources, and with an area of intervention that coincides with those prioritized by the project. Gender criteria will also be incorporated as it is expected women led organizations will be selected to be in charge of the value chains for non timber forest products.

A partnership associative agreement (*contrato de asociacion*) will be signed between participating organizations and CDS establishing the legal permission/authorization or concession to develop sustainable forest use activities in these areas³⁰. The transfer of funds via the subprojects for sustainable forestry use activities will be done through an administrative subsidiary agreement (*convenio subsidiario de carácter administrativo*) between the organization and PNF that specify the amount of the subproject

²⁸ This first community forestry pilot in the region has been led by CDA and the SINCHI Institute with the support of the NGO FCDS, including capacity building activities and marketing studies for prioritized products to include in value chains.

²⁹ Community organizations eligible to be signatures of an associative agreement are defined by Law 454 of 1998.

³⁰ Forest harvesting is possible in these areas following norms for which the government, through the Environmental Authorities (CDS), grants to legally organized communities, as well as associations of forest users, the use and sustainable management of forest products in areas of the public domain. This must be done under the rules established by the country and for a clearly defined period of time. Persistent forest harvesting under this scheme on public domain is not imply the transfer of land and forest ownership remains public. Its granting is based on the power of the State to authorize individual or legal persons to carry out forest harvests in state-owned forests on their own, with rights and obligations agreed in a corresponding administrative act.



and the specific activities to be developed (supported by an operational manual for each subproject). Before signature, PNF will have the responsibility to verify the organization's capacity to execute funds complying with technical, legal and fiduciary standards. Amounts to be allocated via subprojects will depend on the management plan and assessed capacity, but will be maximum \$100,000. It is expected that a total 6 organizations will be selected (two per each transformation center). A detailed budget with amounts per eligible category, cash flow³¹ and operation plan will be developed between the organizations, Patrimonio and the CDS. Patrimonio, SINCHI and the CDS will support and advise the organizations in their administrative tasks building their capacity.

For each nuclei, the participant organizations will be in charge of providing goods (office supplies, minor equipment) and operational costs to support the design and implementation of the forestry management plans, conduct forestry extension services (involving logistical expenses for workshops, transport expenses, hiring of farmers to provide extension services), support local leaders as extension providers, logistical support for the research on the forest species and restoration activities in the prioritized corridors. Benefit sharing agreements will ensure income and employment benefits for beneficiaries, and will include signed commitments from the members of participating organizations to ensure conservation, non deforestation and restoration in their farms, and develop sustainable forestry practices, business plans and value chains. Activities will also promote food security enhancing the capacity of families to grow garden orchards (*chagras*) and rescue native seeds-crops that raise non-monetary income. This will increase their resilience to risks such as COVID-19 or other climate-change related events.

As part of the operationalization, the project will also finance the establishment of three community transformation centers (1 each in Guaviare, Caqueta and Amazonas) promoting the transformation, processing and distribution of timber and non-timber forest products. These will be managed by the selected community organizations. Basic infrastructure will be built for the processing of timber and non timber forest products, including the storage of wood and non timber products, machinery for transformation, plus office space. Support will also involve procurement of tools such as portable sawmills, saws, minor machinery. CDS will provide technical assistance for the running of the centers.

Project partners SINCHI and CDS will provide technical assistance for all steps in the value chain, including providing inputs, technology, business planning, market development, service provision, accounting, management, and processing of value-added techniques. This will be done in alignment with the government's Green Business Regional Program for the Amazon region (PRNV due to its name in Spanish, Programa Regional de Negocios Verdes)³². The process will involve various stakeholders with specific roles: (i) investors, providing capital and knowledge on business development, entrepreneurship and marketing; (ii) SINCHI, offering scientific knowledge of the Amazon and its socio-economic dynamics; (iii) regional environmental authorities (CDS) aligning project activities with the Green Business regional program and linking with potential buyers,³³ as well as providing knowledge and experience in natural

³¹ Disbursements to the organizations will be done as per submission of reports and required documentation.

³² Through the PRNV, the CDS have supported a number of producer organizations promoting Amazon native products. For example, in June 2020, CDA launched a virtual -due to COVID19 related restrictions- campaign to dynamize local enterprises (64 entrepreneurs) with Amazonian native products and support those affected by the coronavirus.

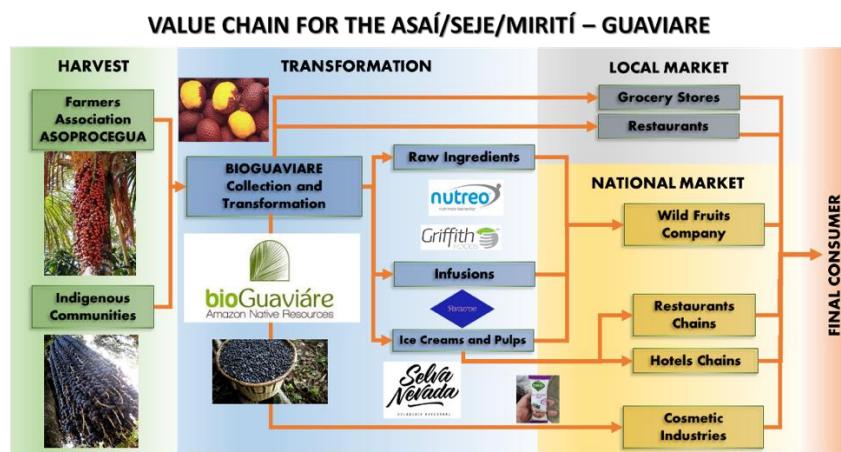
³³ The green business information system of the two involved CDS (Corpoamazonia and CDA) currently has 145 and 70 registered businesses respectively. These belong to the nature-based tourism, agroforestry, timber and non-timber products, wildlife and other sectors.



resource management and sustainable use, and (iv) producer associations/community forestry organizations providing support to individual farmers and ensuring compliance with the agreed terms of the business models.

Operationalization of the nuclei will be further supported through research of key forest species, technology development for product transformation, legal enabling conditions to access forest resources, and market analysis for improving productive and sustainable value chains. The project will also support capacity building of forest community organizations, including women's entrepreneur organizations. By project-end, the profitability generated by the commercialization of timber and non-timber sustainable forest products is expected to cover the costs of monitoring and extension services. The project will promote, in each nuclei, productive value chains through alliances with forestry sector businesses and producer associations, contributing in addition to the sustainability of the processes supported by the project.

The Project will build on previous experience that executing organizations have established with enterprises in the food and cosmetic sector (Natura Cosmetics, Botanique and Naissant) to develop innovative and differentiated products using natural Amazon ingredients. For example, in Guaviare an associative value chain for the açaí palm, *Euterpe oleracea*, was established between a community organization (Asoprocegua) and the private Enterprise *Bioguaviare*. *Bioguaviare* supports commercialization in these sectors (see the graph below), and includes 164 farmers gathering products in four processing and storage centers, within an area of 16,491 hectares of which 8,611 remain as conserved forest. The Project will scale up this experience, promoting the incorporation of additional producer associations with legal access and capacity to promote sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest products.³⁴



Restoration and management plans for fauna and flora

Passive and active restoration activities will occur following established restoration protocols and conducted in key corridors for connectivity and productive landscapes (forest reserve zones) in the vicinity of PAs. As in the case of sustainable forestry management practices, the type of restoration, recovery and

³⁴ The ESMF will include the criteria by which the CDS will select the producer organizations that will participate.



rehabilitation activities to be financed will respond to a characterization and analysis both at a landscape and farm level. This analysis will identify degradation levels, evaluate the potential for ecosystem recovery and assess a two-fold action plan of either recovering the land to its previous status, or maintain its ecosystem functionality. A participatory evaluation and specific restoration plan will be developed and agreed at a farm-by-farm level.

Restoration will be conducted under an integral approach that incorporates beneficiaries' food security, employment and economic welfare considerations, as well as conservation benefits. Active and passive restoration activities will incorporate specific species apt for commercialization and food security (i.e., timber and non timber forest products, such as fruit), as well as species that favor soil and watershed conservation. To achieve sustainability of results, the project will provide ongoing support for one year following restoration protocol implementation; followed by the commitment from the CDS to support 2 additional years.

Active and pasive restoration will happen around riverbanks and in degraded agricultural lands, while rehabilitation will be promoted in areas with unsustainable agricultural practices. Natural rehabilitation will also be promoted where prioritized to promote ecological restoration (assisting in the recovery of a degraded or destroyed ecosystem). The project will also support the implementation of management plans for endangered fauna and flora (including new seed nurseries for critical forest species) in productive landscapes.

The project will also strengthen two strategic research centers providing services and support to project activities. Support will include seed production, tools and other agriculture equipment, consultant services to conduct research about timber and non-timber forest products, minor infrastructure works for water and plants storage, as well as a cabin for the accommodation of researchers, technicians and community leaders. These research centers, described below, serve a large proportion of project area and have been instrumental as demonstrative sites for capacity building activities.

- El Trueno Research Station: with 119 hectares in the Guaviare department, the station is managed by project partner SINCHI. This is a center for research and training in sustainable forest management and conservation, promoting innovation and technology transfer, and respect for traditional knowledge. The center will also provide seeds to support restoration and agroforestry practices in neighboring intervention areas.
- The Amazon Research Center (Centro Experimental Amazonico – CEA- managed by the CDS Corpoamazonia) has been established in the Putumayo department to develop, recover and share knowledge and technologies appropriate to sustainable development models in the southern region of the Amazon. The CEA runs along 5 pillars: aquaculture; a botanical garden for medicinal plants; a center for rehabilitation of captured/rescued species (mammals and reptiles); environmental education, and a plant nursery.

The involvement of farmers in component 2 activities will be formalized via scaling up efforts and a methodology developed by SINCHI (with GEF6 support) and being implemented by the CDS. Families who participate commit to preserving a percentage of forest cover in their farms and implementing agreed agroforestry production and restoration practices. As part of the agreement, farmers receive technical



assistance and seeds/tools³⁵ for crop production, climate-resilient farming practices, forest management and climate change adaptation. In addition, an economic incentive is provided to compensate their time employed in complying with the agreement. Compliance of these agreements is monitored by the SINCHI's platform for Monitoring Compliance for Local Conservation Agreements (MoSCal).

Key component outputs will be the following:

- Sustainable forestry use plans implemented in target areas (including community management practices and in compliance with conservation and non-deforestation agreements);
- Productive value chains for forestry and aquatic goods and services, implemented;
- Ecological restoration in prioritized corridors in place, and
- Community management practices for the sustainable use of fauna and flora, operational.

Component 3. Governance, policies and incentives

This Component will finance technical assistance, workshops, goods, services, and operational costs to strengthen local, subregional and national governance structures, while including environmental considerations in selected productive sectors affecting deforestation in the Amazon region. The proposed AF2 will continue to strengthen and deepen longstanding national, subnational and local governance structures and land use planning mechanisms piloted, designed and strengthened under GEF5 and GEF6, with government, private sector, traditional authorities, community organizations, military and police units, to scale up the inclusion of environmental considerations in sector planning (particularly transport, agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy) and improving policy compliance. The 2020 CoVID-19 crisis has exacerbated the need for a strong alignment of development growth objectives with environmental considerations and for introducing economic and environmental resilience within other sectors. This Component aims to address the pressures on forests from other sectors by promoting the inclusion of environmental considerations in other sector programs and plans. It will also support the regional planning efforts that will transcend the limits of the areas where on the ground investments will occur, seeking to deter deforestation pressures in the wider Amazon. The effort to mainstream environmental considerations in other sectors will be supported via the project, but in collaboration with other complementary cofinancing interventions, given the complexity of the task, the need for an integrated approach that tracks and aims to influence macro-economic and sector decisions made by the GoC related to transport, mines & energy, agriculture activities.

Intersectoral coordination and strengthened governance will be promoted through: (i) implementation of recommendations from the Regional Strategic Environmental Evaluation -supported by the GEF6 project- in the agriculture, mining and transport sectors, (ii) establishment and implementation of multisectoral agreements with agriculture, mining and transport sectors to comply with the 4360 Court Sentence; (iii) implementation of plans and strategies within the transport sector that include sustainable environmental considerations, establish green infrastructure and road planning guidelines in areas of strategic ecological

³⁵ Biosecurity and food security (seeds, tools) kits are being considered as part of the economic incentive helping economic recovery efforts.



connectivity; (iv) support and monitor the incorporation of environmental considerations in municipal land use plans; (v) consolidate the environmental technical roundtable for formulating recommendations on infrastructure and other sectoral activities promoting knowledge sharing and collaboration; (vi) analyze environmental impacts of sectoral activities particularly involving roads, infrastructure and rural settlements on degradation and provision of environmental services; and, (vii) apply the methodology (designed with GEF6 support) to analyze status and drivers of landscape fragmentation and ecological connectivity, and propose management recommendations for the Chiribiquete-Nukak corridor, and other strategic areas.

The component will finance a pilot with a group of landowners that will result in agreements related to the delimitation of the agricultural frontier and the conservation/restoration activities outside said frontier. From this participatory process, agreements will become the legal enforcement mechanism as well as an enabling condition for potential formalizing or titling these properties (formalization that will not be financed by the AF2). The process involves inter-institutional work with multiple organizations such as the National Land Agency, SINCHI, the rural agricultural policy unit (UPRA) and the CDS. As a result of this activity, properties to be formalized or titled will include into their legal documents the obligation of maintaining standing forests, and ensuring that land use is based on sustainable management plans previously approved by the CDS. This pilot project would result in the generation of innovative land titling protocols that may be later replicated elsewhere in the Amazon and nationally.

Key component outputs will be the following:

- Sector agreements, policies and regulations promoting SLWM planning and management practices strengthened (infrastructure, transport, mining/energy sectors);
- Environmental considerations incorporated in selected regional planning and land management instruments;
- Methodology for establishing SLM practices within agreed agricultural frontier in selected land plots designed and tested, in selected land plots, and;
- Technical environmental roundtable consolidated for shared knowledge dissemination and concerted action.

Component 4. Project Coordination, Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation

Component 4 will support project coordination, monitoring and evaluation, as well as knowledge management and communications. Considering AF Satisfactory performance, the AF2 will continue operating with the same Project Implementation Unit structure to ensure adequate financial and technical scaling of project results. The PIU will be in charge of technical implementation, financial management and procurement, monitoring of project results (in line with ASL program level monitoring), outcome and progress reports, and safeguards compliance, including the implementation of the grievance redress mechanism. Operation of the project's governance structures like the Project Steering Committee will be included in this component. The project institutional arrangements by which Patrimonio leads a network of multiple public and civil society organizations involved in project execution, has added complexity to the implementation but has also built capacity for the region and ownership towards the project and its outcomes. Besides a core team within Patrimonio, and an administrative team in Sinchi (as co-executor), the project supports people working in the key partner organizations (inter alia CDS, PNN) as the project's focal points.



The proposed AF2 will strengthen project execution capabilities through the following activities: (i) strengthening the PIU for better scaling up, executing and monitoring project results; (ii) continue to support the forest and carbon monitoring system (SMByC) managed by IDEAM and other regional authorities; (iii) a communications strategy; and (iv) sub-regional, national and international knowledge generation and exchange.

The SMByC that received support since GEF6, combines technology, procedures and trained professionals to generate quality and accessible information regionally and nationally, identifying forest cover and carbon inventory changes. The system can monitor carbon stocks and GHG emissions, generating detailed reports and calculating annual deforestation at a national and sub-regional scale, such as quarterly Early Warning reports. Capacity building will continue under IDEAM's leadership to strengthen forest governance and result in improved early warnings of deforestation in the regional CDS respective jurisdictions as well as in National Parks and Protected Areas.

The communication and knowledge management strategy for AF2 will build on the ongoing strategy under GEF6, along four lines: (i) external communication, promoting and disseminating project information through the project's Facebook and [website](#), partner agencies websites, and national and regional media channels; (ii) internal communication to keep the team and partners well informed on project progress and support optimal decision making; (iii) community communications, with special emphasis on strengthening the capabilities of beneficiary communities to improve their communications skills and designing effective communications campaigns to inform and raise awareness about their work; and, (iv) knowledge management (KM) including publications, research and study tours generated and/or supported by the project, building on those already produced by the AF1.

The knowledge management component will include both virtual and in-person study tours (considering post-COVID travel limitations), training, mentorships, courses, workshops, conferences (including the annual ASL conference) and systematization/sharing of lessons derived from activities conducted in all of the project's components. The AF2 will support events organized for beneficiaries, as well as co-finance and facilitate participation of project stakeholders in regional events and/or trainings organized by the ASL coordination project. Important activities related to knowledge exchange and training will be conducted via the two research stations that the project will support, one managed by Sinchi and the other by the CDS, Corpoamazonia located in Guaviare and Putumayo departments.

The AF2 will support learning from other ASL projects and teams: knowledge flowing both ways from local and national level within the ASL child projects and with a broader audience of partners and experts. As part of the ASL, project lessons and products will be shared through the program communication products as well as knowledge platforms (including the [ASL CoP](#)) to a broader audience. The project will also acknowledge, support and facilitate systematization of traditional knowledge from indigenous communities, with respect to their interests and needs. Following ASL approach, knowledge management events and activities will be demand-driven, responding to project needs and ensuring they are relevant, scalable, doable and focused on solutions to key issues.

Key component outputs include:



- Capacity building programs designed/ implemented to ensure satisfactory project implementation;
- Carbon and Forest Monitoring (SMByC) system strengthened to adequately measure deforestation, carbon and GHG emissions;
- Knowledge exchange events designed for and attended by key stakeholders to promote learning and ensure adequate collaboration and alignment with related programs;
- Studies for determined relevant topics developed and disseminated in order to support project implementation, while expanding a community of practice, and
- Communication campaigns, alliances and products developed for wide dissemination of project results.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The project's implementation arrangements will remain the same as for the current project. Fondo Patrimonio Natural (PNF), which has an established Project Implementation Unit (PIU), will continue to be the grant recipient. Implementation arrangements have proven successful so far, with specialized agencies such as PNF have generated longstanding trust and strong execution, and AF2 will continue to support the PIUs's technical capacity in project implementation and procurement. As executing agency, PNF will continue to administer project funds, supervise compliance with safeguard policies and carry out procurement and financial management (FM), as well as provide oversight of all project activities. PNF will also maintain a Sub-grant Agreement with SINCHI. Co-executing agencies, "partner entities" that have implemented activities in the current project, including IDEAM, SINCHI, Ministry of Environment (MADS), Natural Parks Unit (PNN) and the regional environmental authorities (CDS, *Corporaciones de Desarrollo Sostenible*) will amend the Inter-institutional Agreement to reflect the execution of specific AF activities according to their technical area of expertise. The project Executive Committee, comprised of official delegates from partner institutions, will continue providing strategic leadership and technical supervision to the Project. In addition, the Advisory Council, chaired by MADS, will continue to provide guidance for implementation as well as coordination with sectoral public policies and other donor initiatives.

The design of the AF2 project took into account the emerging experience from the project's current implementation, however, there are still many uncertainties. Adaptive management approaches are built into the project design so that as the situation evolves the projects can adjust their activities as needed, including implementing biosecurity protocols that protect the health of team members as well as that of all beneficiaries and participants³⁶. A separate document in the submission package has been prepared with COVID related risks and mitigation measures.

³⁶ The PIU is integrating formal protocols of social distancing and risk minimization in the Project Implementation Manual. Preparation of contingency plans will be done by PIU in expectation of reappearance or worsening of crisis during project implementation.



The technical design of the project builds on past experiences with GEF5 and GEF6 as well as the technical capacity among key stakeholders involved in project implementation. Building off the original project's lessons, successful and innovative experiences and capacity will increase this project's ability to achieve its objectives. The project will generate, share and manage its own knowledge and best practices, building on and contributing to knowledge platforms and research systems. These learnings and practices will be shared at local, sub-national and national levels and with peers from other ASL projects. With support from previous and current GEF projects, agencies in the National Environment System and research institutions like SINCHI and IDEAM have strengthened their capacity to assess the drivers of deforestation, as well as measure and monitor deforestation, providing early warning alerts. This experience will be catalyzed in the proposed AF2 and increase the ability to generate global benefits.

The project's technical designed is built upon innovative practices and research, including:

- *Conservation and co-management in protected areas:* Strengthening PA systems, in tandem with other policies, has proven to be an effective approach in controlling deforestation and meeting conservation targets³⁷. The process of consolidating PAs has already been tested in the Colombian Amazon under the leadership of the National Natural Parks Unit and includes an effective landscape approach involving strong stakeholder participation, technical analysis, and conservation and sustainable use decisions delivered for "mosaics" or sustainable landscapes that go beyond PAs. In the Amazon region, and considering PAs overlap with indigenous territories, effectiveness in PA also involves co-management arrangements and governance mechanisms with indigenous communities whose traditional and cultural beliefs have existed for centuries, providing storage for an immense amount of knowledge about the tropical Amazon and its conservation.
- *Community participation and involvement in deforestation control:* the process of establishing conservation, non-deforestation and restoration agreements with farmers supported with previous GEF projects has resulted in a proven innovative methodology³⁸ successfully designed and implemented by SINCHI and now being transferred to the regional environmental authorities (CDS) for ongoing sustainability of project results. The methodology has been implemented by other projects and endorsed by national and subnational governments incorporating it in their development plans. The project will build on this methodology to expand the scope of the agreements in an increased area for agroforestry systems and ecosystem restoration. The Program will continue and scale up innovative ways to foster changes in informal institutions involving beliefs and awareness about the value of conservation and standing forests in comparison to deforested pastures. With due respect for stakeholder engagement approaches, it will also promote the recovery and exchange of traditions that for centuries have protected forests and rivers.
- *Selection of areas of intervention:* following a methodology developed by SINCHI, considering multi-criteria analysis and identifying priority areas for connectivity. The Regional Environmental Strategic evaluation of the Amazon Northwestern region, a product from the AF project, provided technical analysis and guidance to prioritize areas of intervention.

³⁷ The recent study, "Protecting 30% of the planet for nature: costs, benefits and economic implications Working paper analysing the economic implications of the proposed 30% target for areal protection in the draft post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework" (July, 2020) estimated the benefits for the global economy from the establishment of protected areas and concludes that the benefits of protecting at least 30% of the world's land and ocean outweigh the costs by a ratio of at least 5-to-1.

³⁸ SINCHI. 2019 Acuerdos Voluntarios de Conservación y Sostenibilidad en el Corazón de la Amazonía. Procesos y Resultados.



- *Business model innovations:* Promoting value chains in the Amazon with products coming from remote areas and limited distribution systems and finding niche markets that value sustainable products will require innovation and scaling up of lessons from other successful business models and entrepreneurship forms. Guidance for the establishment of agroforestry systems and value chains is supported by years of experience and work from SINCHI and CDS, systematized in several publications, some of which have been published with the support of the AF³⁹.
- *Policy innovation:* The project will continue and scale up the analysis of national policies around issues of common concern to foster dialogue among stakeholders, learning and harmonization of activities developed around such policies; mainstream environmental concerns into sectoral policies, and strengthen new policies and frameworks that support conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- *Financial innovations:* The mechanism for financial sustainability of the PA system (Herencia Colombia, or HeCO) has been designed with GEF6 support with technical expertise from multiple agencies and support from ASL, similar mechanisms in Brazil (ARPA) and Peru (Patrimonio del Peru). The mechanism follows the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) approach, a single initiative that secures important policy changes and the funding necessary to meet specific conservation goals of a program over a defined long-term timeframe and achieve its ecological, social, political, organizational and financial sustainability. The PFP approach has a growing track record of securing the benefits provided by PA over the long-term.

Sustainability

This project is part of a long term engagement and commitment from the GEF and WB towards conservation and sustainable development in the Colombian Amazon. Sustainability of the AF2 project will be assured in multiple ways:

- (i) *Policy level* – Commitment from the national and subnational governments to the initiatives the project has promoted has been demonstrated since 2015. Partner agencies, public institutions and governments have incorporated the initiatives and methodologies in their policies and plans. In addition, the inclusion of the project as part of large scale regional efforts such as the Leticia Pact⁴⁰, also indicates high level political commitment and helps secure continuity of its results and positive reinforcing effects between the Amazon countries.
- (ii) *Institutional level* – the AF2 will continue strengthening implementation capabilities of all key stakeholders and ongoing public/private/community alliances, building capacities that will remain in the region after project completion;
- (iii) *Economic*– Business models promoted for timber and non-timber value chains have been designed so to reach financial sustainability by project completion, expecting the profitability generated by the commercialization of timber and non-timber sustainable forest products will

³⁹ For example: Barrera, JA, et al, Sistemas agroforestales para la Amazonía. Bogotá, Colombia: Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas, 2017; Hernández Gómez, María Soledad (comp.) Emprendimientos amazónicos/María Soledad Hernández Gómez (comp.). Bogotá, Colombia: Instituto Amazónico de Investigaciones Científicas SINCHI, 2019 (<https://sinchi.org.co/publicaciones-gef>)

⁴⁰ Signed in September 2019 between Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname, the [Leticia Pact](#) includes commitments to generate a joint response to disasters that may arise in any country within the Amazon region; strengthens regional actions to curb deforestation, and advances the generation of scientific knowledge.



- cover the costs of monitoring and extension services. The project will promote alliances with forestry sector businesses and producer associations, contributing in addition to the sustainability of the processes supported by the project.
- (iv) *Financial* - On a broader scale, the AF's advisory committee consists of donors and agencies involved in the Vision Amazonia and as such is a space for the mobilization of larger streams of financing. In addition, the capitalization of HeCo will contribute to a larger scale effort towards long term financial sustainability of the Amazon PA system and will provide assurances to other potential donors interested in allocating funds for the protected area system.
- (v) *Ecological* - Ensured as the actions to improve protected area management effectiveness and strengthen connectivity between these and their surrounding production landscapes will increase ecosystem integrity and climate resilience.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

This is the second Additional Financing to the Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon project (P144271). The parent project and first AF triggered OP 4.01, OP 4.04, OP 4.36, OP 4.09, OP 4.10, OP 4.11, and OP 4.12. No new safeguard is triggered for this new Additional Financing, which expanded the target area, scaled-up the originally planned activities and adjusted the components to reflect a stronger focus on landscape connectivity and the sustainable use and management of land, water and natural resources. The client's existing policies and procedures for the protection of the environment and indigenous peoples comply with most safeguards requirements, and gaps were addressed in the original safeguard documents, which have been updated to reflect the expanded target area and the stronger focus on landscape connectivity, which includes support to sustainable production activities (e.g. agroforestry) and value chains for timber and non-timber forest products. Protected area actions followed to-date by National Natural Parks Unit (PNN) to expand and create protected areas under the parent operation and initial AF have been shown to be effective in conserving forest and watershed resources, and existing procedures and regulations for protected area creation or expansion include ecological and social studies, as well as prior informed consultations with local communities and indigenous peoples, among other procedures. No new protected areas will be created or expanded with this AF. Environmental and social performance under the parent project and initial AF has been consistently rated satisfactory in ISRs. The Indigenous People's Plans (IPPs) are under implementation and the execution of these actions and activities has been fully carried out with the authorization of and in coordination with the Authorities of seven Indigenous Areas (Resguardos). If new indigenous communities will benefit from project activities, new Indigenous Peoples' Plans will be required and approved by the Bank.

The Project seeks to address the conservation of an area of over eleven and a half million hectares in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon, which is a vast area of humid tropical forest that spans the neighboring provinces of Amazonia and Guyana. Preliminary baseline analysis that is being consulted with key stakeholders estimate that the new intervention will bring 7.2 million hectares of protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; over 3 million hectares in indigenous reserves, 4,025 hectares of land (forest and natural grasslands) restored; and over 860 thousand hectares of productive landscapes under improved sustainable practices. The Project Direct Intervention Area (PDIA) spans the departments of Caquetá, Meta, Guaviare, Amazonas, Putumayo and Guainía, the latter two



included under this second AF. These territories include the following specific target areas for this new AF: (a) National parks including the Natural Chiribiquete Mountain Ridge National Park (PNNSCH), a Protected Area, which was expanded under the previous operations and now occupies 4,268,095 hectares; La Paya, with 442,440 hectares; Nukak, with 889,421 hectares; Macarena with 620,583 hectares; Tinigua, with 214,361 hectares; Picachos, with 287,935 hectares; Serranía de los Churumbelos Auka Wasi, with 97,819 hectares; and, Flora and Fauna Sanctuary Orito Ingi Ande, with 10,233 hectares; (b) the regional area of Páramo Miraflores – Picachos created with GEF6 support in Caquetá with 106,554 hectares; (c) National Protected Forest Reserves Serranía La Lindosa – Angosturas II in Guaviare with 28,224 hectares; Alto Mocoa Basin, with 70,946 hectares; and Alto San Juan Basin, with 61,745 hectares; (d) the Regional Protected Area Norte Guaviare – Distrito de Conservación de Suelos in Guaviare with 69,953 hectares; (e) the indigenous reserves (resguardos) of Aduche, Llanos del Yarí, Mirití-Paraná, Monochoa, Nunuya de Villa Azul, Puerto Zábalo-Los Monos, Itilla, and the resguardos overlapping with the PNN La Paya (Witoto de Tukunare, Lagarto Cocha, Cecilia Cocha, El Progreso, La Paya, El Hacha, Jirijiri, Agua Negra, Bajo Casacunte and Perecera), together encompassing 3,097,532 hectares; (f) other Amazon reserves and areas in priority corridors where sustainable land management and practices will be promoted: the Ramsar sites of Lagos de Tarapoto and Estrella Fluvial del Inírida, with 292,739 hectares; Guaviare Forest area (in Guaviare); Yari – Caguán Forest area (Caquetá); Mecaya – Sencella Forest area (Putumayo), and Tarapacá Forest area (Amazonas), for a total of 11,499,369 hectares.

The PNNSCH represents the core of the Project area and features extensive tepuis (towering rock formations) belonging to the Guyana biogeographic province, surrounded by undisturbed rainforest of highly difficult access due to the lack of roads and presence of rapids that impede navigation. The park includes the upper reaches of the Apaporis and Yará rivers, major tributaries of the Caquetá River, which empties into the Amazon River. The Apaporis River is the second longest river entirely within Colombia and is of enormous cultural significance for indigenous peoples in the Amazon. The park is also known for its abundant rock paintings in 32 archaeological sites. Colombia is considering nominating the area as a World Heritage site. PNNSCH conserves 41 different ecosystems, including várzea forests and savannahs, terra firme forests, and savannahs and shrublands associated with tepuis. Eight of these ecosystems are not represented in other existing protected areas. The area is an important center of endemism, and while its fauna and flora are still far from having been studied extensively, 300 species of birds have been reported, as well as 72 species of beetles, 313 species of butterflies, 261 species of ants, seven species of primates, three species of otters, four species of felines, 48 species of bats, two species of dolphins and 133 species of fish. There are 43 threatened species including the Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja* and the only bird species endemic to the Colombian Amazon, the hummingbird *Chlorostilbon olivaresi* (PNNC, 2012). Further details on the relevant characteristics of the target area are provided in Annex 3 of the Project Paper.

The grant recipient has strong capacities to monitor and report Safeguards compliance according to the instrument developed under the parent project and initial AF that have been under satisfactory implementation. The proposed AF includes a new extension area but will not trigger additional safeguard policies. This AF remains a Category B project. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and Process Framework (PF) prepared under the previous operations have been updated for the proposed AF. The safeguard instruments have been shared with local stakeholders and after Bank's approval of the final consulted versions, have been disclosed on the Bank's website, as well as in country on the websites of PNF, PNN and SINCHI before Appraisal.



G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Agnes Velloso, Environmental Specialist
Carlos Alberto Molina Prieto, Social Development Specialist
Carolina Escobar Social Specialist
Olga Carolina Rojas Orjuela, Environmental Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	This is essentially a conservation operation expected to expand environmental and social benefits generated under the parent operation and initial AF. Activities proposed under this new AF maintain the project under category B. The safeguards assessment indicates that under Component 1 there will not be any negative environmental or social impacts, but on the contrary, positive benefits will be obtained such as strengthening environmental monitoring procedures, implementing management plans in protected and ecologically important areas and strengthening indigenous land management. No new protected areas will be created or expanded. This component will also support coordinated management in overlapping indigenous territories and forest reserve areas and the development of indigenous Environmental Management Cultural Plans, in addition to supporting activities towards the establishment of a biological corridor identified by law as necessary for the survival and wellbeing of the Nukak indigenous group. Under Component 2, the project will promote a sustainable economy based on timber, nontimber and aquatic goods and services, aiming to reduce deforestation and increase areas of forest and watersheds managed sustainably, as well as achieve increased stakeholder capacity to participate in sustainable value chains and sustainable resource management. The updated ESMF includes guidance to ensure compliance with and supervision of sustainability criteria for these activities. Pilot sustainable value chains will be promoted with community associations in areas with



forest zoning and use plans and/or with potential for sustainable activities such as nature based tourism. To further ensure sustainability, this component will support capacity building for producer organizations and promote processing techniques to add value to forest products and marketing strategies based on research and feasibility studies. Under this component, the project will also continue and expand support to the establishment of conservation, non deforestation and restoration agreements, and support restoration in key corridors for connectivity, including in productive landscapes in the vicinity of protected areas, which is expected to generate multiple socioenvironmental benefits. Progress in forest conservation and changes in deforestation will continue to be monitored throughout project implementation through the Carbon and Forest Monitoring system supported under the parent operation. While project activities are expected to improve biodiversity conservation by protecting and enhancing forest habitats, there is currently no operational capability in place to allow measuring overall changes in biodiversity resulting from all of the project. Field logistics and security issues further hamper the establishment of such schemes even inside protected areas. Community-based biodiversity monitoring of targeted biodiversity, and on fauna and flora management plans will continue under the AF2 in Ramsar sites and private properties. Information on biodiversity collected feeds into the systems managed at regional level by SINCHI and to the national biodiversity system. The information is also shared with communities, partners and a broader conservation community to emphasize the regions' biodiversity importance. Under Component 3, the project will continue to support the inclusion of environmental considerations in sectoral planning (particularly agriculture, infrastructure, mining and energy), building on the successes of the previous operations and generating positive effects. The component also aims to improve the monitoring of impacts of these activities on degradation and provision of environmental services, and incorporating environmental principles into



		guidelines/instruments that engage the private sector. Project performance to-date (parent project and initial AF) has been satisfactory regarding compliance with safeguards. The ESMF, IPPF and PF have been updated and consulted, and the final approved versions have been disclosed prior to Appraisal. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Gender Plan (GP) have also been prepared.
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	This AF expands the target area of the parent operation and initial AF, and seeks to address the conservation of an area of over nine million hectares in the heart of the Colombian Amazon. The focus areas were selected based on studies carried out by Sinchi which allowed to target the project's conservation and restoration activities in areas of high ecological and biological value which are at greater risk of deforestation and degradation, aiming at generating higher benefits to natural habitats. The revised ESMF has strengthened sustainability and monitoring guidance to sustainable economy activities based on timber, non-timber and aquatic goods and services to be supported under component 2.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	As under the parent project and first AF, activities to be supported under components 1 and 2 of this new AF aim at the conservation and restoration of threatened forest habitats. This AF provides stronger focus on restoration, maintenance (conservation agreements) and sustainable use and management of forests to strengthen landscape connectivity and create biological corridors. To harmonize human presence with the conservation and maintenance of forests, in addition to other sustainable production practices and restoration activities, sustainable timber and non-timber economic activities will be supported. The revised ESMF includes guidance for the preparation of management plans for these activities based on the best available scientific information, as well as for the monitoring of these community-level activities, which will be assisted by the early warning system (deforestation alerts) for



		<p>the Amazon region supported under the previous operations.</p>
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	<p>Sustainable landscape management activities foreseen under component 2 include reforestation of degraded lands and support to the adoption of agroforestry systems in buffer zones and priority areas for the establishment of ecological corridors, which may require pest management. The use of agrochemicals is currently not the common practice among producers located in the target areas, which agrees with the project strategy of supporting forest-friendly productive systems.</p> <p>As stated in the current project ESMF and demonstrated through such activities supported under the current operation, agroforestry and reforestation promoted under the project will not involve the use of chemicals, but rather promote and build capacity for the adoption of biological or environmental control methods for pest management and organic fertilization. This guidance was maintained in the revised ESMF. The project will also provide technical assistance to producers and seek means to ensure continued provision of technical assistance to these remote rural sites after project closure.</p>
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	<p>Although no negative impact is expected on physical cultural resources, numerous archeological sites (rock paintings) exist in the region, many of which protected within the protected areas benefited by the project. Additionally, sacred and culturally important sites exist within indigenous lands (resguardos) where project activities will be implemented.</p> <p>The principles of this policy have been integrated into the planning processes described in the previous ESMF for the protection of archeological heritage and sacred and culturally important sites, and this guidance was maintained in the revised ESMF. Project performance has been satisfactory to-date regarding compliance with this OP. Actions affecting resguardos or indigenous peoples will be carried out according to specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (see OP 4.10) and land management agreements prepared through participatory methodologies and with proper consultation. The</p>



Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	<p>presence of sacred sites will be explicitly recorded in IPPs.</p> <p>This policy is triggered as Indigenous peoples with the four characteristics outlined in the Policy live within the project area and could potentially be affected both positively and negatively from project activities. The Project will address the distinct interests and concerns of Indigenous peoples living within and outside of collective territories (resguardos) as well as Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and Process Framework (PF) were updated and consulted, and their final versions have been disclosed prior to Appraisal. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP, including a project GRM) and a Gender Plan (GP) have also been prepared. Considering the COVID-19 travel and contact restrictions, the initial consultation process has been done virtually and, when possible, a face to face process will be carried out (with the exception of those living in voluntary isolation). No activity with indigenous peoples will be carried out under the AF prior to the completion of a proper consultation process as described in the IPPF.</p> <p>The update of these documents considered the intervention areas, stakeholders and beneficiaries in order to identify further preventative and mitigation measures. If new indigenous communities will benefit from project activities, a new Indigenous Peoples' Plan will be required and approved by the Bank. Updated documents have been published by appraisal. These documents may later be further updated after completion of the consultation process with IPs, given the delay imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>One of the main lessons learned from the parent project is the intense and continuous relationship with indigenous peoples. In fact, seven IPPs were carried out, with highly satisfactory results. This relationship with the currently participating IPs or others who are joining the project will continue to use the methodologies and practices that have so far been successful, including the direct participation of IP representatives during missions.</p>
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		This policy is triggered by the possibility that some of the project activities, may imply both the enforcement of existing and the introduction of new restrictions of access to protected areas. A process framework was updated that describes the process for identifying affected communities. The process framework includes specific indicators and mechanisms to monitor impacts and benefits on communities affected from restrictions in access. Any mitigation measures or support for alternative livelihoods found to be necessary will be financed under Component 1. This process framework has been consulted with the communities and published before appraisal. The Process Framework of the parent project is based on establishing a process through which the members of the communities will participate in (i) the development of the routes defined in the project for the design and planning of protected areas of the national and regional order; (ii) the identification and social evaluation of the impacts that the aforementioned activities can generate, including the definition of the inhabitants that could be affected; and (iii) the definition of recommendations on assistance measures that could be proposed to the competent authorities to improve livelihoods and enhance the environmental sustainability of the territory. Although this methodology has demonstrated its effectiveness and added value for the communities, so it can be taken up as a good practice, it is important to keep in mind that for AF2, no new protected area is expected to be created or expanded.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	This project will not finance any dams nor will rely on the operation of existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	This project will not finance activities that impact any international waterways as defined by the policy.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	This project will not finance activities in disputed areas as defined by the policy.



KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

No potential large scale, significant or irreversible negative impact is expected from this AF. As the previous operations it builds on (parent project and initial AF), this is essentially an environmental conservation project, expected to continue to generate significant benefits to biodiversity and forest-based livelihoods. Safeguards management under the parent project and initial AF have been consistently Satisfactory.

It is expected that the implementation of this AF will contribute to multiple benefits, such as: (i) protection and restoration of connectivity of the tropical rainforest and with it, regional climate regulation; (ii) maintaining ecosystem capacity to generate the natural supply demanded by local communities and by indigenous peoples settled within and outside the protected areas and related ancestrally thereto; and (iii) better governance and greater legitimacy of the State and social institutions in the area of reference.

The current operation's ESMF analyzes gaps in existing systems and best practices in different sectors, establishing complementary procedures and tools to be applied in the management of PAs and implementation of sustainable land and water management and use practices to fully comply with Bank safeguards. The current operation's ESMF was updated to strengthen guidance to the sustainable use of forest products and incorporate lessons learned from the establishment and monitoring of forest conservation and restoration agreements under the previous operations. Indigenous peoples are present in the project area and the safeguard documents prepared by the client's current ESMF, IPPF, IPPs and Process Framework (PF), which were revised to include new indigenous lands and peoples, ensure that no significant negative impact will come to indigenous peoples and secure their access to and integrity of their sacred sites. For this second AF, the Client also prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and a Gender Plan (GP). The final approved versions of the updated ESMF, IPPF and PF, as well as the new SEP and GA, have been disclosed before Appraisal.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

Long term impacts expected are the protection of ecologically important forests and the dissemination of sustainable, forest-friendly production systems.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

N/A

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The client prepared a satisfactory ESMF, IPPFs, IPPs and Process Framework under the parent operation and initial AF, which adopt and complement the gaps of existing systems, policies and best practices to ensure that project-supported activities fully comply with Bank safeguard policies. These instruments have been revised to reflect the expanded area and sustainable use activities under this proposed AF. The Client and the World Bank have a longstanding and deep engagement on biodiversity and forests, and the parent project (Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon - P144271) and its initial AF are being satisfactorily implemented.



During project preparation, on October 21 and 22, 2019 a workshop was held with the safeguard specialists and key project executing agencies, to analyze in detail the project activities and the compliance with safeguard instruments. Recommendations resulted for the current project as well as guidelines for updating the instruments for the proposed new AF and the consultation process with the project's stakeholders. In addition, safeguard specialists provided technical assistance and support during the preparation of the instruments.

As part of project preparation for the AF2, the following instruments were updated and consulted, and have been disclosed prior to Appraisal: the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Indigenous People's Plan, IPPFs, and Process Framework. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and a Gender Plan (GP) have also been prepared. The update of these documents considered the intervention areas, stakeholders and beneficiaries in order to identify further preventative and mitigation measures.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

Several indigenous groups are present in the project area, living in indigenous territories (resguardos). Based on the results of the Socio-environmental diagnosis, the original instruments: ESFM, Process Framework (PF), Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPP) were prepared under the parent project in accordance with the Operational Policies triggered for the project, and have been revised for this proposed AF, which does not trigger additional policies. For the original documents, a consultation process was organized by PNN, MADS, CDA and CORPOAMAZONIA. The process comprised the following consultations: (i) two events in Bogota with the participation of national entities and non-governmental organizations (March and May 2016), and a consultation workshop for the ESMF in March 2017; (ii) two events in Puerto Leguízamo, with the participation of delegates from the associations of traditional authorities of the Siona; (iii) an event in the Murui and Kichwa (October 13-15, 2016, March 9, 2017); (iv) an event in Inirida (October 24-26, 2016), with the Ramsar Table of Indigenous Peoples; (v) an event in Puerto Nariño (December 15, 2016), with the authorities of the indigenous reservation Ticoya; (vi) an event in Bogotá with the Indigenous Bureau for Environment and Climate Change, MIACC; and (vii); three events in Orito, Mocoa and San José de Fragua, convened by the heads of the NPOs Orito Indi Ange, Serania de Churumbelos Aukawasi and Alto Fragua Indiwasi (February 13 to 17, 2017), with social and indigenous organizations. The preparation of the IPPs for the indigenous reservations is preceded by prior consultation with the indigenous communities and territories certified by the Ministry of the Interior, in accordance with the constitutional and legal framework of the country and through consultations with communities and indigenous territories that have signed agreements with PNN. The IPPF guidelines establish that an IPP must be elaborated according to the legal norms of the country and through the consultation procedure defined by the Ministry of Interior for any new Indigenous Reserve officially declared in the area of influence of any new protected area to be declared during project implementation (noting that the AF will not directly support the creation of new protected areas).

A new round of online and face-to-face consultations on the revised instruments for this second AF was planned for April and May 2020. However, due to social restrictions imposed by the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, all face-to-face events had to be cancelled. In compliance with governmental rulings issued to preserve the fundamental rights of indigenous peoples to prior consultation, virtual or online consultations with indigenous peoples during the pandemic were not considered legitimate consultation processes. As a result, consultation was designed in three stages: first, virtually from May to July 2020 prior to appraisal, with the stakeholders with whom the project has been working and with some new ones already identified that have access to virtual technologies; second, continue posting virtual messages and communication pieces to reach broader audiences that have access to technologies and while the travel restrictions are in place; finally, when the pandemic situation is manageable, local communities will be contacted in face to face



workshop to consult the project including the safeguard instruments and action plans with the indigenous communities. The project's Legal Agreement will include a provision on the carrying out of proper prior consultation with indigenous peoples as a requirement to approve implementation of any activity involving or affecting indigenous peoples or their lands.

For the virtual stages of consultation, the FPN's website established a link with the Project information and space for inquiries, (also linked to the websites of partner and allied entities). Webinars were organized to present the project and respond to questions from a broad audience. Additionally, infographics and video pieces were prepared with the summary of the Project and information by areas of intervention, which are easy to use by virtual means. Testimonies from communities were identified with comments on the Project. An easy-to-understand digitally animated 3-minute video was made explaining the important milestones of the Project, and sent via cell phones. Finally, the partner entities developed various specific socialization strategies with each group of key actors through radio, virtual media and sending infographics, forms to collect comments, etc. The consultation processes was done in accordance with the technical note prepared by the WBG to respond to this global situation, based on the WHO standards and international good practice (*Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings*, of March 20, 2020). https://worldbankgroup.sharepoint.com/sites/wbunits/opcs/Knowledge_Base/Public_Consultations_in_WB_Operations.pdf

The Client also prepared a Gender Plan (GP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which includes a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) managed by the executing agency Patrimonio Natural. The GRM builds on the existing mechanism for the current operation and is triggered by the submission, in writing, of a request, complaint or claim to one of the project partners, by electronic means, physical correspondence, or person to person with the team in the field. To facilitate its management, the project has the following considerations: i) Project Coordination Unit is the first instance to receive requests to the GRM and will have updated information that will facilitate the attention of such requests; ii) There are multiple channels for receiving complaints such as: telephone, WEB, mail, direct communication, social media, among others; iii) In case of complaints related to the project activities, petitioners can contact directly, at any time, any of the members of the partner entities included in the Project Coordination Unit; iv) after exhausting the directives of the project, in case the requests are not answered or are satisfactory, petitioners can refer to the corporate mail of the World Bank: grievances@worldbank.org. The response will be notified to the petitioner and the implementing entity of the project. In serious matters, the mechanism define the procedure to be followed and will channel the matter to the competent entities, including the legal remedies that apply to the case or that proceed in case of appeals to the responses received through the GRM, if the petitioner is not satisfied.

The revised, consulted and approved ESMF, PF and IPPF, as well as the new Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Gender Plan, have been disclosed on the websites of PNN, MADS, CDA and CORPOAMAZONIA before Appraisal.

B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
10 August 2020	31 August 2020	



"In country" Disclosure 28 August
2020

<https://www.patrimonionatural.org.co/proyectos/conservacion-de-bosques-y-sostenibilidad-en-el-corazon-de-la-amazonia/>

<https://www.corazondelaamazonia.org/instrumentos-de-salvaguarda>

http://www.corpoamazonia.gov.co/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&layout=edit&id=1115

<http://www.parquesnacionales.gov.co/portal/es/nuevos-instrumentos-de-salvaguarda-iniciativa-gef-7-el-banco-mundial-y-gef/>

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
10 August 2020	31 August 2020

"In country" Disclosure

28 August 2020

Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
10 August 2020	31 August 2020

"In country" Disclosure 28 August

2020

Pest Management Plan

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
N/A	N/A	N/A

"In country" Disclosure

N/A

**C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)****OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment**

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?

Yes

Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?

Yes

OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats

Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?

No

If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?

N/A

OP 4.09 - Pest Management

Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?

Yes

Is a separate PMP required?

No

If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?

N/A

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?

Yes

Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?

Yes

OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples

Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Practice Manager?

N/A

**OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement**

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

Is physical displacement/relocation expected?

No

Is economic displacement expected? (loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihoods)

No

OP/BP 4.36 - Forests

Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?

No

Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?

N/A

Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?

N/A

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?

Yes

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

Yes

All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

Yes

**CONTACT POINT****World Bank**

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Patrimonio Natural
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