**Region: Gran Chaco**

Countries included: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile & Paraguay

**Threats to Biodiversity, Environment, and IPLC Regional Context:**

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| Country | Threats to biodiversity and environment | Threats to IPLCs, and Root Causes |
| Argentina | * Pressures on Argentina’s biodiversity are primarily associated with the fragmentation and loss of native forests due to agricultural expansion.[[1]](#footnote-0) * From 2001 to 2018, Argentina lost 5.77Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 15 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 792Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Argentina, the top 4 regions were responsible for 61 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Santiago del Estero had the most relative tree cover loss at 25 percent compared to an average of 8.6 percent. | * Argentina is ranked 138th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been unevenly improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2016. * According to Global Witness, at least two land defenders were killed in Argentina between 2016-2018. |
| Bolivia | * Significant overlap of protected areas and IPLC lands, both territories and reserves—with variable management effectiveness. PAs are often underfunded, understaffed and lack adequate infrastructure.[[2]](#footnote-1) * Primary drivers of threats are the advancing agricultural frontier, primarily driven by monocultures for export. Bolivia’s Ministry of Economic and Public Finance estimates that the area cultivated will increase from 2012 to 2025 by 6 million hectares. * Threats linked to climate variability and change relate primarily to increased flooding, drought, frost, heat, and other extreme weather events. This will be especially pronounced in the high Andean plain, and in lowland areas on the agricultural frontier.[[3]](#footnote-2) * From 2001 to 2018, Bolivia lost 4.83Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 7.5 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 1.53Gt of CO₂ emissions. * In Bolivia, the Santa Cruz region was responsible for 65 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. This region had the most relative tree cover loss at 10 percent compared to an average of 4.4 percent. | * Bolivia is ranked 70th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been steadily improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2009 until 2019, when most of these indicators worsened following former President Evo Morales’ removal from power. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |
| Chile | * The main threats to biodiversity are changes in land use due to activities related to the forestry and agricultural sectors. Other threats are associated with urbanization, invasive alien species, forest fires, climate change and water extracted for mining and agricultural activities in the northern zone of the country.[[4]](#footnote-3) * From 2001 to 2018, Chile lost 1.95Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 10 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 462Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Chile, the top 3 regions were responsible for 57 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Bío-Bío had the most relative tree cover loss at 39 percent compared to an average of 13 percent. | * Chile is ranked 142 /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been gradually improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators from 2012-2019, but the situation has severely worsened since then. * According to Global Witness, at least two land defenders were killed between 2016-2018. |
| Paraguay | * Some of the major threats to biodiversity include: changes in land use, deforestation, exploitation of wood, urban expansion, illegal hunting and capture of wildlife, indiscriminate fishing practices, development of infrastructure and invasive alien species.[[5]](#footnote-4) * From 2001 to 2018, Paraguay lost 5.72Mha of tree cover, equivalent to a 24 percent decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 822Mt of CO₂ emissions. * In Paraguay, the top 3 regions were responsible for 50 percent of all tree cover loss between 2001 and 2018. Boquerón had the most relative tree cover loss at 33 percent compared to an average of 16 percent. | * Paraguay is ranked 104th /178 on the [fragile states index](https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/). It had been rapidly improving across cohesion, economic, political, and social indicators since 2016. * No data on whether land defenders have been killed since 2015. |

1. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=ar#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/pa/ewsipals-01/other/ewsipals-01-presentation-26-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=bo#facts> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. <https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=cl> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=py#status [↑](#footnote-ref-4)