

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships in Latin America for Climate and Biodiversity

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In collaboration with:



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Author:

Esteban Sanabria

Study Coordination:

Paula Ramirez

**With the input and revision
support from:**

Catalina Herrera
Juan David Ferreira

Design leader:

Xiomara Ocampo

Design and layout:

Ashlim Brito

Special thanks to:

Eva Rehse and Maria Eugenia
Paez from WINGS and Tom
Harrison from The Partnering
Initiative

Executive Summary

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) are emerging as critical vehicles to address interwoven climate and biodiversity challenges. The region's MSP ecosystem is quickly developing, yet characterized by fragmented regulatory frameworks, uneven market maturity, limited funding, and dependence on external actors to finance and convene stakeholders. Despite this, MSPs are demonstrating measurable impact, particularly in bridging gaps between siloed sectoral or regional priorities and broader action. Philanthropy plays an under-recognized but pivotal role in this landscape, acting as a catalyst for innovation, resource mobilization, and inclusive governance.

Across 13 documented case studies mapped in this document, MSPs in LAC are predominantly regionally focused (6 out of 13 MSPs), most concentrated around LACs' most significant biomes and the countries that comprise them (Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, etc.), reflecting the transboundary nature of environmental challenges like Amazon conservation and Caribbean climate resilience. Within the scope of the mapping, Biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation dominate partnership topics, each representing 4 and 5 initiatives of the 13, respectively. Conversely, other agendas related to climate mitigation, like circular economy and sustainable transport, remain underrepresented, highlighting opportunities for diversification as the ecosystem grows. Functionally, MSPs prioritise joint implementation of projects (6 in 13) and resource mobilisation (4 in 13), underscoring their practical orientation. Yet only 2 in 13 focus on policy coordination, pointing to a gap in leveraging MSPs for systemic governance reform.

Philanthropy is a linchpin in this ecosystem, directly funding initiatives and participating as a stakeholder in 6 out of the 13 cases, often alongside civil society (10 cases) and multilateral organizations (7 cases). While development banks and international aid organizations drive financing (more than 8 in 13 rely on public funds or blended finance), philanthropic support enables

long-term planning and provides flexibility for set-up tasks and riskier innovations, such as wide multistakeholder consultations or nature-based carbon offset platforms. It also plays a crucial role in expanding financing mechanisms, combining diverse funding sources to de-risk investments. This aligns with innovative finance strategies, providing a stable, scalable foundation for scaling impactful projects. In the case of the Pan-Amazon Bioeconomy Network, the Bezos Earth Fund stands out as the philanthropic actor that has deployed the largest amount of capital, reinforcing the role of philanthropy in catalyzing systemic change and unlocking further investment in the region.

Leveraging this diverse array of funding opportunities, MSPs in LAC are proving capable of securing substantial funding to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. Initiative 20x20 has leveraged \$2.5 billion from private impact investors, aiming to restore 50 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 through reforestation, agroforestry, and sustainable land use practices. The Responsible Commodities Facility has scaled up to \$47 million to advance deforestation-free soy production in Brazil's Cerrado biome. Herencia Colombia has mobilised over \$10 million in funding through a combination of national government budgets, international donors, and corporate social responsibility initiatives, and the Latin American Water Funds Partnership has raised up to \$7 million for sustainable water management.

Stakeholder engagement reveals both strengths and imbalances. National governments are involved in nearly half of MSPs, but local governments participate in only 3 in 13, hindering grassroots ownership. The private sector is active in 5 of 13 MSPs, though often in peripheral roles, suggesting untapped potential for increased market-driven solutions. Innovations like digital knowledge-sharing platforms and results-based financing conservation contracts are emerging as best practices, enabled by philanthropic risk capital and cross-sector collaboration.

The report identifies key obstacles that impede the implementation of MSPs in Latin America. These challenges include underdeveloped markets and inconsistent policy frameworks, difficulty in quantifying long-term outcomes and demonstrating value, power imbalances and fragmented decision-making structures, misaligned goals among stakeholders, and limited funding sources. Addressing these issues is instrumental in the process of building up a climate and biodiversity-impact ecosystem where MSPs thrive and scale solutions across the region. To overcome the above-mentioned barriers, the documented? MSPs have introduced innovations across the board. Key solutions in finance, governance, and stakeholder

engagement include pioneering blended finance mechanisms, such as concessional loans and the Project Finance for Permanence model, to mobilize diverse funding sources. Governance innovations include task forces, dialogue forums, and advanced monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems. MSPs also prioritize Indigenous and local community inclusion, integrating traditional ecological knowledge for equitable and contextually relevant solutions.

The report also highlights best practices from some of the leading MSPs in the region to enhance their effectiveness throughout various stages, from inception to scaling up. During the inception phase, LAC MSPs prioritize stakeholder mapping and contextual analysis to establish a shared understanding, fostering trust and ownership. This foundational work is essential for aligning interests and ensuring long-term sustainability. In the implementation phase, MSPs focus on capacity building, adaptive decision-making, and clear communication to strengthen resilience and achieve meaningful outcomes. For long-term development, they prioritize transparent governance, robust monitoring, and local leadership, which ensures accountability and a localized impact. Furthermore, continuous trust-building, conflict resolution, and the utilization of existing collaboration platforms enhance inclusivity and scalability. These practices collectively enable MSPs to remain value-driven and efficient, fostering regional progress while addressing impact goals.

The report underscores critical recommendations to strengthen MSPs in LAC, positioning them as vital vehicles for addressing complex socio-environmental challenges. These recommendations centre on building equitable governance structures, fostering ownership through capacity building, and expanding blended and other innovative finance mechanisms that centre people and communities, which collectively align and leverage frameworks like the Public-Private-Philanthropy Partnership (for People and Planet) levers of change¹. Recommendations for philanthropy emphasise leveraging adaptive funding models, building diverse funding streams, and creating platforms for cross-sector collaboration. These strategies utilise innovative finance and organising and connecting levers, enabling MSPs to pilot innovative approaches, engage multiple stakeholders, and systematise their efforts. Additionally, philanthropy and the wider philanthropy support ecosystem are urged to advocate for supportive regulatory frameworks and invest in capacity-building initiatives, which connect to the rules and norms, as well as education, skills, and capabilities levers. By integrating these elements, philanthropy plays a catalytic role in enabling MSPs to grow in uncertain and nascent contexts,

¹See TPI's report on *Systems Change Activation: Empowering Philanthropy's catalytic role in Transformational PPPs*

fostering systemic change and ensuring that the region's eco-social challenges are addressed with sustainable solutions.

At the same time, the priorities outlined here align with the recent recommendations from the G20/C20 Philanthropy for Sustainable Development Working Group. These recommendations emphasise the importance of strengthening MSPs and promoting such people and planet partnerships as essential mechanisms for driving systemic change. The G20/C20 framework highlights the necessity of collaborative governance, innovative financing, and cross-sector engagement, which are central to the MSPs examined in this study. The recent LAC Regional Policy Dialogue on building stronger collaboration between public and philanthropic sectors dealt with some of the key themes of this report, and echoes some of its main recommendations. The EU fostered LAC Policy Dialogue also highlighted the fundamental character of cultivating trust-based partnerships, clearly defining and understanding the system of interest, and leveraging innovative finance mechanisms for enhanced effectiveness of MSPs

Looking ahead, the future of MSPs in LAC holds immense promise, built on the region's growing experience and innovation. By addressing fragmented regulations and expanding funding sources-strengthening the Philanthropy Support Ecosystem-MSPs can unlock their potential to scale solutions while ensuring localised and equitable outcomes. Philanthropy will play a pivotal role in driving innovation through adaptive funding models and catalysing cross-sector collaboration. Advancing MSPs requires strengthening regional coordination through a centralized MSP platform, fostering cross-collaboration within established partnerships, and launching targeted training programs to address governance, finance, and stakeholder engagement challenges. Additionally, multi-stakeholder project proposals and diverse funding strategies will enhance financial sustainability. In policy, bridging climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation, strengthening regional leadership, and fostering inclusive collaboration will reinforce resilience. As the ecosystem evolves, the focus will remain on building resilient partnerships that leverage trust, shared knowledge, and adaptive management. The path ahead calls for continued collaboration, innovation, and systemic change that places people and the planet at the heart of the region's progress. With sustained support from all sectors, LAC's MSPs are well-positioned to achieve climate, biodiversity, and social goals, fostering regional resilience and environmental impact.

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Introduction

This report represents a collaborative initiative with Latimpacto to explore and analyze Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) as transformative mechanisms addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Commissioned with the support of WINGS to advance Latimpacto's mission of fostering impactful investment and collaboration and anchored in their participatory ecosystem mapping methodology, the study delves into the structures, dynamics, and achievements of MSPs across the region, focusing on five key countries: Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru.

By synthesizing insights from literature reviews, case studies, stakeholder interviews, and focus groups, this report highlights the critical role MSPs play in coordinating and bringing together diverse actors, including public, private, philanthropic, and civil society sectors. These partnerships are uniquely positioned to tackle urgent environmental priorities while fostering collaboration that addresses systemic gaps in funding, governance, and impact measurement. Through this lens, the report examines the conditions that enable successful MSP formation, the innovative practices driving their impact, and the strategies needed to scale collaborative efforts across the region.

The findings underscore the transformative potential of MSPs to bridge sectors, align priorities, and deliver solutions that advance both climate resilience and biodiversity conservation. By analyzing governance structures, financing mechanisms, and stakeholder engagement models, the report identifies actionable pathways to enhance the effectiveness and scalability of these partnerships. It also contextualizes the challenges and opportunities within Latin America's unique socio-environmental landscape, offering insights that are both regionally specific and globally relevant.

Positioned as a resource for the climate and biodiversity network, this report serves to build on lessons learned, recognize innovations, and identify pathways to strengthen Latin America's MSPs ecosystem. These insights contribute to fostering transformative partnerships and promoting alignment among stakeholders, uncovering substantial opportunities to scale collaborative impact in the region.

Background

Latin America is home to some of the world's most biodiverse regions, including vast rainforests, wetlands, and marine ecosystems. Yet, these ecosystems are increasingly threatened by deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, pollution, and the impacts of climate change, placing immense pressure on both natural resources and the livelihoods of communities that depend on them. Conventional conservation and development approaches have often failed to address these interwoven challenges, highlighting the urgent need for collaborative, cross-sectoral efforts to drive sustainable and systemic change. This context underscores the importance of MSPs in mobilizing collective action for environmental and social resilience.

Latin America's ecosystems are pivotal for both global biodiversity and climate action. Regions such as the Amazon rainforest and the Central American Dry Corridor are not only rich in species diversity but also play essential roles in carbon sequestration and water cycle regulation. However, these ecosystems face urgent threats that require integrative solutions addressing environmental and socio-economic concerns. Rising deforestation rates, watershed degradation, and increased vulnerability of local communities to climate-related impacts demand a coordinated response, combining conservation with sustainable economic development and food security.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships offer a powerful framework for tackling the interconnected climate change and biodiversity loss crises. MSPs bring together diverse stakeholders, including government entities, private companies, civil society organizations, Indigenous communities, and philanthropic foundations, around shared goals and a long-term vision for sustainable development. The unique strength of MSPs lies in their capacity to leverage complementary resources, knowledge, and expertise, allowing them to address systemic issues more effectively than any single actor working in isolation.



What defines a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership?

Based on the insights of the practitioners participating in this study, a Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) is a collaborative governance mechanism where stakeholders from different sectors work together to address complex societal challenges. Although they vary widely in form, scope, and function, key elements that distinguish MSPs in Latin America include a shared vision and collective agenda that align stakeholders toward common objectives beyond individual interests, trust-building and equitable decision-making to balance power dynamics, and formalized agreements and processes to maintain accountability and clarity. MSPs are also distinct for their intersectoral collaboration, bringing together diverse expertise that is crucial for addressing complex challenges.

In Latin America, MSPs vary across several dimensions:

- **Geographic Scope:** MSPs can operate at local, regional, national, or transnational levels.
- **Function:** They may focus on knowledge-sharing, setting standards, providing services, or developing financial instruments, among others.
- **Stage of Maturity:** MSPs progress through several stages, from start-up, where they begin implementation, scale-up, focusing on growth and impact, and ultimately reaching full maturity, characterized by robust structures, clear objectives, and long-term sustainability and funding.
- **Operating Model:** Some MSPs pursue project development, others work as accelerators, advocacy blocks or convening platforms, and some focus on creating financial funds or new business ventures, etc.



The Value of MSPs in Driving Transformative Action

MSPs in Latin America and the Caribbean create value by bringing together stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that leverage cross-sector capabilities and expertise. The multifaceted approach and cross-sector involvement enable new financing and operating models with differential strategies to foster sustainable development and climate action. This results in enhanced effectiveness and increased experimentation of initiatives while also fostering a shared vision for actions and solutions. The multi-actor and sectorial nature of MSPs also promotes inclusivity by including actors often absent from decision-making spaces, ensuring better informed, articulated and legitimized solutions.

As such, benefits from participating in such initiatives include synergic solutions that leverage complementary work and knowledge to develop wider and deeper solutions not feasible by individual work; increased mobilization of key resources, particularly enabling large-scale efforts and private non-philanthropic investment; coordinated actions enabled by consensus building and dialogue; articulated collective influence for policy advocacy; and a platform for experimentation and scaling of new approaches led by the integrated knowledge of diverse actors.

Mapping and Exploring Key Themes

Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships are essential for addressing the complex, interconnected challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss in LAC. They leverage diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives to design and implement innovative, scalable solutions. This chapter outlines inspiring approaches, foundational conditions for success, and strategic recommendations for fostering impactful partnerships. It emphasizes the transformative potential of MSPs when collaboration, inclusivity, and adaptive governance converge with actionable strategies tailored to the region's unique socio-environmental context.

Conditions for Effective MSP Formation

The formation of effective MSPs hinges on a combination of shared vision, trust, leadership, and adaptive governance. In LAC, where socio-political and environmental challenges are pronounced, these conditions provide the foundation for partnerships to thrive amidst complexity and competing interests.

Shared Vision and Values

Co-creating a shared vision and strategy is fundamental for MSPs, requiring extensive dialogue and workshops to establish a common understanding of long-term goals and desired outcomes while ensuring all partners' perspectives are satisfied. Similarly, transparency about each organisation's motivations, expectations, priorities, and contributions is equally critical, as it helps identify potential risks and conflicts early on, facilitating alignment and building trust across the partnership. Developing master documents that clearly articulate the partnership's vision and goals—from feasibility studies to comprehensive business plans—provides a roadmap for sustainable decision-making and ensures alignment as the partnership evolves and expands.



Trust and Transparency



Prioritizing open and honest communication is essential for fostering trust within MSPs, achieved through convening leadership, regular consultations, face-to-face meetings, and inclusive decision-making processes that ensure all partners feel valued and heard. Formal agreements that clearly define roles, responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms further enhance transparency and clarify expectations, creating and fostering a sense of shared ownership while mitigating potential conflicts. Additionally, transparency in financial commitments and resource allocation is critical—especially in partnerships with uneven contributions—as it builds trust and promotes equitable participation by establishing clear and open decision-making processes.

Strong and Collaborative Leadership



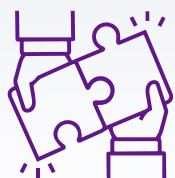
Promoting a culture of collaborative leadership is fundamental to the success of MSPs, requiring leaders who embody and advocate for inclusive decision-making while empowering all partners to contribute meaningfully. Effective MSPs also prioritize identifying, nurturing, and enabling leadership across stakeholder groups, ensuring balanced and representative structures that reflect the diversity of organizations and sectors involved. It is instrumental that a balance between different leadership styles is fostered, prioritizing both task-oriented and relationship-oriented leadership, enabling partnerships to navigate operational demands while fostering trust and cohesion among diverse actors.

Effective Governance and Decision-Making



Establishing clear governance structures with well-defined roles and responsibilities is critical to ensuring accountability, streamlining decision-making, and facilitating smooth operations within MSPs. Inclusivity and representation in decision-making structures must also be prioritized, creating mechanisms that enable meaningful participation from all partners, including smaller organizations or community representatives. Additionally, adaptive and flexible governance structures are essential for adapting to the evolving nature of partnerships, fostering responsiveness to changing circumstances, and encouraging innovation.

Robust Due Diligence and Building on Existing Initiatives



Conducting thorough research to understand the existing landscape is essential for MSPs to position themselves effectively within the ecosystem. By mapping relevant initiatives and actors, assessing past efforts, and identifying synergies and gaps, partnerships can avoid duplication and ensure they add value in the ecosystem and to partners. Engaging with established networks and partners further amplifies this impact and promotes efficiency, enabling MSPs to build on existing relationships, accelerate progress, and optimize resource use. Also relevant is understanding the political economy and power dynamics of the context, including power structures, potential conflicts, and stakeholder incentives, to foster trust and lay the groundwork for pragmatic, impactful collaboration.

These five aspects are presented as key recommendations for MSPs to overcome barriers to collaboration and establish themselves as resilient mechanisms for addressing climate and biodiversity challenges in LAC. These conditions can serve as valuable tools to ensure the longevity and impact of partnerships in dynamic and often volatile contexts.

Key Strategies for MSPs' Effectiveness

Strategic approaches are essential for maximizing the impact of MSPs. The six strategies outlined here highlight the importance of involving diverse stakeholders in the partnership based on their knowledge and expertise, and working in a way that enables collaborations to drive policy reform and innovative financing to tackle systemic challenges while fostering inclusivity and sustainability.

Championing Intersectoral Collaboration



Successful MSPs can effectively leverage the expertise of diverse stakeholders. This diversity is crucial for fostering innovative problem-solving and generating holistic and comprehensive solutions to the complex challenges of climate action and biodiversity conservation. Platforms for knowledge exchange, such as workshops, conferences, and other collaborative spaces, play a pivotal role in facilitating the sharing of insights and expertise. Also, these forums are critical for building trust among stakeholders, sharing best practices, and developing a collective commitment to the shared goals of the MSP.

Advocating for Policy and Market Shifts



One key strength of MSPs lies in their ability to leverage collective influence for high-level change. The coordinated efforts of an MSP can amplify the collective voice of individual partners, driving systemic change across policy and markets. As such, MSPs can engage with policymakers and market leaders by fostering partnerships with government agencies, businesses, and investors and by leveraging their unified and multi-actor, multi-sector voice. Aligning policy and market incentives with climate and biodiversity action can foster supportive environments that enable MSP growth and increase their impact over time and across the ecosystem. Furthermore, enabling market shifts, such as the use of innovative financing mechanisms or new business models at scale, is critical to unlocking diverse funding sources for climate resilience and biodiversity initiatives.

Empowering Local Actors and Communities



Prioritizing the leadership of local communities and Indigenous peoples is fundamental to the effectiveness and legitimacy of MSPs, particularly in addressing climate and biodiversity challenges in LAC. Their first-hand knowledge, cultural insights, and proximity to the issues make their involvement indispensable for creating effective, contextually relevant solutions. Similarly, it is also crucial to integrate traditional ecological knowledge into MSP strategies. By recognizing and incorporating the sustainable practices of Indigenous and local communities while building up the ownership and capabilities of local communities, MSPs can enhance both their long-term sustainability and targeted impact.

Mainstreaming Gender Practices



Ensuring inclusive decision-making, by implementing and promoting women and underrepresented groups in leadership roles and by empowering them by design across key decision-making processes is crucial for the success of MSPs. Similarly, designing gender-responsive solutions that specifically address the unique needs of women and girls, as well as the creation of programs and mechanisms that empower women to take active roles in climate resilience and conservation efforts, is essential for the success and sustainability of these initiatives. This approach is key to the effectiveness and legitimacy of such interventions, especially considering the increased vulnerability of women and girls to the adverse effects of both, climate change and biodiversity loss.

Challenging Mainstream Narratives



The development of context-specific approaches is essential for addressing the unique challenges faced by LAC, where tailored solutions challenging mainstream priorities are needed for relevant impact. Centering local voices, their priorities, perspectives and insights into climate and biodiversity issues and advocating for pertinent solutions requires moving beyond an emissions-focused approach to tackle the interconnected challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequities. By embracing integrated, systemic approaches, these efforts can address the root causes of environmental and social issues, leading to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes.

Fostering a Dynamic Culture of Dialogue



Creating inclusive dialogue spaces is essential for fostering collaboration within MSPs, where stakeholders can engage in open and safe dialogue to both share perspectives and build consensus on complex issues. Also, promoting peer learning through training sessions, knowledge-sharing workshops, and peer-to-peer mentoring is also key to fostering an enabling robust ecosystem that encourages collaborative learning across stakeholders and partners. Finally, by cultivating a culture of innovation grounded in adaptability, MSPs can refine their strategies and incorporate emerging insights to ensure the ongoing relevance and effectiveness of MSPs and answer to the evolving challenges and opportunities of the region and the task at hand.

A Diverse Landscape of MSPs in Latin America

MSPs in Latin America operate across various landscapes and tackle a wide range of issues, from direct conservation efforts to sustainable production models. Their diversity allows MSPs to address region-specific challenges and leverage unique local resources, knowledge, and cultural practices. The diversity within MSPs also extends to their structures, which may adapt according to geographic scope, main function, developmental stage, and operating model.

The formation of MSPs in this sector is driven by several factors rooted in the region's unique challenges and opportunities. The urgency of environmental crises, such as deforestation in the Amazon, compels stakeholders to pool resources and expertise, acknowledging that isolated

efforts are insufficient to address these large-scale issues. MSPs also amplify local and regional voices in policy formulation, ensuring that Latin American priorities are represented in climate and biodiversity policies. Furthermore, MSPs play a critical role in bridging financial gaps by mobilizing essential resources in emerging sectors like biodiversity finance. They help mitigate risks associated with nascent areas by facilitating knowledge exchange and fostering innovation. Lastly, MSPs promote equity and inclusion by providing a platform for marginalized groups, particularly Indigenous communities, to participate in decision-making processes, ensuring that solutions are inclusive and equitable across all stakeholders.

Multi-Stakeholder partnerships in LAC display remarkable diversity and a multi-level approach to achieving impact:



Geographic Scope: MSPs operate on multiple scales, from localized projects to national initiatives and regional collaborations spanning multiple countries. The Amazon Basin, the Central American Dry Corridor, and the Andean region are focal areas due to their ecological importance and the scale of environmental threats they face.



Functions: MSPs serve a range of functions essential to sustainability, including project implementation, knowledge exchange and capacity building, policy advocacy, and financial mobilization. Many partnerships act as platforms for hands-on initiatives, such as ecosystem restoration and sustainable agriculture projects, while others focus on influencing policy frameworks or providing training to local communities.



Stage of Maturity: MSPs in LAC vary significantly in their stages of development. Some are start-ups in early formation, while others have expanded to encompass large-scale operations across multiple sectors. This diversity in maturity reflects an evolving market that continues to develop and continuously adapts to regional challenges and opportunities.



Operating Models: MSPs' funding structures also differ widely, often influenced by the goals and operational needs of the partnership. Some are grant-based or membership-supported, while others employ blended finance models, combining philanthropic capital with investment funds to support scalable solutions. This diversity in financial models allows MSPs to pool resources and mitigate risks in emerging areas like biodiversity finance, ensuring sustained operations over time.

Priority Sectors and Regional Trends

The LAC MSP landscape is particularly active in four priority sectors:

Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:

MSPs with global reach engage national governments, NGOs, and private companies in climate-related projects. These initiatives often focus on reducing emissions, building climate resilience, and integrating climate action with sustainable development goals.

Biodiversity and Protected Areas Conservation:

Given LAC's status as a global biodiversity hotspot, MSPs work to protect ecosystems and promote sustainable land management, often in partnership with local communities.

Sustainable Agriculture:

Focusing on commodities like coffee, soy, and palm oil, MSPs foster sustainable farming practices and enhance market access for responsibly produced goods.

Water Resource Management:

In regions vulnerable to water scarcity, MSPs promote water security and sustainable management practices, collaborating with governments, utilities, and local stakeholders.

Stakeholder Engagement Trends

While multiple sectors are engaged in climate-focused MSPs in Latin America, NGOs— especially those focused on conservation and climate—currently lead these efforts, generally coordinated with Governments. The latter provides regulatory frameworks and aligns initiatives with national goals through participatory processes. NGOs act as catalysts, offering technical expertise and convening diverse stakeholders, exemplified by TNC and WWF’s leadership in various initiatives. Philanthropic organizations play a crucial role in funding early-stage partnerships, bridging gaps where investment funds and financial entities, often focused on later-stage projects participate, with less involvement.

Private corporations and Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) remain active participants and show growing involvement, but their contributions remain inconsistent. Companies are aligned with sector sustainability goals and priorities, while MDBs bring essential financing and technical expertise. However, impact investors and private actors need to engage more strategically in early-stage MSPs to foster innovation and scalability.

Local communities, especially Indigenous groups, are critical to ensuring relevance and equity in conservation projects, but their participation must go beyond consultation to include decision-making power. Strengthening engagement across all sectors, with a focus on bridging gaps between actor’s capabilities and strengths, is vital to unlocking MSPs’ full potential for climate resilience and biodiversity in the region.

Addressing Market Gaps and Emerging Opportunities

While established MSPs actively address pressing needs, gaps remain that could be filled by expanding into emerging sectors. The circular economy presents an opportunity for MSPs to champion waste reduction and resource efficiency across industries. Similarly, sustainable transport remains underdeveloped within the MSP landscape, despite its critical role in reducing emissions in urban areas. Another promising avenue is environmental education and awareness, where MSPs could broaden public understanding of sustainability, fostering long-term support for conservation efforts.

This chapter underscores the central role of MSPs in addressing the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in LAC. Through innovative practices, foundational conditions for success, and targeted strategies, MSPs offer a pathway to sustainable development. Their potential lies in their ability to harmonize diverse stakeholder interests, align local and global goals, and adapt to evolving challenges-ensuring lasting impact for the region and its people.

Challenges and Opportunities

Partnerships are crucial for addressing the interconnected crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. However, MSPs operate within a complex landscape shaped by funding constraints, diverse stakeholder interests, and systemic barriers. This section outlines the key challenges that MSPs face in aligning priorities, securing resources, and fostering collaboration, alongside opportunities to overcome these obstacles through innovative approaches and collective action. By addressing these dynamics, MSPs can unlock the transformative potential to drive scalable, sustainable outcomes for the region.

Key Challenges

The interconnected and twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss demand acting in partnerships to overcome systemic obstacles. **Nonetheless, MSPs operate in challenged spaces where resources are too scarce, stakeholders have diverse and conflicting interests, and system-wide barriers exist.**

Mainly, the challenges that are pervasive in the climate and biodiversity space in LAC and conflict with the apparition and consolidation of MSPs are related to funding, conflicting interests of actors, unbalanced participation and influence of partners, underdeveloped markets and regulations to support MSPs and new business models, diverging organizational and sectoral cultures and contexts between partners, and difficulty to measure and demonstrate impact.

Among these, one key and common challenge that MSPs working in climate and biodiversity in LAC face is the complexity of measuring their impact. This complexity, driven by the long-term and multifaceted nature of the outcomes they pursue, makes it difficult to effectively communicate and demonstrate their success to secure sustained support.

Funding challenges, however, are arguably the most prominent in the region, particularly considering the differential attention to climate action and biodiversity. Also, they relate the different priorities of climate action and biodiversity of LAC to the ones of major funding partners from the global north, which tend to prioritize climate mitigation over LAC's attention to adaptation and conservation. The competition for scarce funding also extends beyond, as climate and biodiversity action consistently have to demonstrate value and relevance compared to other development efforts in sectors such as energy, infrastructure and agriculture. Moreover, the drivers of funding by partners –often times prioritizing political capital, profits or bureaucratic ease– and the conditions under it is delivered for climate and biodiversity, majorly by project-specific and short-term grants, limit MSPs' ability to address changing needs, foster innovation and build up long-term initiatives and impact, which are delivered over the long term.

Challenges arising from the conflict or misalignment of interest are also common to MSPs, given their role as platforms for diverse stakeholders, which bring different priorities and agendas, decision-making tends to be more complicated and requires both leadership and mechanisms to enable proper governance. Some key aspects that challenge MSP working in LAC are the alignment over: climate and biodiversity, often working across them in fragmented and disconnected ways; for-profit and sustainable business models and practices; and, in their focus or approach over both problems, solutions and actions. For all of these, effective governance and facilitation are critical to navigating these complexities and fostering trust among partners with different motivations and objectives.

Linked to this, power imbalances arising from differences in contributions and leadership could hinder decision-making in MSPs. Given the role of MSPs as platforms for diversity and the common involvement of smaller actors in these partnerships, inclusive decision-making could be challenged by the lack of capacity and resources of these types of stakeholders. Strategies to mitigate these imbalances are necessary to foster trust and more equitable governance where all kinds of partners can contribute based on their own capacity, expertise and comparative advantages.

Systemic challenges related to the market and regulatory environment are also common in the region, mainly due to the underdevelopment of both markets and regulatory frameworks.

As a result, MSPs often take the role of first movers in this context, dealing with frameworks that don't sufficiently incentivise private investment in sustainable practices, and markets where there is not sufficient appeal and appetite for these business models.

The diversity of sectors and types of organizations also adds complexity regarding their individual working methods and governance. Differing organizational cultures, timeframes, and conceptual frameworks among partners manifest an additional challenge that MSPs have to manage, primarily around key aspects like their preference for agile action over consensus decision-making, diverse and burdensome reporting standards from several actors, volatile and shifting political and funding support from stakeholders –mainly from government stakeholders given political cycles, misaligned financial timeframes and cycles for operations and long term planning, and differences in the conceptualization of problems and issues or the lack of a common language for dialogue.

Opportunities and Potential Solutions

Some of the opportunities that arise from the advantages of combining diversity and intersectionality in MSPs are unlocking new funding mechanisms and combining types and sources. This is, developing innovative financial mechanisms, enabled by the expertise and involvement of several sectors, like Payments for Permanence, nature bonds, parametric insurance, debt swaps, crowdfunding, etc. to mobilize resources towards actions and projects. Similarly, leveraging the involvement of partners with different sectors, combining funding from public, private and philanthropic sectors becomes more attractive and feasible in MSPs.

Additionally, prioritizing the building of a shared vision for the partnership and aligning higher-level commitments while choosing to prioritize collective impact over individual agendas and criteria does serve to consolidate more cohesive and effective partnerships and streamlined decision-making. All of this is only really possible when partners center on impact as the main goal of the MSP and prioritize trust-building frameworks and flexibility over their work for their collective actions.

Trust itself is perhaps the most critical quality that enables shared and collective vision and work. Some key elements that cultivate it and leverage it are building on existing networks and working in synergy with pre-established projects and partners, this will create a stronger foundation for collaboration and scale. Additionally, formalizing clear roles, responsibilities, and accountability mechanisms will provide increased visibility for collaboration.

Another strategy effective in the context of complexity and diversity –common to MSPs– is the embracing of adaptative management frameworks and infrastructure. Strategies that are continuously reviewed based on real time evidence and robust monitoring and evaluation systems will allow more effective responses to changing conditions and contexts.

Fostering inclusive governance frameworks is also key to effective dialogue, increased engagement, and unlocking comprehensive resources and expertise from all partners. Understanding these dynamics, planning for them in the decision-making processes and building the capacity of those lacking it is instrumental in building an inclusive and effective MSP governance.

MSPs can –and are– changing and solidifying regulatory frameworks and markets for climate and biodiversity. The influence of the unified and collective coalition that are MSPs can advocate more effectively for policy reforms, enabling MSPs and their climate and biodiversity goals and initiatives. At the same time, they also are platforms that enable the feasibility of innovative initiatives as well as their scaling, bringing partners and resources together is instrumental to attracting attention and increasing incentives for increased market participation and dynamism.

Finally, as platforms of knowledge exchange MSPs are spaces where actors can share ideas and best practices. This unique ability could also be leveraged to facilitate diffusion and increase the effectiveness of all actions devoted to impact in climate and biodiversity.

Case Studies

This section features a comprehensive analysis of MSPs across LAC, showcasing their diverse strategies for tackling the urgent challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Covering 13 case studies from countries including Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, and Guatemala, and regional initiatives. These partnerships span a wide geographic scope and range of thematic areas such as ecosystem restoration, climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, and biodiversity conservation.

The selected case studies emphasize the critical role of innovative finance mechanisms, capacity-building efforts, and stakeholder engagement in driving impactful outcomes. By examining these partnerships, we aim to extract valuable lessons, best practices, and scalable models that can inform future MSP initiatives. This comprehensive analysis highlights the successes and challenges these partnerships face and underscores their potential to create transformative change in the region's socio-environmental landscape.

The cases exhibit varying scales of operation, from national projects to transboundary initiatives. They illustrate functions that include coordination, governance innovation, and direct implementation. With respect to stages of maturity, they encompass long-standing initiatives such as the Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests, and Agriculture, as well as nascent partnerships like the Pan-Amazon Network for Bioeconomy. The business models highlighted range from blended finance to community-driven mechanisms, showcasing adaptability to both systemic and localized needs.

The case studies are presented in two formats: General Snapshots and In-Depth Analyses. The General Snapshots provide concise overviews of partnerships' objectives, actions, and impacts, while the In-Depth Case Studies offer detailed narratives that delve into their formation, operations, challenges, and results. The in-depth studies explore work methods, initiative development, executed actions, findings, and outcomes, offering a rich perspective on best practices and innovations within LAC's MSP ecosystem.

Name	Geographic Focus	Countries	Mission	Types of Stakeholders	Topic/Sector
General					
MAR Fund	Mesoamerican Reef	Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras	To provide sustainable, long-term financial support for reef conservation.	Intergovernmental bodies: Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD) Funds: Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala, Protected Areas Conservation Trust, Fundación Biosfera, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza. NGOs: The Nature Conservancy, WWF Philanthropy: Conservation and Community Investment Forum, Oak Foundation, Summit Foundation.	Biodiversity conservation, Protection of protected areas
BioPlan Pará	Pará state, Brazilian Amazon	Brazil	To position Pará as a global leader in sustainable bioeconomy, supporting low-carbon growth, social equity, and ecological resilience.	Government Agencies: SECTET, SEMAS, SEDAP. Public bodies: Banco do Brasil Intergovernmental bodies: IDB and the European Union NGOs: TNC Companies: Natura Plus the inclusion of PIQCTS (Indigenous, Quilombola and Traditional Communities)	Climate change mitigation, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable use of natural resources, Sustainable agriculture, Protection of protected areas

Name	Geographic Focus	Countries	Mission	Types of Stakeholders	Topic/Sector
General					
Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests	Brazil	Brazil	To advance sustainable land use and low-carbon agriculture in Brazil by influencing public policy, improving environmental and agricultural practices, and fostering sustainable economic growth.	Over 400 representatives, including: Companies: Suzano, Marfrig, UBS Brasil, Vale, Natura & Co, Cargill, Klabin, and Itaú Unibanco; NGOs: WWF Brasil, Conservation International, IPAM, TNC, and Solidaridad Brasil Foundation; Business Associations: Abiec, Ibá, and Abag.	Climate change mitigation, Biodiversity conservation, Sustainable agriculture
Latin American Water Funds Partnership	LAC	LAC	To enhance water security through watershed conservation, improving water quality, and increasing resilience to climate change.	NGOs: TNC Intergovernmental Bodies: GEF, IDB. International Cooperation: IKI Philanthropy: FEMSA Foundation Plus several local governments in Latin America	Adaptation to climate change, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Water and sanitation, Protection of protected areas
Pan-Amazon Network for Bioeconomy	Amazon region	Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, and Suriname	To foster a sustainable, locally-led bioeconomy across the Amazon region by promoting economic activities that preserve biodiversity and improve livelihoods.	NGOs: Conservation International (CI); WWF; The Nature Conservancy (TNC); World Resources Institute (WRI); etc.; Government and Intergovernmental Bodies: Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO/OTCA); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); World Bank Group; Private; Sector and Impact Investors: Latimacto; NESsT; Amazon Investor Coalition; NatureFinance; etc.; Research Institutions: Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA); Instituto Amazônico de Pesquisas Científicas (SINCHI); UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN); Philanthropy: Bezos Earth Fund; Other Platforms: Partnership for Forests; Uma Concertação pela Amazônia; Fundação Avina; Reos Partners; etc.	Climate change mitigation, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable use of natural resources, Sustainable agriculture, Protection of protected areas

Name	Geographic Focus	Countries	Mission	Types of Stakeholders	Topic/Sector
General					
Tropical Forest Alliance Colombia	Colombia	Colombia	To eliminate deforestation from agricultural supply chains in Colombia by reducing environmental degradation, improving supply chain traceability, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.	Government: Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Agriculture; regional and local agencies; Private Sector: Grupo Éxito; Unilever; other key companies in agricultural sectors; NGOs: WWF; Solidaridad; Proforest; etc.; Philanthropy & International Organizations: World Bank; BioCarbon Fund; Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); etc.	Climate change mitigation, Biodiversity conservation, Sustainable agriculture, Protection of protected areas
Coffee Alliance for Excellence	San Martín, Huánuco, and Ucayali regions in Peru	Peru	To integrate smallholder coffee farmers into sustainable, climate-friendly, high-value markets while reducing coca cultivation and improving rural livelihoods.	Implementing Partner: TechnoServe; Funding Partner: USAID; Private Sector Partners: JDE; Peet's Coffee; Starbucks; Financial Institutions: Caja Rural Los Andes; COFIDE Peruvian Government Agencies: DEVIDA; PROMPERÚ	Climate change mitigation, Sustainable agriculture
Initiative 20x20	LAC	18 LAC countries	To restore 50 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 through reforestation, agroforestry, and sustainable land use practices, addressing climate resilience, biodiversity, and economic development.	Countries: 18 LAC governments committed to land restoration Technical Partners: World Resources Institute (WRI); CIAT; CATIE; IUCN; etc. Financial Partners: Althelia Climate Fund; Moringa; Permian Global; etc. Task Forces: Working groups on best practices, biodiversity, carbon markets, and policy	Climate change mitigation, Adaptation to climate change, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable agriculture, Protection of protected areas

Name	Geographic Focus	Countries	Mission	Types of Stakeholders	Topic/Sector
General					
COOSOCATA	Catatumbo region, Colombia	Colombia	To improve economic resilience and climate adaptation for small-scale producers in Colombia's Catatumbo region by strengthening agricultural value chains and supporting crop substitution.	Intergovernmental bodies: UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)	Adaptation to climate change, Sustainable agriculture
Regenerative Food Business Consortium	Latin America, particularly Amazon and Central America	LAC	To promote regenerative food businesses in Latin America by supporting businesses transitioning to regenerative practices that benefit ecosystems and local communities.	Financial Partner: IDRC Canada Lead Organization: Fundación AVINA; Impact Investing Partners: SVX MX; SVX Colombia; Private Sector: Over 150 regenerative food businesses across agriculture, agroforestry, and food processing; Research Partner: CATIE; Other Consortium Members: Contribute expertise, resources, and networks	Climate change mitigation, Adaptation to climate change, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable use of natural resources, Sustainable agriculture

Name	Geographic Focus	Countries	Mission	Types of Stakeholders	Topic/Sector
In depth					
MAR+Invest	Mesoamerican Reef	Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras	To promote sustainable blue economy businesses in the Mesoamerican Reef by connecting businesses with investors, building business capacity, and measuring environmental impact.	Philanthropy: Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) Funds: MAR Fund, Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, VIWALA/New Ventures. NGOs: Healthy Reefs	Climate change mitigation, Adaptation to climate change, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable use of natural resources
Herencia Colombia	Colombian Natural Protected Areas	Colombia	To promote sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation across Colombia's protected areas by addressing deforestation, habitat loss, and climate change vulnerability.	Government: Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS); National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNN); Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs) (e.g., CorpoGuajira, CVC); Local Governments; NGOs: WWF; Patrimonio Natural; The Nature Conservancy (TNC); WCS; ASOAMAIME; etc.; Private Sector: Sustainable agriculture, livestock, and tourism sectors; Investors and Philanthropists (e.g., Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, HECO Invest); Research: Alexander Von Humboldt Institute; IDEAM; Dejusticia; Universities (e.g., Universidad de los Andes) Communities: Key stakeholders in conservation, decision-making, and benefit-sharing, especially in the Caribbean region	Climate change mitigation, Adaptation to climate change, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable use of natural resources, Sustainable agriculture

Name	Geographic Focus	Countries	Mission	Types of Stakeholders	Topic/Sector
In depth					
Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF)	Cerrado State, Brazil	Brazil	Advancing deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) soy production, incentivizing sustainable practices, and promoting climate resilience.	Fund Management: Sustainable Investment Management (SIM); Environmental Exchange: BVRio Environmental Exchange Securitization Partner: OPEA Securitizadora; Credit Risk and Guarantee Management: Traive; Environmental Partners: The Nature Conservancy (TNC); UNEP; Conservation International (CI), WWF; Investor Group: Tesco; Sainsbury's; Waitrose; Rabobank; AGRI3 Fund	Climate change mitigation, Sustainable agriculture, Biodiversity conservation, Ecosystem restoration, Sustainable use of natural resources, Protection of protected areas

General Case Studies

1—MARFund

Executive Summary



The Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MARFund) is a regional environmental fund that focuses on preserving the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR), spanning Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Established in 2004, MARFund was created by the national environmental funds of these four countries to provide sustainable, long-term financial support for reef conservation. Key stakeholders include international donors, environmental organizations, and regional governments. MARFund exemplifies a critical model for MS Paddressing transboundary environmental issues, highlighting the importance of regional collaboration, innovative finance models for long-term sustainability, and fostering local ownership and engagement to enhance success and resilience.

Background & Context



The Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) is the largest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, and it provides critical ecosystem services like fisheries, tourism, and coastal protection. However, it faces severe threats from overfishing, pollution, and climate change, and the national governments alone lack the financial and technical resources to adequately protect it. The establishment of MARFund responded to a clear need for a coordinated, long-term strategy to manage and conserve the reef system across borders. This transnational partnership was designed to fill gaps in funding and governance, uniting the four countries under a single framework to protect the MAR's biodiversity and provide sustainable livelihoods for coastal communities.

Partnership Overview



Challenges and Gaps Addressed

The reef's protection requires sustained investment and coordination across national boundaries, which was lacking before the establishment of the MARFund.

Actors Involved

MARFund was created by the national environmental funds of the four countries that share the MAR. These include:

Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN)

Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT) (Belize)

Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala (FCG)
(Guatemala)

Fundación Biosfera (Honduras)

Partnership Formation

The MAR Fund was established through a partnership between four environmental funds: FMCN (Mexico), PACT (Belize), FCG (Guatemala), and FB (Honduras), to address Mesoamerican Reef conservation. WWF facilitated the design process, and the funds' expertise and resources ensured effective governance and a unified regional approach to reef preservation.

Governance Model

MAR Fund's governance structure is built on collaboration between four founding environmental funds from Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. The Board of Directors includes representatives from these funds, national governments, civil society, and CCAD. MAR Fund relies on advisory committees for expert guidance in specific program areas.

Financial Structure & Innovation



Financial Structure & Funding

MARFund's financial model is a mix of traditional conservation financing and innovative mechanisms; it operates through an endowment fund, project funds, and sinking funds. MARFund's financial structure relies on diverse funding sources, including key contributions from the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR), the Green Climate Fund, and the Lenfest Ocean Program. Philanthropic support is crucial for initiating conservation actions, such as establishing Fish Replenishment Zones and the Small Grants Program for local co-managers of marine protected areas.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

MARFund is shifting towards growth-oriented investments to increase returns on its endowment and expand conservation funding. It explores blue economy finance mechanisms supporting local economies and reef health. MARFund also consolidates donor requirements to reduce administrative complexity and is developing basket financing, pooling donor resources into a common fund to streamline support for local implementers.

Implementation & Actions Taken



Key Initiatives

Protected Areas Support: Through the Small Grants Program, MARFund provides crucial funding to co-managers of marine protected areas (MPAs), enabling them to carry out essential conservation activities like patrolling, community outreach, and restoration efforts.

Fishing for the Future: This program focuses on establishing Fish Replenishment Zones (FRZs) where overfished species can recover. Local fishing communities are engaged in managing these zones, and the project helps to monitor key fish spawning aggregation sites.

Climate Resilience and Coral Restoration: MARFund also invests in coral restoration programs. These programs focus on planting heat-resistant coral species in areas most affected by coral bleaching.

Challenges and Adjustments

- Fundraising and Donor Coordination
- Short Grant Durations
- Cross-border Complexity

Results & Impact



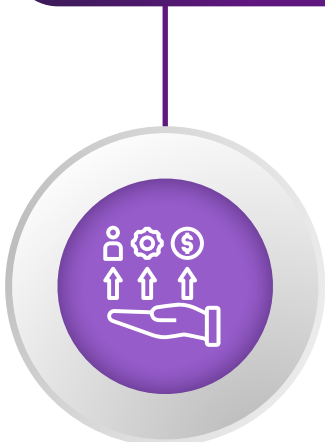
Despite the financial and operational challenges, MARFund has achieved significant outcomes:

Conservation Impact: MARFund has effectively managed key marine protected areas, enhancing habitat protection and species recovery, particularly through Fish Replenishment Zones (FRZs).

Community Engagement: The fund has engaged local fishing communities in Belize and Guatemala, promoting sustainable fisheries management and building strong partnerships with local organizations and governments.

Transnational Collaboration: MARFund exemplifies cross-border conservation, uniting four countries to protect complex ecosystems collectively.

Scalability & Growth Potential



Potential for Expansion

MARFund has strong scalability potential through initiatives like the Blue Economy Innovation Accelerator, which aims to enhance its impact on sustainable marine economic activities. Its community engagement strategies in fisheries management and coral restoration can be adapted for other regions and ecosystems.

Key Factors for Scalability

- Expanding the endowment for long-term sustainability.
- Deepening donor engagement with harmonized financing models.
- Strengthening local capacity for greater community ownership of conservation efforts.

BioPlan Pará



Executive Summary

The Bioeconomy State Strategy of Pará is a forward-looking initiative aimed at positioning Pará, a state in the Brazilian Amazon, as a global leader in sustainable bioeconomy. Built on a multi-stakeholder partnership, the strategy involves government agencies, private sector actors, civil society organizations, research institutions, and Indigenous, Quilombola, and Traditional Communities (PIQCTs). This MSP was formed to address the challenges of achieving sustainable economic development while conserving the Amazon rainforest and ensuring social inclusion. As a key part of Pará's State Plan Amazon Now (PEAA) and its State Policy of Climate Change, the strategy sets a comprehensive roadmap for transitioning to a bioeconomy that supports low-carbon growth, social equity, and ecological resilience. Through innovative financing mechanisms and capacity-building, PlanBio aligns the region's economic development with biodiversity preservation and community empowerment. The core outcome of the Bioeconomy State Strategy, the State Bioeconomy Plan (PlanBio), provides clear guidelines for financing mechanisms, actions, and monitoring frameworks.

Background & Context

Pará's rich biodiversity and natural resources face pressures from deforestation, climate change, and economic disparity. Historically, Pará's development has been driven by resource extraction, often leading to environmental degradation and social inequities. PlanBio was created to address these challenges by providing a sustainable development model that integrates ecological, economic, and social priorities to position Pará as a bioeconomy leader.

Partnership Overview

Challenges and Gaps Addressed

PlanBio addresses several key issues:

Environmental degradation: Deforestation and unsustainable practices threaten Pará's ecosystems.

Economic dependency on extraction: A reliance on extractive industries limits sustainable economic growth.

Funding and access to finance: Limited financial mechanisms for supporting bio-businesses and sustainable development.

Inclusion of local knowledge: Historically underrepresented, PIQCTs bring crucial insights for sustainable land use.



Actors Involved

The core partnership for PlanBio includes:

Government Agencies: SEMAS, SECTET, and SEDAP oversee regulatory frameworks and policy alignment.

Private Sector: Companies like Natura and Bank of Brazil provide investment and technical support.

International Organizations: TNC, IDB, and the European Commission offer financial and strategic resources.

PIQCTs: Indigenous, Quilombola, and Traditional Communities contribute essential local expertise for resource management.

Partnership Formation

Initiated by the state government in 2021 with support from the EU and TNC, PlanBio formalized as a framework to guide sustainable bioeconomic development. Initial funding and strategic backing from IDB and Natura helped establish a robust platform for biodiversity conservation and low-carbon economic growth.

Governance Model

PlanBio's governance is led by Pará's state government with input from various councils and committees, such as the State Committee for Climate Change Management (COGES Clima). This collaborative governance model ensures adaptive decision-making and alignment across sectors and community representatives.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

PlanBio's financing combines government allocations, private investment, and international grants from organizations like IDB and BNDES to support bio-businesses and sustainable production chains. Philanthropic funding from the EU, TNC, and other organizations helps de-risk early bioeconomy projects, supporting capacity-building initiatives for PIQCTs and enabling further investment. PlanBio's financial model prioritizes long-term sustainability by diversifying revenue through eco-businesses and tailored financing solutions, reducing dependency on temporary funding.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

The strategy employs blended finance through the Eastern Amazon Fund, credit lines like Banpará-Bio, and a guarantee fund (FGPPIB) to de-risk lending. These financial instruments support sustainable business ventures while exploring Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) to link conservation with economic incentives.



Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

Key actions include developing bio-based products like açai and Brazil nuts, providing technical support to PIQCTs, and expanding market access for bioproducts. PlanBio's initiatives align with goals for economic resilience and forest conservation. Significant milestones include establishing the Eastern Amazon Fund in 2021 and the Banpará-Bio financing line to support sustainable rural producers, setting the stage for full bioeconomic activity deployment.

Challenges and Adjustments

The partnership adapted financing models and engagement strategies to overcome resource allocation and community collaboration challenges and ensure effective implementation.

Results and Impact

The Bioeconomy State Strategy of Pará (PlanBio) has achieved significant outcomes that illustrate its impact on environmental conservation, economic development, and social equity. Key measurable outcomes include:

Environmental Impact: The strategy has facilitated the expansion of protected areas by over 20%, contributing to enhanced biodiversity conservation and increased carbon storage capacity.

Economic Growth: PlanBio has supported the establishment of more than 150 bio-businesses, leading to the creation of approximately 1,200 green jobs within local communities, with rural households experiencing a 30% increase in average income from bioeconomy activities.



Community Empowerment: Over 200 PIQCTs have been engaged in the decision-making processes, ensuring their traditional knowledge is integrated into resource management and sustainability practices.

Funding and Investment: The partnership has attracted over \$5 million in investment through innovative financing mechanisms, effectively leveraging both public and private funds to support sustainable production chains.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

PlanBio's model is replicable for other Amazonian and tropical forest administrative regions, with robust financial models and community engagement as foundations for success.

Key Factors for Scalability

PlanBio's scalability is supported by strong partnerships with policy and implementing partners, effective inclusion of traditional knowledge, financial innovation, and a governance model responsive to local needs.



The Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests, and Agriculture

Strategic approaches are essential for maximizing the impact of MSPs. The six strategies outlined here highlight the importance of involving diverse stakeholders in the partnership based on their knowledge and expertise, and working in a way that enables collaborations to drive policy reform and innovative financing to tackle systemic challenges while fostering inclusivity and sustainability.

Executive Summary

The Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests, and Agriculture is a collaborative multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) established to advance sustainable land use and low-carbon agriculture in Brazil. Formed in 2014, the Coalition unites diverse stakeholders, including agribusiness, environmental NGOs, research institutions, and government representatives. Its primary objective is to influence public policy, improve environmental and agricultural practices, and foster sustainable economic growth within Brazil's agricultural and forest sectors. This partnership highlights how broad cross-sector alliances can drive systemic change in one of the world's most critical regions for climate and biodiversity.

Background & Context

Brazil, home to vast rainforests and diverse ecosystems, faces the challenge of balancing economic growth with environmental preservation. Agriculture and forestry are vital economic sectors but also significant contributors to deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. The Coalition was formed to encourage systemic change and establish Brazil as a leader in sustainable agriculture and climate policy, promoting low-carbon practices, reforestation, and deforestation reduction policies that align with global sustainability targets.

Partnership Overview

Challenges and Gaps Addressed

Brazil's agricultural practices and deforestation have significant impacts on the environment. The Coalition tackles these issues by advocating for sustainable agricultural practices, forest conservation, and policies that support climate action.

Actors Involved

Members: The Coalition comprises over 400 representatives, including:

- **Companies:** Suzano, Marfrig, UBS Brasil, Vale, Natura & Co, Cargill, Klabin, and Itaú Unibanco.
- **NGOs:** WWF Brasil, Conservation International, Amazon Environmental Research Institute (IPAM), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Solidaridad Brasil Foundation.
- **Business Associations:** Abiec (Brazilian Beef Exporters Association), Ibá (Brazilian Tree Industry), and Abag (Brazilian Agribusiness Association).

Additional Organizations: Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests and Agriculture, BVRio, Diálogo Florestal, FGV Agro, Fauna Projetos, Climate Policy Initiative (CPI PUC-Rio), World Business Council for Sustainable Development (Cebds), Arapyaú Institute, Institute for Democracy and Sustainability (IDS), Chatham House, MyCarbon, Imaflora, WRI Brasil, Imazon, and Idesam.

Partnership Formation

The Coalition was created in 2014 to build consensus around Brazil's environmental and agricultural challenges. Its formation was led by visionary leaders from multiple sectors who recognized the importance of unified action for sustainability.

Governance Model

Strategic Group (GE): Highest decision-making body, sets direction, approves statements.

Executive Group (GX): Monitors actions, and validates proposals from Task Forces (TFs) and Dialogue Forums.

Executive Coordination: Manages day-to-day operations, coordinates between bodies, and handles finances.

Task Forces & Dialogue Forums: Focus on specific areas, and develop proposals for approval.

"Godfathers"/"Godmothers": Provide support to TFs.

Decision-Making: Based on consensus, final approval by GE, and operational decisions by GX.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

The Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests, and Agriculture is funded through a diverse array of sources, including the Amazon Fund, which plays a critical role in financing projects aimed at combating deforestation in the Amazon. The partnership operation is also funded by member fees, contributing to its operational sustainability. Philanthropic contributions are vital, with organizations like the Bezos Earth Fund providing early-stage funding that supports initiatives such as research programs on silviculture of native species. Additionally, the Coalition fosters in-kind contributions from non-financial partners, which enhance its resource base. To ensure long-term sustainability, the Coalition actively seeks new partnerships and additional funding sources, advocating for the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria in rural credit to align private investments with sustainability goals and leveraging international climate finance mechanisms such as REDD+.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

The Coalition employs several innovative finance mechanisms to enhance its funding landscape. One prominent approach is impact investing, which focuses on attracting capital that generates positive social and environmental impacts alongside financial returns. Additionally, the Coalition promotes market-based financial instruments like carbon pricing, payments for ecosystem services, and green bonds, advocating for their broader adoption within Brazil's financial system. By highlighting the economic benefits of sustainable land use, the Coalition aims to mobilize private investment and facilitate access to new financial resources for its initiatives.

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

Advocacy and Policy Influence: The Coalition has successfully influenced policies for sustainable agriculture, deforestation reduction, and climate action, including recommendations for Brazil's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building: Through workshops, forums, and publications, the Coalition disseminates best practices in sustainable land use, providing resources and tools for farmers, policymakers, and industry leaders.

On-the-Ground Programs: The Coalition supports pilot projects demonstrating low-carbon farming, reforestation, and biodiversity conservation efforts to showcase the feasibility of sustainable models.

Challenges and Adjustments

The Coalition navigates challenges like balancing diverse member interests, achieving consensus on sensitive issues, and adapting governance. Strategic adjustments include restructuring task forces and enhancing stakeholder engagement, ensuring inclusivity, and maintaining leadership in its mandate.

Results & Impact

The Brazilian Coalition on Climate, Forests, and Agriculture has achieved significant measurable outcomes since its inception. The Coalition has successfully mapped over 1,200 businesses engaged in sustainable practices across various sectors, facilitating the integration of sustainable land use practices. Additionally, the partnership has influenced policy changes that prioritize low-carbon agriculture in Brazil's Safra Plan, directly contributing to emissions reductions. Through its initiatives, the Coalition has enhanced awareness and engagement in sustainable practices among stakeholders, thus creating a collective impact that extends beyond what individual efforts could achieve. The collaboration fosters shared learning, resource pooling, and unified advocacy, amplifying the effectiveness of environmental and agricultural policies across Brazil.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

Opportunities for scaling include promoting sustainable land-use practices in the Amazon Basin, expanding into the Atlantic Forest region, and advocating for regional cooperation in climate finance and policy frameworks that prioritize sustainability.

Key Factors for Scalability

Strong Network: A diverse coalition of decision-makers from various sectors, including government, private industry, and civil society.

Data-Driven Approach: Utilization of robust data and metrics to inform decision-making and track progress effectively.

Policy Influence: Successful advocacy for policy changes that align financial incentives with sustainability goals.

Operational Sufficiency: Operational working groups have the autonomy to work according to mandate, detached from higher-level broader negotiations between partners.

4 Latin American Water Funds Partnership

Executive Summary

The Latin American Water Funds Partnership (LAWFP) is a strategic multi-sector collaboration focused on enhancing water security across LAC through watershed conservation. By establishing and supporting over 40 Water Funds, LAWFP connects downstream water users with upstream conservation initiatives that protect essential watersheds, improve water quality, and increase resilience to climate change. Key stakeholders, including The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), FEMSA Foundation, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), work together with local governments and society to leverage blended finance and governance expertise to ensure long-term impact. LAWFP's innovative finance approach has raised \$7 million, benefiting over 14 million people with sustainable water management solutions.

Background & Context

Latin America faces increasing water scarcity due to urbanization, pollution, and climate change, threatening water quality and availability for millions. The region's watersheds are essential to providing clean water for drinking, agriculture, and industry, yet suffer from degradation due to deforestation, soil erosion, and unsustainable land use. LAWFP was established to tackle these interlinked challenges by creating a sustainable model that prioritizes watershed conservation and supports water security in urban centers.

Partnership Overview

Challenges and Gaps Addressed

LAWFP focuses on key issues:

Environmental degradation: Watershed degradation through deforestation, pollution, and soil erosion.

Water scarcity: Growing urban demands and climate impacts reduce water availability.

Funding and coordination: Limited long-term funding and fragmented conservation efforts hinder effective water management.

Actors Involved

LAWFP is a collaboration between:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): Leads conservation and Water Fund creation.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Provides financial support and policy alignment.

FEMSA Foundation: Invests in community engagement and capacity-building.

Global Environment Facility (GEF): Supports scalable environmental solutions across watersheds.

Partnership Formation

LAWFP was established to enhance regional water security by uniting public and private partners for coordinated watershed conservation. The initiative began by identifying water challenges in Latin American cities, leading key stakeholders and initiatives to convene and continue working together on a wider level. This collaboration secured initial funding and established a formal governance structure, ensuring shared ownership and effective decision-making among all parties involved.

Governance Model

LAWFP operates through a steering committee that guides the partnership's strategic direction, while TNC coordinates Water Fund implementation across regions in collaboration with local partners. Governance is collaborative, with regular consultations ensuring alignment across stakeholders.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

LAWFP employs a blended finance approach, combining funding from IDB, GEF, and private and philanthropic investments. Each Water Fund's revenue comes from a mix of public and private contributions, securing long-term support for watershed conservation. Philanthropy from the FEMSA Foundation and GEF helps initiate and sustain early-stage projects, catalyzing additional funding by reducing financial risk and demonstrating feasibility. LAWFP's financial strategy emphasizes long-term funding and self-sustaining revenue models, using ecosystem service payments that link water user fees to conservation actions.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

LAWFP uses green bonds, impact investments, and ecosystem service payments to sustain Water Fund financing. By blending public and philanthropic funds, LAWFP reduces investment risks, attracting private capital for water security.

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

LAWFP's primary actions include watershed reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and wetland restoration, improving water quality and ecosystem resilience in critical watersheds. LAWFP developed a five-phase Water Fund model—feasibility, design, establishment, consolidation, and maturity—to ensure each fund achieves both financial and operational stability.

Challenges and Adjustments

Mid-term reviews and adaptive management allow LAWFP to refine strategies, enhance stakeholder engagement and improve financial models as conditions change.

Results and Impact

LAWFP has conserved over 5,570 hectares of watershed areas, securing more than 520 water sources and improving water quality for local communities. LAWFP's adaptable Water Fund model provides a framework for sustainable growth at the local and regional level, expanding to new regions and enhancing resilience to climate impacts across Latin America. By leveraging multi-sector expertise and financial resources, LAWFP delivers results that exceed what individual organizations could achieve, significantly improving water security efforts, and further scaling its reach at the regional level.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

LAWFP's approach is replicable in other water-stressed regions, with the potential for future expansion focused on sustainable financing, watershed protection, and ecosystem-based adaptation.

Key Factors for Scalability

Key drivers of LAWFP's scalability include robust partnerships, blended finance mechanisms, and a flexible governance model that enables effective, regionally tailored conservation strategies for multilevel sustainable resource management.

5

Pan-Amazon Network for Bioeconomy

Executive Summary

The Pan-Amazon Network for Bioeconomy is a multisectoral partnership designed to foster a sustainable, locally-led bioeconomy across the Amazon region. By engaging Indigenous and traditional communities, NGOs, governments, and private investors, the Network seeks to promote economic activities that preserve the Amazon's biodiversity and improve livelihoods. Supported by funders, the Network has organized task forces around critical areas, including finance, market access, and policy, with the goal of creating a thriving bioeconomy by 2035. Early initiatives, such as the "Call to Action," include 31 proposals targeting ecosystem conservation and sustainable economic growth.

Background & Context

The Amazon rainforest, essential for global climate regulation and rich in biodiversity, faces escalating deforestation driven by resource extraction, agriculture, and high opportunity costs of land use. These pressures threaten regional ecosystems, traditional ways of life, and the well-being of over 47 million people, including Indigenous and traditional communities. The Pan-Amazon Network for Bioeconomy arose as a response to the need for an economic model that sustains Amazonian ecosystems while providing sustainable economic alternatives for local communities. The Network's framework positions a diversified bioeconomy as essential for preserving the Amazon while fostering socio-economic resilience across nine countries.

Partnership Overview

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

The Network addresses several critical gaps in the Amazon bioeconomy, including fragmented conservation funding, inconsistent policy support, limited financial access for bioeconomic ventures, and the need for locally led market integration.

Actors Involved

Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Development: Conservation International (CI), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Resources Institute (WRI), Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia (IPAM), Fundación EcoCiencia

Indigenous Rights and Representation: COICA (Coordinator of Indigenous Organizations of the Amazon Basin), Andi Wayusa

Impact Investing and Finance: Latin American Impact Investing Network (Latimpecto), NESsT, Amazon Investor Coalition, NatureFinance, Impact Not a Bank

Research and Knowledge Management: Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA), Instituto Amazônico de Pesquisas Científicas (SINCHI), UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Development and Cooperation: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), World Bank Group

Other Relevant Organisations: Agrosolidaria, Aynimala, Partnership for Forests, Associação de Negócios de Sociobioeconomia da Amazônia (ASSOAB), Fundación Avina, Uma Concertação pela Amazônia, Conexsus, Global Youth Biodiversity Network, Instituto Igarapé, Reos Partners, Amazon Business Alliance, Tucum, Fundación Pachamama, Assobio, Instituto Clima e Sociedade

Philanthropic Organisations: Bezos Earth Fund

Intergovernmental Body: Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO/OTCA)

Partnership Formation

The Network was catalyzed by the Panamazonian Conference for Bioeconomy held in Belém in June 2023. This event brought together over 300 stakeholders, leading to a “Call to Action” that formalized the Network.

Governance Model:

The governance structure includes a Secretariat for day-to-day operations, a Steering Committee for strategic oversight, and specialized task forces focusing on advancing core bioeconomic goals.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

Funding to date primarily comes from supporting partners who contribute financially but remain less involved in strategic design decisions, notably philanthropic support from the Bezos Earth Fund. This structure maintains a clear focus on grassroots organizations, with guidelines requiring most incoming funds to support implementation efforts, particularly at the implementation level. Achieving long-term financial sustainability depends on diversifying funding sources, including membership contributions and impact investments. The Network plans to showcase successful bioeconomic projects to attract further investment.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

The Network explores blended finance models and impact investment to fund bioeconomy initiatives, aiming to mobilize both public and private capital.

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

Initial actions include the creation of five task forces addressing finance, market access, knowledge management, policy advocacy, and capacity building. The Network also produced a foundational “Call to Action” with 31 bioeconomy proposals.

Challenges & Adjustments

Key challenges include aligning diverse stakeholders and securing long-term funding, though initial philanthropic backing has supported early activities.

Results & Impact

The Network's work is still in the early stages, but aligning stakeholders on bioeconomy practices is creating foundational conservation frameworks. Long-term success relies on demonstrating tangible bioeconomic benefits, which will be essential for sustaining and scaling the partnership's efforts. The Network's collaborative model amplifies individual efforts through pooled resources and expertise, achieving greater impact than isolated initiatives.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

The Network's collaborative model is adaptable to other biomes facing similar environmental and socio-economic challenges.

Key Factors for Scalability

Success factors include strong stakeholder collaboration, knowledge sharing, and financial innovation.



Tropical Forest Alliance Colombia:

6 Zero Deforestation Agreements

Executive Summary

The Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) Colombia is a multi-stakeholder partnership designed to eliminate deforestation from critical agricultural supply chains in Colombia. This partnership, initiated by the World Economic Forum (WEF) in collaboration with the Colombian government, aims to reduce environmental degradation, improve supply chain traceability, and promote sustainable agricultural practices across sectors like beef, dairy, palm oil, and cocoa. Through voluntary zero-deforestation agreements, TFA Colombia unites key players, including government agencies, industry associations, private sector actors, and NGOs, to work toward shared sustainability goals. The partnership's unique governance structure and innovative financing mechanisms enable better coordination and resource allocation, while setting a foundation for long-term impacts on Colombia's forests.

Background & Context

Colombia is among the most biodiverse nations in the world, but it faces intense deforestation pressures due to agricultural expansion, illegal logging, land tenure issues, and the impacts of climate change. In regions like the Amazon and Orinoquía, deforestation not only endangers local biodiversity but also disrupts water cycles, carbon storage, and climate regulation. Recognizing that piecemeal solutions were inadequate, Colombia joined TFA as the first Latin American country to implement this global partnership model. The alliance seeks to create a zero-deforestation supply chain by aligning the interests of various stakeholders, from policymakers and industry leaders to NGOs and indigenous communities.

Partnership Overview

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

TFA Colombia addresses multiple challenges:

- Lack of a unified deforestation monitoring and traceability system.
- Financial barriers to adopting sustainable practices among producers.
- A need for stronger cross-sectoral coordination and policy alignment.

Actors Involved

The TFA partnership includes a wide range of stakeholders:

Government: Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, regional and local agencies.

Private Sector: Over 150 companies in key agricultural sectors, including industry leaders like Grupo Éxito and Unilever.

NGOs: WWF, Solidaridad, Proforest, and others that provide technical expertise and facilitate on-the-ground implementation.

Philanthropy & International Organizations: World Bank, BioCarbon Fund, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and others that support capacity building and pilot initiatives.

Partnership Formation

Colombia joined TFA in 2017, marking its commitment to a zero-deforestation agenda and leveraging TFA's international platform to coordinate local efforts. The alliance capitalizes on WEF's influence and the engagement of local industrial associations, creating a neutral space where diverse actors can collaborate on sustainable goals.

Governance Model

The partnership operates under a multi-stakeholder governance framework with a steering committee comprising representatives from all sectors. Each commodity agreement (e.g., palm oil, beef) has its own technical secretariat and working groups to oversee annual action plans, ensuring that decisions are guided by a consensus-driven, transparent process.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

TFA Colombia leverages a blend of public, private, and philanthropic funds to facilitate the adoption of sustainable practices. Key donor organizations, such as the World Bank and BioCarbon Fund, play critical roles by financing pilot projects and providing technical assistance that supports zero-deforestation efforts. Additionally, these contributions help de-risk investments, making it easier for smallholders and local businesses to implement sustainable practices. The partnership actively seeks to establish a sustainable funding framework through continuous engagement with donors and the private sector, ultimately aiming to create a self-sustaining model to uphold zero-deforestation commitments beyond initial support.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

The partnership explores various innovative financing approaches to enhance financial sustainability. This includes the potential use of crowdfunding and other impact investing strategies to attract private capital for environmental initiatives. By integrating these financial innovations with traditional funding sources, TFA Colombia aims to diversify its funding landscape and bolster the financial viability of its programs.

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

Zero-Deforestation Agreements: National agreements covering major agricultural sectors have been signed, setting clear commitments for sustainable production.

Pilot Projects: Several pilot projects test traceability systems and showcase sustainable production, such as Grupo Éxito's partnership with GANSO for sustainable livestock.

Monitoring Tools: A deforestation monitoring tool was developed with partners like Climate Focus and Solidaridad, enhancing transparency and accountability within the supply chain.

Challenges and Adjustments

The partnership has encountered difficulties in achieving comprehensive supply chain traceability and integrating human rights into agreements. Capacity building for companies remains a priority to ensure that they can meet zero-deforestation commitments.

Results and Impact

Through zero-deforestation agreements and pilot projects, TFA Colombia contributes to reducing deforestation rates and conserving vital ecosystems, particularly in vulnerable regions like the Orinoquía. The sustainability of TFA Colombia depends on continued stakeholder collaboration and securing sustainable financing to support deforestation-free practices across supply chains. TFA Colombia facilitates collaboration and resource sharing, leading to more robust outcomes than individual efforts could achieve. The alliance enhances market incentives for sustainable production by connecting producers with companies committed to deforestation-free supply chains. Additionally, it promotes systemic change by fostering a collective commitment to sustainability across the agricultural sector.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

The TFA model can be adapted to other ecosystems and regions facing similar deforestation pressures. Colombia's experiences offer valuable insights for replicating zero-deforestation agreements in other Latin American countries.

Key Factors for Scalability

Government Commitment: Supportive policies and government participation are essential for establishing a zero-deforestation framework.

Active Industry Involvement: Engagement from industry leaders drives demand for sustainable practices.

NGO Participation: NGOs provide technical assistance and local expertise, bridging the gap between producers and policymakers.

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Coffee Alliance For Excellence

Executive Summary

The Coffee Alliance for Excellence (CAFE) is a multi-stakeholder initiative in Peru aimed at integrating smallholder coffee farmers into sustainable, climate-friendly, high-value markets while reducing coca cultivation and improving rural livelihoods. Launched in 2017 and primarily funded by USAID, with additional support from private sector partners and financial institutions, CAFE addresses social, economic, and environmental challenges within the coffee sector in Peru's Amazon region. The initiative demonstrates a replicable model for rural economic development through sustainable agriculture and has empowered 8,300 coffee-producing families with training, financial access, and market linkages.

Background & Context

The partnership operates in San Martín, Huánuco, and Ucayali in Peru, where coca cultivation poses economic and social challenges. Farmers in these regions face low agricultural productivity, market isolation, and limited access to finance. The project aims to provide an alternative livelihood to coca cultivation by equipping farmers with the resources and knowledge needed to transition to profitable, climate-friendly, sustainable coffee production.

Partnership Overview

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

Low Coffee Productivity & Quality: Limited access to training and improved inputs.

Market Access: Dependence on intermediaries reduced profits.

Financial Inclusion: Farmers lacked financing options tailored to agriculture.

Environmental Concerns: Deforestation and soil degradation due to traditional farming.

Gender Inequality: Women had limited access to resources and decision-making.

Actors Involved

Implementing Partner: TechnoServe, known for expertise in value chains and agricultural development.

Funding Partner: USAID provided the majority of funding.

Private Sector Partners: JDE, Peet's Coffee, and Starbucks supported market access and technical expertise.

Financial Institutions: Collaborated with Caja Rural Los Andes and COFIDE to tailor financial products for farmers.

Peruvian Government Agencies: DEVIDA supported coca eradication efforts, and PROMPERÚ promoted Peruvian coffee internationally.

Partnership Formation

USAID and TechnoServe initiated the partnership to address the complex challenges of Peru's coffee sector by creating a sustainable and inclusive model. Private sector companies saw an opportunity to secure high-quality coffee while supporting positive social and environmental outcomes, while the Peruvian government and USAID aligned on reducing coca cultivation.

Governance Model

The partnership fosters collaboration among partners, including farmers, TechnoServe, USAID, private sector players, and government agencies. A steering committee facilitates decision-making, ensuring that the perspectives of smallholder farmers and producer organizations are integrated into project activities. This model emphasises transparency and accountability through regular reporting and feedback while also investing in capacity-building for producer organizations to enhance self-governance and empower communities, ultimately supporting the initiative's sustainability and impact.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

The Coffee Alliance for Excellence is primarily funded by USAID, with additional support from private sector partners, including contributions from Jacob Douwe Egberts, Peet's Coffee, and others. Philanthropic support, particularly from the Starbucks Foundation, has enabled the gender focus, enhancing women's leadership and decision-making within farming communities. This early-stage funding was critical for developing training programs and fostering market connections for coffee farmers. To ensure long-term sustainability, the partnership focused on encouraging new partnerships and additional funding sources to bolster its complementary initiatives.

USAID: Contributed \$11.2 million, complemented by \$1.7 million from private sector partners.

Blended Finance: Combined public funds with private investment, attracting additional capital to support sustainable production.

Financial Mechanisms: Introduced UNICAs (community savings and loan groups) and mobilized \$34 million from public and private sources, fostering local financial inclusion.

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

Coffee Farm College: Trained farmers in best practices for quality and sustainable production.

Market Access: Linked farmers directly to buyers such as Olam and Starbucks, helping secure premium prices.

Environmental Impact: Implemented agroforestry systems and reduced carbon emissions through improved farming techniques.

Gender Inclusion: Empowered women in decision-making and leadership roles within farming communities.

Challenges and Adjustments

The initiative overcame strategic challenges such as financial instability from key partner withdrawals, COVID-19 restrictions on group training, and limited access to financial services. Key adaptations included revising performance targets, shifting to remote support, prioritizing women's participation, piloting green finance, and promoting regenerative agriculture. The project strategically focused on sustainability, youth engagement, and strengthening local institutions, ensuring long-term, inclusive growth in the coffee value chain.

Results & Impact

Income Increase: Farmers' incomes rose by 206% through increased yields and premium prices.

Productivity Gains: Yields improved by 81% due to adopting best practices.

Environmental Benefits: Adopting sustainable practices helped conserve biodiversity and reduced deforestation.

Financial Inclusion: Mobilized over \$24 million in financial services and established 38 UNICAs, providing accessible financing to farmers.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

CAFE's model offers scalability across similar rural areas, emphasizing strong partnerships, adaptable training, and institutional strengthening. Its sustainable practices and financial mechanisms can be applied to other regions facing challenges in productivity, market access, and environmental degradation.

Key Factors for Scalability

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships:

CAFE's collaborative approach mobilizes resources, expertise, and commitment across sectors.

Documented Learning:

CAFE's documented best practices facilitate knowledge transfer.

Adaptable Model:

Flexible implementation strategies have enabled responsiveness to regional challenges.

8 Initiative 20x20

Executive Summary

Initiative 20x20 is a Latin American and Caribbean partnership launched at COP 20 in Lima, in 2014, to restore 50 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. By combining reforestation, agroforestry, and sustainable land use practices, the initiative addresses climate resilience, biodiversity, and economic development in vulnerable landscapes. With \$2.5 billion secured from private impact investors, over 100 projects have been implemented, focusing on climate action, water security, and livelihoods. This Multi-Stakeholder approach leverages political will, private finance, and local engagement to create transformative regional impact.

Background & Context

Land degradation in LAC affects 650 million hectares, impacting climate, biodiversity, and community welfare. Roughly 58% of greenhouse gas emissions in the region stem from land use and deforestation, underscoring the urgent need for restoration. Initiative 20x20 aligns with the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests, providing a coordinated framework to counteract land degradation in a region crucial to global biodiversity. While governments prioritize emission reductions, private investors seek returns through sustainable ventures, and local communities pursue improved livelihoods and resource preservation. Initiative 20x20 unites these interests under a shared goal.

Partnership Overview

Challenges and Gaps Addressed

Initiative 20x20 confronts financial barriers to restoration, inadequate local capacity, and policy bottlenecks that obstruct effective restoration.

Actors Involved

Countries: 18 LAC governments committed to land restoration.

Technical Partners: Over 95 institutions, including the World Resources Institute (WRI, Secretariat), CIAT, CATIE, and IUCN.

Financial Partners: 25 impact investors, such as Althelia Climate Fund, Moringa, and Permian Global, providing funding.

Task Forces: Working groups focus on best practices, biodiversity, carbon markets, and policy.

Partnership Formation

Established at COP 20 to address regional land degradation, Initiative 20x20 facilitates collaboration among governments, civil society, and the private sector to mobilize resources and align goals.

Governance Model

WRI acts as the Secretariat, coordinating annual meetings and task forces that guide technical, financial, and policy initiatives to ensure progress and adaptive management.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

Initiative 20x20 combines public and private investments, philanthropic contributions, and innovative financing. It secured \$2.5 billion in impact investment to support scalable restoration projects, supplemented by a proposed financial architecture with risk mitigation tools like guarantee instruments. Philanthropic capital supports research, capacity building, and policy frameworks, with significant contributions from organizations like WRI, facilitating coordination and knowledge sharing.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

Includes impact investing, debt finance, guarantees, green bonds, and payment for ecosystem services (PES).

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

National Commitments: 18 LAC governments committed to land restoration.

Investor Roundtables: Engaging investors to support restoration projects.

Land Accelerator: Training entrepreneurs in restoration.

Restoration Policy Accelerator: Assisting governments in policy reform.

Challenges and Adjustments

- Scaling from national commitments to actionable restoration.
- Attracting private investment and ensuring alignment with sustainability goals.
- Addressing policy barriers and establishing effective monitoring.

Results & Impact

- Over 100 restoration projects launched, restoring 50 million hectares by 2020.
- Climate mitigation by reducing emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration.
- Biodiversity conservation by creating habitats and ecosystem services.

Unites stakeholders across sectors, mobilizes finance, and fosters regional cooperation, creating a stronger collective impact than individual efforts.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

Initiative 20x20's framework can expand to other regions facing similar challenges. Key components—multi-stakeholder partnerships, innovative finance, and capacity building—make it adaptable globally.

Key Factors for Scalability

- Strong political leadership and stakeholder commitment.
- Effective multi-sector partnerships and technical knowledge exchange.
- Innovative financial models that attract private investment.
- Local capacity building for sustained impact and ownership.
- Robust monitoring and knowledge sharing to refine strategies.

Executive Summary



This partnership uses a comprehensive Multi-Stakeholder approach to improve economic resilience and climate adaptation for small-scale producers in Colombia's Catatumbo region. By strengthening agricultural value chains, it supports crop substitution, aligning peacebuilding with sustainable development. Key initiatives include a parametric insurance scheme to mitigate climate-related risks, a fair-trade marketing strategy to improve market access, and organizational support for COOSOCATA as a producer cooperative. Leveraging blended finance and government subsidies, the project tackles financial vulnerabilities and enhances resilience among vulnerable communities, addressing interconnected issues of security, economic stability, and climate resilience through an integrated collaboration.

Background & Context



The Catatumbo region of Colombia is highly vulnerable to climate challenges, particularly excessive rainfall and drought, which threaten agricultural production and the livelihoods of small-scale producers. The region's complex socio-environmental context, characterized by armed conflict, poverty, and illicit crop cultivation, has hindered sustainable development efforts. This partnership addresses the urgent need to support climate resilience and provide sustainable alternatives to illicit activities, recognizing the direct impact of climate variability on economic stability for small-scale farmers.

UNODC mobilized the partnership to bolster peace-building initiatives in Colombia, while Blue Marble Micro Limited contributes expertise in parametric insurance solutions. COOSOCATA, representing grassroots producers, aims to enhance market access and build resilience to climate risks.

Partnership Overview

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

- Financial vulnerability and climate risks impacting small-scale producers.
- Limited market access and low business capacity for local producers.
- Need for capacity building in climate adaptation and fair-trade practices.

Actors Involved

UNODC: A UN agency committed to combating drugs and crime while promoting sustainable development.

Blue Marble Micro Limited: A private firm specializing in parametric insurance solutions for vulnerable communities.

COOSOCATA: A cooperative representing 17 grassroots organizations of small-scale producers across seven municipalities.

FINAGRO: The Colombian government's agricultural financing fund, providing insurance subsidies.

National Learning Service (SENA), Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA), Agricultural Development Agency (ADR), and local government bodies also contribute technically and in coordination to the initiative.

Partnership Formation

The partnership was initiated by UNODC, leveraging previous support for COOSOCATA to foster a collaborative approach. It bridges gaps in the existing support system by providing affordable insurance, technical assistance, fair-trade marketing, and innovative climate risk management tools.

Governance Model

A collaborative governance structure involves a National Steering Committee and various technical committees, ensuring participatory decision-making and effective cross-sector collaboration.



Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

The COOSOCATA partnership is funded through key philanthropic and institutional sources, with primary contributions from the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund, whose early-stage funding enabled the development of parametric insurance and market access strategies for COOSOCATA. To ensure long-term impact, the partnership is actively pursuing new funding partnerships and establishing a revolving fund to reinforce COOSOCATA's resilience and operational capacity. The project operates with a total budget of USD 600,000, with funding contributions from:

UN MPTF: USD 400,000 for core project implementation.

UNODC: USD 200,000 in additional funding and technical support.

Blue Marble: Mobilizes resources and secures reinsurance.

FINAGRO: Provides subsidies via the Incentivo al Seguro Agropecuario (ISA) program.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

The partnership employs blended finance, combining public funds with private investment to develop parametric insurance schemes that reduce financial risks for producers. The insurance product is designed to provide timely payouts based on predefined weather parameters, ensuring prompt financial support to affected farmers.

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

Parametric Insurance: Designing a comprehensive insurance program to protect up to 1,000 farmers from climatic risks. This involves data collection, climate modeling, and mobilization of reinsurance resources.

Marketing and Commercialization: Supporting COOSOCATA in developing a marketing strategy that prioritizes demand-driven production, strengthening business capacities, and establishing commercial agreements.

Capacity Building: Enhancing the technical, business, and commercial skills of producers through targeted training programs and promoting gender equality within the community.



Results and Impact



The insurance scheme enhances climate resilience for producers, promoting sustainable agricultural practices that benefit biodiversity and support long-term environmental sustainability. This encourages sustainable agricultural practices, reducing illicit, informal and extractive activities that drive deforestation and unsustainable natural resource use.

The integrated approach creates additional value by combining diverse interventions, promoting collaboration among stakeholders, and strengthening COOSOCATA's business model. The participatory governance structure fosters ownership and sustainability of the initiatives. The partnership's sustainability hinges on enhancing COOSOCATA's revenue-generating capabilities, fostering collaborative relationships, and maintaining a revolving fund for ongoing support.

Scalability & Growth Potential



Potential for Expansion

Key elements contributing to scalability include strong partnerships, context-specific solutions, capacity building, access to diverse funding sources, data-driven approaches, and robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

This model shows promise for adaptation in other regions facing similar socio-economic and climate challenges. The parametric insurance scheme, in particular, can be customized for various crops and contexts, supporting local economic development and climate resilience.

Key Factors for Scalability

- Strong partnerships and context-specific solutions.
- Capacity-building initiatives and access to diverse funding sources.
- Data-driven approaches and a robust monitoring and evaluation framework.

Regenerative Food Business Consortium (NAR)

Executive Summary

The Regenerative Food Business Consortium (NAR, by its initials in Spanish) is a Multi-Stakeholder partnership focused on promoting regenerative food businesses in Latin America, particularly within the Amazon and the Central American Dry Corridor. Initiated in 2022 by Fundación AVINA with support from IDRC Canada, the consortium aims to support businesses transitioning to regenerative practices that benefit ecosystems and local communities. With over 150 regenerative food businesses mapped, NAR has developed a shared definition for these businesses, established a digital knowledge-sharing platform (Regenerativo.org), and designed tailored financial and non-financial support tools. These efforts collectively foster an enabling ecosystem that drives the sustainable growth of regenerative practices across Latin America.

Background & Context

The Andes-Amazon region and Central American Dry Corridor are biodiversity hotspots facing severe threats from deforestation, wildfires, and climate change, which directly impact food security and local livelihoods. Operating within these fragile ecosystems, the NAR Consortium supports regenerative businesses that promote ecosystem conservation, climate resilience, and sustainable economic development, helping safeguard biodiversity and enhance the resilience of resource-dependent communities.

The Regenerative Food Business Consortium stems from the urgent need to address Latin America's social, environmental, and economic challenges, particularly the climate crisis and inequities in food systems. The partnership believes that regenerative agriculture offers a pathway to a more sustainable and equitable food future for the region. By working together, the partners aim to create a thriving ecosystem of regenerative food businesses supported by strong policies, robust financial mechanisms, and a vibrant community of practice.

Partnership Overview

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

Lack of Data and Evidence: Limited information on the financial viability and socio-environmental benefits of regenerative food businesses.

Access to Finance: Early-stage businesses often face challenges in securing funding, especially for implementing regenerative practices.

Technical Assistance and Capacity Building: Support for adopting regenerative practices and sustainable business models is needed.

Policy Gaps: Lack of policies that explicitly promote and support regenerative food systems.

Actors Involved

IDRC Canada: IDRC Canada provides financial support and promotes research for sustainable development.

Fundación AVINA: Fundación AVINA leads the initiative, focusing on sustainable development and social justice.

SVX MX and SVX Colombia: contribute expertise in impact investing and financial mechanisms.

Private Sector: Includes over 150 mapped regenerative food businesses (NARs) across agriculture, agroforestry, and food processing sectors.

CATIE: contributes research, data collection, and analysis, representing a non-financial contribution.

Other consortium members: contribute expertise, resources, and networks, representing non-financial contributions.

Partnership Formation

Fundación AVINA and IDRC Canada initiated the NAR Consortium to map the ecosystem and address the growing need for sustainable food systems. Through collaborative research and complementary expertise, the consortium promotes regenerative practices that contribute to ecosystem restoration, community well-being, and resilient business models.

Governance Model

Fundación AVINA, as the partnership coordinating entity, outlines activities and facilitates collaborative decision-making. The consortium promotes a decentralized structure, empowering each partner to contribute according to their expertise and participate actively in shaping consortium initiatives.

Financial Structure & Innovation

Financial Structure & Funding

NAR is primarily funded through philanthropic contributions from IDRC Canada and Fundación AVINA, complemented by in-kind contributions from other partners. Philanthropic funding has been crucial for NAR, especially for initial mapping efforts, defining NAR standards, and launching the knowledge platform, as well as supporting capacity-building programs to assist businesses in transitioning to regenerative practices. To ensure long-term financial sustainability, the consortium is actively seeking partnerships to advance from initial research to investment-ready stages by 2024-2025, with building a robust community of practice being a key strategy for maintaining momentum.

Innovative Finance Mechanisms

SVX is exploring impact investing opportunities to attract private capital for regenerative businesses, aiming to achieve both financial returns and positive socio-environmental impacts.

Implementation & Actions Taken

Key Initiatives

Mapping and Characterization: Over 150 regenerative businesses were mapped, assessing their practices in conservation, community engagement, and integration with local economies.

Shared Definition Development: Established a unified Latin American definition of regenerative food businesses, involving diverse regional experts.

Knowledge-sharing Platform: Launched Regenerativo.org as a central hub for resources, learning, and community-building within the regenerative ecosystem.

Support Tools Design: Created financial and non-financial tools tailored to the needs of Latin American regenerative businesses.

Challenges and Adjustments

The Regenerative Food Business mapping project faced challenges, including limited data on business performance, policy gaps, and institutional capacity. Adjustments included broadening search criteria, prioritizing key attributes for selection, and developing a sustainability-based typology. The adjustments made to the methodology of work addressed data limitations and broadened the scope of the study, leading to a more comprehensive understanding of the RFB landscape in the regions.

Results and Impact

The NAR Consortium is strengthening the regenerative food ecosystem in Latin America, enhancing climate resilience and supporting biodiversity. It has empowered over 150 regenerative food businesses, fostering local livelihoods and supporting Indigenous and small-scale producers. Regenerative agriculture practices are expected to regenerate ecosystems, capture carbon, increase biodiversity, optimize resource use, and enhance food and water security. The partnership adds value by developing a shared understanding of Regenerative Food Businesses and creating a collaborative network for knowledge sharing and community building.

Scalability & Growth Potential

Potential for Expansion

The NAR model is adaptable and could expand to other Latin American countries or regions worldwide facing similar challenges related to climate change, biodiversity loss, and food security.

Key Factors for Scalability

Strong Network: A collaborative network of NGOs, research institutions, and investors.

Data-driven Approach: Evidence-based tools and metrics that support policy and investment decisions.

Community Engagement: The inclusion of local stakeholders and cultural insights is central to the implementation and sustainability of initiatives.



In-Depth Case Studies

Executive Summary

MAR+Invest is a strategic multi-stakeholder partnership to safeguard the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR) ecosystem through innovative finance, capacity-building, and sustainable economic models. Managed by the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund), this initiative blends conservation efforts with market-based solutions to foster a "blue economy" in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. MAR+Invest's key stakeholders include Sureste Sostenible, Healthy Reefs for Healthy People (HRHP), and the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR). In its initial phase, the initiative successfully supported over 30 businesses, implemented a blended finance mechanism and developed a framework for monitoring environmental impact.

Introduction & Background

Climate and Biodiversity Issue

The Mesoamerican Reef, one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems, is threatened by overfishing, pollution, unsustainable tourism, and the growing effects of climate change. Coral bleaching, ocean acidification, and habitat destruction directly affect biodiversity, livelihoods, and food security for millions in the region.

Context

The MAR spans four countries: Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras. Each nation relies heavily on the reef for economic activities such as tourism and fisheries, making reef degradation a critical issue for both environmental sustainability and local economies.

Gap in the Ecosystem

A lack of scalable, sustainable business models that align with conservation efforts, compounded by limited access to finance for local entrepreneurs, has perpetuated the over-exploitation of the reef's resources. MAR+Invest aims to fill this gap by promoting economic activities that benefit the environment and local communities.

Partnership Overview

Purpose

The MAR+Invest partnership seeks to unlock private capital for investment to protect and restore the Mesoamerican Reef. Its core mission is to develop scalable, financially sustainable models for marine conservation.

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

The partnership targets several pressing challenges:

Environmental threats: Coral bleaching, unsustainable fishing, and climate change.

Economic challenges: Local economies often rely on industries harmful to the reef, such as tourism and fishing.

Financial barriers: Limited access to capital for sustainable businesses.

Technical expertise gap: Need for investment banking expertise and capacity-building programs to strengthen the blue economy ecosystem.

Theory of Change

By leveraging blended finance mechanisms and building the ecosystem, MAR+Invest aims to reduce risks for investors and create long-term, reef-positive businesses that support the environment and local economies.

Underlying Interests & Drivers

Each partner brings distinct motivations:

- Conservation-focused NGOs (HRHP) emphasize biodiversity protection and restoration.
- Environmental (Funds Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and MARFund) want to scale up conservation initiatives through innovation.
- Financial actors (GFCR, Viwala) seek to de-risk investments and prove the viability of market-based conservation solutions.
- Local entrepreneurs want to balance sustainable growth with protecting their livelihoods.

Actors Involved and Contributions

MAR Fund: Central coordinator.

Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR): Major financial backer.

Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature/Sureste Sostenible, Viwalla & New Ventures: Oversee business acceleration.

Healthy Reefs for Healthy People (HRHP): Lead environmental impact assessments and strategy.

Formation & Development of the Partnership

Inception

The concept of MAR+Invest arose from ongoing conservation work by the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund). Before MAR+Invest was formalized, the MAR Fund and its national partners recognized that traditional conservation funding and isolated efforts were insufficient to address the scale and urgency of reef degradation. Early efforts included grant-making and small conservation initiatives, but gaps in financing, technical capacity, and regional collaboration highlighted the need for a more coordinated, resource-driven approach. The idea for a multi-stakeholder partnership (MSP) developed as MAR Fund explored innovative finance solutions and market-driven models to complement existing efforts.

Stakeholder Engagement

MAR+Invest engages diverse stakeholders for reef conservation through structured partnerships, targeted programs like Build & Connect and the Acceleration Program, and community-focused initiatives.

Governance Structure

The partnership operates under a collaborative governance model. MAR Fund's Board of Directors includes representatives from the founding organizations, and a dedicated MAR+Invest coordinator manages partnerships and roles. This structure allows flexibility and adaptability as the partnership evolves.

Financial Structuring & Innovation

Financial Structure

MAR+Invest uses a blended finance approach, combining public and private capital to de-risk investments and attract funding for reef-positive businesses. Financial structuring began with a clear need to mobilize significant resources that could support scalable, sustainable initiatives in the MAR region. Given the limited access to capital for conservation projects, MAR+Invest aimed to bridge this gap by using concessional capital from public and philanthropic sources to make investment more attractive for private capital. The primary financial objectives were to create a stable funding pool, reduce risk for investors, and ensure financial sustainability for MAR-focused businesses. To meet these goals, MAR+Invest developed a multi-tiered financing structure, utilizing grants for early-stage de-risking, revenue-based lending, and other innovative instruments like reef insurance and blue carbon credits.

Resource Mobilization

The MAR+Invest partnership mobilized resources by securing grants from the Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) and attracting capital from impact investors like Viwala. Key resource mobilization efforts included:

Project Structuring: Developed clear investment models to attract funders.

Acceleration Programs: Supported reef-positive businesses in scaling.

Investment Brokerage (IB): Connected investors to conservation projects.

Innovative Finance Models

MAR+Invest de-risked investments using concessional loans and guarantees. These instruments allow local businesses to scale while minimizing financial risks for investors.

Philanthropy's Role

Philanthropy played a key role in providing catalytic capital, which helped launch the initiative by covering early-stage risks and supporting capacity-building efforts.

Financial Sustainability

The initiative ensures long-term viability by creating profitable, reef-positive businesses that reinvest in conservation activities, thus promoting economic and environmental sustainability.

The partnership also promotes initiatives that further develop the blue finance ecosystem in Latin America, including the supply of conservation and biodiversity initiatives, their capabilities to access financing, and the overall supply of financing for a sustainable blue economy (restoration and conservation).

Implementation Strategy

Phases of Action

MAR+Invest was rolled out in phases:

Phase 1 (2021-2023): Capacity building, business acceleration, and the implementation of the blended finance model.

Phase 2 (2024-2026): Expansion of the initiative to include additional businesses and regions.

Key Projects/Actions

Key initiatives include:

- Conservation-focused NGOs (HRHP) emphasize biodiversity protection and restoration.
- Environmental (Funds Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature and MARFund) want to scale up conservation initiatives through innovation.
- Financial actors (GFCR, Viwala) seek to de-risk investments and prove the viability of market-based conservation solutions.
- Local entrepreneurs want to balance sustainable growth with protecting their livelihoods.

Adaptations and Course Corrections

The partnership had to adapt its financial instruments and governance strategies to address unforeseen challenges, such as the limited capacity of some businesses to absorb investment. The limited supply of sustainable blue businesses.

Resource Management

Efficient resource management was achieved through collaboration with financial institutions and NGOs, ensuring technical and human resources were used effectively to achieve environmental and economic outcomes. The specialization of responsibilities in the partnership, based on organizational competitive advantage and expertise, gave a framework for decision-making and work in which each organization contributed and managed resources available and competitively: Funding, financial leverage, technical expertise, and management capabilities.

Evaluation

Definition

Success for MAR+Invest is defined as the creation of reef-positive businesses that both conserve the reef and support sustainable business opportunities for local communities.

Monitoring & Evaluation Tools

HRHP played a central role in developing monitoring frameworks that track both business performance and environmental impact, ensuring alignment with conservation goals. The partnership has embedded a highly structured M&E system to measure both progress and impact, to inform strategy, reporting and financial instruments.

Results Integration

The results of the monitoring efforts are used to continuously refine the partnership's strategies and ensure that economic growth does not compromise reef health. Governance remains flexible and relatively loose, although operationally structured.

Results & Impacts

Environmental Outcomes

The initiative successfully restored coral reefs and improved reef health in pilot areas, reducing local threats to biodiversity.

Achievements

- Over 30 businesses received technical assistance.
- Two businesses received financial investment, with plans to scale these numbers.
- Blended finance was successfully implemented, attracting private capital to conservation efforts.

Added Value

By blending financial and ecosystem support, MAR+Invest is creating additional value by providing proof of concept and implementing a solution only feasible by combining the capabilities of a diversity of actors.

Comparative Analysis of Gaps and Innovations

Gap Addressed

MAR+Invest addresses a crucial financing gap for conservation-linked businesses within the emerging blue finance ecosystem. Many of these businesses operate on the periphery of the traditional investment landscape, deemed too high-risk for private capital yet essential for the long-term sustainability of the Mesoamerican Reef region. MAR+invest role goes beyond funding; it builds an accessible pathway for these businesses by de-risking investments and by developing financing structures specifically tailored to the challenges and potential of the blue economy.

Innovations

The use of blended finance, concessional loans, and capacity-building to scale sustainable businesses is a pioneering approach in marine conservation. Capacity building and blue finance investment banking capabilities are innovations in an incipient blue finance ecosystem.

Cross-Sector Synergy

Collaboration across sectors amplified the impact, with conservation groups executing and building initiatives to promote reef health and financial actors de-risking investments to crowd in financing and scale businesses.

Lessons Learned & Best Practices

Key Success Drivers

Collaboration, adaptive governance, and innovative financing were key to the success of MAR+Invest.

Challenges, Barriers, and Mitigation

Fundraising remains a challenge, particularly in attracting sufficient private capital. The partnership mitigates this through blended finance, where philanthropic capital absorbs some risk.

Best Practices Implemented

Strategic Partnerships and Ecosystem Building: Engages partners with technical expertise (investment banking, project structuring, managerial support) to strengthen market resilience and attract investment for MAR conservation.

Targeted Programs: Implements Build & Connect for leadership and Acceleration for scaling businesses in sustainable sectors, enhancing community and investor engagement.

Policy Collaboration and Community Involvement: Works with governments on enabling policies and promotes local voices through engagement and capacity-building.

Rigorous Monitoring and Continuous Improvement: Employs impact metrics and an adaptable Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) to ensure accountability and responsible project growth.

Conclusion & Scalability Potential

Legacy & Contribution

MAR+Invest is redefining MAR conservation by attracting private capital, fostering local leadership, and promoting sustainable, reef-positive businesses. Through innovative finance, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and policy engagement, it strengthens regional collaboration and addresses critical gaps in the market, creating a sustainable blue economy model for lasting ecosystem health and economic resilience.

Key Success Drivers

The partnership plans to expand significantly, aiming for \$20 million in investments by 2026. Its success in the MAR region positions it for replication in other global biodiversity hotspots.

Further development of the conservation and restoration supply of business ecosystem.

Potential for Scalability

Key lessons include strengthening partnerships with market enablers, fostering innovation in financial products and conservation technologies, clearly defining roles for effective collaboration, measuring impact to demonstrate success, and leveraging existing expertise to expand and replicate successful models.

Replicating the MAR+Invest model in other regions: The initiative's blended finance model and collaborative approach could be adapted for other regions with similar conservation needs, expanding its impact beyond the MAR.

Scaling up successful projects and approaches: MAR+Invest can identify and support the scaling up of successful projects, such as the King Crab restorative mariculture or the seaweed farming initiatives, to achieve greater impact and create more significant economic opportunities.

Developing new initiatives that address emerging threats: As new threats to the MAR emerge, MAR+Invest can adapt and develop new initiatives to address them, such as tackling plastic pollution, reducing nutrient runoff, or building resilience to climate change impacts.

Herencia Colombia



Executive Summary

Herencia Colombia is a multi-stakeholder partnership aimed at promoting sustainable land use and biodiversity conservation across Colombia's natural protected areas. This initiative unites government entities, NGOs, local communities, and private sector stakeholders to address critical issues such as deforestation, habitat loss, and climate change vulnerability. The partnership employs innovative financing mechanisms, notably the Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) model, which combines public funding, private investment, and philanthropic contributions to secure long-term financial commitments for biodiversity protection. Key outcomes of the partnership include the restoration of over 50,000 hectares of degraded land, a 39% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the five selected landscapes. Major lessons learned from Herencia Colombia highlight the importance of building trust among stakeholders, integrating local knowledge, and employing adaptive management strategies. Best practices for replication include early engagement of local communities and the establishment of robust governance structures for ambitious, innovative and scalable coordination and financing mechanisms.



Introduction & Background

Climate and Biodiversity Issue

Colombia is one of the world's most biodiverse countries but faces significant threats from deforestation, illegal logging, and land conversion for agriculture. These activities have resulted in habitat loss, decreased biodiversity, and heightened vulnerability to climate change.

Context

Recognizing the urgency of these challenges, Herencia Colombia was formed in response to a national call for collaborative efforts to protect biodiversity while promoting sustainable land use practices. The initiative aligns with Colombia's commitment to international climate agreements and biodiversity targets.

Gaps in the Ecosystem

The partnership seeks to address the critical financial gaps in the management of protected areas, ensuring that conservation efforts are both effective and sustainable in the long term.



Partnership Overview

Purpose

Herencia Colombia aims to protect natural ecosystems and use natural resources sustainably to mutually benefit conservation and sustainable use. The broader, long-term national umbrella program aims to increase protected coverage in vulnerable forested areas and improve management strategies and governance of Colombia's National System of Protected Areas (SINAP).

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

The partnership tackles financial, environmental, and governance challenges, such as the lack of sustainable funding for protected area management, insufficient stakeholder coordination, and the need for capacity building among local communities.

Theory of Change

Herencia Colombia aims to enhance biodiversity conservation, improve local livelihoods, and build resilience against climate impacts by mobilising diverse financial resources to guarantee perpetual financial sustainability for protected ecosystems while fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

Underlying Interests & Drivers

Herencia Colombia brings together diverse partners to protect Colombia's biodiversity. The Ministry of Environment sees HECO as crucial for meeting national environmental targets, while National Natural Parks seeks sustainable financing for protected areas. WWF recognises its scalable potential to address climate change, and local communities, including Indigenous peoples, are motivated by the need to protect their livelihoods and cultural heritage. The private sector is also engaged, with HECO creating opportunities in sustainable agriculture, forestry, and ecotourism.

Actors Involved and Contributions

Government Bodies

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS): Aligns HECO with national climate/biodiversity goals.

National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNN): Leads conservation target setting and stakeholder engagement.

Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs): Provide local technical support, including key CARs like CorpoGuajira and CVC.

Local Governments: Involvement from governors, mayors, and councils in protected area establishment.

Non-Governmental Organizations

WWF: Major HECO partner for design, implementation, and fundraising.

Patrimonio Natural: Manages funds and specialist contracts.

Other NGOs: Includes TNC, WCS, and ASOAMAIME, engaged in specific landscapes.

Private Sector

Productive Sectors: Focus on sustainable agriculture, livestock, and tourism.

Investors and Philanthropists: Funding from entities like the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and HECO Invest.

Research Institutions: Alexander Von Humboldt Institute, IDEAM, Dejusticia, and universities (e.g., Universidad de los Andes) support research and evaluation.

Local Communities: Key stakeholders in conservation, decision-making, and benefit-sharing, especially in the Caribbean region.



Formation & Development of the Partnership

Inception

Herencia Colombia emerged from collaborative dialogues among stakeholders in response to the increasing urgency of biodiversity loss and climate change in Colombia. Initial meetings facilitated the identification of common goals and a shared vision for sustainable development.

Stakeholder Engagement

The partnership employs a participatory approach, engaging various stakeholders through workshops, forums, and collaborative projects, ensuring that all voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

Governance Structure

Herencia Colombia operates through a multi-tiered governance model to ensure effective coordination, decision-making, and transparency. At the national level, the HECO Steering Committee provides strategic oversight, while the Technical Committee reviews technical standards, and an External Monitoring Committee ensures transparency. Patrimonio Natural's Project Management Unit oversees daily operations. Regionally, SIRAPs and SIDAPs facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue on land and water management. At the local level, HECO engages directly with communities for cohesion. Regular meetings, reporting, participatory monitoring, and a communication strategy support cohesive project execution and information sharing.



Financial Structuring & Innovation

Financial Structure

HECO's financial structure combines immediate funding with strategies for long-term sustainability. Initial funding includes a \$43 million GCF grant and \$69.4 million in co-financing from the Colombian government, supported by a national carbon tax. A transition fund managed by Patrimonio Natural disburses funds based on milestone achievements to ensure accountability. Long-term sustainability is driven by a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP) model, utilizing revenue from the carbon tax, royalties, and other financial instruments. HECO also mobilizes private investment through blended finance and the HECO Impact Hub, connecting investors to sustainable projects.

Resource Mobilization

Herencia Colombia has successfully attracted funding from national government budgets, international donors, and corporate social responsibility initiatives, facilitating the execution of conservation projects. HECO's resource mobilization strategy focuses on strategic alliances with public and private sectors to provide market access, financial support, , capacity building capabilities, and policy engagement to sustain Colombia's protected landscapes. Alignment with national initiatives like REDD+ maximizes funding, while collaboration with existing programs avoids redundancy.

Innovative Finance Models

Project Finance for Permanence (PFP): Ensures long-term funding for protected areas by blending financing from donors, governments, and private investors.

Transition Fund: Mobilizes upfront investments to bridge financial gaps until sustainable mechanisms are established.

Milestone-Based Payments: Links payments to conservation targets, incentivizing policy reforms.

Key Financial Mechanisms:

- Carbon tax integration.
- Royalties for protected areas.
- Environmental offsets and forced compensation investments.
- Environmental toll surcharges.

Philanthropy's Role

Philanthropic organizations provide essential catalytic capital, enabling the partnership to develop its innovative financial model and demonstrate viability. Additionally, philanthropy's early participation enhances HECO's credibility and crowds in funding from other sources, including the GCF and the Colombian government.

Financial Sustainability

The partnership employs robust risk management strategies, including diversified funding sources and ongoing stakeholder engagement, to ensure long-term financial viability and stability. Additionally, the initiative promotes commercially viable, sustainable production activities that can generate revenue that contributes to the long-term financing of conservation efforts.



Implementation Strategy

Phases of Action

The implementation strategy unfolds in several phases, starting with stakeholder mapping and capacity assessments, followed by project design and execution.

Key Projects/Actions

Major initiatives include reforestation projects, sustainable agriculture training programs, and community-led conservation efforts, each tailored to enhance biodiversity and improve local livelihoods.

Adaptations and Course Corrections

Herencia Colombia has demonstrated resilience by adapting its strategies in response to changing socio-political contexts and environmental challenges, employing lessons learned from ongoing projects to refine future actions.

Resource Management

Efficient management of financial, technical, and human resources is essential to the partnership's success, with regular audits and performance evaluations guiding resource allocation and project prioritization.



Evaluation

Definition

Herencia Colombia defines success through tangible improvements in ecosystem health, enhanced resilience of local communities, and the establishment of sustainable funding mechanisms for conservation. Impact is measured through quantitative and qualitative indicators, including biodiversity metrics, economic outcomes for communities, and stakeholder satisfaction levels.

Monitoring & Evaluation Tools

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks use a mix of remote sensing technologies, biodiversity assessments, and participatory surveys to track progress and inform adaptive management, including:

- A detailed M&E plan with progress tracking and adaptive management.
- Fund-level and project-specific indicators measuring emissions, resilience, and restoration progress.
- Technological tools like SMART for surveillance and remote sensing for land cover change.
- Community-based monitoring to enhance local involvement.
- Regular reporting, field visits, and independent evaluations to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

Results Integration

The findings from M&E activities are integrated into regular strategic reviews, allowing the partnership to adjust its approach based on empirical evidence and stakeholder feedback. Key practices include adaptive management, data-driven capabilities, climate-informed territorial planning, stakeholder engagement governance, financial reporting obligations, and knowledge-sharing objectives. This approach enables HECO to adapt effectively to changing conditions, prioritize informed decision-making, and promote replicable conservation practices.



Results & Impacts

Environmental Outcomes

Major outcomes are still to be showcased. HECO aims to achieve a 39% reduction in emissions from deforestation and forest degradation within the targeted landscapes, along with:

Biodiversity Gains: Restoration of key habitats, leading to increased populations of endangered species.

Ecosystem Services Enhancement: Improved water quality, soil health, and carbon sequestration capacities.

Achievements

The partnership has successfully mobilized over \$10 million in funding, restored significant areas of critical habitat, and established models for community-based conservation that are replicable in other regions.

Added Value

Herencia Colombia stands out by promoting a major paradigm shift in Colombia's approach to conservation and sustainable landscape management, while integrating conservation efforts with socio-economic development, creating a synergistic approach that amplifies the impact compared to isolated initiatives.



Comparative Analysis of Gaps and Innovations

Gaps Addressed

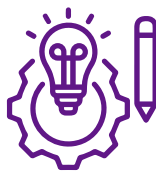
The partnership effectively bridges financial gaps in protected area management and enhances stakeholder coordination, facilitating a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation.

Innovations

Notable innovations include the adoption of the PFP model, community co-management frameworks, and the integration of traditional ecological knowledge into conservation strategies.

Cross-Sector Synergy

Herencia Colombia fosters cross-sector synergy through a shared vision, resource pooling, policy alignment, and community empowerment. HECO enhances impact through collaborative governance, sustainable investments, and knowledge sharing, supporting benefits for both people and nature.



Lessons Learned & Best Practices

Key Success Drivers

Critical factors contributing to the partnership's success include strong leadership, stakeholder trust, early community involvement, and adaptive management practices.

Challenges, Barriers, and Mitigation

The partnership has encountered challenges such as political instability and resource conflicts but has effectively mitigated these through proactive engagement, conflict resolution strategies, and flexible planning.

Best Practices Implemented

Foster Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: Establish inclusive platforms for dialogue among diverse stakeholders.

Invest in Capacity Building: Enhance local capabilities to empower communities as active participants in conservation.

Diversify Funding Sources: Explore innovative financing options to secure long-term sustainability.



Conclusion & Scalability Potential

Legacy & Contribution

Herencia Colombia has significantly contributed to addressing biodiversity loss and climate change challenges in Colombia, establishing a replicable model for similar initiatives worldwide.

Future Outlook

The partnership is poised for continued growth, with plans to expand its reach into new areas, enhance stakeholder engagement, and leverage emerging technologies for conservation.

Strategic Recommendations for Scalability

Financial Sustainability: Diversify funding with green bonds, impact investing, and payment-for-results models.

Governance: Empower local actors, define roles, and enhance data-driven decisions.

Knowledge Sharing: Document lessons, and implement monitoring frameworks.

Community Engagement: Build trust, provide capacity-building, and ensure benefit-sharing.

Partnerships: Expand networks, and coordinate inter-sectorally.



12 Responsible Commodities Facility

Executive Summary

The Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF) is a multi-stakeholder mechanism launched to address deforestation and promote sustainable agriculture in Brazil's Cerrado biome. RCF offers financial incentives, particularly low-interest loans, to farmers who commit to deforestation-free (DCF) soy production, aligning with global sustainability goals and addressing a critical gap in the agricultural finance ecosystem. By leveraging a blended finance model and green bonds (Agribusiness Receivable Certificates - CRAs), the RCF attracts investments from diverse stakeholders to catalyse change in commodity supply chains and create financial incentives for farmers to adopt sustainable practices that protect native vegetation, sequester carbon, and promote climate resilience. The programme's early success showcases the effectiveness of a Multi-Stakeholder approach using innovative finance mechanisms to drive responsible commodity production and environmental sustainability.

Introduction & Background

Climate and Biodiversity Issue

Agricultural expansion into natural landscapes, especially for soy production, has been a primary driver of biodiversity loss and deforestation in Brazil's Cerrado, a global biodiversity hotspot. The Cerrado's conversion to agriculture leads to significant carbon emissions and biodiversity degradation, threatening global climate stability.

Context

Brazil's Cerrado has witnessed alarming rates of deforestation, surpassing the Amazon's average in recent years. Despite the Cerrado's ecological importance, current funding mechanisms inadequately support sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural practices in this region. Although substantial areas of cleared land exist, financial and operational barriers hinder their sustainable utilisation for soy production.

Gaps in the Ecosystem

The Cerrado lacks financial instruments dedicated to supporting DCF soy production. Farmers have limited access to affordable credit and resources to prioritize sustainable practices over conventional methods. There is also a need for enhanced monitoring, traceability, and robust market connections for sustainably sourced soy to consistently attract global buyers at scale seeking deforestation-free supply chains.

Partnership Overview

Purpose

The RCF aims to advance DCF soy production in Brazil's Cerrado by providing affordable credit and financial incentives to farmers committed to sustainable practices. The facility's goals align with the broader Cerrado Manifesto, targeting biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation in the Cerrado region and Brazil's Amazon through sustainable value chains.

Challenges & Gaps Addressed

Financial Incentives for Sustainable Practices: RCF offers lower interest rates to make DCF soy production economically attractive.

Deforestation and Habitat Loss: RCF incentivizes the use of already-cleared land, reducing the demand for land clearing through deforestation.

Market Access for Sustainable Products: RCF connects DCF soy producers with international buyers seeking sustainable products.

Monitoring and Traceability: RCF implements robust M&E criteria, including satellite monitoring, to ensure compliance with DCF standards.

Theory of Change

RCF's approach leverages financial and non-financial incentives to shift the market towards sustainable soy production. By creating both supply and demand for DCF soy and improving its trading flows, RCF expects to reduce deforestation in the Cerrado region, contributing to carbon sequestration and biodiversity preservation.

Underlying Interests & Drivers

Investors: Seek financial returns and positive environmental impact.

Supermarkets: Aim to meet sustainability commitments by sourcing deforestation-free products.

Farmers: Need access to credit and better market prices for sustainable soy.

NGOs: Focus on biodiversity protection and sustainable land use practices.

Actors Involved and Contributions

Sustainable Investment Management (SIM): Manages RCF, leading on structuring and fundraising.

BVRio Environmental Exchange: Co-developed the RCF concept and contributed environmental finance expertise.

OPEA Securitizadora: Issues green CRAs, facilitating capital market access.

Traive: Provides credit risk and guarantee management.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), UNEP, Conservation International (CI), WWF: Support environmental criteria, monitoring, and impact assessment.

Investor Group (Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Rabobank, AGRI3 Fund): Provides capital for the RCF.

Formation & Development of the Partnership

Inception

The RCF originated with BVRio's concept, with Sustainable Investment Management (SIM) subsequently established to manage the facility. RCF was selected for acceleration by CPI's Brasil Innovation Lab for Climate Finance, which refined the model for scalability and connected it with investors.

Stakeholder Engagement

From its inception, RCF has engaged stakeholders across sectors. Investors, NGOs, and financial institutions were involved in shaping the program, prioritizing alignment with market needs and environmental goals.

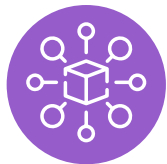
Governance Structure

The RCF Cerrado Programme's governance relies on a well-defined structure and specialized roles. Sustainable Investment Management coordinates the program, integrating financial and environmental streams. Opea Securitizadora issues green CRAs to attract capital, while Traive manages credit risk. An Environmental Advisory Board (including experts from The Nature Conservancy, UN Environment, Proforest, etc.) provides strategic input on operations, expansion, and environmental criteria. Eligibility criteria, co-developed with WWF Brasil, define the criteria for the operationalisation of the program at the beneficiary level. ERM-NINT ensures transparency and accountability through independent compliance verification.

Financial Structuring & Innovation

Financial Structure

The RCF uses a blended finance model, combining commercial and concessional finance with green CRAs as the primary funding source. Key elements include:



Green CRAs: Issued by OPEA Securitizadora, these bonds fund the RCF.

First Loss Tranche: Absorbed by a trading partner to reduce investment risk.

Subordinated Debt: Guarantees from impact investors like AGR13 attract commercial capital.

Resource Mobilization

The RCF has successfully mobilized resources from various sources:

Private Investors: Major UK supermarkets like Tesco, Sainsbury's, and Waitrose have been key investors in the RCF, driven by their sustainability commitments and desire to source DCF soy.

Financial Institutions: Rabobank and AGR13 Fund have also invested in the RCF, recognizing the financial viability and potential impact of the initiative.

Grant and Concessional Finance: The RCF has received grant funding and concessional loans from sources like the Good Energies Foundation, Barry Callebaut, Convergence, and the SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI).

Innovative Finance Models

The RCF incorporates several innovative finance models:

Blended Finance: Combining commercial capital with concessional finance and grant funding to de-risk the investment and attract a wider range of investors.

Green Bonds: Issuing green CRAs, linked to specific environmental objectives, has enabled the RCF to access a larger pool of capital from investors seeking sustainable investment opportunities.

First Loss and Subordinated Debt: Strategically using these financial instruments to improve the credit rating of the RCF and reduce the cost of capital, making it more attractive to commercial investors.

Philanthropy's Role

Foundations, including Good Energies Foundation, provided early-stage funding, demonstrating RCF's feasibility and attracting larger investments from commercial investors.

Financial Sustainability

RCF aims to be self-sustaining through producer fees, transaction fees, and performance-based returns, gradually reducing dependence on concessional funding and scaling up market-based financing.

Implementation Strategy

Phases of Action

- 1 Pilot Phase:** Initiated with \$11 million, involving 32 farms to test the operational model and achieve zero deforestation.
- 2 Scaling Up:** Expanded to \$47 million, engaging 122 farms to reach a larger scale.
- 3 Further Expansion:** Targeting a fund size of \$100 million to expand impact.

Key Projects/Actions

Low-Interest Loans: Offered to incentivize sustainable practices.

Land Bank: Connects farmers with cleared land suitable for DCF soy.

Monitoring and Traceability: Uses satellite imagery and remote sensing to ensure compliance.

Adaptations and Course Corrections

The RCF Cerrado program has made essential adaptations to meet operational and environmental challenges. Scaling from 32 to 122 farms, it strengthened partnerships and governance, evolving its Environmental Committee into an Environmental Advisory Board for strategic oversight. Enhanced monitoring now includes ERM-NINT verification, while financial adjustments, such as leveraging grants and subordinated capital, and a more streamlined project structure were aimed to support financial flow and investor appeal, addressing initial challenges in securing investment and reinforcing commitment to sustainability objectives. RCF has also excluded non-compliant farms, maintaining rigorous environmental standards.

Resource Management

Targeting Specific Geographic Areas: Focusing on regions within the Cerrado with high potential for sustainable soy production, where there is a suitable availability of cleared land, experienced soy farmers, and existing infrastructure.

Utilizing Technology: Employing satellite imagery, remote sensing, and big data for monitoring and traceability.

Collaboration and Partnerships: Leveraging the expertise and resources of various partners, including NGOs, financial institutions, and technology providers.

Evaluation

Definition

Success is measured as the increased trading of responsible commodities through both environmental and financial metrics, including conservation outcomes, carbon emission reductions, and fund performance.

Monitoring & Evaluation Tools



Satellite Imagery: Tracks land use changes.

Independent Verification: Conducted by organizations like ERM Brasil.

EAB Review: Provides oversight on environmental compliance.

Results Integration

The RCF's robust Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework provides essential evidence for ongoing operations and underpins its financial mechanisms. Monitoring data actively informs decision-making, enabling timely course corrections and strategic improvements. Impact data not only demonstrates the environmental benefits of the RCF to investors, thereby attracting further funding and reinforcing financial sustainability, but also feeds directly into the partnership's mechanism design, ensuring that the RCF remains aligned with its environmental and financial goals.

Results & Impacts

Environmental Outcomes

Zero Deforestation: The pilot phase achieved zero deforestation on participating farms.

Habitat Conservation: Conserved over 43,000 hectares of native vegetation and protected 18.2 MtCO₂ in carbon stocks.

Carbon Stock Protection: The RCF protected 18.2 MtCO₂ of carbon stocks in native vegetation during the 2023-2024 season.

Avoided GHG Emissions: No greenhouse gas emissions resulted from land conversion related to the DCF soy volume produced during this period.

Added Value

RCF drives market transformation by aligning incentives for DCF soy, transforming agricultural practices in the Cerrado. Participating farmers gain from improved livelihoods through lower loan interest rates and access to premium markets for DCF soy. RCF's streamlined finance model ensures its market appeal, Multi-Stakeholder collaboration and potential for scalability, crucial for sustained transformation in the soy value chain.

Comparative Analysis of Gaps and Innovations

Gap Addressed

The RCF effectively addresses the gap in financing mechanisms for DCF soy production in the Cerrado. Unlike other initiatives, RCF specifically targets deforestation and conversion, providing a clear financial incentive for farmers to protect native vegetation in this specific region.

Innovations

Blended Finance and Green Bonds: effectively de-risks the investment and attracts a broader range of investors.

Robust Monitoring System: The combination of satellite imagery, data analysis, and independent verification ensures the integrity and transparency of the RCF's environmental claims.

Green CRAs: The issuance of green bonds specifically linked to the RCF's environmental objectives is a novel approach, demonstrating the potential for mobilizing capital from investors interested in supporting sustainable land use practices.

Cross-Sector Synergy

RCF unites stakeholders from finance, retail, and conservation, fostering collaboration and enabling the feasibility of DCF soy production schemes at scale.

Lessons Learned & Best Practices

Key Success Drivers



- Diverse partnerships and robust governance streamline implementation.
- Effective blending of commercial and concessional finance.
- Robust monitoring ensures compliance and credibility for stakeholders.
- The clear focus on deforestation provides a simpler framework for reporting and results-based financing.

Challenges, Barriers, and Mitigation

Early Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging stakeholders, including investors, farmers, and NGOs, from the early stages of development, has been crucial in ensuring its alignment with market needs and environmental objectives.

Blended Finance Approach: Combining commercial capital with concessional finance and grant funding has enabled the RCF to de-risk the investment and attract a wider range of investors.

Transparent and Robust Monitoring and Verification: The use of advanced technologies ensures the credibility of the RCF's environmental impact claims.

Independent Governance Structure: The Environmental Advisory Board ensures that the RCF adheres to its environmental and social commitments.

Conclusion & Scalability Potential

Key Success Drivers

The RCF showcases an effective model for financing sustainable agriculture in high-risk biomes, protecting biodiversity and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Future Outlook

Plans include expanding funding and replicating the model in other deforestation-prone regions, with a clear strategy to attract new investors, advocate for policy support, and enhance market demand for DCF products.



Innovative Practices Driven by MSPs in LAC

MSPs have emerged as powerful tools for driving systemic change in LAC, particularly through innovative models and practices. By fostering collaboration among stakeholders, they address critical funding, governance, and implementation gaps, as mentioned in previous chapters. The following highlights the most inspiring practices uncovered through mapping and focus groups, offering a blueprint for impactful partnerships.

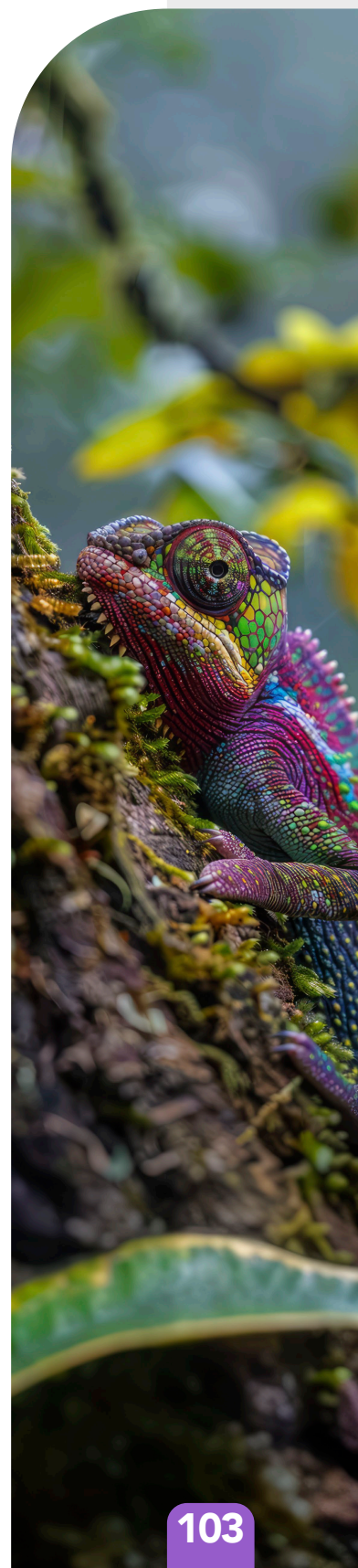
Financial Innovations



Latin American MSPs are leveraging innovative financial mechanisms to address climate change and biodiversity loss, moving beyond traditional funding models to ensure long-term sustainability and impact. Some key innovations demonstrating how MSPs are transforming conservation finance include:

Project Finance for Permanence (PFP)

The PFP model blends public, private, and philanthropic funding to secure sustained financing for protected areas and biodiversity conservation. Initiatives like Herencia Colombia use PFP to integrate revenue streams from carbon taxes, royalties, and transition funds, guaranteeing the project's financial sustainability and enabling long-term conservation efforts.



Blended Finance

Blended finance combines public and philanthropic capital with private investment, reducing risks and unlocking larger funding. Most MSPs use this approach to maximise resources and enable scalable actions. MAR+Invest supports the Mesoamerican Reef by integrating grants with concessional loans, while LAWFP uses blended finance for Water Funds, enhancing water security. The Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF) blends green bonds and commercial loans to incentivize sustainable soy production in Brazil's Cerrado biome.

Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding, collecting smaller-scale contributions from a wide base of donors, opens access to diverse funding sources, particularly from individual donors. TFA Colombia explores this model to support zero-deforestation agriculture, demonstrating how public engagement can mobilise financial resources for sustainability initiatives.

Green Bonds

Green bonds provide dedicated funding for environmentally friendly projects, attracting impact-oriented investors. LAWFP and RCF leverage green bonds to finance watershed protection and deforestation-free soy production, demonstrating the potential of sustainable investment vehicles to drive environmental impact.

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)

PES schemes incentivise landowners to adopt conservation-friendly practices, linking economic benefits to environmental stewardship and overcoming competing economic incentives. PlanBio enables and promotes PES to protect the Amazon, and LAWFP incorporates PES within Water Funds to fund watershed restoration and conservation.

Parametric Insurance

Parametric insurance mitigates climate risks by offering predetermined payouts triggered by specific weather events. COOSOCATA employs this tool to protect small-scale farmers from extreme rainfall or drought, promoting sustainable agricultural practices that align with biodiversity goals.



Results-Based Payments

In results-based payment schemes, funding is contingent on achieving pre-defined impact and conservation targets. Herencia Colombia exemplifies this approach, tying disbursements to milestone achievements, ensuring accountability and tangible outcomes.

First Loss and Subordinated Debt

These mechanisms de-risk investments by protecting senior debt holders from losses, enabling MSPs like RCF to attract commercial investors for deforestation-free agricultural initiatives by lowering perceived financial risks.

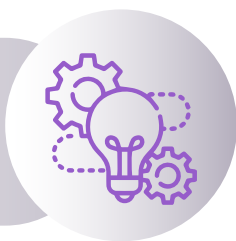
Community Savings

Community savings foster financial inclusion and resilience, pooling resources for local development projects. Peru's Alianza Café uses savings groups to enhance access to credit and promote sustainable livelihoods within rural communities.

Systemic challenges demand collaboration among public, private, and philanthropic sectors. Innovative finance plays a key role in fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs) by providing governance frameworks and financing mechanisms that align diverse interests around shared goals. Moreover, as demonstrated by the aforementioned models, it enables the active participation of various actors, including local communities, ensuring their involvement in decision-making processes. At the same time, it facilitates the design of instruments that align investors' priorities with local development objectives, such as risk-reducing guarantees that generate both financial and social returns.



Governance Innovations



Several governance innovations have been adopted by MSPs in LAC to address the complex and interconnected challenges of building coalitions and working together on climate change and biodiversity. These innovations illustrate a shift towards more inclusive, adaptive, and results-oriented governance models.

Task Forces and Dialogue Forums

Task forces allow MSPs to address specific challenges by creating specialised working groups for targeted problem-solving. This promotes efficiency and tailored solutions through collaboration among experts and stakeholders. For example, PlanBio employs task forces on finance, market access, and policy to develop actionable recommendations that advance its bioeconomy initiatives in the Amazon.

"Godfathers" and "Godmothers"

Mentors or organizations guide task forces by providing strategic advice and technical expertise, ensuring alignment with the MSP objectives. This fosters knowledge transfer and strengthens capacity in complex sectors. PlanBio's "Godfathers" and "Godmothers" play a pivotal role in supporting task forces and enhancing their impact.

Consensus-Based Decision-Making

This model prioritises inclusivity by ensuring all stakeholders contribute to shared decisions. It fosters trust and commitment through dialogue and compromise, as demonstrated by PlanBio, which integrates diverse perspectives into its strategic choices to achieve collective buy-in.

Multi-tiered Governance with Stakeholder Representation

A multi-layered governance structure ensures balanced decision-making at strategic and operational levels. GPAP's three-tiered system: Governing Council, Steering Board, and Advisory Committee, enables accountability, inclusivity, and technical oversight, ensuring diverse stakeholder participation in its plastic waste initiatives.

Adaptive Management by Design

By embracing flexibility, MSPs can refine strategies in response to new data and evolving circumstances. Herencia Colombia applies this approach by adjusting its biodiversity conservation strategies based on lessons learned directly connecting their MEL systems with top governance framework, enabling responsiveness to environmental and socio-political shifts.

Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Recognizing Indigenous and local knowledge enriches conservation strategies by bridging scientific and traditional approaches. Herencia Colombia actively incorporates this knowledge, fostering equitable participation and ensuring that local communities are integral to decision-making and resource management.

In MSPs, governance that is inclusive, adaptive, and results-oriented creates a foundation for meaningful collaboration, effective decision-making, and lasting impact. These models ensure that diverse stakeholders work together efficiently while adapting to challenges and staying focused on achieving shared goals.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Innovations



MSPs in LAC demonstrate a commitment to integrating more deeply monitoring, evaluation, and learning into their operations in an ever more robust way. While explicit innovations are less detailed, several approaches suggest robust mechanisms for adaptation, accountability, and impact assessment:

Mixed-Methods Evaluation

Partnerships like Herencia Colombia integrate quantitative tools, such as SMART technology and remote sensing, with qualitative methods, including community-based monitoring. This combination enhances the depth and accuracy of impact assessments and the usability for the evidence gathered.

Focus on Additionality

By prioritizing additionality –emphasising how an intervention or activity will produce some additional benefit (or reduced burden) relative to a reference scenario– MSPs evaluate the unique contributions directly attributable to their interventions, enabling better identification of gaps and validating their value beyond existing efforts.

Community-based monitoring (CBM)

CBM is an emerging innovation that enables local communities to collect and report data on project progress and environmental changes. It enhances local ownership sustainability and provides insights often missed by external evaluators. Examples include monitoring land cover in Herencia Colombia, and reef health in the MAR +Invest initiative.

Knowledge Sharing

Platforms like Regenerativo.org by Regenerative Food Business Consortium (NAR), facilitate resource-sharing and best-practice dissemination, fostering broader learning across ecosystems and sectors.



A strong monitoring, evaluation and learning methodology and framework is the groundwork for discovering and scaling implicit or unforeseen innovations over time. By adopting the previously mentioned innovations, MSPs in LAC can enhance their efficiency, strengthen their credibility, and expand their impact. These efforts also contribute to fostering a culture rooted in continuous learning, transparency, and accountability, ensuring long-term sustainability and relevance.

Stakeholder Engagement Innovations



Centering Indigenous and Local Communities

MSPs in LAC increasingly recognize Indigenous and local communities as active partners and stewards of biodiversity. BioPlan, the Bioeconomy Network and Herencia Colombia, for instance, integrate traditional ecological knowledge into conservation strategies while promoting equity by involving these communities in decision-making. This approach fosters social justice and supports sustainable livelihoods, creating long-term ecological and socio-economic benefits.

Building Trust Through Transparency and Engagement

Transparent governance frameworks, like the multi-layered structure of Herencia Colombia, ensure diverse representation and accountability. Continuous dialogue, as demonstrated by TFA Colombia and BioPlan, leverages workshops and collaborative forums to address stakeholder concerns, fostering trust and alignment with shared goals.

Embracing Participatory Approaches

Participatory methods are transforming project design and implementation. Examples include co-design in COOSOCOTA or BioPlan, which engage stakeholders in collaborative problem-solving. These approaches enhance local ownership and improve the adoption of sustainable practices.

Exploring Innovative Engagement Models

MSPs in LAC are advancing rights-holder participation, emphasising the inclusion of marginalised groups directly affected by climate change. By prioritizing decision-making roles for these communities, MSPs align solutions with on-the-ground realities, ensuring greater impact and equity, as well as increased engagement and ownership in their context and adaptability.

Gender-Focused Interventions

Gender-focused approaches in MSPs actively address systemic barriers and empower women, pushing beyond token participation. By analysing laws, customs, and roles, MSPs pre-empt exclusions and promote shared responsibilities, as seen in initiatives like Alianza Café. Ensuring equitable representation in governance structures and leadership further amplifies women's contributions, fostering inclusive and effective partnerships.

These insights illustrate the transformative potential of MSPs when innovative finance, local ownership, robust evaluation systems, and systemic understanding are prioritized. By integrating these practices, MSPs can achieve not only immediate outcomes but also long-term environmental and socio-economic resilience.



A photograph of a lush tropical forest. In the foreground, a river flows through a dense canopy of green trees. A small waterfall is visible in the middle ground. The background shows misty, forested mountains. A large, semi-transparent purple rounded rectangle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text.

Recommendations for Action and Scalability

Best Practices for Replication

MSPs in LAC, including those studied in this document, are using and developing many practices that allow them to perform better and work more effectively towards impact on climate and biodiversity. Some of the key practices identified for replication in the region's context and differentiated by the MSP lifecycle include:

Initiation Phase

The initiation phase is where the foundation for an MSP is established. This involves identifying the core challenges the partnership seeks to address and engaging key stakeholders early on, particularly those directly connected to target groups or regions. Contextual analysis is crucial, ensuring diverse perspectives inform the partnership's approach. Building trust through informal exchanges and relationship-building should take precedence over formal structures at this stage. Generating support and forming a core group of committed partners sets the stage for long-term success.

The most important aspect to develop during this phase is to define and understand the System of Interest of the partnership and its actors. This is to clearly map the boundaries, mission, key stakeholders, and incentives to understand from early the space where the MSP seeks to participate and its political economy for alignment. Connected to this, understanding the circumstances of the social, economic, environmental and political context is key to identifying correctly the issues and pathways to action. In parallel, tapping into the existing networks is instrumental in ensuring alignment with what is already being done in the space, identifying partners, building credibility and enhancing access. Based on this comprehensive and high-level understanding and networks, exploring partnering opportunities, prioritizing early on both inclusivity among potential partners and engagement through clear stakes and commitments to the partnership contributes to building up shared ownership and balanced participation.

Design Phase

In the design phase, partners work collaboratively to co-create a shared roadmap and establish common goals. This is the time to articulate a vision for the partnership's intended impact, clarify roles, and define contributions from each stakeholder. Developing agreements, such as a memorandum of understanding, formalises these commitments and provides clarity. This phase also involves establishing initial management, decision-making, and communication processes, ensuring a structured yet adaptable framework for stakeholder engagement.

Some key actions and measures to foster sustainability by design include the clear establishment of roles, supported and embedded into a crosscutting MEL system. Also, planning for the success, evolution and failure of an MSP and its phases will provide clarity for the future, including a scale-up outline of pathways and priorities, as well as a sunset or evolution plan, defining exit criteria and transition plans to ensure knowledge, assets, and responsibilities are effectively transferred if the MSP concludes or evolves. Further, defining financing criteria by developing a diversified funding strategy (grants, impact investments, and blended finance models), engaging with funders, particularly those seeking to build initiatives to address long-term challenges, and exploring revenue-generating alternatives to support financial sustainability. Finally, leveraging existing capabilities, resources and expertise from partners ensures integration and avoids increased complexity.

Implementation Phase

The implementation phase is where plans translate into actions. Flexibility is critical, allowing partners to adjust strategies in response to real-world developments and feedback. A robust monitoring system ensures continuous learning and course corrections. Securing sustainable financing, reinforcing decision-making structures, and fostering clear communication channels are essential for operational success. This phase should also focus on public relations and stakeholder management to broaden support and deepen engagement.

Implementation in MSPs could be strengthened by investing in mechanisms that promote clarity, flexibility and shared capabilities. Building up the capabilities of partners to engage and share with the MSP is a practice that will allow information and knowledge to flow better, promoting learning and innovation. Similarly, at the governance level, fostering clear communication channels, as well as a well-informed and adaptable decision-making framework, will foster trust, dialogue, and resilient implementation of the MSP actions.

Further Development Phase

The further development phase ensures the MSP's long-term sustainability and expanded impact. Transparent governance, informed by monitoring and evaluation data, maintains trust and guides strategic adjustments. This phase may involve scaling the MSP's influence, addressing new challenges, or strengthening the capacity of local partners. Planning for a smooth transfer of responsibilities to new leadership or local actors is critical for ensuring the partnership's enduring relevance and effectiveness.

Fostering the sustainability of MSPs and their actions requires sharing its work and capabilities and continuing to evaluate and refine its effectiveness. Building up the leadership capabilities away from the MSP and into the partners who are more directly involved, local or regional partners, promotes legitimacy and long-term impact. Also, documenting and sharing the learnings of the work, evaluations, refinements and advances made by the MSP will help to foster new and better initiatives and enable the ecosystem further than the individual action of the

General Considerations Across the Lifecycle

Further considerations, crosscutting to the point in which an MSP is, are the prioritisation of continued collaboration and alignment of interests and views. These points are not exclusive to the initial steps of an MSP and will continue to require work from partners and dedicated leadership to ensure engagement and legitimacy across partners. As such, putting emphasis on the collective construction of trust and continued alignment on the vision and solutions given will require consistent dedication of time and resources. The clarification and flexibility on how partners engage and lead within the MSP will also require investing in the process of partnering as partners' roles evolve and leadership changes. Finally, devising conflict resolution mechanisms, such as neutral mediators and escalation protocols, will aid the navigation of disagreements constructively.

MSPs in Latin America can effectively navigate regional challenges, scale their impact, and inspire systemic change by adopting these transformative practices. These strategies lay the groundwork for partnerships that emphasize inclusivity, sustainability, and shared value creation, providing a blueprint for impactful and lasting collaboration.

Strategic Recommendations for Scaling MSPs

To scale MSPs and amplify their impact across the LAC region, tailored strategies are necessary for key players such as Philanthropy Ecosystem Support organizations (e.g. WINGS), Impact Networks (e.g. Latimpacto), and organisations participating in MSPs (WWF, WRI, Propacifico, etc.).

Philanthropy Ecosystem Support Organizations

Networks for philanthropy infrastructure can elevate MSP impact by:

Developing a Global Matchmaking Platform: Create a platform to connect MSPs with needed resources, such as technical experts, funders, and mentors, facilitating alignment and collaboration across diverse stakeholders.

Advocating for Supportive Policy Frameworks: Promote government recognition of MSPs as key mechanisms for sustainable development and advocate for fiscal incentives and streamlined regulatory processes to enable partnerships.

Fostering Knowledge Exchange and Learning Communities: Host international workshops, webinars, and peer-to-peer mentoring programs to facilitate cross-regional learning. Establish a repository of tools and case studies showcasing successful MSP scaling strategies.

Researching and Sharing Effective Scaling Strategies: Research the challenges and opportunities MSPs face during scaling, focusing on financing, coordination, and governance in the climate and biodiversity sectors. Disseminate these insights to inform global and regional practices.

Encouraging Investment in MSP Capacity Building: Advocate for increased funding directed at MSP technical assistance, governance, and capacity-building initiatives, ensuring partnerships are equipped to achieve and sustain scale.

Impact Networks

Impact networks can catalyze MSP growth by:

Launching an MSP Accelerator Program: Provide tailored training, mentorship, and networking opportunities for MSPs poised to scale. Focus on strategic planning, impact measurement, and investor engagement.

Enabling Evaluation Efforts in MSPs: Providing MSPs with support to step up their MEL capabilities in-house and with ad-hoc evaluation projects will enable more informed decision-making and the implementation of improvements, also facilitating the replication of best practices in other contexts. Moreover, this measurement is crucial for generating evidence key to attracting new actors to the partnership, particularly from the public and private sectors, thereby enhancing the MSPs' capacity to generate broader and more sustainable impact.

Creating a Dedicated Fund for MSP Scale-Up: Establish a blended finance fund to provide capital for MSPs with proven models, leveraging both philanthropic and commercial investments.

Promoting Successful MSP Models: Organize events and publish case studies that highlight scaled MSP successes, inspiring replication and attracting further investment.

Building Bridges with Development Finance Institutions: Partner with DFIs to co-finance large-scale MSP initiatives and tap into their financial resources and technical expertise.

Facilitating Investor-MSP Connections: Act as an intermediary between impact investors and investment-ready MSPs. Create a curated database of MSPs and host showcases to streamline deal flow.

MSP Participating Organizations

Organizations engaged in MSPs must prioritize collaboration readiness and scalability through:

Defining a Clear Partnership Strategy: Articulate objectives, value contributions, and scalability goals within a structured partnership strategy to guide operations and align stakeholders.

Strengthening Internal Collaboration Skills: Build staff capacity in negotiation, conflict resolution, and intercultural understanding through targeted training and mentorship.

Designing for Replication and Adaptability: Develop clear operational frameworks and governance structures that allow MSP models to be replicated in diverse contexts.

The Role of Philanthropy in Fostering MSPs

Philanthropy plays a pivotal role in fostering MSPs in the LAC region, serving as both a catalyst for collaboration and a supporter of long-term sustainability. Through targeted investments, philanthropy bridges critical gaps in funding, expertise, and trust-building, enabling MSPs to address pressing climate and biodiversity challenges effectively.

Philanthropic organizations provide essential early-stage funding to launch MSPs, covering feasibility studies, pilot projects, and capacity-building efforts. This catalytic capital reduces risks and demonstrates the viability of initiatives, paving the way for additional investments. For example, philanthropy was instrumental in RCF and COOSOSCOTA, where funds supported financial instruments and structuring efforts to de-risk investment.

Philanthropy supports the convening of diverse stakeholders, funding workshops, dialogues, and other trust-building activities. By fostering transparency and understanding among partners, philanthropy helps create the shared vision and commitment that underpin successful MSPs. This relational groundwork enables partnerships to navigate power imbalances and align on long-term goals.

Philanthropic organizations are uniquely positioned to fund innovative, high-risk approaches, encouraging MSPs to test novel solutions and refine strategies. Initiatives like the Latin American Water Funds Partnership exemplify how philanthropy supports mechanisms such as blended finance models, which combine public and private capital to address complex sustainability challenges.

By funding pilot projects and demonstrating the financial viability of sustainable solutions, philanthropy attracts private sector investment, bridging the gap between grant-dependent initiatives and scalable operating models. For example, philanthropic contributions to biodiversity finance initiatives have helped MSPs transition from small-scale experiments to impactful, market-driven solutions.

Sustaining Long-Term Impact and Policy Advocacy

Philanthropy supports MSPs in building robust governance structures and sustainable financial strategies, ensuring long-term impact. Additionally, philanthropic organizations often advocate for policy changes that align with MSP objectives, fostering enabling environments for their operations.

Philanthropy's Challenges in MSPs Support

While philanthropy is a cornerstone of MSP success, challenges remain in ensuring sustainable and equitable impact. Perhaps the main challenge relating MSPs and philanthropy relates to its inflexibility towards risk-taking and the rigidity this creates for reporting and financing. Philanthropic support, especially when incoming from different sources, often comes with burdensome KPIs, conditions, and reporting frameworks. To bridge the financing missing middle between grant dependency and the scale-up of other business models, flexibility is crucial from grant funders to adapt to evolving needs and foster long-term impact.

Additionally, another key challenge to prevent is the balance of philanthropic influence and their dominance in the contributions of MSPs. Promoting diversified revenue streams and funding is key for both sides to take into account to manage MSP autonomy and ensure sustainability.

Strengthening Policy Frameworks for MSPs Success

The success of MSPs in addressing climate and biodiversity challenges in LAC hinges on robust policy frameworks and active private sector engagement, scaling up impact requires further and deeper collaboration across the board. MSPs are one crucial platform for fostering collaboration with siloed stakeholders and sectors. Some wider-level measures could be taken to incentivise Multi-Stakeholder cooperation, particularly with actors like the state and private sector organizations to enhance the regional ecosystem's ability to collaborate for impact.

Establishing a supportive policy environment is crucial for scaling MSPs and unlocking their full potential. Governments play a pivotal role in creating enabling conditions that foster cross-sectoral collaboration while addressing systemic barriers to effective partnership development.

Recommended Actions for Policy Influence

Creating Enabling Policy Frameworks

Effective Multi-Stakeholder collaboration requires clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and boundaries to ensure trust and legitimacy. Establishing robust frameworks for MSP formation can lay the foundation necessary for this while bridging gaps with existing Public-Private Partnership models to facilitate broader and more flexible MSP development and access to resources. Introducing private sector incentives, such as tax breaks, subsidies, and risk-mitigation tools, can further encourage participation in climate and biodiversity initiatives. Expanding PPP incentives to accommodate diverse operating models will also enable innovative projects in these critical areas. Additionally, decentralized approaches that empower and enable sub-national governments and communities are essential for fostering localised MSPs or access to them, tailoring policy frameworks to their unique environmental and socio-economic contexts, and enhancing their ownership and impact.

Building Capacity for Policymakers

MSPs should play a central role as facilitators, conveners and active participants in platforms that gather diverse insights and foster consensus across topics and solutions to climate and biodiversity. Additionally, equipping policymakers with the skills to design and implement policies that support MSPs and promote cross-sector collaboration is key. These programs should focus on key areas such as financing, governance, and conflict resolution to ensure robust and inclusive policy frameworks.

Streamlining Collaboration Processes

To attract increased attention from diverse actors, including other global and regional MSPs, alignment with recognized global climate and biodiversity goals is necessary. Resolving policy barriers, including fragmented governance and shifting priorities, requires dedicated advocacy and capacity-building efforts across all stages of the policymaking process. Fostering and enabling transparent and participatory approaches are critical to drive legitimacy, and stakeholder alignment to ensure policy effectiveness and durability.

Attracting Private Stakeholders Into the Ecosystem

The private sector's resources, innovation, and influence are invaluable for scaling climate-focused MSPs. However, effective engagement requires understanding corporate motivations, addressing their concerns, and demonstrating clear value propositions.

Strategies for Private Sector Collaboration

Understanding Private Sector Motivations

Although the private sector is a key partner and enabler of MSPs, its motivation to join is commonly different to other philanthropic or public partners. Paying attention to this difference in motivation and understanding the underlying incentives that drive private organizations to join a partnership is instrumental to the effectiveness and sustainability of any collaboration. Demonstrating and clarifying the reputational, risk, profit-generating, etc. benefits to private actors of joining an MSP for climate or biodiversity will build credibility and transparency in any collaboration.

Building Trust and Credibility

Articulating and clarifying the business case for MSPs is essential to engaging the private sector, demonstrating how these partnerships can unlock new markets, enhance brand reputation, and mitigate operational risks. Aligning MSP objectives with corporate sustainability goals further emphasises the mutual benefits, showcasing how collaboration can advance both business priorities and broader climate, biodiversity and social outcomes.

Designing Win-Win Collaborations

Establishing shared objectives between MSPs and private sector actors is key to building aligned agendas that drive collaboration. Designing projects with clear benefits for private collaborators that deliver both environmental impact and economic returns creates compelling incentives for sustained private sector engagement and long-term commitment.

Leveraging Business Networks

Engaging strategically with private actors is paramount for MSP success. Leveraging existing platforms, including industry associations, could streamline dialogue and ease access to individual private actors interested in partnering in MSPs. Similarly, engaging with influential businesses that share an interest with the partnership could drive sector- buy-in.

Providing Targeted Support

Connecting with private sector partners through initiatives that provide value to them, like capacity-building programs, expertise or business opportunities aligned with MSP goals, could be a strategic way to spark interest and reduce barriers to business.



Actionable Roadmap and Next Steps

As the MSP ecosystem expands in response to escalating climate and biodiversity challenges, scalability remains a critical priority. The region's vast environmental and social complexities demand innovative, coordinated approaches to ensure that MSPs can deliver transformative and sustainable impact.

The recommendations presented aim to consolidate the ecosystem, align efforts across diverse organizations and MSPs, and create a cohesive foundation for regional collaboration. By fostering a culture of coordination, strengthening capacities, and securing sustainable funding, this roadmap sets the stage for impactful and scalable MSPs that drive progress toward climate resilience and biodiversity conservation in LAC.

Building the Ecosystem

Enhance Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing

To strengthen the MSP ecosystem in Latin America and the Caribbean, targeted efforts must focus on addressing critical capacity gaps, fostering knowledge sharing, and unlocking diverse funding opportunities. Capacity-building programs should be tailored to governance, financial structuring, stakeholder engagement, and impact measurement, ensuring MSPs are equipped to address their unique challenges. Peer-to-peer networks and platforms for sharing lessons, challenges, and success stories can accelerate learning across the ecosystem. A robust knowledge base and technical support systems must promote innovative financial mechanisms, supported by best practice dissemination, training, and practical demonstrations of their relevance to MSPs at various stages of maturity.

Establishing a regularly updated funding opportunities database or newsletter will provide stakeholders with access to consolidated funding sources and priorities for climate and biodiversity initiatives. Efforts should also prioritize building investible pipelines by supporting MSPs in developing bankable projects and compelling investment cases that align financial and environmental returns. Bridging the investment gap requires fostering dialogue between MSPs and investors, and creating shared financing solutions that meet mutual expectations. Finally, securing access to international climate finance mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, is vital for scaling MSP projects and driving transformative environmental impact.



Foster Collaboration and Trust



A culture of collaboration and trust is the cornerstone of an effective MSP ecosystem. Transparent communication is essential to establish dialogue platforms where stakeholders are able to exchange knowledge, align objectives, and foster mutual trust. Regular, open, clear communication not only manages expectations but also nurtures shared ownership in MSPs. Additionally, building on existing local and regional networks enhances the integration of diverse actors and extends the reach of MSP initiatives. Collaborating with communities, civil society, governments, and private sector stakeholders strengthens contextual relevance, innovation and trust. Equally, inclusivity must be prioritised from the start to ensure diverse participation across sectors and to foster meaningful involvement, namely of marginalised groups and other partners less often involved in such spaces. This approach promotes equitable representation and more comprehensive, richer, sustainable solutions.

Next Steps for Stakeholders

Immediate Actions



Establish a Regional MSP Platform: Create a dedicated community of practice for knowledge exchange, capacity building, and policy advocacy, serving as a hub for aligning efforts across Multi-Stakeholder partnerships focused on climate action and biodiversity in LAC.

Launch Training Programs: Develop targeted training initiatives addressing governance, financial management, and stakeholder engagement.

Create a Resource Hub: Build an online repository of tools, opportunities, working actors, and case studies, for MSP practitioners in the region.

Collaborative Project Development

Facilitate Multi-Stakeholder Proposals: Support MSPs in crafting collaborative project proposals aligned with regional and national priorities.

Develop Funding Proposals: Assist in preparing compelling proposals that attract diverse funding sources, leveraging existing networks for outreach.

The MSP ecosystem in LAC is poised for growth and transformative impact, but achieving this potential requires intentional efforts to consolidate and align stakeholders across the region. By fostering collaboration, enhancing capacities, securing sustainable funding, and strengthening enabling conditions, MSPs can emerge as powerful vehicles for addressing the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Actionable Roadmap and Next Steps

Building a resilient and effective ecosystem of MSPs in LAC requires a strategic and actionable approach, rooted in the lessons learned from existing initiatives and the best practices highlighted in this report. By fostering a cohesive network of MSPs dedicated to climate resilience and biodiversity, stakeholders can amplify collective impact, address systemic gaps, and position the region as a leader in collaborative environmental action.

Creating a Regional Network for Climate and Biodiversity Action

Establishing a regional network presents a high-impact opportunity to connect fragmented efforts, unify diverse actors, and drive scalable innovation. Such a network would serve as a platform for alignment, collaboration, and knowledge exchange, addressing the systemic challenges that have hindered MSP effectiveness in the region.

Key Actions to Build the Network

New efforts could build upon the expertise, resources, and tools of established MSPs to maximise impact and foster synergy, leveraging existing platforms to avoid duplication and scale up successful efforts. Fostering growth where capabilities and expertise already exist should prevail over the creation of new MSPs as a way to efficiently allocate, attract and leverage resources across the ecosystem. Acknowledging the high complexity and costs of developing effective MSPs highlights the importance of promoting cross-collaboration and scalability as the main road for the ecosystems' consolidation and growth. Effectively, innovation, scale and, ultimately–impact are more likely to happen in existing MSPs than in novel initiatives.



With the same aim, starting with scalable and targeted aims, such as specific subsystems, geographic areas, or thematic issues, to ensure manageability while providing opportunities for learning and growth over time is key. An inclusive and participatory approach is essential, engaging key stakeholders such as local communities, local governments, private sector actors, and civil society in defining the network's priorities and boundaries, fostering relevance, ownership, and equitable outcomes. Additionally, articulating and clarifying the system of interest helps define the network's purpose, needs and scope. Mapping key actors, identifying interconnections, and understanding the unique challenges and opportunities in the region, will enable the network to position itself effectively within the broader climate and biodiversity ecosystem.

Additionally, fostering cross-collaboration and coordinated actions requires ease of access and mobility of information along the ecosystem. Promoting an open-source community where evidence, expertise, and innovations are accessible enables MSPs and practitioners to innovate and replicate successful approaches, scale their impact, and collaborate effectively in complex, decentralized and multi-actor contexts.

A well-structured regional network can align fragmented efforts by coordinating stakeholder strategies, reducing inefficiencies, and promoting complementarity to maximize resource utilization. It serves as a hub for innovation, testing, refining, and disseminating solutions that enable the replication of successful models across diverse contexts. Additionally, such a network enhances advocacy by providing a unified regional voice in global forums, leveraging collective action to attract funding and policy support. By empowering communities through training, technical assistance, and access to resources, it strengthens local capacities, ensuring locally driven and sustainable solutions.

First Steps Towards Establishing the Network

A potential first step is identifying priority areas where collective action can tackle critical challenges or capitalize on existing opportunities to drive impactful collaboration. Seek and establish a founding coalition of cross-sector leaders to champion the initiative and provide strategic direction and counsel, ensuring that the group reflects the diversity of its stakeholders across the region. Co-create a shared vision by collaboratively –over tailored work sessions– defining the mission, objectives, and governance framework to build trust, alignment, and accountability.



Subsequently, launching a focused, time-bound pilot initiative can serve as a test for the network's operating model, showcase its potential, and generate momentum for broader engagement and adaptations. Also, continue proactively engaging stakeholders through a clear communication strategy aimed at sustaining involvement and attracting attention to the network's purpose and value proposition while inviting active participation from diverse actors.

Additionally, shedding attention towards the policy spaces where resources and projects are lagging may also be a focal point for the first coordinating efforts of the MSP ecosystem. First, as practitioners recognise, bridging the gap between climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation should be prioritised, including addressing the separation between both agendas, the difference in access to resources, and calling for greater alignment to address their interlinked urgency. Similarly, empowering regional leadership and initiatives addressing climate and biodiversity challenges by redirecting resources to this level of increased scarcity would be beneficial in promoting direct impact and bridging access gaps. Finally, initiatives that focus on addressing adaptation to the interconnected social, economic and environmental challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss remain rare. The increased regional vulnerability to these changes demands refocused attention in rapidly attending to this void and providing new initiatives and resources for its preparation.

Consolidating the MSP ecosystem in LAC through a regional network is not just an aspiration but a necessary step to scale up the pressing challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. By aligning efforts, fostering innovation, and strengthening local capacities, the network can catalyze transformative change, positioning LAC as a global leader in collaborative climate and biodiversity action. These initial steps lay the groundwork for a sustained and scalable impact, ensuring that MSPs fulfil their potential as vehicles for systemic and inclusive environmental solutions.





Appendices

Appendix I:

Research Design and Methods

This study was designed to map the MSP ecosystem in LAC, focusing on climate and biodiversity. Employing a qualitative methodology, the research combined desk research, interviews, focus groups, and case studies. This iterative approach ensured the findings were rooted in evidence and informed by the perspectives of practitioners, offering actionable insights to strengthen the MSP ecosystem.

Objectives of the Research Design

The study aimed to explore the dynamics, contributions, and scalability potential of MSPs in the LAC region, with three primary objectives:



Mapping and Assessment: Identify and assess existing MSPs to understand their structures, operations, and outcomes.

Highlighting Innovations: Document innovative approaches and best practices to enhance the effectiveness of MSPs.

Guiding Action: Analyze ecosystem challenges and opportunities to formulate actionable recommendations for stakeholders.

To achieve these goals, the study followed a multi-phase methodology emphasizing robust data collection and in-depth analysis.

Desk Research and Bibliographic Review

The desk research phase laid the foundation for understanding the MSP landscape in LAC. This phase focused on practitioner-driven sources while incorporating complementary academic resources:



Practitioner Resources and Online Platforms: The study leveraged reports, databases, and publications from organizations such as UNStats, TPI Network, MSP Shafter, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, SDG Actions Platform, country-level international cooperation agencies, and local organizations. These sources provided insights into funding mechanisms, governance models, and operational frameworks.

Mapping of MSP Initiatives: A high-level mapping exercise identified key MSPs across LAC, and the selected cases were drawn from the five priority countries—Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Guatemala, and Peru. The mapping highlighted innovative partnerships at the climate-biodiversity nexus aligned with the project objectives.

Targeted Literature Review: Reports and case studies from global development organizations like the WRI, IADB, UN, GIZ, and academia were analysed to contextualise the findings and identify regional trends.

This phase established a structured framework for the subsequent qualitative data collection, focusing on actionable insights from publicly available resources and practitioner networks.

Interviews

Semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders were central to capturing the operational realities of MSPs. Participants included government representatives, private sector leaders, civil society actors, philanthropists, and academics.

Focus Areas



MSP Lifecycle: Detailed insights into partnership formation, governance, funding, and scaling.

Barriers and Innovations: Participants discussed systemic challenges and shared strategies for overcoming them.

Practical Guidance: Interviewees provided perspectives on effective practices and potential improvements.

Interviews followed tailored guides developed by the research team to ensure alignment with study objectives while allowing flexibility for unique insights. Conducted virtually, this approach facilitated broad regional participation and efficient data collection.

Focus Groups

Focus groups provided a collaborative platform for exploring broader ecosystem dynamics and stakeholder interplay. These sessions emphasized key themes like coordination, material means, and scalability.

Focus Areas



Contextual Understanding: Open discussions deepened insights into definitions and the interplay between MSPs, climate resilience, and biodiversity conservation.

Expert Perspectives: Practitioners identified used cases, methodologies, best practices, and systemic challenges and opportunities, providing nuanced insights for the study.

Focus groups were guided by instruments developed to explore the MSP ecosystem comprehensively. Conducted online, these sessions ensured balanced regional representation and dynamic exchanges among diverse stakeholders.

Case Studies

Ten exploratory and three priority partnerships were selected for detailed case studies to provide concrete examples of successful practices and challenges. These case studies examined governance models, financial structures, and operational strategies across the lifecycle of the initiative, focusing on the following:

- Addressing ecosystem gaps and advancing climate-biodiversity goals.
- Documenting innovative practices and lessons learned.
- Exploring scalability and replication potential.

Case studies were a critical tool for contextualizing broader findings and illustrating the practical application of key insights.

Data Processing and Analysis

Data analysis followed a structured framework to ensure consistency and alignment with research objectives:



Triangulation: Insights from desk research, interviews, and focus groups were cross-referenced to validate findings.

Thematic Coding: Qualitative data were coded to identify patterns in governance, funding, stakeholder engagement, and impact.

Analytical Tools: Ofimatic and AI-assisted tools were employed for note-taking, summarisation, edition assistance, text analysis, and streamlining data processing.

This rigorous analysis informed the mapping process, enriched case studies, and supported the development of actionable recommendations.

Limitations and Assumptions

While this study provides a comprehensive view of the MSP ecosystem in LAC, certain limitations must be acknowledged:

Initial Mapping Effort: The mapping process represents a structured but initial attempt to scan publicly available resources and practitioner networks, offering a foundational understanding of the ecosystem rather than an exhaustive inventory.

Broad Definition of MSPs: MSPs were analysed based on a flexible definition informed primarily by study participants (following WINGS methodology) and aligned by leading frameworks (e.g., UN, TPI), acknowledging that there is no universally agreed definition.

Climate-Biodiversity Interplay: The study assumed a complementary relationship between climate and biodiversity, recognizing that boundaries can be fluid and context-dependent.

Despite these limitations, the research provides robust insights and actionable recommendations for advancing the MSP ecosystem in LAC. The integration of practitioner-driven perspectives ensures relevance and applicability, offering a practical roadmap for stakeholders across the region.

Appendix II:

Participating Organizations in Focus Groups and Interviews

This appendix provides an overview of the organizations represented in the focus groups and interviews conducted for this study. The focus groups and interviews brought together diverse stakeholders from across sectors, contributing valuable insights into the dynamics of MSPs in Latin America. The interviewees were executives and leaders directly involved in MSP efforts across the region, particularly in the focus countries: Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, Brazil, and Peru. Their participation provided critical perspectives on the strategic direction, challenges, and opportunities for scaling these partnerships. These discussions were held through videoconferencing, ensuring broad participation despite geographical distances.

Focus Groups

October 16, 2024

- NEST
- Socialab
- Impact Ventures PSM
- CrossBoundary
- Fundemix
- Fundación Grupo Argos
- Uma Concertação pela Amazonia
- WWF Colombia

October 31, 2024

- Lemann Foundation
- Centro Mexicano para la Filantropía (CEMEFI)
- Iniciativa Climática de México
- Pro Pacífico

Interviewee Organizations

- Luis von Ahn Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- TNC Brasil
- WWF Colombia
- Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund)
- World Resources Institute (WRI)
- Conservation International
- Tropical Forest Alliance Colombia
- TechnoServe
- The Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance

These interviews, conducted between October 15 and November 6, 2024, captured the diverse perspectives and experiences of those leading and participating in MSPs across Latin America. The semi-structured format allowed for open dialogue, enabling interviewees to share insights on the effectiveness, challenges, and future opportunities for scaling MSPs in the context of climate and biodiversity efforts in the region.

The data-gathering process through these interviews and focus groups was critical in informing the case studies and overall analysis of the report. By capturing the experiences of key stakeholders who are directly engaged in the leadership and implementation of MSPs, the study was able to identify key lessons, best practices, and challenges. These insights provided a nuanced understanding of how MSPs operate in different contexts and regions, as well as the practical strategies required to foster their growth and effectiveness. Ultimately, this data collection process contributed to a deeper, more actionable analysis, enabling the identification of opportunities for scaling and strengthening MSPs for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation in Latin America.



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Participants





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