



ASL

Amazon Sustainable
Landscapes Program

Annual Conference 2022

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Credit: Minister of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition of Ecuador

Introduction

The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) is an initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that seeks to improve integrated landscape management and ecosystem conservation in priority areas of the Amazon in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname. The national level environmental agencies of each country lead the implementation of the Program's national projects, and multiple public and private institutions co-execute the projects on the ground, along with civil society and community organizations. The World Bank is the lead agency for the Program and, together with the other GEF agencies - WWF, CAF, FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and UNDP -, provides supervision and technical assistance to national projects. The ASL also includes a regional project, executed by the World Bank, that promotes coordination and exchange of experiences.

The ASL, particularly through its regional coordination project, works to establish and strengthen the network of people and institutions linked to the Program to share ideas, lessons learned, and best practices; accelerate learning; and generate, systematize, and socialize knowledge at various levels and for diverse audiences. The Annual Conference is the Program's largest gathering of the ASL community.

The Fifth ASL Conference was held from September 12-14, 2022, in [Puembo, Ecuador](#). It was an exciting event considering it was the first in-person conference after the two previous ones had been held virtually.

Conference Objectives

01

To promote exchange of knowledge, experiences, and reflections among the Program's executors.

02

To identify future exchanges and collaborations through the regional project.

03

To strengthen the community among all ASL members.

The detailed agenda of the event can be accessed at the following [link](#).

The organizing team created a [web page](#) for the conference to share information with the participants.



Methodology

The conference was divided over three days with main sessions organized as such:

1. Project Fair

The fair allowed for the exchange of information and ideas among the ten national projects from the seven participant countries, creating an opportunity for interaction between the projects. Prior to the conference, posters for each of the ASL national projects were prepared to serve as a reference and communication piece for conference participants to learn the basic information for each project. At the fair during the conference the national projects already in implementation presented three key achievements, three lessons/challenges, and plans for 2023; while projects about to start implementation presented three goals, three challenges, and plans for 2023. Participants asked questions and left notes for teams to read. The session was set up as a fair, with three to four projects presenting simultaneously at their own stand. Participants could move from one stand to the next at their own leisure.

2. Presentation of Regional project progress:

The ASL coordination team presented progress in activities along six themes within the ASL's three pillars of work (integrated protected landscapes, integrated productive landscapes, and policies and incentives for protected and productive landscapes). The deep dive into the themes within the program pillars highlighted six different themes and the main activities being worked on within the regional project to provide an immersion into the current priorities of the ASL program. A member of the ASL core team presented each one of the themes, providing details on why the activities and themes were important for the ASL, what the regional project had accomplished to date, plans for the future, and comments from a guest speaker involved in the activities.

After the presentations of the themes, participants broke out into smaller groups to answer two questions:

1) Do we want to keep working on this theme in 2023? And 2) If yes, in what way and how? They brainstormed together and came back to the plenary to present their ideas.

3. Discussion and collective prioritization of new themes and activities for future work:

Participants had an opportunity to select and discuss other themes previously prioritized within the ASL that could initiate activities in the next year. Champions were identified for the selected themes and group discussions contributed to a brainstorm on potential activities and ways to deliver on such themes.

4. Motivational talks:

At the beginning and closure of the event keynote speakers were invited to share their knowledge and inspire action towards the Amazon.

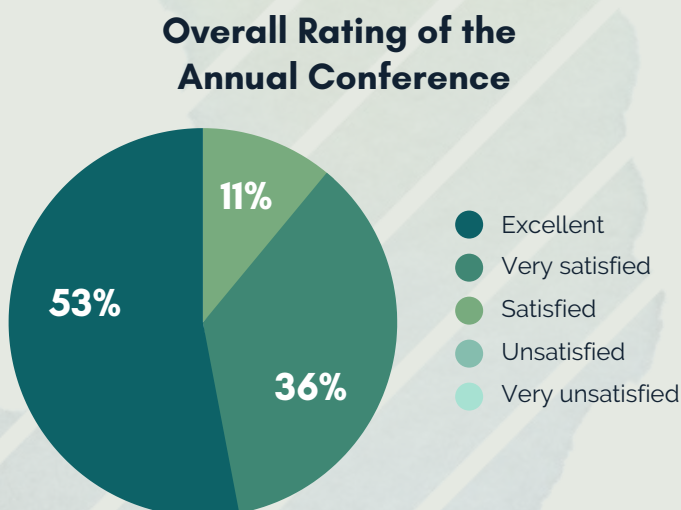


Figure 1. Overall Rating of the Annual Conference

At the end of the three days of the meeting, the participants filled out a survey, according to which **100% were satisfied or very satisfied with the event**. Detailed responses and recommendations for future meetings are found in Annex 1 of this document.

Participants



The conference was attended by a total of 88 people involved in the ASL, including high-level representatives from seven Amazonian countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname -, technical representatives of public institutions as well as partner NGOs, GEF agencies (World Bank, WWF, UNDP, CAF, FAO, IFAD, UNIDO), and project teams.

The list of participants is available [here](#).

Annual Conference Participants

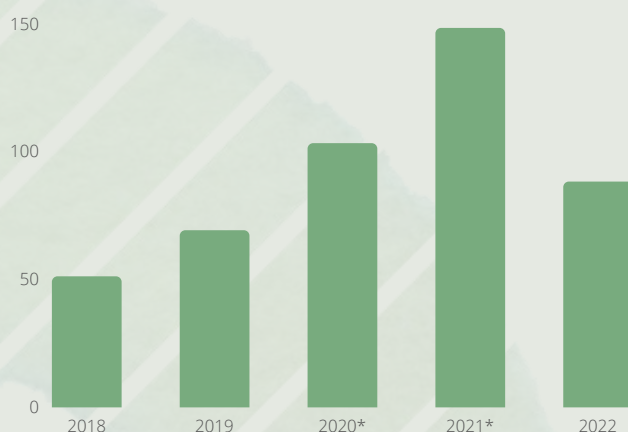


Figure 2. Number of participants for each year of the ASL Annual Conference over the last five years. Years with a * were done virtually due to the COVID19 pandemic.



Conference Opening

Representing the GEF Secretariat, senior climate change specialist **Pascal Martinez** opened the conference, welcoming the participants and thanking the government of Ecuador for their hospitality in hosting the event. He noted the importance of the Amazon for the GEF's strategy and the entity's long history working in the region beginning in 1992. Since then, the GEF has supported 49 projects for a total of \$500 million in financing and \$2 billion in co-financing within the multiple GEF focal areas and evolved from a focus on traditional conservation to a greater focus on integrated efforts.



The ASL is precisely the result of the intention to support integrated landscape-level responses and transformational changes to address both direct and indirect drivers of environmental degradation across the region. Mr. Martinez finished by sharing information on the new GEF8 replenishment cycle and underscoring that the Amazon is an important region in this new cycle.



Next, **Boris Weber**, World Bank representative in Ecuador, welcomed everyone on behalf of the World Bank and stated that it has been a privilege for the World Bank to lead the ASL program. Mr. Weber highlighted the uniqueness of the ASL program, including how it promotes collaboration, exchanges of lessons learned, and trust building between governments, agencies, and project teams of each project leading to a common vision and effort. It is also a program that recognizes and values the knowledge and contributions of everyone, including local communities, who are primary decision makers in the conservation of the Amazon and whose knowledge is essential for the Program's actions. Mr. Weber stated that the World Bank is available to support the countries and noted that in Ecuador they are committed to aiding efforts to conserve and sustainably use the country's natural capital, while reducing poverty and inequality, and currently are identifying new initiatives to promote inclusive forest economies. He ended by thanking the Government of Ecuador for hosting the program at this conference and to the GEF for being an unparalleled funder to the protection of the Amazon and the world's global public goods.



Ana Maria Gonzalez Velosa, ASL Coordinator, welcomed the group noting that it is the first time everyone from the ASL is together in person since 2019, which is already a reason to celebrate. She credited the work done and the progress made by the national project teams towards achieving their goals despite the personal and professional challenges caused by the COVID19 pandemic. Ms. Gonzalez Velosa highlighted several of the accomplishments achieved, including the start of ASL2 and the approval of the Putumayo-Ica regional project that includes four of the Amazon countries, both of which are more reasons to celebrate. She stated that the ties of the ASL community were not lost despite the exclusive virtual engagement during the last years. The commitment remains to continue working together and with other key partners for the Amazon's conservation, restoration, and sustainable management, to avoid reaching tipping points.



To wrap up the conference opening, **Gustavo Manrique**, Minister of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition from Ecuador, welcomed the participants on behalf of his government and highlighted the country's efforts and accomplishments over the last 15 months. At the start of his mandate, he signed decree 59 changing the name of Ecuador's ministry to include "ecological transition" thereby sending a message on how the ministry works transversally and pragmatically with other ministries. Since taking office, Ecuador has increased its protected areas by 42%, with a large portion of them in the Amazon. For instance, a new reserve of 5,500 hectares, Tiwi Nunka Community Reserve, was recently created and is being managed by the Shuar indigenous group in the Amazon. Under his leadership, Ecuador will launch a strategy to set up deforestation-free certification for products, just one example of the country's decision to link conservation with job creation and improving quality of life. Minister Manrique highlighted the joint responsibility of the Amazon countries to protect the region and that international cooperation is critical for supporting the design and implementation of public policies that align sustainable use of biodiversity and economic development models. The Minister finished by praising the ASL program's efforts to bring everyone together to protect biodiversity, thanking the World Bank, the GEF for the Conference, and sending best wishes for the future to the event participants.

See the biographies of the speakers [here](#).





Inspiring Message

Fabiola Munoz, former Minister of Environment and Minister of Agriculture in Peru and current representative of the Governors' Climate and Forests (GCF) Task Force, provided the keynote address at the conference. Ms. Munoz highlighted climate change and poverty as the biggest challenges facing humanity and focused her message on three central ideas. The first is the need to enhance capacity for action in the Amazon and she presented a list of opportunities to work in the region. These opportunities included a recognition that knowledge exchanges, such as the ASL Annual Conference, represent a privileged space for learning and that there is great leverage for advocacy through coordinated communication within a regional approach. Another opportunity lies in working with the financial sector as a key partner for climate action and that the World Bank and GEF have the convening power to reach this sector.

The second idea shared is that failing shouldn't be considered an option as there is no planet B. Ms. Munoz gave an overview of the challenges in the region, including increasing greenhouse gas emissions from land use change and the lack of public policies prioritizing conservation of the Amazon. The third idea is that there's no time to waste. The challenges presented need to be addressed with a sense of urgency. Ms. Munoz stated that having a regional perspective provides a great opportunity, mentioning several regional initiatives (Leticia Pact, ACTO, ASL), and encouraging the participants to take advantage of these platforms. She highlighted that the greatest opportunity is to work together on a green economic recovery post-covid. Ms. Munoz ended with a quote by Nelson Mandela to inspire the group,

"It always seems impossible until it is done"

saying it's time to collaborate, not to compete.



Photo credit: Esteban Barrera

ASL Regional Project

Ana María González Velosa gave a brief overview of the ASL program in its two phases and results achieved so far. The regional project was then explained by highlighting activities and achievements in its different components (coordination, knowledge management, communication, monitoring and evaluation). The presentation illustrated the ways by which the ASL national projects and other partners can benefit from the project to strengthen conservation and sustainable development interventions at regional scale. It also included a section on lessons learned from the regional project that the ASL coordination team compiled to improve interventions and inform similar ones. See the presentation [here](#).

Participants reflected on the importance of the regional project, highlighting the benefits derived from it, including the opportunity of having a space for dialogue and coordination across countries and the opportunity to learn and be part of a larger community.



Figure 3. Participants' responses to what excites them and/or makes them proud of being part of the ASL program.



National Projects Fair

Interactive visits to project stands took place where teams from each of the 10 national teams presented a poster detailing aspects of the project and brought publications, materials, videos, and other items to showcase their projects. Visitors to each stand asked questions and were encouraged to comment on what impressed them most about the project, what was learned that was relevant to their own projects, and what experience could be shared to inform the project.

Bolivia - Sustainable Landscape Approach in the National System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of Bolivia

Representatives from the Bolivia project team gave an overview of the project, which aims to strengthen management effectiveness and financial sustainability of the National System of Protected Areas of the Bolivian Amazon, based on social participation and the sustainable management of natural resources. The project has not started yet but plans for 2023 include strengthening the integrated management of protected areas (including Ramsar sites), implementing instruments for improved governance, and carrying out management activities to combat wildlife trafficking. The Bolivian team also shared challenges, such as prioritizing and establishing ecological corridors with tourism potential as well as updating the regulatory framework for the integrated and sustainable management of protected areas.

Lastly, the team shared the steps they are taking to begin project implementation, including organization of the project's operating structure and signing institutional agreements. Visitors to Bolivia's stand were interested in understanding the national protected area system of the country, having an exchange on managing RAMSAR sites, and looking at how to formulate a regional strategy for wetland management in the Amazon. Here is the Bolivia [presentation](#) and [factsheet](#)



Brazil – Amazon Sustainable Landscapes



The Brazil team gave an overview of the project, which aims to expand the area under legal protection and improve management of protected areas, and to increase the area under restoration and sustainable management in the Brazilian Amazon. The team shared key achievements from the project, including, financial support for the implementation and management of 120 protected areas; gains in management effectiveness in protected areas; the improvement of management tools for protected areas; and the establishment of five fishery agreements as a key instrument to promote sustainable management of fish stocks. The Brazil team shared lessons from the project highlighting the need to establish a good governance structure with the participation of all strategic actors. It is also important to implement tools for planning and monitoring progress toward objectives. The project's challenges include developing economic models focused on territories that combine conservation with economic development and ensuring the proper integration of activities belonging to the different project phases. In 2023, the team plans to continue strengthening the implementation and consolidation of protected areas and to improve tools to optimize efforts to meet consolidation goals.

The Brazil team also gave an overview of the second phase of the project, highlighting the goals to: 1) expand ASL Brazil's ongoing efforts to consolidate protected areas in the Amazon, improve landscape connectivity and sustainable management of these areas; 2) consolidate and strengthen protected areas outside the ARPA Program and related governance mechanisms; and 3) strengthen and implement policies and strategies to promote integrated landscape management, and the conservation and recovery of native vegetation. To achieve such goals, the project will need to strengthen local capacity and focus attention to improve governance for management of several areas including Ramsar Sites. Plans for 2023 include starting actions in the Ramsar site territories of the Rio Negro and Juruá.

Visitors to the Brazil stand were impressed with the large geographic scope for the project and number of stakeholders involved. They noted that sharing different management effectiveness tools among countries could be helpful as well as strategies for linking food and nutritional security to reforestation efforts.



Colombia – Sustainable Amazon for Peace



Representatives of the Colombia team gave an overview of the project, which aims to improve connectivity and conserve biodiversity by strengthening local institutions and organizations to guarantee comprehensive management of low carbon emissions and peace building. The project's three main goals are to consolidate the management of selected productive landscapes as part of the biocultural connectivity strategy, to consolidate the governance schemes for the Jaguar Protection Corridors, and to implement the Regional Climate Change Strategy for the Colombian Amazon. Challenges in 2022 included ensuring conditions towards the sustainability of local productive initiatives, strengthening local and community governance, developing mechanisms to ensure dissemination of lessons learned contributing to the continued social dialogue in the region in line with the reconciliation peace process. Several of the activities the team expects to continue in 2023 include: community monitoring of landscape connectivity; implementation of landscape management tools and adaptive/agro-environmental planning at farm scale; strengthening four value chains of Amazon products; strengthening the role of rural promoters in monitoring jaguars and addressing human-wildlife conflict; and strengthening community forestry efforts in selected high biodiversity areas. Participants who visited the stand were interested in the project's work on value chains and suggested exchanges with other ASL projects on that topic.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET

Colombia – Heart of the Colombian Amazon



Representatives of Colombia project team gave an overview of the project, which aims to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity. Several accomplishments from 2022 include: an increase in hectares under ecological restoration; design and implementation of guidelines to standardize procedures linked to fisheries management plans and involving community monitoring at Ramsar sites; and progress in the management plan for the Miraflores Picachos Regional protected area including biological inventories that resulted in the registration of new orchid and anthuriums species. Some lessons mentioned from the Colombia project team were the need for ecological restoration to integrate ongoing initiatives, the need to strengthen value chains associated with restoration, and the need to support community organizations producing the plant material used in restoration. The team noted the challenge of ensuring the sustainability of the project's processes by incorporating them effectively in the long-term action plans of the environmental sector's public entities. Another challenge is to achieve greater and more qualified participation of women and young people in the project activities. Finally, the project endures the challenge of keeping the expected pace of implementation in a context of fragility and weakened governance due to violent conflict. The project teams plans for 2023 include: restoration of degraded lands within protected areas; advance in the conditions to realize the financial mechanism for the Protected Areas National System (HeCo); development and implementation of management plans for monitoring and sustainable use of fauna and flora, agreed with both communities and environmental authorities; establishment of new sectoral agreements to incorporate environmental guidelines and criteria in management plans and especially road infrastructure projects. All the above aligns with the new government plans to control deforestation in the Amazon via short and medium term socially and environmentally sound strategies. Participants who visited the project's stand were impressed by the capacity to coordinate with multiple sectors, partners, and interests as well as the productive work done with local communities, which acts as a buffer to protected areas. Others offered to exchange information on working with Indigenous Peoples on bioeconomy and methodologies to identify value chains.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET

Ecuador – Connectivity Corridors in Two Priority Landscapes in the Ecuadorian Amazon Region

Representatives from the Ecuador project team explained the background of their project, which aims to improve the ecological connectivity in priority landscapes of the Ecuadorian Amazon by establishing two connectivity corridors and associated management mechanisms to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and surrounding ecosystems over the long-term. Their main objectives are to successfully start the project, counting on broad participation of key actors; contribute to the country's policy regarding the expansion of protected areas and biological corridors; and strengthen the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the management of connectivity corridors. Ecuador's project team also discussed the challenges facing the project, which include finding ways to coordinate actions effectively with other initiatives and projects to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication. Another challenge is to ensure the sustainability (social, political and financial) of the conservation activities and sustainable production in each corridor. For 2023, the main activities will be: the project start-up workshop at the national level and in the two landscapes (Palora-Pastaza and Putumayo-Aguarico); hiring the staff of the Management Unit of the Project; and starting field work in the two landscapes for the evaluation and participatory selection of connectivity corridors to be created. Visitors to the project's stand applauded the large number of indigenous groups the project will work with and the overall coordination of community work with many actors. Many were interested in having exchanges on connectivity corridors, and others thought of how to integrate the project with others in the region, including the GEF Putumayo-Ica project and Programa Trinacional Cuyabeno-Guepi-Paya. Several wanted to look at lessons on how indigenous communities and local government collaborate to implement activities.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET

Guyana – Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana

The Guyana project team presented the aim of the project to strengthen landscape connectivity through improved management of protected areas and priority wetlands in southern Guyana, focusing on the North Rupununi Wetlands and Kanuku Mountains Protected Area. Project goals include strengthening management of the protected area, promoting productive practices that will ensure maintenance of habitat connectivity and functioning of the wetlands, and supporting legislative changes to improve management and expansion of the national protected area system. Some of the challenges in the project are accessing remote communities, communication difficulties with the communities due to language barriers, and the changes in leadership at different levels, all requiring more time and effort from the project. In 2023, the project team plans to collate information, both scientific and traditional knowledge, on the North Rupununi Wetlands and identify priority areas for new assessments and surveys to inform the wetlands' management plan. Visitors to the Guyana stand appreciated the project's components on monitoring and strengthening capacity. Others suggested to have exchanges on wetlands and connectivity between countries.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET

Peru - Securing the Future of Peru's Natural Protected Areas

Representatives from the Peru project team gave an overview of the project, which aims to promote long-term financial sustainability for the effective management of Peru's National Protected Areas System for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services of global importance in the Amazon biome. Achievements from 2022 include: development of a virtual platform "Peru por Naturaleza" offering various innovative opportunities for citizens and companies to financially contribute to the conservation of protected areas; development of the "microcapital" management mechanism within the co-management model between the State and local communities; and providing analysis and mitigation for social, environmental, and financial risks. Challenges faced in 2022 were: maintaining the technical and financial assistance that allows four protected areas to reach the basic management level within the framework provided by the Patrimonio del Peru Initiative, and mainstreaming gender and intercultural approaches within the project's financing mechanisms. For 2023, the project team aims to close the financial gap for the protected area system and has plans to reach the expected level of structural management for four protected areas. Visitors to Peru's stand were impressed with the concrete actions to finance protected areas taken by the project and noted that it would be useful to include the communities in benefits distribution.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET

Peru – Sustainable Productive Landscapes in the Peruvian Amazon



Representatives from the Peru project team gave an overview of the project, which aims to generate multiple global environmental benefits by applying an integrated approach to the management of Amazonian landscapes. Achievements from 2022 include: better planning for the sustainable management of the territory via inclusive multistakeholder processes, incorporation of environmental sustainability criteria in funds and financing programs for the agricultural sector to promote deforestation-free agriculture and ecosystem conservation, increase in the areas under sustainable production practices, and restoration done by indigenous communities. Challenges to the project are the increase in illegal activities in the territory and addressing how to accelerate behavioral changes among small producers in favor of forest conservation, beyond the benefits and economic incentives. For 2023, the team plans to strengthen technical assistance services to the public sector and to support platforms to promote multi-stakeholder and multi-level dialogue for the implementation of concerted development plans. Visitors to the project highlighted the comprehensiveness and diversity of measures and tools involved in the project at the regional, national, and local levels.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET

Peru – Building Human Wellbeing and Resilience in Amazonian Forests

Representatives from the Peru project team gave an overview of the project, which aims to advance in the conservation of healthy and functional forests and wetlands resistant to climate change, maintaining carbon reserves, avoiding GHG emissions and generating sustainable and resilient local livelihoods for the local inhabitants of the Peruvian Amazon. Several of the project's objectives for 2023 focus on consolidating the governance of the project, establishing strategic alliances with regional and local governments, and spreading information about the project. Challenges for the project include organizing the project governance structure; consolidating the technical team; and providing key, detailed, and objective information to the project's key stakeholders. In 2023, the team plans to design the project's management and operation plans, organize the hiring processes and technical selection, promote inter-institutional coordination, and establish communication channels with key project actors. Visitors to Peru's stand applauded the project's coordination with local actors and focus on value chains. Several noted the desire to have exchanges on uncontacted communities and NTFP.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET

Suriname – Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in Surinamese Amazon

Representatives from the Suriname project team explained the project, which focuses on securing equitable management of protected and productive landscapes through integrated approaches that deliver mutually supportive conservation and sustainable livelihood benefits. One of the main challenges impacting the project is the increase of illegal gold mining in protected areas. The project has not begun yet and plans for 2023 include: conducting a capacity needs assessment in four protected areas and designing a plan to build the capacity of park rangers and community members on park management; designing participatory management arrangements and performing periodic assessments (using the management effectiveness tracking tool, METT) in the four protected areas; carrying out participatory rehabilitation of overmined areas in one of the protected areas; and developing a national jaguar conservation plan and improving inter-institutional coordination to control illegal trafficking. Visitors to the project's stand were interested in looking at common strategies to control illegal mining and sharing information related to management of indigenous territories and protected areas.



PRESENTATION

FACT SHEET



Thematic Pillars

The ASL national and regional interventions are organized within three interlinked thematic components:

- 1) integrated protected landscapes,
- 2) integrated productive landscapes, and
- 3) policies and incentives for integrated protected and productive landscapes,

which together with the fourth component related to collaboration and knowledge management merge to achieve the common ASL goal to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region.

Within these pillars, the regional project delivers activities on the various themes, which are presented and discussed during PSC meetings, specific working meetings, and the annual conference. **Ana Maria Gonzalez Velosa** reminded participants on how themes are prioritized and what the regional project has achieved with the activities so far. A key element to highlight is that activities seek to address the knowledge and capacity needs of the stakeholders on a demand-driven basis.

The ASL aims to share knowledge between different types of stakeholders, from local farmers to government leaders, through scientists, protected area managers, forest engineers, community leaders, and more; across the Amazon, from local to regional scale; and across knowledge themes, from conservation to climate smart agriculture, forestry, climate change, nature-based solutions, etc. In order to exchange knowledge and increase learning, various events are organized, including lectures, panel discussions, expert interviews, collaborative training sessions, field visits, and study tours to specific countries to bring together Program stakeholders to share knowledge and meet specific learning goals. Project teams and beneficiaries act both as knowledge recipients and providers.

Following her **presentation**, there was a deep dive on six of the strategic themes (two per pillar) that the regional project has delivered activities on.

Pillar 1: Integrated Protected Landscapes

Tanya Yudelman (biologist from the ASL Core team) shared why sustainable financing is important to the ASL, starting with the point that maintaining the Amazon's ecological integrity requires conserving a representative area under different categories of protected areas. Specifically, the ASL aims to expand the area under protection by 6.1 million hectares and improve management of over 87 million hectares of protected areas. However, creating and sustaining these areas over the long term requires funding. Finding ways to sustainably finance these areas and ensure their conservation outcomes over the long term therefore requires robust financing strategies and innovative approaches drawing on public, private, and national and international funding.

Through the regional project and national projects, ASL1 has been supporting Brazil, Colombia, and Peru in the design and/or capitalization of innovative Project Finance for Permanence initiatives (PFPs). These cutting-edge initiatives work at the systems level, not individual protected areas, to secure long-term stable financial flows for conservation. Each is at a different stage of development. The Amazon Region Protected Areas Program (ARPA) in Brazil is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year; while Peru's Patrimonio Natural del Perú (PdP) started its implementation two years ago, and Herencia Colombia (HECO) successfully signed its closing agreement in June 2022. To share experiences and learn from each other, a sustainable financing working group was established by the ASL1 regional project with 14 members drawn from public and private organizations in each country as well as WWF and the World Bank. The working group was launched at the 2019 ASL Annual Conference in Leticia, where the objectives and work plan were discussed and presented. Working group members have since presented their experience with the approach at international events including IUCN's 2019 Parks Congress and in the Latin American and Caribbean network of environmental funds (REDLAC).

Additionally, a private thematic C4D group for information sharing and exchange has been set up. Key achievements of the working group include hosting three webinars on sustainable finance for conservation areas to explore different PFP models (from Costa Rica and Canada) and sustainable finance mechanisms (Colombia's carbon tax). The working group also produced a **PFP Users Guide**, which brings together both international best practices and the experience of the three countries and now serves as a key resource for the global PFP community.



Pillar 1: Integrated Protected Landscapes

Looking ahead, the ASL2 regional project is expanding the working group to include interested ASL2 stakeholders, and to date has received confirmation from Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Peru, CAF, and WWF. The working group will seek to understand the objectives and status of each project and identify their different needs and points of commonality to inform a 2023 action plan, with clearly defined topics and tools for knowledge sharing.

Alberto Cuba from Profonanpe and one of the working group members, was invited to the session to share his perspectives on how the ASL program's sustainable financing efforts have enriched Peru's PdP project and give advice to the future working group.

Breakout groups:

The breakout groups agreed to continue working on sustainable finance and prioritized several topics to explore including payment for ecosystem services, removing perverse incentives, and working with the private sector. Other areas of work identified during the session were promoting business models, carbon markets, and blended finance for environmental initiatives. The groups put forward suggestions to continue work within this theme, specifically clinics for projects, study tours, in-person exchanges and courses, virtual seminars, a regional action plan for sustainability, and learning from successful experiences (e.g. REDD+ in Indonesia).

Theme: Corridors

Carolina Sofrony (ecologist from the ASL Core team) shared why corridors are important to the ASL noting that the establishment of ecological corridors is increasingly considered a solution to conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem health, integrity, and flow of services and species. Sustainably managed, conserved, and connected areas are not only key to local socio-economic well-being and the long-term survival of wildlife, but also to safeguarding cultural diversity. The ASL's landscape approach and the program's purpose of promoting the integrated management of landscapes, raises the importance of connectivity as essential to guarantee the continuity of the ecosystem processes of the Amazon. Promoting the strengthening of capacities and the exchange of experiences in this area is an essential objective of the ASL Program and its approach to integrated/connected landscapes.





Pillar 1: Integrated Protected Landscapes

Within this theme, in addition to the multiple activities developed by national projects, the ASL, through the regional project, supported the regional seminar "Connectivity: What are the criteria to establish ecological corridors through landscape restoration and management?" in 2017, carried out by the University of São Paulo's Institute for Advanced Studies with the aim of improving synergies between initiatives in South America with a focus on the Brazilian, Colombian, and Peruvian Amazon as well as the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay. In 2021, the ASL together with the Global Wildlife Program (GWP), also financed by the GEF and led by the World Bank, designed and sent a survey to countries in order to identify the priorities and interests regarding ecological connectivity. Several of the priorities include evaluating the economic potential of corridors, environmental criteria to establish corridors, and evaluating the impacts from infrastructure on connectivity. In response to the survey, the two programs are leading a series of knowledge exchanges on connectivity and ecological corridors and have organized two webinars with the assistance of two expert consultants. The first webinar aimed to exchange experiences on key issues for the creation of corridors. The second webinar focused on participatory spatial planning of ecological corridors and connectivity as well as community governance for corridor planning using two of the national projects (one from Colombia and one from Ecuador) as case studies. The ASL regional project also supported a capacity building process with Wildlife Insights from 2021-2022 that resulted in the development of a platform, which analyzes data from camera traps in pilot sites from ASL national projects. This analytical tool will inform decision-making, including those related to the establishment and monitoring of corridors. In the case of Colombia for instance, camera trap data confirmed the presence of jaguar in a proposed corridor and validated the proposal to design a corridor in this area. A second phase of the joint work with GWP is being developed including: a workshop for national projects on corridor management and implementation, a webinar on participatory management around the design and establishment of corridors, a document with lessons learned and recommendations, and an open-access E-book with resources to be made accessible to the public.

Carolina Rosero from Conservation International in Ecuador was invited to the session and shared with the participants several highlights from the knowledge exchange series. She noted that the information received from the series has been useful and provided examples of how she hopes to apply it to the national project in Ecuador.

Pillar 1: Integrated Protected Landscapes

Breakout groups:

The breakout groups agreed to keep working on corridors with potential topics focused on governance, legal and regulatory frameworks, sustainability (social, environmental, financial), transboundary corridors through wetlands, and a methodology for designing and monitoring corridors. There was discussion within the groups on the need to expand the vision of corridors to other territorial aspects (e.g., governance, cultural) rather than just biological ones. Possible activities could be to develop national maps that identify priorities for connectivity and to evaluate ecological corridors and their link to economic corridors and production. There is desire to create a corridor working group and to have knowledge exchanges between the countries sharing tangible results on how to develop and maintain corridors.



Pillar 2: Integrated Productive Landscapes

Amy Juelsgaard (environmental scientist from the ASL Core team) discussed the theme of promoting value chains for non-timber forest products (NTFPs) which has been prioritized considering its strategic role in combining biodiversity conservation with sustainable development, based on traditional knowledge and innovation, and with a focus on improving living conditions of local communities. Successful promotion of NTFPs serves as an incentive to stop biodiversity loss, degradation of natural resources and overexploitation, providing value to standing forests and free-flowing clean rivers. Promoting value chains for NTFPs also provides economic alternatives and food security to local communities, strengthens networks of community organizations - strengthening social capital, and serving as strategic components of an integrated approach to disincentivize illegal environmental activities.

Within this theme, in addition to the multiple activities developed by national projects with several different products, the ASL, through the regional project, carried out the study tour on sustainable productive activities to conserve the Amazon in Brazil in 2018 to learn from best practices managing natural resources in the state of Acre. In 2020, at the ASL Conference a guest speaker from Conexsus participated in the panel, "Sustainable Value Chains for the Recovery of the Amazon" to discuss innovative ideas, lessons learned, and recommendations for the promotion of sustainable value chains that generate income, create jobs, and achieve food security in the context of the pandemic. The ASL participated in the festival FICAMAZONIA 2021 as an institutional partner and on a panel about value chains in sustainable productive landscapes, in November 2021, along with the two ASL Colombian projects. In May 2022, the ASL participated in the BioForestALC event: I Virtual Forum on the Potential of Non-Timber Forest Products for a Latin American and Caribbean Bioeconomy, presenting together with the SINCHI Institute on the panel: "Promoting the Forest Bioeconomy in Latin America and the Caribbean". In June 2022, the ASL participated in the webinar organized by the GEF, "Bioeconomy: a strategy for inclusive green recovery in the Amazon".

The ASL is currently carrying out a mapping of NTFP initiatives supported by the ASL national projects, which will allow for the identification of beneficiaries, products being supported along the value chain, good practices, challenges, and lessons learned, as well as necessary actions to strengthen these value chains seeking to generate benefits for the local communities.



Pillar 2: Integrated Productive Landscapes

As a result of the mapping, the ASL program in its first phase is supporting 60 NTFP initiatives, benefiting 5,259 people, of which 2,196 are women and 3,062 men. The mapping identified 15 different products within ASL1 projects. These numbers provide a baseline for NTFP initiatives being supported, but the plan is to expand the mapping tool to include ASL2 projects and to design a comprehensive capacity building activity for selected producer organizations and to be delivered by expert organizations.

Renata Gatti from Brazil's Ministry of Environment was invited to the session and shared with the participants that to scale NTFPs value chains across the Amazon it's important to look at all the steps involved along the chain and all the actors in the process. She noted that infrastructure in remote areas is important and that it is critical to consider local communities and their knowledge to scale up existing efforts. The Amazon is very diverse, so it is necessary to adapt to the local realities and look for synergies; working on strengthening these are the links to success.

Breakout groups:

The breakout groups agreed to continue working on this theme by focusing on topics of knowledge management, legal frameworks, benefit sharing, and unintended social and environmental impacts from NTFPs. The groups also touched on the importance of strengthening capacity for cooperatives and local groups, facilitating access to markets, and working along the entire value chain with communication among all actors, including companies. Possible activities discussed by the group include conducting research on supply and demand as well the capacities of different areas, mapping NTFP products and value chains, and having exchanges between successful initiatives.



Pillar 2: Integrated Productive Landscapes

Sandra Berman (ecologist from the ASL Core team) presented on community-based sustainable tourism (CBST), an economic activity that allows for sustainable territorial development. Well planned and executed, CBST combines social, environmental, and economic benefits, creating the conditions for forest conservation while also improving the lives of communities. Within the ASL Program, several national projects are implementing CBST on the ground and it has the potential to become an integral part of sustainable livelihoods, including as part of the post-Covid green recovery.

Within this theme, the ASL through the regional project, organized the training, immersion, and field visit on CBST "Community Tourism: Amazonian Exchange", in November 2021. This included both virtual lessons and an immersive field visit with more than 20 participants comprised of local entrepreneurs, community leaders, and government officials from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru at the Rio Negro Sustainable Development Reserve in Amazonas, Brazil. A report with recommendations was delivered and is available in Portuguese with an executive summary in Spanish on C4D. In July 2022, the ASL organized a webinar with the GWP on "Strengthening benefit sharing of tourism with local communities", which shared experiences from Uganda, Maldives, Laos, and Colombia, specifically the ASL community tourism experience in Cerro Azul, in San José del Guaviare, Colombia. At the 2021 annual conference, everyone agreed on the usefulness of the completed study visit on CBST and discussed potential future activities. Types of activities include: growing the community of practice with new ASL2 members; organizing new courses, study trips, and events that strengthen the capacities of communities and their tourism initiatives; creating business roundtables between tour operators, marketing agencies, and other actors in regional tourism value chains, to raise awareness of CBST initiatives.

Breakout groups:

The breakout groups agreed to continue working on this theme discussing that a regional vision for CBST is needed. Possible topics discussed by the groups were connecting with the private sector, strengthening enterprises for tourism management, and strengthening national laws related to tourism.

They also highlighted the importance of involving women and youth in the initiatives. The groups focused on the need to research capacity carrying limits for areas with CBST endeavors, develop best practices, monitor, and create financial management plans that are equitable. Going forward it was suggested to have exchange programs among CBST enterprises.



Pillar 3: Policies and Incentives

Daniel Sumalavia (lawyer from the ASL Core team) presented on indigenous governance, sharing that the Amazon region is home to more than 400 groups of Indigenous Peoples, including peoples in a situation of voluntary isolation and initial contact. Legally recognized indigenous territories comprise around 28% of the Amazon region, and these territories represent almost half of the basin's intact forests. In 2021, research led by the University of Sheffield found that between 2010 and 2018, indigenous lands averaged five times less deforestation compared to unprotected areas across all tropical forests in the Americas, Asia, and Africa, thus demonstrating the effective management of their lands. For the ASL, in both its national and regional projects, Indigenous Peoples are essential partners for the conservation and development of the Amazon.

Within this theme, in addition to the multiple activities developed by national projects, the ASL, through the regional project, funded an event in February 2019, "Intercultural Regional Dialogues for Environmental and Territorial Management in the Amazon" in Leticia, Colombia, which facilitated the exchange of experiences on issues of territorial management and environmental governance between indigenous organizations and national and international civil society, and environmental authorities from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The ASL facilitated a governance and co-management internship between protected areas and indigenous territories in the Madre de Dios region, Peru, with representatives from Peru, Brazil, and Colombia in November 2019. That same month, the ASL helped put on an event, "Wild-Circle" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil that brought together indigenous leaders, scientists, academics, and artists to reflect on the different aspects of life in the Amazon. In October 2021, the ASL together with the Colombian national project supported the "Summit of Native Women of the Amazon Basin" with OPIAC. The ASL participated in the event "Amazon Forest, Connectivity and Indigenous Territories: Challenges for the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework" organized by the Noramazónica Alliance in July 2021, presenting on the panel "Towards a better-connected Amazon: successful initiatives of articulation". The ASL and GWP co-hosted the webinar, "Sharing successful experiences of engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities in conservation" in May 2022. In August 2022, the ASL held a coordination meeting with COICA to establish a strategy to coordinate future opportunities. During this meeting, the ASL was invited to participate in the V COICA Summit in Lima, Peru. The ASL participated in the II Amazon Meeting for the Exchange of Knowledge in Leticia, Colombia, organized by the Noramazónica Alliance in September 2022. The aim was to share experiences and learnings about territorial governance mechanisms implemented in the northern region of the Amazon.



Pillar 3: Policies and Incentives

The next step is to identify opportunities for collaboration between the ASL regional project and the COICA action plan for 2026 and promote a technical table to define concrete actions. Additionally, the ASL plans to continue promoting exchanges on indigenous environmental governance, including spaces for indigenous leaders and youth involved in ASL projects.

Diana Rivera project coordinator for the Sustainable Productive Landscapes of the Peruvian Amazon project was invited to talk about opportunities for exchange at the regional level on this topic and highlight the project's work in developing a Life Plan Formulation process. This is a tool designed by indigenous communities to manage and plan their territories and resources in a culturally appropriate manner, based on their own aspirations and priorities.

Breakout groups:

The breakout groups agreed to keep working on the topic of indigenous governance looking at strengthening organizations to manage territories and incorporating a regional view of governance. They noted the importance of incorporating a focus on gender, youth, and local knowledge. To support indigenous governance, the groups talked about the need to ensure land titling is done and legal support is provided along with capacity building. Going forward they suggested to have exchanges of experiences in indigenous governance between countries in the field with indigenous representatives and to develop agreements on areas of common interests among the countries.



Pillar 3: Policies and Incentives

Ana Maria Gonzalez Velosa presented on regional efforts to mitigate mercury contamination, noting that Amazonian countries produce approximately 400 metric tons of gold per year, which is almost 10% of global demand. Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) operations are responsible for 15% of gold production in Amazonian countries posing a major threat to the Amazon's ecosystems. The threat stems not only from deforestation and degradation caused by the activity, but from the use of mercury to fuse gold, which subsequently enters the environment, poisoning the water and local food chain through fish. Local fish is the main source of protein for local communities. Alluvial and land mining pollutes rivers and streams, and statistics reveal that the concentration of mercury in the bodies of Indigenous Peoples exceeds the maximum level recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Impact on human populations regularly exposed to higher levels of mercury may include effects on the nervous, digestive, and immune systems and on the lungs, skin, and eyes, and may cause physical deformities and learning difficulties.

The ASL has supported several initiatives in order to support the systematization and generation of information, awareness, and dialogue towards coordinated work to address the impacts associated with mining in the Amazon. The ASL regional project granted a consultancy to the Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS) as lead of the "Amazonian Alliance for the reduction of the impacts of gold mining" to strengthen regional collaboration to counteract, remedy, restore, and respond to the impacts of gold mining and pollution generated using mercury. Some of the main results obtained to date include an analytical study to evaluate the current situation of mining and mercury contamination in an Amazonian subregion of Brazil, Colombia, and Peru; virtual exchanges on topics of key interest (impacts of mercury on the environment and human health); regional meetings and exchange of experiences, with the participation of government agencies from different sectors. The members of the alliance, with the support of ASL, are developing a detailed analysis on the impact of mercury in key pilot areas.

This information will support the dialogue towards the design of roadmaps to address mercury pollution with key stakeholders. A second regional event took place in Iquitos to continue building the collaboration in October 2022.



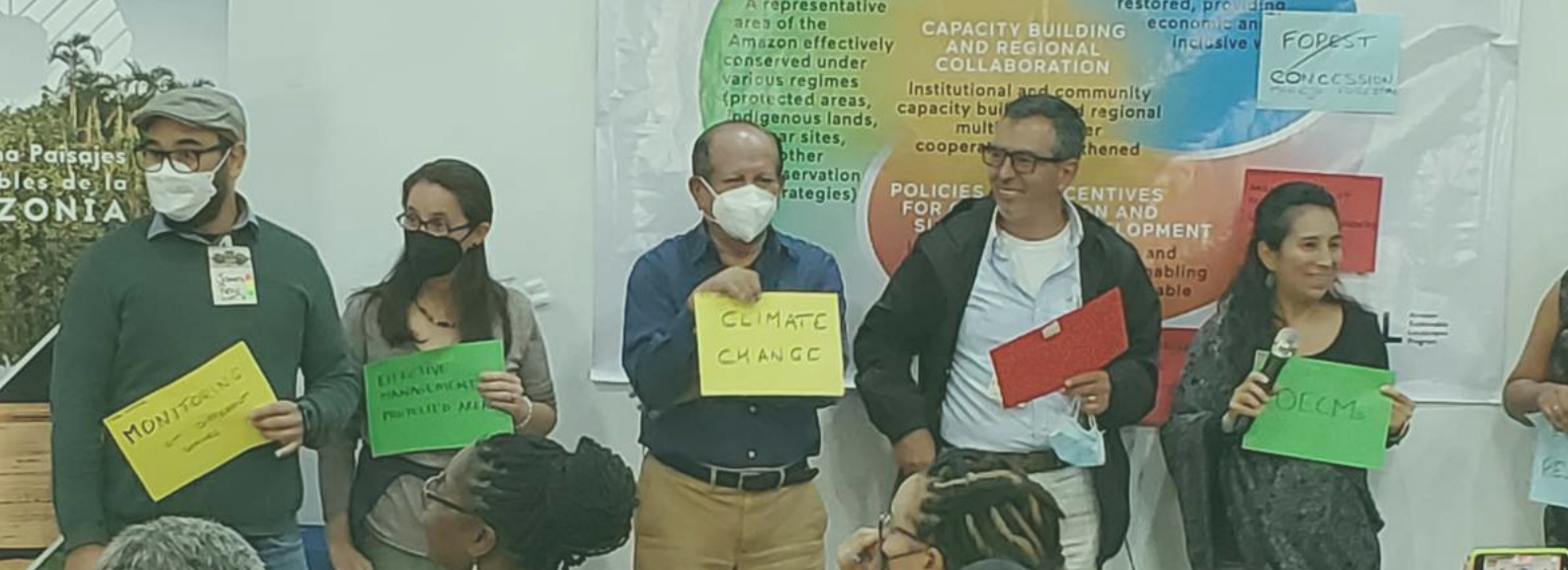
Pillar 3: Policies and Incentives

In line with these activities, the ASL commissioned the Conservation Strategy Fund to develop the "Mining Impact Calculator" tool for Colombia and Peru, which was already designed for Brazil. The tool, which allows users to calculate the socio-environmental costs of illegal gold mining activities, will provide Colombia and Peru with user-friendly, evidence-based, and reliable information to improve decision-making, awareness, and enforcement of regulations against illegal activities. The capacity building activities that are part of this consultancy are expected to include members of the national and subnational government, environmental authorities, prosecutors, local authorities, civil society organizations, and local and indigenous communities as potential users of the tool. ACTO has indicated their interest in supporting and scaling the calculator regionally, and currently has plans to support activities focused on water pollution. In partnership with the IDR (Institute of Research and Development of France), ACTO will support a study to estimate the sources of mercury emissions, vulnerability maps, and risk for the entire basin. Efforts to address the impacts of mercury use will also be aligned and expanded within the framework of the regional GEF project "Integrated Management of the Putumayo-Içá River Basin", which will be implemented in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and which is about to start.

Breakout groups:

The breakout groups agreed to keep working on this theme focusing on information analysis on other areas, communication and dissemination of such analysis, and collaboration and awareness raising. The group highlighted the importance of this issue being dealt with involving multiple sectors. Under information analysis the groups discussed the importance of gathering data to identify all the areas with illegal gold mining using mercury, to look at impacts on ecosystems and human health, and then to strengthen surveillance and law enforcement using this information. It would be important to share knowledge by presenting studies done on the topic, continuing with webinars, and inviting other actors and sectors for the work on communication and dissemination. The groups identified the need to identify alternative legal livelihoods that replace this activity as a source of employment and income, but in some cases also to improve mining practices that for instance do not use mercury.





Future of the ASL regional project

After the detailed discussion on the themes developed in the past, participants had the opportunity to review other prioritized themes within a **predefined list** and for which no knowledge related activities have been developed yet by the regional project. Compiling the top themes from each of the ASL pillars, a session allowed for brainstorming of other themes and a discussion of a potential new set of knowledge management activities. A volunteer from the participant group selected a theme and led a breakout group to discuss the topic. Here are the results from each pillar's themes.

Pillar 1: Protected Landscapes

Theme: Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs)

The first theme selected under Pillar 1 was other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) and the discussion was led and presented by **Laura Bermudez** from Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

The group discussed the existing and needed management tools and planning instruments for OECMs. One of the challenges noted for OECMs is the multitude of actors involved, including from the public and communities, which requires a shared management approach. The group noted the advantages of OECMs, including their contribution to large and ambitious conservation targets, their ability to foster inclusive approaches and recognize and value private and community conservation efforts. The group also discussed how to verify the criteria of OECMs, which is potentially something the ASL regional project could support. Lastly, the group dove into the importance of wetlands and how they provide a unique, integrated vision of the Amazon.



Theme: Effective management of protected areas – park ranger service

The second theme selected under Pillar 1 was effective management of protected areas.

Ana Maria Gonzalez Velosa spoke on behalf of this group starting with the statement that management of protected areas requires working on the institutional governance around protected areas and the park ranger service is at the core of this. In line with this, the group focused the discussion on the need to raise awareness on the crucial role of park rangers in conservation and the need to provide support. For the ASL regional project this could mean offering training and even the design of a regional school for park rangers. Another possibility is to promote a knowledge exchange event or internships between park guards, along specific topics like the use of technologies for monitoring activities. The group also discussed the need to better communicate success stories of park guards in order to boost morale using the ASL platform. A potential partner to work with could be the International Federation of Park Rangers.

Pillar 2: Productive Landscapes

Theme: Productive Restoration

Shuba Soamandaugh from the Guyana Forestry Commission, presented on the theme selected under Pillar 2, which was productive restoration. Restoration is a key activity for most ASL projects with a total collective target of 48,500 hectares. The group discussed the need to consider risks associated with investments towards restoration with no sustainability involved and consideration for the need to provide maintenance to restored areas. A solution discussed is to involve local communities, improving livelihoods and food security from restoration activities, and supporting public policies to enable sustainability. The group recognized that Brazil has an important experience to be shared with others. For instance, Brazilian policies that require locally sourced food products promotes agroforestry activities that also encourage productive restoration. Financing is an important enabler for restoration, and a small local mechanism for financial services to lend with low interest rates to reduce the risk of restoration activities is needed. The group discussed the need to strengthen associations and cooperatives to access funds and assistance.

Pillar 3: Policies and incentives for protected and productive landscapes

Theme: Intersectoral agreements

Mario Orlando Lopez from Colombia's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development presented the theme selected under Pillar 3, intersectoral agreements. The group noted the key sectors to work with on such agreements, including agriculture and livestock, transport infrastructure, energy and mines. Some potential sectors that could be allies are the departments of planning, foreign trade, and tourism. The group also identified important elements to execute these agreements: political will, identification of common interests, alliances with different actors (public and private), definition of resources, identification of state and government goals, and environmental awareness. Lastly, the group looked at how the ASL regional project could help share experiences within the different countries related to negotiating intersectoral agreements and incentives.

Cross-cutting

Theme: Climate change/peatlands

Dennis del Castillo from the Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon facilitated the group to discuss the importance of peatlands as habitats that provide key environmental services. As all the countries in the Amazon have wetlands and peatlands, there is an opportunity to propose joint actions and knowledge exchanges. There are millions of tons of carbon stored within peatlands, and the group explored how to avoid losing them. The group discussed the importance of conserving and managing peatlands as key adaptation and mitigation measures. Policies are required to enable the conservation of peatlands as well as monitoring their status. The group talked about the need for a diagnostic exercise to identify priority areas for peatlands in the region and required measures to protect and sustainably manage these habitats. Finally, they noted the importance of respecting and learning from local knowledge around these specific habitats.

Theme: Monitoring

The theme of monitoring was also discussed, and **James Apestegui** from the Geophysical Institute of Peru presented the group's takeaways on the topic. The group started with a quick compilation of the current monitoring databases and noted that there are many regional, national, and local monitoring systems, but questioned if there is interoperability between them. The group also looked at the different types of data to monitor, including environmental (deforestation, biodiversity), social (gender, participation), and economic (poverty, quality of life), and argued that this information should form the basis for decision making at all levels - regional, national, and local - to adapt, mitigate and redirect. Doing so could feed into future ASL projects.





Closing Words from Domingo Peas Nampichkai

Domingo Peas Nampichkai, Indigenous Leader and Coordinator of the Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative, gave the final speech at the conference. He highlighted that humans created a system to benefit humanity, but that system is causing harm beyond awareness. According to Mr. Nampichkai an ecological transition is needed to avoid further Amazon destruction, but first a change of attitude is needed and awareness raising, especially among the youth. He shared that the Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador work for a true transition and care for the remaining Amazon, which is a necessary action from all because there is still a lot of forest to care for. Mr. Nampichkai noted that Indigenous Peoples are looking for alliances with all social sectors and touched on the importance of diverse actors - business people, NGOs, Indigenous authorities, government authorities – coming together to dialogue and create a new system which is crucial for the needed changes. He said he works to encourage action from the new generations and to ensure Indigenous Peoples have a voice with input into decision making.

This includes setting up real commitments that come from international forums. Promoting ecotourism and bioeconomies is important to avoid the need to rely on cutting down forests, even by Indigenous Peoples, as an income source in times of need. For Mr. Nampichkai it is necessary to bring together Indigenous Peoples and non-indigenous people, to invest in restoration, alternative energy systems and bioeconomies. Mr. Nampichkai said he is just a messenger and that it doesn't matter what color we are or where we work, the Amazon provides life to all humans. He urged for true commitment and actions in each country, no more talk. It's a big and difficult task, but it's not impossible.



Conference closing

The conference closed with messages of gratitude as this was an opportunity to get together in person and discuss. The GEF focal points brought up the idea of formalizing more frequent conversations between one another with support from the ASL regional team.



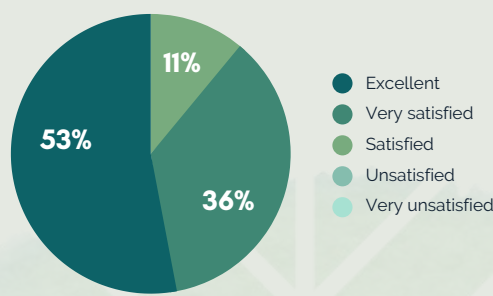
Finally, the conference ended with the participants in a circle and the facilitator, **Charo Lanao**, reminded everyone of the quote shared by Fabiola Munoz on the first day, "It always seems impossible until it is done." Participants went around and shared one word each to represent their feelings after the conference, many of them mentioning gratitude, responsibility, collaboration, and family.

Annexes

Annex 1: Survey results

At the end of the event, a survey was shared with the participants of the Annual Conference, 68 participants completed it. Below is a summary of the key findings of this survey.

Overall Rating of the Annual Conference



The participants also shared comments on the event, including some of the following comments:

- It is the first time in a face-to-face conference and I really liked the dynamics and spaces to share the event. Especially that they could be given in different languages. (translated from Spanish)
- It resulted in an excellent use of time. With very relevant discussions. A good overview of the national projects and prioritization of relevant issues for continuation (translated from Spanish)
- I think we explored the ideas very well, but it would be important to better define how we are going to turn the ideas into actions. (translated from Portuguese)
- The exchange of experiences is essential to improve the execution of projects. (translated from Portuguese)
- The activities have made it possible to meet people and projects from different countries. It has been enriching and motivating, I leave with many ideas to work on in my institution. (translated from Spanish)
- Excellent, you know more about your own country, you can see the program as a region with meeting points to strengthen. I identified important topics to learn more about. (translated from Spanish)
- Excellent organization, a super interesting format to develop a conference (translated from Spanish)
- It has been a very organized event, despite the number of people it has been handled very well. The methodology and activities have allowed interaction with other countries. (translated from Spanish)
- It is very enriching to learn about the projects in other countries and to see that we share the same problems but the ways of addressing them are different, that is where we have a lot to learn from each other. (translated from Spanish)

What recommendations do you have for future events?

- Include key indigenous organizations at the regional (COICA) and national (Amazonian) levels, such as CONFENIAE and AIDESEP. (translated from Spanish)
- More time for learning exchange. A topic chosen in advance of the meeting could be included to have this exchange, at least to achieve a diagnosis of the strength and difficulty that the project faces. (translated from Spanish)
- The only recommendation would be to see the possibility of carrying out more field visits. (translated from Spanish)
- We need more time to exchange specific information with the other national projects.
- Intensify the collective presentation of successes and failures ... use these inputs to plan future actions (translated from Spanish)
- Would it be possible to think of a future ASL conference that includes representatives from the private sector and delegations from countries that include different sectors? This can further enrich conversations and knowledge sharing.

What are your suggestions on methods to promote knowledge sharing between the ASL project and other projects shared at the conference?

- Send ASL bulletins to peoples' emails for dissemination (translated from Spanish)
- Support the development of impactful communication strategies to different audiences and instances for conservation and sustainable development (translated from Spanish)
- Group exchanges through a platform (WhatsApp)
- Platform to share actions and results of local projects (translated from Portuguese)
- We need more specialists to be "the bridge" between national projects. There is a lot of information but we cannot access it by ourselves.
- Additional spaces or work groups in addition to the plenary sessions, on specific topics of interest to the countries (translated from Spanish)



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