AMAZON
Sustainable
Landscapes Program

Annual Conference 2023
November 13—17 | Tarapoto, Peru

INDEX

1. 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 conservation of ecosystems in priority areas of the Amazon in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname. Environmental agencies at the national level 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, together with civil society and community organizations. The World Bank is the lead agency of the program and together with the other GEF implementing agencies —the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)— provide 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 between national projects and other regional initiatives. This project has strengthened the network of people and institutions linked to the program to share lessons learned and best practices and promote joint actions of regional interest.

The Annual Conference is the most attended and important meeting of the program where the largest number of institutions and individuals involved meet to exchange information, strengthen capacities, and plan joint actions—within the scope of the capacity building and regional collaboration pillar. The Sixth Annual ASL Conference was held November 13–17, 2023, in Tarapoto, Peru.

1.1. Conference objectives

The conference's general objective was to enhance collaboration within ASL projects and with other partners to improve integrated landscape management and ecosystem conservation in the Amazon.

The conference had the following specific objectives:

1. **Share progress, exchange knowledge, and increase collaboration between national ASL project teams.**

2. **Share lessons learned from ASL 1 projects.**

3. **Identify priorities that will guide the regional ASL project in 2024.**

4. **Explore opportunities to increase collaboration with other partners.**

To share relevant information with participants, the organizing team created a website for the conference.

The detailed agenda of the event can be viewed at this link.
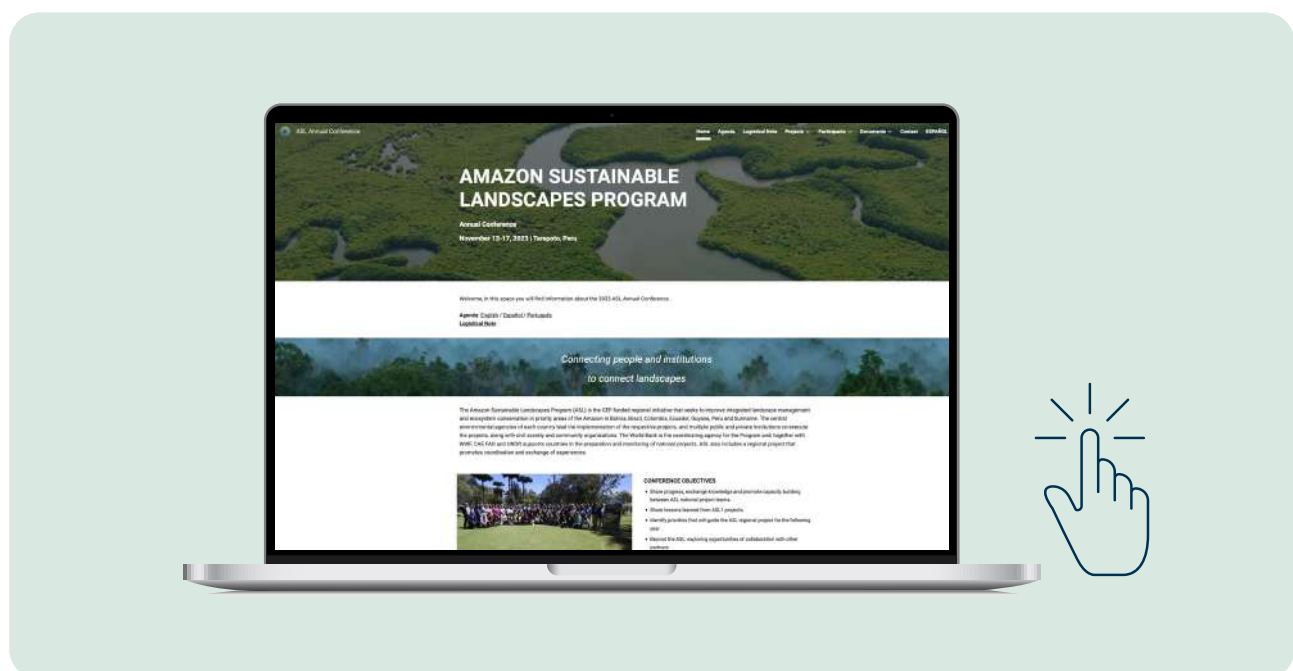
1.2. Methodology and agenda

The ASL Annual Conference sought to establish dialogue between the different national projects and inform the activities of the regional project. **Charo Lanao** served as the facilitator and used a participatory methodology with a systemic approach. All the projects were able to present their progress for collective learning as well as listen to guests from other partner institutions who presented their perspectives in relation to the Amazon. This methodology encouraged "co-creation" by allowing participants' contributions of knowledge and experience to be valued and, at the same time, provided spaces for new ideas to be generated together.

Over the five-day conference:

- Team members from projects belonging to the **first (ASL 1) and second phase (ASL 2)** of the program provided updates and shared their experiences.

- Progress of the **ASL regional project** was shared, along with the planning of regional project activities to be prioritized in 2024.

- Participants learned about the experience of other **ASL partners**, particularly the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Field Museum of Chicago, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the Organization of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACTO).

- The representative of the **GEF Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program for the Congo Basin** joined the conference to both derive lessons from ASL projects as well as to provide suggestions on the work in the Amazon basin.

The co-creation spaces included discussion panels, working groups, integration and collaboration dynamics, and a field visit.

The agenda for each day was structured based on the following central topics, as indicated in Figure 1:

Figure 1. Agenda for the Sixth Annual ASL Conference

The following figure illustrates the participants' expectations of the conference:

**Figure 2.** Expectations of participants at the Annual Conference

1.3. Participants

A total of 112 people involved in ASL attended the conference, including high-level representatives from the seven Amazonian countries—Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname—, technical representatives from public institutions, as well as partner NGOs, GEF implementing agencies (World Bank, WWF, UNDP, CAF, FAO, UNIDO), and project teams. This was the most well-attended conference of those held in person, as indicated in Figure 3.

The total list of participants can be found in the following link and in Annex 1.

Figure 3. Number of participants for each year of the Annual ASL Conference
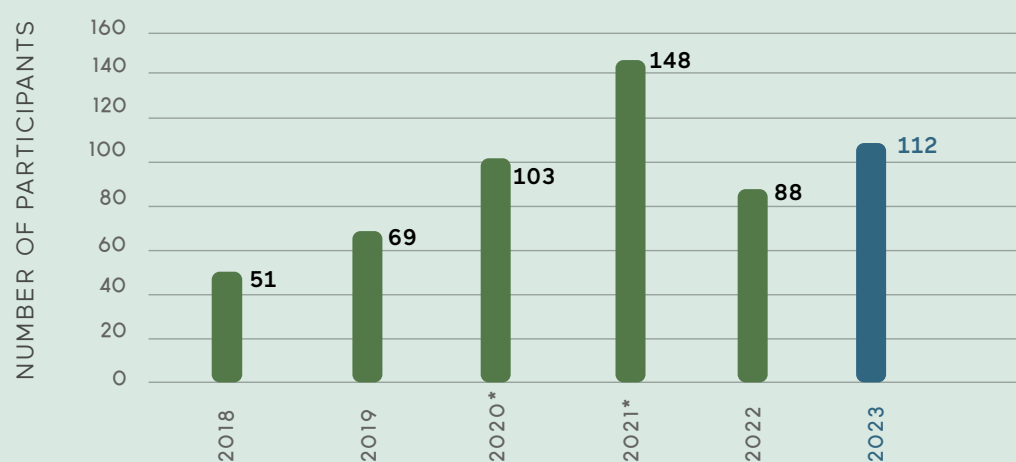
Years with *held virtual conferences due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.4. Satisfaction evaluation

At the end of the five-day conference participants filled out an event satisfaction survey, which showed 98.61% were satisfied or very satisfied. Detailed responses and recommendations for future meetings are found in Annex 2 of this document.

Figure 4. Overall rating of the Annual Conference
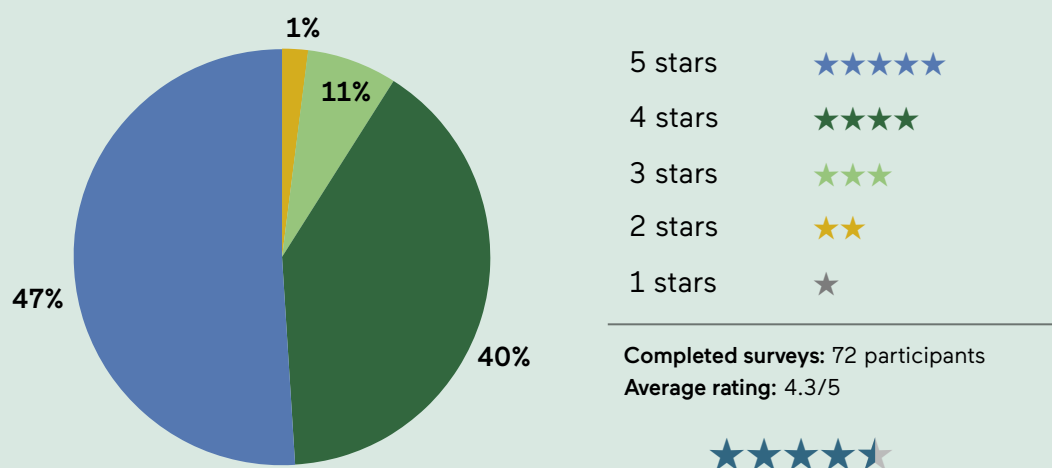
5 stars	★★★★★
4 stars	★★★★
3 stars	★★★
2 stars	★★
1 stars	★

Completed surveys: 72 participants
Average rating: 4.3/5

★★★★⯪

The rating was classified into 5 categories: 5 stras represents the highest rating; 3 stars represents satisfied; 1 star represents the lowest rating.

1.5. Field visit

Reconnecting with Nature

On Wednesday, November 15, participants visited Cordillera Escalera Regional Conservation Area and the Bosque Guardián Project where they learned about the agroforestry system with cacao, meliponiculture to produce bee honey, and the manufacture of artisanal paper led by local communities.
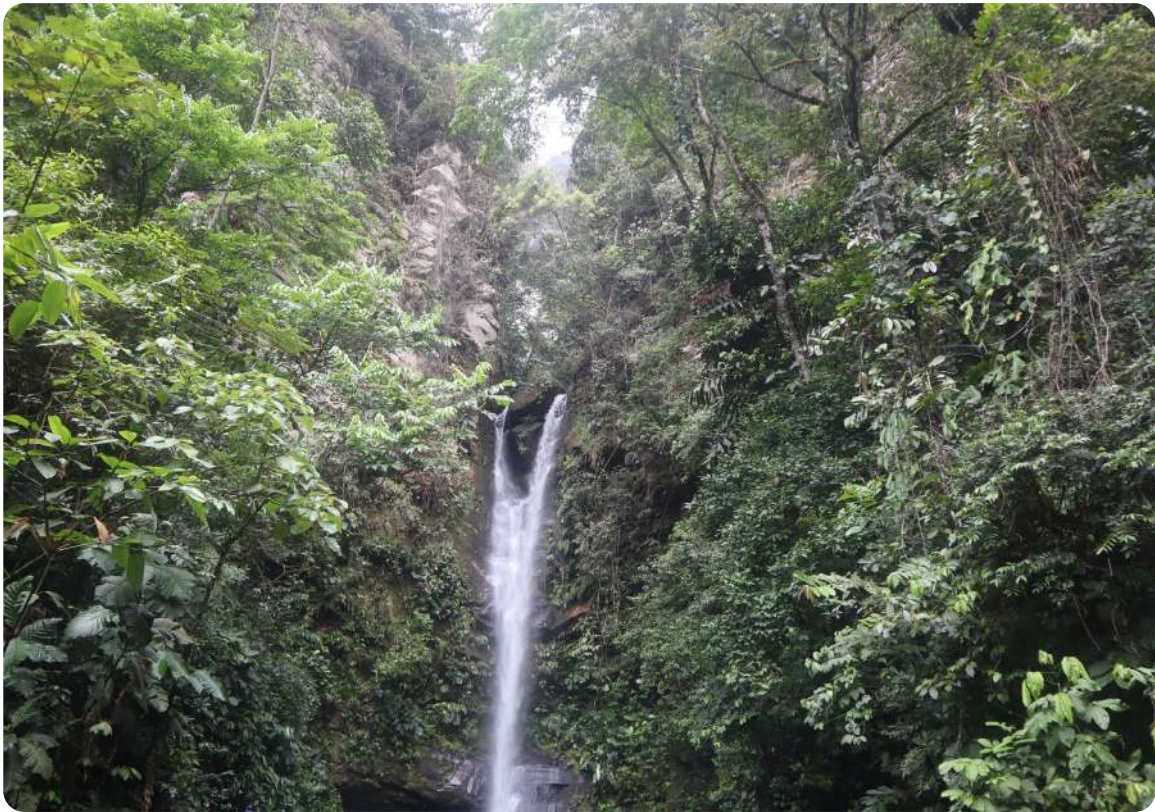
2. OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

On behalf of the Minister of Environment of Peru as host country, the Director of Territorial Planning and Integrated Management, **Rodrigo García Sayán**, welcomed participants to the conference. He highlighted the importance of ASL projects in Peru for the sustainable development of the Amazon. Several ASL projects are underway in Peru, one of which is nearing completion and whose learnings and achievements will be disseminated, and there is one in preparation.

The World Bank's Regional Director for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, **Benoit Bosquet**, especially thanked the Ministry of Environment of Peru (MINAM) for hosting the ASL Annual Conference. He explained how the World Bank is undergoing important transformations and that its new mission, "a poverty-free world on a liveable planet," has strengthened attention to local, national, and global environmental issues. For the Amazon, the World Bank has designed a program that integrates the multiple units of the institution and includes ASL lessons. This program has three fundamental axes: i) preserve a green Amazon, protect critical habitats and Indigenous territories, and restore ecological connectivity; ii) promote a prosperous Amazon where there are economic opportunities to foster sustainable livelihoods at scale; and iii) ensure that the green and prosperous Amazon is habitable, with investments that improve people's lives. The Amazon is part of the Bank's global priority program, which is known as Forests for Development, Climate and Biodiversity. Being part of this program will allow the institution to more effectively channel its investments and promote exchange between the multiple forest biomes of the world including the Amazon, Congo Basin, Mesoamerica, and Indomalaya. Benoit congratulated the participants on the ASL's achievements, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, and commented that projects such as those that make up the program move the region in the right direction.

Next, Senior Climate Change Specialist of the GEF Secretariat, **Pascal Martinez**, indicated that he considers the exchanges promoted by the ASL to be very important. He highlighted that the program is a reference for other regions of the world to learn from the ASL experience. He noted the ASL program has strength thanks to its *continuity, inclusion, and regional coordination*, allowing it to meet its goals in relation to international conventions and become a powerful tool to meet the conservation goal of the Amazon.

To conclude the opening of the conference, **Ana María González Velosa**, Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank and Coordinator of the ASL, provided a warm welcome to participants and highlighted the importance of holding the conference in the Amazon. She explained that the central theme of the conference is collaboration—the essence of ASL as a regional program, which was designed as a GEF pilot in 2014 in which governments and agencies agreed on joint work and vision. Ana María recalled the *four pillars of the program*: protected landscapes; landscapes under sustainable production; policies and incentives for conservation and sustainable development; and capacity building and regional collaboration. She emphasized that the complexity of the Amazon requires complex solutions, where an integrated view is applied that promotes collaboration. The ASL has all the will and interest in finding joint solutions for the Amazon, "in the same way that fish flow from country to country, we have to make good practices flow between countries too."

Figure 5. Opening ideas for the conference on the work of ASL
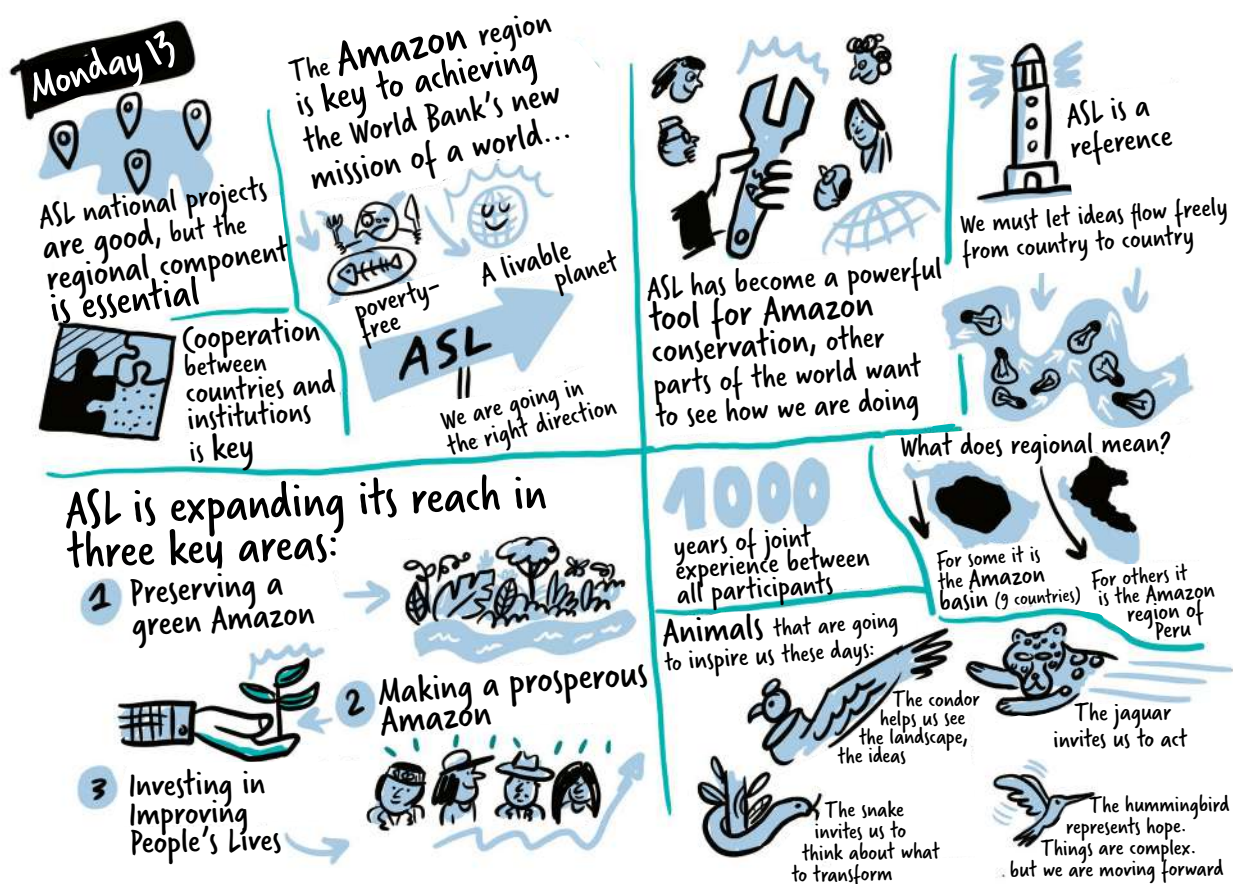
3. INTRODUCTION: COLLABORATION IN ASL

The first session of the conference focused on inter-institutional collaboration. Context was provided on the importance of cooperation and the lessons learned collected to date. Representatives from various institutions that attended the conference were invited as strategic partners to learn more details about the ASL and identify the key elements for future collaborations.

To start the session, **Ana María González Velosa** highlighted the needs to promote collaboration in the Amazon, the new opportunities that arose with the Belém Declaration, and the difficulties and challenges of achieving it. She highlighted that collaboration requires time, patience, negotiations and follow-up, as well as good will and often transformations. Lessons learned were shared to promote collaboration. Thanks to collaboration efforts, the regional project has managed to publish documents, organize meetings, disseminate messages with decision makers from multiple sectors, and identify synergies with other donors. In this context, the conference is an opportunity to meet and develop networking between national projects and with other partners. She ended by asking participants to continue proposing concrete actions of regional interest to be carried out jointly. The presentation can be found at this link.

The session was moderated by **Genevieve Connors**, World Bank Practice Manager for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean, who highlighted the importance of dedicating time and energy to promote collaboration between institutions to achieve common goals. The ASL regional project acts as the integrator of the projects and their partners, seeking to bring common interests to the table and not divergent positions. Genevieve introduced

the conference guests and representatives of entities working in the Amazon with different mandates and scopes in the interest of strengthening alliances with the ASL and its projects.

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

ACTO Administrative Director **Carlos Salinas** explained that the ACTO aims to promote cooperation, the sustainable development of the Amazon region, and the well-being of its inhabitants. Its purpose is reducing the existing asymmetries between member countries and within them. He went over the organization's work areas (knowledge management, conservation of natural resources, Indigenous Peoples, regional health management, emerging issues, institutional strengthening, tourism and transportation) and indicated that when it comes to natural resources, they work across different themes such as forests and water. Carlos referred to the Belém Declaration signed in August 2023, which contains many commitments made by the ACTO, in addition to support for its strengthening to comply with the commitments. He concluded by reiterating the importance of coordination as an essential part of preventing tipping points and thanked us for the opportunity to find ways to work together.

Representative of Indigenous organizations

Liz Chicaje, a Peruvian Indigenous leader of the Bora people, spoke directly to representatives of the countries and international and civil society organizations expressing that Indigenous communities hope that organizations will be more united than ever to resolve what is happening in the Amazonian countries, and without a concerted effort there is not hope for the region. Liz believes there are places where governments do not reach or pay attention to the Indigenous people who have ancestrally cared for the forests. She specified that many times the projects do not meet their expectations because they do not connect or reach the communities that can complement the information they have. Liz concluded by commenting that Indigenous women are focused on finding solutions to financially support their families and communities and that communities must be informed there is a greater benefit from getting involved with the projects.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

As part of the IDB Amazon team, Senior Specialist **Yves Lesenfants** agreed with the comments regarding the complexity of the region and the need to establish alliances and work collaboratively. He emphasized the alliance that exists between the IDB and its Amazonia Forever initiative and the World Bank. He highlighted the coincidence between the pillars of the ASL and the IDB's work axes such as bioeconomy. He recommended carrying out a planning, georeferencing, and monitoring exercise between projects to unify standards and methodologies to achieve the best and greatest possible impact.

The Field Museum in Chicago

Corine Vriesendorp, Director of the Andes-Amazon Program, explained that the program at the Field Museum has carried out rapid inventories in close collaboration with organizations in each country. They are a small team of biologists, social scientists, and support staff who work with partners to assemble large teams of experts and local residents. Inventories are cooperative and rigorous studies of the biological and cultural resources of priority landscapes for conservation. They have been carried out in Peru, Colombia, and Brazil and are now talking with the Guyana Environmental Protection Agency to do joint work. She mentioned that collaboration is essential for work in the Amazon, and that the meetings held in the Putumayo-Içá basin have generated many lessons to promote cooperation from multiple perspectives.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

María Franco Chuaire, Program Officer of the Andes-Amazon Initiative, explained that the Moore Foundation's Andes-Amazon Initiative, established 20 years ago, is now in a new phase following their latest strategy approved in 2022. The vision of the initiative is to ensure the biological diversity and climatic function of the Amazon basin in perpetuity, while its expected result is to ensure that by 2031 at least 70% of the Amazon biome (forest cover and freshwater ecosystems that sustain it) are under effective management and conservation. This second phase highlights four new objectives : i) Ensure that 50 million hectares of Indigenous Peoples and local communities' lands are effectively managed; ii) Ensure that 50 million hectares of freshwater and forest ecosystems are protected and effectively managed; iii) Redirect and reduce the drivers of habitat change (i.e., infrastructure and extractive industries) in the area; and iv) Support institutional frameworks necessary for the economic success of the Indigenous people and local communities.

United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) – Congo Basin

George Akwah, leader of the GEF's Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program, appreciated the invitation to learn from the ASL experience and share his similar perspective in another critical forest such as the Congo Basin. He highlighted the challenge that these programs face in generating transformative changes that require precisely determining the desired changes, the capacities that need to be strengthened to achieve said changes, and the way to measure them. The first level of transformation he considers essential to address is national and regional policies to ensure the continuity of project actions. He commented that his presence at the conference is indicative of the group's interest in learning and identifying ways to ensure the projects' continued success.

4. NATIONAL PROJECTS

For participants to better understand ASL actions in the countries, there were brief presentations of the 10 national projects that make up ASL 1 and 2. The project presentations were followed by a space for participants to share something that had inspired them and a question–and–answer session.

4.1. Bolivia

Project: Amazon Sustainable Landscape Approach in the National System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of Bolivia

Pedro Eduardo Duran, General Director of Biodiversity and Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment and Water, presented Bolivia's national project. Its objective is to strengthen the effectiveness of the management and financial sustainability of the Plurinational System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems (SNAP-ECOS) based on social participation and the sustainable production of natural resources, focusing on the Bolivian Amazon. The project is expected to begin implementation in January 2024. They are currently seeking to define the fiduciary entity and hire the project coordinator. The project will be strategic for strengthening the SNAP-ECOS, which also includes more than 200 protected areas of municipal interest. Eduardo shared that they currently have an atlas of municipal areas and those of national importance, and five protected-area management plans are being developed. Finally, he mentioned that, thanks to the feedback received from the other projects at last year's conference, it was possible to raise and support the need to have a Biodiversity Law that is just in the process of development.

4.2. Brazil

Project: Amazon Sustainable Landscapes – ASL Brazil

Carlos Eduardo Marinelli, Chief of Staff of the National Secretariat of Biodiversity, Forests and Animal Rights, Ministry of Environment, presented the Brazilian project. Its objective is to expand the surface area under legal protection, improve the management of protected areas, and increase the area under restoration and sustainable management in the Brazilian Amazon. The project has two phases under ASL 1 and ASL 2 and the transition to the third phase is now being designed. The project has a strong component that supports the Amazon Protected Areas Program (ARPA). Work is also being done to integrate the protected areas applying a sustainable landscape approach and aiding in the recovery of native vegetation. Carlos Eduardo highlighted the work on the Rural Environmental Cadastre (CAR) and the significant progress made to date in terms of registration and verification of the registry of private properties. It stood out that while transitioning between the program's different phases, the project has been able to maintain continuity and gradually integrate new elements into the project and its approach. The project's work in consolidating and influencing political actions has allowed it to leave an institutional legacy in Brazil.

4.3. Colombia

Project: Heart of the Colombian Amazon

Luz Adriana Rodriguez, General Project Coordinator, Natural Heritage, explained that Heart of the Amazon is an example of how collaboration has contributed to obtaining good results. The fulfilment of its objective is to improve governance and promote sustainable use activities of the land to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the project intervention area. It operates under an institutional arrangement where the different environmental authorities jointly execute the project as partners, which strengthens the national environmental system. The project has interventions in around 7 million hectares of the Colombian Amazon, including protected areas, Indigenous territories, Ramsar sites, and areas where deforestation has been concentrated. Some of the main achievements of the project have been participatory planning in the management and use of the territory, including joint territorial management exercises with ancestral authorities and the convergence of scientific knowledge with ancestral knowledge. Challenges include the need for constant adjustment due to changes in government and the active participation of other sectors. Finally, the project uses different tools to promote collaboration: i) social agreements with families and organizations for the sustainable management of the territory's resources; ii) sectoral agreements, promoting that the Amazon must have a vision and the same approach; and iii) agreements with the entities of the National Environmental System (SINA), in order to get closer to the territories, with clear rules and a concrete path to develop.

Project: Sustainable Amazon for Peace

Miguel Mejía, UNDP Project Coordinator, presented an introductory video about the project's experience in nature tourism in the Caguán River basin. This has been one of the project's components with the objective to improve connectivity and conserve biodiversity through the strengthening of local institutions and organizations to ensure comprehensive low-carbon emissions management and the construction of peace. Miguel points to low trust being one of the challenges affecting collaboration between civil society and communities. However, he mentioned that the project seeks to address the complex problems of the Amazon by working with communities living in difficult conflict areas that have been working to seek peace. He said the project promotes collaboration between local partners, with a pedagogical and intergenerational emphasis (e.g. "Promotorías campesinas", a restoration and nursery network, tourism, peace and reconciliation network, and an Amazon communications network. The project was dedicated to build collaboration with communities, co-design sustainable landscapes, apply a self-sustainable technical assistance model, work based on the knowledge of the communities and planning with them, and generate socioeconomic networks. Finally, the project moved forward to make the bioeconomy a real alternative, not only improving the productive system, but also designing management tools and environmental protection agreements based on ecosystem services.

4.4. Ecuador

Project: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of two Priority Landscapes in the Ecuadorian Amazon Region

Joy Woolfson, Project Manager, Conservation International Ecuador, explained that the objective of the project is to improve the ecological connectivity of two priority landscapes (Putumayo-Aguarico and Palora-Pastaza, in the Ecuadorian Amazon) through establishing two connectivity corridors and associated management mechanisms to ensure long-term biodiversity conservation. The main focus of the project is the connectivity corridors and that they be made official to contribute to meeting the 30x30 goal (protecting 30% of the planet's lands, oceans and inland waters by 2030). In the corridors, work is being done with local communities, supporting the formation of governance platforms, strengthening producers and their bio enterprises, analyzing and strengthening legal frameworks, and systematizing lessons and knowledge. The institutional arrangement of the project is notable because it has been achieved through coordinated work between WWF and Conservation International as well as with coordination with other projects being executed. Joy reminded the participants that the new president of Ecuador was to take office at the end of November 2023 and would only be in office a few months. For this reason, the country is in transition, serving as a new challenge for the project.

4.5. Guyana

Project: Securing a living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana

Felicia Adams-Kellman, Chief, Department of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Environmental Protection Agency – EPA, and **Rhea Kanhai**, EPA Senior Environmental Officer, representatives of the Guyana team, introduced the project by presenting a video on Guyana's biodiversity and collaborative work. The objective of this project is to strengthen landscape connectivity through better management of the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area and the northern Rupununi wetlands in southern Guyana. Its start was delayed mainly due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Consultations with the local population were carried out last year and important lessons emerged. For example, the need to translate documents into local languages, seek allies with interventions in the area to facilitate access, operate through focal points for interaction with multiple actors, and maintain constant communication of project progress and its scope to create clear expectations. Despite the delays in the start of the national project, they already feel part of and benefit from belonging to the ASL program through regional activities, including activities within the biodiversity monitoring working group with camera traps.

> Proyecto Asegurando el Futuro de las ANP del Perú

4.6. Peru

Project: Securing the Future of Peru's Natural Protected Areas

As it is one of the projects set to close this year, **Milagros Silva**, Project Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, National Service of Natural Areas Protected by the State – SERNANP, focused her presentation on the project's achievements and challenges: (i) the signing of a single agreement to launch the Heritage of Peru (PdP) program, resulting from the agreement between SERNANP and those involved with the intervention strategy and financing of conservation goals; (ii) the development of 11 financial mechanisms, of which four are or will soon be implemented, which would give the State Protected Areas System (SINANPE) a total income of $21 million over the next five years; and (iii) the design and application of safeguards among partners, building capacity and good practices in SERNANP. The challenges include integrating the project into SERNANP's structure, operations, procedures, policies, and the dynamics of its existing teams.

Project: Sustainable Productive Landscapes in the Peruvian Amazon

Vladimir Barrantes of UNDP who is responsible for financial mechanisms and market incentives for the project indicated that the project's objective is to generate multiple global environmental benefits through applying an integrated approach to manage Amazonian landscapes. To this end, they promote agroforestry systems, already applied by local producers and being carried out in Ucayali and Huánuco, the areas of the country with the highest rates of deforestation. The project has made progress changing producers' behaviors towards sustainable practices, despite initial resistance given the long term in which the results materialize. The main challenges of the project have been delays and adjustments due to the change of authorities and establishing mechanisms to guarantee the sustainability of the actions.

Project: Building human well-being and resilience in Amazonian forests by enhancing the value of biodiversity for food security and bio-businesses

Jorge Elliot, Project Coordinator with Profonanpe, indicated the project seeks to contribute to reducing deforestation and recovering forests in the Peruvian Amazon through managing natural resources and supporting productive systems that incorporate environmental sustainability with a territorial approach. In this context, its objective is to advance the conservation of healthy and functional forests and wetlands resistant to climate change, maintaining carbon reserves, avoiding greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and generating sustainable and resilient livelihoods for local people in the Peruvian Amazon. A central aspect of the project's focus is promoting food security in the context of climate change. Added to this is the territorial approach, which seeks to interconnect landscapes through restoration, management of forests and lakes, among others; the promotion of sustainable bio-businesses; and adequate governance.

4.7. Suriname

Project: Strengthening the management of protected and productive land-scapes in the Surinamese Amazon

Arioene Vreedzaam, UNDP Project Manager, explained that the project's objective is to ensure equitable management of protected and productive landscapes through integrated approaches that provide conservation benefits and sustainable livelihoods. The project works with both Indigenous communities (people native to the Amazon) and Maroon people (descendants of Africans who formed settlements away from slavery in the forests), which enriches and makes the interventions more complex. To date, the main achievement is consultation sessions with tribal communities to understand their perception and improve the design of interventions for their greatest benefit. As an example of main challenges, Arioene indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic affected the design of activities. But he also mentioned that climate change is causing extreme floods and droughts that affect communities and will make project implementation difficult. Another important challenge is to generate space for collaboration since there are many different actors who need to align interests. For example, they are collaborating with other state programs to connect the market with the Indigenous and tribal producers.

Figure 6. Main ideas presented by the national ASL 1 and 2 projects
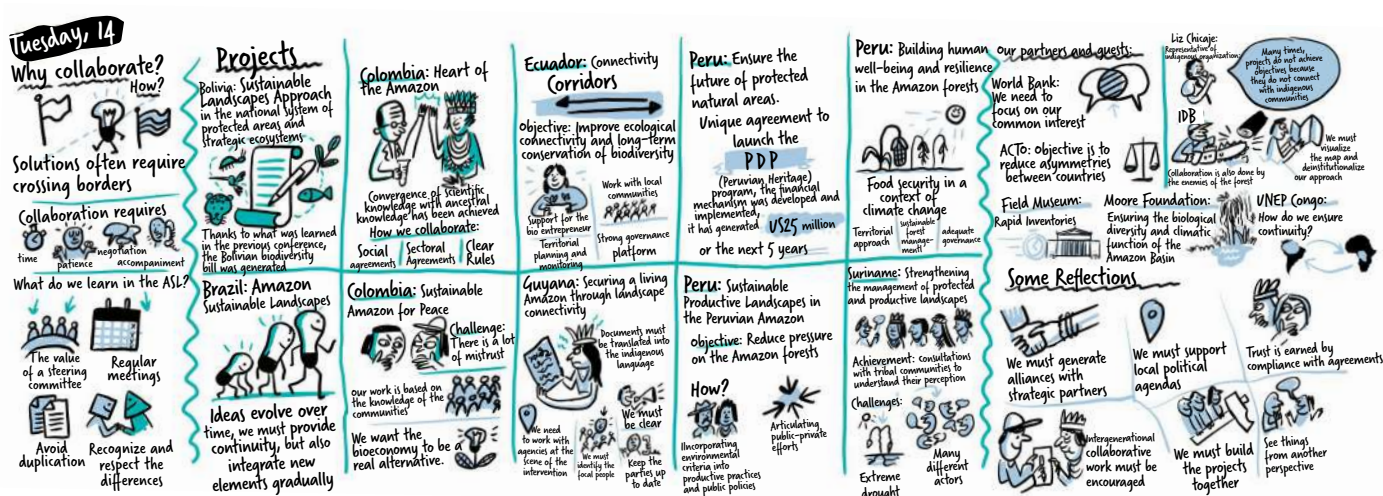
5. LEARNINGS FROM ASL 1 PROJECTS

The conference included a session where ASL 1 project managers in Colombia, Peru, and Brazil were invited to present their experiences and lessons learned.

5.1. ASL1 Project Panel

The session was structured as a panel around the following questions and topics:

- **What are the challenges the project did not foresee but that you think need to be considered when executing similar projects and how did you or would you have addressed them better?**
- **How did the project promote collaboration between the institutions involved, and between communities and other interested parties?**
- **How would you guarantee that the transformations achieved are sustainable?**

Sustainable Amazon for Peace – Colombia

Miguel Mejía indicated that the main challenges were meeting and maintaining the implementation standard, the project's objectives, and budget management during the COVID-19 pandemic. Likewise, generating alliances with strategic partners, among which are local grassroots organizations, was another challenge, seeking to ensure that financing reaches those who need it. In this context, he reported that it was also a challenge to locate organizations that work with community territorial agendas or local political agendas.

Regarding promoting collaboration, Miguel explained that they sought social participation and encouraged intergenerational collaborative work. He highlighted that working with young people generates dynamism within the projects and forces us to understand that concerns and interests must be distinguished by age. He commented that the project chose to follow a strategy of establishing its own communication networks and foster collaborative work networks.

On the sustainability side of the transformations promoted by the project, a portfolio of services was built by partner organizations that can be provided once the project concludes in 2024. Also, their own branding was designed, as well as promotional strategies with Amazonian elements. Finally, the successful results were transformed into the support of components for future projects.

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

Lorenzo Beck, project Coordinator for SERNANP, indicated that one of the main challenges was for the institutions executing the projects to adjust to the GEF requirements. Public entities are required to attend multiple projects, which becomes a challenge for execution. This also requires coordinating with other entities involved to adapt and work together. This challenge turned into an opportunity by strengthening the capacity for public institutions to manage safeguards.

He said that the management of protected areas in Peru is based on participation and it's essential that all actors have trust in one another to promote collaboration—earned through fulfilling agreements and commitments. Lorenzo highlighted the importance and need to recognize the actions of other institutions to share duties among those who have the knowledge to execute the different roles.

ARPA in the Sustainable Landscapes of the Amazon Project and landscape connectivity – Brazil

This presentation was given by **Rita Mesquita**, National Secretariat of Biodiversity, Forests and Animal Rights, Ministry of Environment of Brazil – MMA, and **Fábio Ribeiro**, Project Manager of the Brazilian Fund for Biodiversity (FUNBIO) and Coordinator of the ARPA component for the ASL Brazil Project, and was focused on the ARPA program. They discussed the challenges of managing protected areas, which they say is complex and requires the coordination of many actors. However, transferring information between actors is helping to make the management process more viable. Likewise, it is a challenge to consolidate the capabilities that allow for good work, such as management or adaptation, which is why identifying competencies is essential.

To promote collaboration, the project has supported joint work with communities on bioeconomy issues and exchanged experiences and technologies between partners.

They highlighted the need to manage a single concept of sustainable landscapes to achieve sustainability. The Landscape Connectivity Program (Conecta) was provided as an example, which the MMA started in 2017 as a central program that promotes the connectivity of ecosystems and the management of landscapes in the Brazilian territory through integrated public policies.

5.2. Group discussion on lessons learned

Conference participants had a space to reflect on the lessons and experiences gathered at the panel. The activity was carried out in two rounds. In a first round, the participants met according to the axes discussed in the panel (challenges, collaboration, and sustainability) and in groups of different nationalities, to share their reflections based on the following question:

- **What lessons and reflections can we contribute around the topics of overcoming challenges, collaboration, and sustainability?**

The results of the group discussions are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Lessons and reflections for each axis of discussion

Overcoming challenges	• The projects can generate and/or strengthen capacities for the implementation of public policies and intersectoral dialogues that promote ecosystem conservation and local communities' benefit.
	• Vertical and horizontal alignment of public policies is vital to ensure greater impact. Have an effective communication of the results of the processes.
	• Lack of involvement of young people. For now, there is little reflection on specific developments with this group within the projects and there is no evidence that they are represented in the decisions.
	• Public institutions and entities must assume a more active leadership and leadership role in projects. Projects must be able to be built with the population, from the bases and respond to their real problems, to offer solutions and viable life projects compatible with sustainability. It is key to address the problem of land rights.
	• Lack of coherence and coordination between sectors and governments. Non-Amazonian residents still do not value the Amazon and its function (existence value).
	• During the design and formulation stage, internal regulations delay the project deliverables schedule. When governance structures do not have clear roles there are difficulties since there are allies who do not know the roles they will have within the project.
	• During the implementation and execution stage, an annual planning (flexibility and adaptive management), an operational manual (alignment and articulation), rotation of authorities (role of technical personnel and project memory), sustainability of actions on the ground (local/community promotions, and exchange of experiences) must be established.
	• Realistic timelines and an appropriate governance structure during formulation facilitate effective execution.
Promote collaboration	• Respect and equity in communication and decision making, recognizing the differences and confluences of younger actors.
	• Valuation of skills and knowledge.
	• To generate trust, you need to listen, understand, renounce power, delegate decision making, agree, and monitor participatively.
	• Implement dynamic development cores. Not only think about environmental issues, but health, education, basic services, and other issues that go beyond the issue of conservation'. The needs that exist in these areas (Indigenous territories) must be considered.
	• Collaboration through governance bodies and spaces.
Sustainability in achievements	• Sustainability must be thought out from the beginning and the project designed with strategic actions: empowerment and appropriation of communities and new generations supported by institutions.
	• The actions of the projects only reach a certain point, and complementary actions must be found in other projects or sources to give continuity to the results.
	• From the project design, a long-term sustainability process can be proposed that includes post-project monitoring and payment on results.
	• Monitoring with indicators that are adaptive to the project. Have a final document with lessons learned, but also have discussions throughout the project. Develop the management plan and business plan in a project to generate continuity.
	• Have a joint environmental and social management framework. Scale and generate alliances with other institutions that are working in the territory and co-create with communities. Define knowledge management arrangements, including the role of systematizing and disseminating knowledge.
	• Recognize the transversal importance of gender and generational issues (knowledge transfer).

In a second round, participants were grouped by country with each project coordinator as leader to share reflections based on the following question:

- **From what was heard on the panel, what lessons could be incorporated for each national ASL project?**

Bolivia

- Recover the experiences of the preparatory activities of ASL 1 and the applied instruments.
- Identify interested parties to delegate specific roles for project activities.
- Identify different financing mechanisms in protected areas (Bolivia's protected area fee system known as SISCO).
- Establish links of trust.
- Avoid overloading capacities.

Brazil

- Institutionalization of projects. The project as a means of implementing public policies.
- Continuity of actions after the project.
- Establish actions for climate change.
- Establish life, management, and administration plans.
- Connectivity of territories.
- Community and generational vision. Importance of youth involvement.
- Integration of different organizations.
- Collaboration between beneficiaries.
- Policy mainstreaming and integration.
- Strengthening governance spaces and instances.
- Cross-border cooperation. Build spaces to geographically address work and work synergy between countries to talk about connectivity.

Colombia

- The importance of working with organizations and institutions at the municipal, departmental, and national level.
- Sharing challenges, different languages, approaches, and ways of approaching the (intangible) territory is very valuable.
- The interests and visions of each country must be adjusted to the different government scenarios.
- Executing and implementing agencies cannot replace the role of the state, but they can strengthen and understand the contexts of the region.

- Promote assertive communication: greater communication of the results and project impacts. Communication at the project level and by country, generate exchange of experiences, strengthen internal exchanges between programs in Colombia and between other countries to generate exchange of knowledge and results.
- Articulate work with communities and other institutions at different scales.
- Work with ACTO and collaboration.
- Need for a coordinated work group on administrative, operational, and coordination issues.
- Recommendation that projects' lessons and evaluations be more analytical and critical about challenges, difficulties, and opportunities.
- More opportunities for collaboration with clarity in roles. Assess the value of experiences with synergistic work.
- Role of cooperation as an opportunity to address difficulties.

Ecuador

- Promote collaboration by mapping actors, working from interests and needs, and ensuring effective involvement in gender issues to ensure sustainability over time.
- To maintain the sustainability of the project, it must generate appropriation and trust from the beginning, considering incentives and interests at the intergenerational level, and with decision makers and Indigenous communities.
- Changes in national government and the participation of local governments have been identified as challenges.

Guyana

- Collaborate with land users/owners.
- Support and strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders, especially Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC), so that they can lead the processes.
- ASL projects must be aligned with the government's priorities and objectives.
- To maintain the sustainability of the project it must foster the inclusivity of all stakeholder groups, ensuring that the younger generations—children and youth are engaged.
- Align the objectives of local projects and plans with the aspirations of local communities.
- Consider the challenges identified such as expansion of road networks and agricultural land use and change of leadership.

Peru

- Information has been collected on different experiences in different territories with direct collaboration with communities and a connectivity approach: cultural-social-environmental-economic.

- Carry out adaptation processes during project execution with empathy and looking for synergies between resources.

- Identification of new allies to collaborate and cooperate in the future.

Suriname

- Assess the needs of the community: basic needs (food, water, education, health, communications, electricity).

- Strengthen collaborations through clear and transparent communication, with coordinated efforts (national and international).

- Co-management of protected areas applying best practices and based on the experiences of other countries.

6. REGIONAL ASL PROJECT

6.1. Progress to 2023

The objective of the ASL regional project is to strengthen coordination, access to information, and the capacity of interested parties of national projects seeking to scale actions for the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon. The Program Steering Committee (PSC) is the main body to advise, guide, and inform the regional project, just as the Annual Conference is the forum to share progress and determine and prioritize future actions.

The regional project team presented the progress during 2023, focusing on what the ASL has done in the working groups that have been formed to discuss activities and exchanges on both prioritized technical topics and operational issues such as communications and monitoring. The key to these groups' functioning has been the active participation of the national project teams. In addition, the team summed up the knowledge exchanges, publications, and webinars developed during the year and introduced the upcoming new ASL data portal.

The work components presented are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Activities and working groups of the regional ASL project by components

Knowledge management	Coordination

• **Working groups:**
  • Financial sustainability
  • Strengthening capacities and knowledge exchange between park rangers
  • Biodiversity monitoring with camera traps (Wildlife Insights)
  • Contribution to regional Wetlands initiative
	• **External**
	  • Amazon Donor Technical Working Group
	  • Inter-institutional collaboration to address the problem of illegal gold mining and mercury contamination
	  • International events
	
	• **Internal**
	  • Steering committee meetings
	  • Annual conferences

Communications	**Monitoring and evaluation**
Communications Working Group	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Working Group

The presentation can be found at the following link.

The session included a reflection on monitoring results and discussing challenges. Although adding quantitative data on the results of each national project is essential, so is having qualitative information, with stories of achievements (and the processes to achieve those achievements), failures, and lessons. Each national project will seek to achieve its own transformational changes, but it will be important to find ways to integrate those stories. On the other hand, regarding the management of information and the data repositories managed by the ASL, it was recognized that there are many information platforms, and it is a challenge to find a way to map them and achieve their interoperability.

Figure 7. Summary of the activities and working groups of the Regional ASL Project
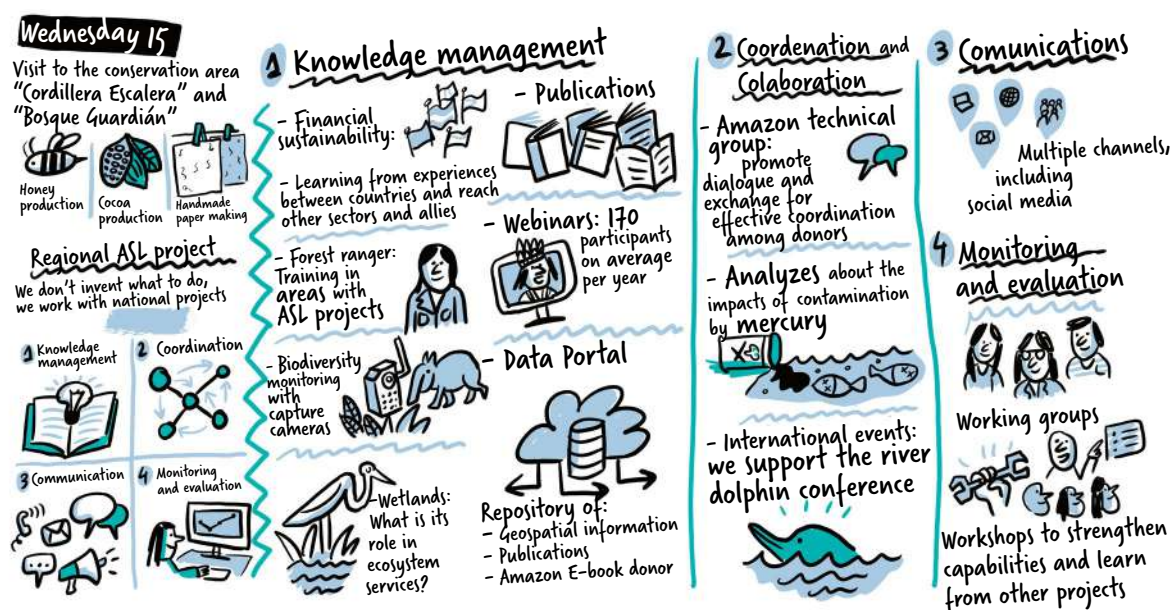
6.2. Technical inputs on prioritized topics

To expand learning on critical topics for the actions of the ASL projects and identify how national and regional projects should address them, the conference included a session where special guests presented three prioritized topics. Each topic was worked on in an individual session, which had three parts: the presentation of the topic, group discussion about what was learned, and the plenary presentation of the discussions.

6.2.1. Enabling conditions for restoration

The session Enabling conditions for restoration was presented by **Natalia Ruiz-Guevara**, a Research Analyst with the World Resources Institute (WRI) in charge of promoting the 20x20 Initiative, and **Alejandra Laina**, Natural Resources Manager from WRI Colombia. The objective of the session was to explore the different enabling conditions for scaling up restoration interventions (knowledge and capacity development, governance and policies, financial mechanisms, and equity and inclusion as a cross-cutting theme), stimulating dialogue and providing lessons for national and regional ASL projects (existing or future).

Natalia discussed the 20x20 Initiative, which is an effort led by several countries to protect and restore 50 million hectares of land in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030. Regarding restoration, Natalia highlighted two important topics. First, that the concept of restoration may be different between countries and for each context and that it may be stimulated by different types of benefits such as biomass recovery, income generation, and biodiversity protection, among others. Second, monitoring achievements. She added that an indicator of the 20x20 Initiative is the number of hectares restored; however, its quantification presents multiple challenges and there are methodologies and interpretations of what a restored hectare means that are not necessarily comparable. The presentation focused on three types of conditions that enable progress on restoration-related objectives: policy and governance, knowledge and capacity building, and financing.

The **enabling conditions of politics and governance** involve how we make decisions together. How different voices and positions are managed at different scales—territory, country and across the Amazon basin. As well as what mechanism we use to establish a standard that guarantees good governance. Furthermore, it must be considered what gaps prevent restoration from being promoted in national policy and how policies are made operational through different instruments. Monitoring at different levels is useful as an instrument to measure the real impact of policies. For example, WRI's AURORA web application is a tool for understanding, evaluating, and reporting restoration actions, which adapts to the specific needs and goals of each case.

The **enabling conditions of knowledge and capacity building for decision making** involve the need to provide assistance and capacity building at different scales through the creation of work groups within a set of community of practice, within the framework of the 20x20 Initiative.

The **enabling conditions for financing** involve the resources available to carry out restoration, what barriers and opportunities exist to obtain investment in the public and private spheres.

To complement the presentation, Alejandra shared the learning and integrated management opportunities linked to WRI's work in restoration:

- **Access-to-process accelerators:** the **Landscape Policy Accelerator** is a policy innovation and peer-to-peer learning program focused on boosting public funding by addressing existing barriers in public incentive policies for landscape restoration and conservation. The **Landscape Monitoring Accelerator** and **technology camps** are programs that allow, with state-of-the-art geospatial information, the measurement of impacts and performance of conservation and restoration actions. The **design of restoration monitoring programs at the landscape scale** with a tool that allows the selection of objectives and indicators with applicability at different scales and actors, and the tracking of results at the property-level, allowing multi-temporal analysis and links with broader monitoring programs (Global Forest Watch – GFW).

- **Articulation with other initiatives** such as the design of bioeconomy districts that integrate urban-rural connections, promoting restoration processes, sustainable natural resource management, resource mobilization, and markets for local products.

- **Global learning** on policies, analysis of financial instruments, and follow-up programs with local communities for the protection of territories, sustainable forest management, and sustainable agricultural production.

- **Exchange of experiences** through visits to key learning areas that integrate the use of tools and accelerators, facilitating the implementation of programs and projects with similar characteristics.

The presentation can be found through this link.

Group activity

After the topic's presentation, group work was done by country, based on the enabling conditions, challenges, and opportunities of restoration issues. The activity was developed based on the following question:

- **What are the challenges and opportunities to promote landscape restoration in your project and country based on the themes of policy and governance, knowledge and capacity development, funding, diversity, and inclusion (as a transversal axis)?**

Bolivia

- **Challenges**
  - Define social and institutional roles.
  - Develop legal processes.
  - The poorest people are in the areas with the greatest biodiversity.
  - Establish the biological corridor with Brazil to be able to generate binational agreements and for both countries to grow based on territorial management.

- **Opportunities**
  - Continue and strengthen the information system, developing processes of inclusion and comprehensive participation, which include social and institutional actors.
  - Develop productive, community, and inclusive platforms with a gender focus. The role of women is fundamental in the restoration of native species.
  - Search for sustainability with SISCO (System of Collections) and other collection systems through tourist activities for the management of protected natural areas.
  - Accredit scientific institutions to carry out studies on biodiversity and to develop sustainable use criteria.
  - Promote the link between scientific and ancestral knowledge.

Brazil

- Challenges
  - With the Forest Code there have already been management instruments defined since 2012, however, due to the diversity of territories and the autonomy of each state to exercise policies, there are different stages of regulation and implementation.
  - Access to financing, especially for private properties.
  - Forestry technical assistance.
  - Private ownership and regularization of property titles are a condition for restoration.
  - Logistical challenges in training and structure issues of the restaurant chain.

- Opportunities
  - Reaffirm national commitment (National Plan for the Recovery of Native Vegetation – Planaveg) for the recovery of 12 million hectares of native vegetation in the coming years.
  - There is financing for environmental services for the carbon market, and there are also funds that finance the restoration of the Amazon (Amazon Fund, Living Amazon).

Colombia

- Challenges
  - An integrated monitoring system is missing.
  - There are many specific goals, but the private and public sector initiatives are not integrated into the same monitoring system that integrates all the country's efforts.
  - Lack of access to information.
  - Financial mechanisms exist as incentives; however, these mechanisms have not been developed or scaled to allow communities or producers to access them.

- Opportunities
  - There is a goal of achieving 700,000 hectares restored by 2026.
  - Through ASL projects and other cooperation initiatives, capacity can be created in communities, for example, local scientists and campesino promotion schools. This allows creating local capacities in topics such as restoration.
  - The exchange of scientific and local knowledge throughout the region is an interesting opportunity for different topics such as wetlands.
  - Promotion of successful experiences and technical assistance is what will determine that the information reaches the producer.

Ecuador

- **Challenges**
  - Lack of long-term efforts and defining commitments.
  - Informalities in land ownership make the process of delivering deeds and renewal with generational changes difficult, which has long-term impacts.

- **Opportunities**
  - National restoration plan and program with incentives are currently being implemented.
  - There are programs in execution through carbon credits, debt swap, and Amazon Biocorridor (covering financial mechanisms).
  - Change resource-use strategies.
  - Replicate experiences of involving populations and working to strengthen capacities.
  - Achieve a long-term commitment from all actors.

Guyana

- **Challenges**
  - Strengthen institutions to address policies related to restoration.
  - Poor application of regulations regarding the restoration of mountainous areas.
  - Many institutions with overlapping activities in forest restoration, for example mining.
  - Need for experience in landscape restoration: understanding ecological concepts.
  - Linguistic and cultural challenges.
  - Political will.

- **Opportunities**
  - Integrate restoration with the low-carbon development strategy.
  - Cooperation with projects that work on landscape management.
  - Investments require large amounts of money in the long term, there is an opportunity to collaborate with other GEF projects.

Peru

- **Challenges**
  - There are ecosystems that do not recover, for example, peatlands.
  - Strengthen capacities at different levels of government, civil society, and the private sector.
  - To make the private sector a more active actor in restoration, the public sector must create the enabling conditions for this to work.
  - Incompatibility of standards.
  - Restoration is very limited if the impacts are not controlled, and if the chains that promote degradation and are linked to illegal activities are not assumed and monitored.

- **Opportunities**
  - Work with a landscape approach rather than a local area or micro-watershed approach.
  - Exchange of information generated by scientific community and academia.
  - There are already policy instruments that facilitate restoration activities, these must be applied since they are important when determining budgets.
  - Exchange of information to collect experiences regarding financial costs in restoration activities.
  - Incorporation of community territory control systems.

Suriname

- **Challenges**
  - Will of the governors.
  - Illegal mining affects restoration, there is not enough capacity to enforce the law in mining areas.
  - All issues related to restoration are new for the country.

- **Opportunities**
  - Update important laws (mining, fishing) to include conservation-related activities.
  - Mangrove deforestation management project underway.
  - Generate incentives to increase willingness and interest in restoration plans.
  - Promote a mindset with park rangers focused on sustainability after restoration to continue the work. Create sustainable financing mechanisms.
  - Include Indigenous tribal peoples in restoration efforts.
  - Learn from other experiences at the regional level.
  - Communication and promotion of restoration at the local and national level.

6.2.2. Behavior change

The *Behavior Change topic* session was presented by **Fiona Rodgerson** from the Center for Behavior and Environment (RARE). The goal of the session was to explore concepts related to behavioral science and learn how to apply it in national and regional ASL projects. Campaigns that promote behavioral changes began in the 1970s. Conventional theory of change for projects focuses on activities that achieve certain environmental or social outcomes (for example, producers adopting agroforestry practices). The proposal that RARE has developed is to enrich theories of change by emphasizing the behavioral elements that are necessary for the desired achievements—that is, why and how the desired behavioral change is achieved. The theory should identify what changes may be conditioned by people's beliefs, social norms, and context.

The most common strategies to drive behavior change are **material incentives** (payments, fines), **laws and regulations** (public policies), and information (what/why/how of a behavior). However, there are three other strategies that help change behavior:

- **Emotional appeals:** Take advantage of emotions to personalize the message according to the audience. For example, fostering pride, connecting with local values, protecting local practices. Many emotions can be used, such as fear, however, hope is the most powerful emotion that has been identified to encourage change.

- **Social influences:** Highlighting the behavior, beliefs, expectations, and personal achievements of others in public, community events, or to a broad audience. For example, promoting peer-to-peer learning.

- The **architecture of decisions**: Changing the context in which decisions are made. For example, optimizing complex processes or simplifying the information presented.

These six strategies are part of the complete toolkit for promoting behavior change and can be applied in different contexts and in different combinations. For its application, a framework has been designed that allows, through eight non-linear steps, to implement the strategies in different programs:

- **Frame the challenge and problems to be addressed.** This involves mapping key actors to determine what the target behaviors are for a group. It is recommended to prioritize actors according to those who generate the greatest impact.

- **Empathize**, understand the motivations and behavioral barriers of the audience. What are the motivations and barriers, what information is missing, who do they trust, what rules exist and are not clear or are not applied.

- **Map**, analyze data, and make connections with behavioral science principles.

- **Come up with strategies** that might work. This involves generating a collective demand (need for change), coordinating a change in behavior (making promises of compliance), and strengthening the new norm of behavior (e.g., forming community groups to enforce it).

- **Prototype** what the program would look like in real life.

- **Try** at different work scales.

- **Implement**, describe **how**, **when** and **where** the program will be executed.

- **Assess** whether the theory of change is working and whether adjustments are required.

The presentation can be found at the following link.

Group activity

After the topic's presentation, group work was done to identify different ways of applying behavior change strategies in national projects. The activity was developed based on the following questions:

- **Have you seen the application of these strategies within the projects?**
- **How could you apply behavior change strategies to your current work?**

Application

- In laws and regulations: rural environmental cadastre, diagnosis of the rural environment.
- Participatory processes for protected areas of sustainable use.
- System of Socio-Environmental Indicators for Conservation Units (SISUC) in Brazil.
- Process of transformation of the conflict between the jaguar and campesino families in Colombia.
- Social activation, collaborative work networks, influence of key local organizations in the territory, intergenerational agreements.
- Introduction of livestock into communities. Change from livestock farming to community tourism upon knowing that the area was being affected by this first activity.
- Model farms with demonstration function.
- Conservation of sea turtles in Guyana. It started by sharing information, offering incentives, and other alternatives. Eventually, people became advocates.

Opportunities

- Public policies appropriate for each social group. The recovery of areas (liabilities) must be differentiated according to the social group: family farmers, collective territories, large properties.
- Implement educational actions and strengthen teams throughout the territory.
- Raise awareness among communities about the processes of other entities and identify points of convergence.
- Do not see conflicts but strategic solutions.
- It is not likely to work for issues with very large scales (e.g., illegal mining) but is useful for smaller communities.
- Young Protagonists Program as an experience to replicate in the region, in Brazil.
- Tamar Project on sea turtles as a replicable experience, in Brazil.

6.2.3. Local economies

The *Local Economies session* was presented by **Ana Rosa Saenz** from the Institute of the Common Good (IBC), representing the North–Amazon Alliance (ANA), and **Liz Chicaje**, Peruvian Indigenous leader of the Bora people. The session's objective was to explore the principles of local Amazonian economies that guarantee a good life for people and the territory, and to identify their relevance to the work carried out in national and regional ASL projects.

It began by explaining that the ANA is a collaborative network of seven civil society organizations based in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, which work hand in hand with Indigenous Peoples to safeguard the ecosystemic and sociocultural connectivity of the Amazon region. The ANA supports the exchange of strategies and knowledge to conserve the Amazon. She currently has 30 years of experience working with 1,700 Indigenous communities and developing 27 scalable solutions. The ANA follows a joint regional work model, which has four strategic lines in various mechanisms and spaces: **articulate to transform, articulate to consolidate, inspire to scale, and position to influence**. Through its regional meetings "Amazon Conversations," some supported by the regional ASL project, local processes are strengthened for a regional vision.

From the recent meetings, the participating Indigenous leaders have agreed on 15 principles of local Amazonian economies, grouped into four main axes (all the principles are found in this document):

- **Cultural principles** (transmission of ancestral knowledge).
- **Ecosystem principles from a biocultural approach** (dialogue between technical knowledge, traditional knowledge, and their own monitoring).
- **Principles of rights** (right to territory and fair and equitable distribution of benefits).
- **Social and organizational principles** (involve young people, joint decision making, formalization of territories, strengthening value chains).

Next, **Liz Chicaje** explained how these principles of local economy are applied in the Bora community, within the influence area of the Ampiyacu–Apayacu Regional Conservation Area (Loreto region in Peru), for example, through production of derivatives of cassava and chambira (vegetable fiber). Liz highlighted the role of women as a source of knowledge transmission in the management of the farm (space provided by Indigenous communities to grow crops) and seeds, taking advantage of biodiversity to guarantee their food security. Liz highlighted the challenges that still exist to enhance the production chain, strengthening the sustainable planning of the value chain, transfer of technological capabilities, infrastructure design for the production process, and commercial support for the business model.

Both presentations can be found at the following link.

Group activity

After the presentation, the participants met in groups divided by the different categories of principles (cultural, ecosystem from a biocultural approach, rights, social, and organizational), to discuss the application of each local economy principle within the ASL work. The activity was developed based on the following questions:

- **What do these principles inspire in you?**
- **Are they relevant to the Amazon?**
- **What discussions could inform and in what scenarios do you think they can be useful?**

Some of the insights gathered on each of the groups can be found below.

Cultural principles

- Importance of safeguarding traditional knowledge to avoid biopiracy.
- Recognize that culture is alive and must embrace changes.
- Importance of strengthening local knowledge systems.
- Need to understand the differentiated roles between women and men in different public and private activities (in homes) and how they influence decision making. It is important to know these roles and governance structures and understand them in each context (for example, in fishing or hunting).
- It is important to maintain a balance between diversity as knowledge systems for food sufficiency and the expectations of bio-businesses.
- Projects can play a role in strengthening communities for negotiation on equal terms.
- Recommendation that participatory processes of free, prior, and informed consent be permanent.

Ecosystem principles from a biocultural approach

- The relevance and applicability of this category of principles is highlighted.
- The actors in the territory have different values, concerns, and interests.
- Difference between new market values: those of sustainable origin have other values, which implies more difficulties in the market.
- There is an asymmetry of access to information, which generates an inequitable and unbalanced situation in opportunities and initiatives related to production.
- The seed concept needs to be better disseminated, known, and appropriated.
- The Amazon presents logistical challenges such as the dispute for resources between sustainable markets and other markets.

Principles of law

- Rights must be integral to work with all Indigenous Peoples and local communities, recognizing ancestry and Indigenous Peoples. There are cases where Afro communities, campesinos, and Indigenous Peoples converge.
- The importance of recognition (ownership) and protection of cultural identity.
- It is important to be clear about the difference between ownership and the use of resources.
- It is assumed that Indigenous Peoples know their rights, however, this knowledge is limited.
- Communities have the right to compensation for shared knowledge.
- Work with Indigenous Peoples and local communities through differentiated instruments that include interculturality and equity.
- This category of principles is relevant in national discussion scenarios because it affects Indigenous Peoples and local communities. And in international scenarios: implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, implementation of the Belém Declaration, Kunming-Montreal Global Framework for Biological Diversity, Convention 169, among others.

Social and organizational principles

- Fundamental principles guarantee the sustainability of public policies and project development.
- Must involve youth to guarantee the permanence of culture. However, this is a challenge since many migrate due to lack of education and work in communities. If basic needs are not covered, it is not possible to keep young people involved in organizations.
- It is important for the projects to include building conditions for young people to take leadership positions in the future. Ensure there is a place for those who continue in the communities (for example, in Ecuador there is the experience of leadership schools).
- Local universities do not offer relevant careers (e.g., forestry engineering, ecology) so that young people can decide to remain in their territories.
- Special attention should be prioritized to generate income incentives for the community.
- The gender issue needs to be strengthened, seeking to ensure that women have a leading role in the projects.

Figure 8. Summary of the presentations of the three prioritized topics at the regional level

6.3. Planning for 2024

During the conference, this session consisted of a collective exercise to gather potential ideas for regional activities to be designed and implemented during 2024. Those activities will respond to the needs and priorities of ASL's second phase national projects. The following list of topics proposed by the regional ASL team was based on discussions at previous conferences and meetings of the Program Steering Committee:

- Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM)
- Bioeconomy
- Restoration
- Sustainable tourism
- Interinstitutional agreements

In addition, the four themes that have already been prioritized in previous exercises were recalled: park rangers, illegal mining and mercury, wetlands, and sustainable finances.

Working groups were formed by country, which prioritized work topics based on the preceding list and other topics identified as being of collective interest. Based on a voting scheme, the results of the topics identified to be developed in working tables during the conference were the following:

1. Connectivity
2. Ilegal activities (+ governance with an emphasis on environmental defenders)
3. Integrated management of hydrographic basins
4. Restoration
5. Protected areas
6. OECM
7. Bioeconomy

For each topic, specific actions at the regional level (what they would like to learn and exchange, how, with whom, what information is needed on the topic) and the leaders of government entities that will support the discussions with the regional ASL team were identified. These themes will guide actions for the 2024 regional project based on the results of the working groups conformed by national governments and projects. The working groups' meetings will allow the activities to be defined in detail and generate elements for prioritizing topics to develop during the year. It is worth noting that topics started in previous years will continue and other topics and activities may arise during subsequent months.

Prioritized work topics for 2024

1. Connectivity

- **Specific topics to expand/exchange**
  - Connectivity as a fundamental component for landscape management.
  - Integrated planning approach with ecological design, including community information, and socio-environmental services.
  - Complex socio-ecological issues between countries.
  - Border control structures.
  - Polycentric and multi-level governance system.

- **Activities to do**
  - Studies on connectivity beyond environmental, under an integrated landscape management approach.
  - Symposium to exchange experiences, including the vision of local communities.
  - Exchanges and training, even with countries outside the Amazon.

- **Considerations**
  - What will be the dimension of the landscape unit considered for the analysis?
  - Landscapes must consider a political dimension in addition to the economic, social, cultural, and management dimensions.
  - Include members of the communities, technicians, and decision makers from public agencies from other technical areas.

2. Illegal activities (+ governance with an emphasis on environmental defenders)

- **Specific topics to expand/exchange and activities to carry out**
  - Define and classify environmental crimes by country.
  - Analysis of each country's approach to environmental crimes from a cross-border approach, at the hydrographic basin level.
  - Integrated action to share information on early warnings of deforestation, prioritizing protected areas.
  - Dissemination and communication of results based on a monitoring system.

- **Considerations**
  - ACTO can play an important role through the Amazon Regional Observatory on issues of drug trafficking, illegal mining (rivers and open skies), illegal hunting, illegal logging, human trafficking, grabbing of public lands, deforestation, fires, murders of environmental leaders or displacement of communities, trafficking of flora and fauna.

3. Integrated management of hydrographic basins

- **Specific topics to expand/exchange**

  - Policy framework and integrated water resources management.
  - Risk management focused on the development of infrastructure in hydrographic basins.
  - Monitoring and prioritization tools for projects.
  - Local governance systems that can support watershed management (potential link with conservation areas, Indigenous protected and conserved areas or OECMs).
  - Expand information regarding:

    >> Understand how water flows are connected.
    >> Understand how land use affects the watershed, for example: mining and agriculture.
    >> Understand the link between threats and drivers (direct/indirect causes).
    >> Traditional/local knowledge systems as support for effective watershed management: how to articulate the knowledge of local communities. .

- **Proposed activity**

  - Exchange of experiences.
  - Existing initiatives to explore: Sacred Basins Initiative, the project "Integrated and sustainable management of transboundary water resources of the Amazon River basin considering climate variability and change" executed by ACTO.

4. Restoration

- **Specific topics to expand/exchange**

  - Learn about the regulations, guidelines, and restoration programs from the countries that have more experience.
  - Learn about political advocacy to position restoration as a priority of the state.
  - Analysis of incentives for restoration.
  - Learn about other restoration topics, not only ecological but also productive.
  - Experiences in restoration with Indigenous communities.
  - Experience of social conservation and restoration agreements.
  - How the restaurant chain is structured in its different links: establish a business model for the communities.
  - Promotion of public investment for restoration.
  - Linking private investment and specific scaling for the Amazon as a differentiated financing mechanism.
  - Monitoring restoration from design: definition of indicators, process monitoring.

- Proposed activity

  - Exchange of experiences in restoration with Indigenous communities: share processes of creating technological packages specifically designed with communities in the Amazon (to see how they did the activity).
  - Development of webinars to contextualize the topics.

5. Protected areas

- Specific topics to expand/exchange

  - Know the different categories/systems of protected areas.
  - Learn about the governance and management experiences of protected areas.
  - Learn about how to manage protected areas with a landscape approach.
  - Learn about management experiences around migratory species (identify key migratory species).
  - Learn about financial sustainability mechanisms.
  - Know different instruments for evaluating governance and effectiveness of the management of protected areas: Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica.

- Proposed activity

  - Exchange of experiences with the Congo Basin (and other regions) to learn about the regional approach to managing transboundary landscapes and protected areas.
  - Exchange of experiences to involve local, Indigenous and tribal communities in the management and governance of protected areas.
  - Training of park rangers through virtual and in-person exchanges, webinars, systematization of experiences and others.

6. OECM

- Specific topics to expand/exchange

  - How do OECMs contribute to landscape connectivity? It is important to see other modalities that are not national protected areas.
  - What are the incentives and regulations for different conservation modalities such as OECMs to be considered?
  - Credits for biodiversity can be processes that can be developed as incentive mechanisms.

- Proposed activity

  - Systematization of information on the status and successful experiences that countries have been carrying out (webinars and specific studies).
  - Exchange of experiences between countries not only at the Latin American level to strengthen capacities.

7. Bioeconomy

- **Specific topics to expand/exchange**
  - How can the bioeconomy be worked within a territory to provide alternative income generation, reducing illegal environmental activities in the region? For example: export of products from the bioeconomy, improvement of the management of nature tourism.
  - Identification/mapping of bioeconomy actors.
  - Identification of key products to increase participation in the global export market.
    - \>> Conduct studies
    - \>> Trainings
    - \>> Exchanges
    - \>> Business management
    - \>> Successful experiences
    - \>> Technology transfer
  - Bio-business model (production and marketing)
  - Identification of the market and its requirements (niche): traceability, certification, and circularity.
  - Consider rights and distribution of benefits to communities: socio-biocultural and environmental safeguards.
  - Understand the functioning of agreements/processes between communities and companies: Brazil has experiences, you can learn from them.
  - Identify good management, production, and marketing practices (guides).

- **Proposed activity**
  - Knowledge exchanges: webinars, training, cooperation, successful experiences.

- **Considerations**
  - The concepts of bioeconomy vary according to the countries. The concept can be very broad.

7. FINAL THOUGHTS

7.1. Reflections on cooperation and collaboration

Alberto Maurer, Executive Director of the Technological Institute of Production (ITP) of Peru, highlighted the work of the ITP in contributing to improving the productivity, quality, and profitability of companies through research, environmentally sustainable development, innovation, adaptation, transformation, and technological transfer. He believed that collaboration between producers, researchers, and those who provide technical assistance is essential. ITP has a mission aligned with poverty reduction and focused on profitable markets that seek sustainability. He showed the ITP's willingness to support and design projects that have a positive impact on nature and share its experience with other Amazonian countries.

Luz Adriana Rodríguez, Coordinator of the Heart of the Amazon Project, Natural Heritage, shared her reflections on the value of belonging to the ASL program considering that the Heart of the Amazon project began independently, before the creation of the impact program. This allows the program to contrast and identify the benefits of being part of a regional initiative. The project was born as a public initiative in 2012, with the construction of a common proposal between different institutions of the national environmental system where they integrated their different competencies and expertise. From this, and being aligned with the work plans of public institutions, they created common scenarios for dialogue and productive construction. This participatory institutional arrangement scheme has made it easier for institutions to remain in the territory, strengthen their capacities for the benefit of the project and others in implementation, and the possibility of leveraging more resources. Luz Adriana highlighted the importance of having projects that are designed to last in the long term, so that significant changes that take time to materialize are promoted. She reflected on how to achieve institutional collaboration, indicating that it is important to put aside institutional identity and coordinate common actions with other countries to learn from other projects. The exchange of knowledge is important and must cross borders to support and achieve the national and global goals we have. This was a gain for the project by becoming part of the ASL.

7.2. Collaboration with key initiatives and institutions beyond ASL

Partners and guests at the conference shared their reflections based on what they learned during the week and presented suggestions and ideas about next steps and/or ways in which they could collaborate with the ASL with concrete actions on issues of regional interest. The panel was moderated by **Genevieve Connors**, World Bank Practice Manager for Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy for Latin America and the Caribbean, who emphasized that the program is not an institution, but rather a program of finite duration, so all countries must ensure that all the topics discussed during the days of the conference do not disappear but are maintained and addressed.

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)

Mauro Ruffino, General Coordinator of the Bioamazonía Project and the Amazon Regional Observatory, emphasized that we all have a common purpose and that the conference has been a space to strengthen ourselves, optimize resources, and identify those common objectives. As part of the collaboration opportunities within the ASL, he mentioned a new proposal not discussed to develop a regional fisheries and migratory fish project. This topic has economic importance in all Amazonian countries, is related to food security, and is a topic that could integrate the different topics that have already been discussed at the conference. Among some relevant areas to work on within this project, he mentioned the importance of wetlands and the impact of mercury, protected areas, priority areas to identify fish spawning areas, sustainable tourism, connectivity of rivers and people and their relationship with the forest, Indigenous Peoples, watershed management, and food security.

On the other hand, Mauro highlighted the importance of giving **visibility to the results of ASL projects through the Amazon Regional Observatory (ORA)**. The [ORA](#) was launched in November 2021 and is a Reference Center for Information on the Amazon that seeks to promote the flow and exchange of information between institutions, government authorities, the scientific community, academia, and civil society in the Amazon Countries of ACTO. He indicated that they do not want it to be just a repository, but rather to operate as a platform for scientific knowledge inputs to contribute to ASL projects and strengthen the regional view of the Amazon basin. The ORA is constantly developing, and they are currently in the process of developing a series of modules and submodules that will allow information to be analyzed in a better way, for example, in relation to forest fires, sanitation, drinking water, and solid waste. The development of modules depends on existing information to be sustainable over time and is sometimes limited because there are areas very far from cities and with less information. Finally, he indicated that the process of sharing information is not yet automated, and during the conference it became clear that few are aware of its existence and potential. Due to this, he highlighted that it is important to work on coordinating with countries to guarantee the sharing of official information and thus be able to know the current situation in the Amazon region.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Yves Lesenfants, IDB Senior Specialist, emphasized that we are all working together for the Amazon, and therefore it is essential to maintain a general view that visualizes the work that is being done throughout the Amazon region. For example, there are 15,000 kilometers of international borders where many things happen that must be attended to. The IDB [Amazonia Forever](#) was highlighted as a potential collaborator with the ASL, where, for example, it would allow geospatial logic to be integrated into interventions and visualize the impacts of investments in a specific place. The thematic work pillars of the program are: i) combat deforestation; ii) bioeconomy; iii) people; iv) sustainable infrastructure, cities and connectivity, agriculture; v) sustainable livestock and forestry with low carbon emissions.

Yves also mentioned the importance of innovation in financial instruments, processes, and ventures. Currently, there are several initiatives underway on collaboration issues such as the Network of Amazonian Ministers of Finance and Planning, the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed in Belem between the IDB and the World Bank, and the MOU with ACTO.

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

María Franco Chuaire, Program Officer of the Andes – Amazon Initiative of the Moore Foundation, highlighted the cohesion and co-creation that exists between the projects and countries that was evident during the conference. Throughout the week, she said she listened closely to the challenges in the design and planning of the projects and expressed special interest in learning more about initiatives to promote local stories. She emphasized the relevance of elevating and amplifying local stories not only nationally, but internationally,

to expand visibility, application, and promotion.

As part of the opportunities for future collaborations with the ASL, which she will follow up on, she mentioned four topics:

- **OECMs and connectivity:** Focused on the component of conservation of freshwater sources and connection with forests.

- **Infrastructure:**
  >> Creation of spaces for projects or countries to learn more about what the foundation has done on this topic.
  >> Identify what factors of change involve the infrastructure sector.
  >> Understand the threats that arise with the development of infrastructure that put the environmental and social integrity of protected areas at risk.
  >> Explore the relationship further between extractive industries and infrastructure.

- **Mercury pollution due to gold mining:** They are currently working with the Amazon Alliance for Reducing the Impacts of Gold Mining ([ARAIMO](#)) to help implement their roadmap and adapt the Illegal Gold Mining Impacts Calculator along with Peru's Attorney General's office. Given that ASL has previously supported the work of the Calculator, it is proposed to find out how to provide this support jointly.

- **Systematize experiences and good practices in the region** on multiple topics that coincide between the programs, including those mentioned in the first three points.

Chicago Field Museum

Corine Vriesendorp, Director of the Andes – Amazonas Program, highlighted the ASL being a network of many governments that collaborate with national and international nongovernmental organizations and other cooperation agencies, and where there is a lot of energy and diversity. She mentioned that something that has not been pointed out during the conference is how scientists can be involved in a way that works for the projects, so that information that is needed can be provided: how science and/or research can play a role. She indicated that it is important for governments to access scientific information and traditional knowledge that is being generated and/or uncovered. Although there are observatories that are very important, an opportunity is being lost to include the people who know how to live life in the Amazon – Indigenous Peoples, settlers, farmers, faith communities – and they are not accessing the information. She emphasized that it is necessary to be clearer about what information is needed and most useful for the ASL and for each work topic, and how it can be shared efficiently. Overall, it will be important to connect local science, Western science, and the information needs of the ASL and governments.

United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) – Congo Basin

George Akwah, Leader of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Program, highlighted that among the messages taken from the conference is addressing the nexus between knowledge and action. It is not only about generating knowledge, but about knowing what type of knowledge we are generating and knowing how to communicate it. George reflected on what is meant by landscape and how it should be addressed in an impact program. Since landscape is a concept, it is important to establish and agree on the definition and boundaries, to identify the areas and actions to connect within the landscape. He also reflected on what drives transformational changes and the importance of delving into this topic given that sustainable transformations need to be generated over time to effectively address multiple crises. Finally, he indicated that he would be happy to continue participating in future meetings and collaborating.

Figure 9. Final thoughts on collaboration with the ASL
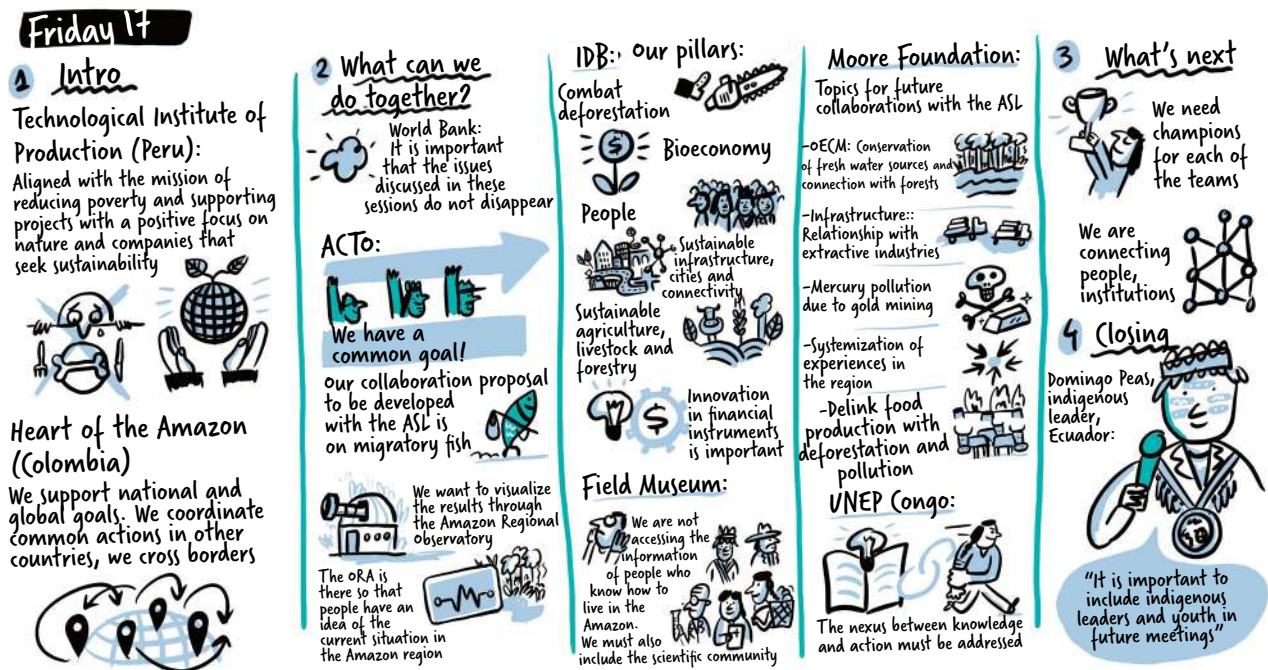
7.3. ASL as a collaboration platform for expanded actions

Ana María González Velosa shared some final reflections and responded to questions raised by the participants. She emphasized ASL's spirit of collaboration, which must be expanded through concrete actions. This includes institutions working within the biome and other forest biomes in the world. She also highlighted that the connectivity between the Andes and the Amazon must be kept in mind, as well as the Amazon and the regions of Orinoquia, Chiquitania, and Cerrado. This opens a range of possibilities for exchange and alliances.

In terms of next steps, the information collected at the conference will be consolidated in a conference report, the existing working groups will be reactivated in 2024, and new groups will gradually begin to address the topics defined at the conference. For this, the leadership and support of national projects and government agencies will be key. The doors will be open for other topics not discussed at the conference and where there is regional interest. If participants are interested in a specific organization's topic, they are invited to contact the ASL team to organize a workshop or exchange event. However, issues will need to be prioritized so as not to overwhelm the national and regional work teams, as well as to consider budget limits.

Ana Maria highlighted that the ASL is a collective and that the support of all the projects is needed so the working groups serve their interests and exchange activities can be carried out. She emphasized that it is important to invite other partners whose work can coincide with that of the ASL. Generating these ties between institutions is an indicator of transformation.

8. CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference closed with messages of gratitude and reflection. Engineer **Javier Sinti Flores**, General Manager of the Huallaga Central and Bajo Mayo Special Project (representative of the Regional Government of San Martin of Peru)—as a representative of the host country, thanked the institutions for being environmental conservation allies and highlighted the conservation approach of the regional government, opening the invitation for future meetings. **Franz Alvaro Quispe Olivera**, Deputy Minister of Environment of Bolivia, gave special thanks to Pascal Martinez, Ana María González Velosa, and Cecilia Guerra who facilitated his participation in the conference. He expressed his conviction that the conversations that took place at the conference will be useful in Bolivia to be able to replicate experiences and make alliances. He asked to join forces to contribute to the projects that are financed by the GEF and made a request for the next ASL annual conference to be held in Bolivia. Finally, **Mariela Canepa**, Deputy Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources of Peru, reflected on three crises the world faces (climate change, biodiversity loss, and water pollution from solid waste), the way in which we have collectively advanced to address them, and what remains to be done. She recommended planning that distinguishes short, medium, and long-term goals, the role of joint efforts, and the need to work at the three levels of biodiversity: ecosystems, species, and genetics.

The conference ended with the participants gathering in a circle and the facilitator, **Charo Lanao**, thanked everyone for participating in the conversations and discussions throughout the conference. Participants shared their reflections after the conference, expressing gratitude, a feeling of responsibility, and the need for collaboration.

Final words from Domingo Peas Nampichkai

Domingo Peas, Achuar Indigenous leader of Ecuador, was invited to close the conference. After saying a few words in his native language, Domingo expressed thanks for the invitation, congratulations on the results, and stressed the importance of including Indigenous leaders and youth in the upcoming meetings. Conference participants play the role of being the link between them and the decision makers, thus it's essential to link them and enhance their voices.

Annexes

	NAME	INSTITUTION
Bolivia	Eduardo Duran	Ministry of Environment and Water
	Franz Alvaro Quispe Olivera	Ministry of Environment and Water
	Roberto Rudy Condori Cachaca	Ministry of Development Planning
Brazil	Carlos Eduardo Ferreira	Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBIO)
	Carlos Eduardo Marinelli	Ministry of the Environment
	Fabrícia Arruda Moreira	State Secretariat for the Environment (SEMA) Amazonas
	Isis Freitas	Secretariat of Biodiversity
	Julia Zapata	Secretariat of Biodiversity
	Luisa Rocha	Brazilian Forest Service (SFB)
	Luiz Edinelson	Secretariat of Environment and Sustainability (SEMAS) Parà
	Ricardo Abreu	State Secretariat for the Environment (SEMA) Rondônia
	Rita Mesquita	Ministry of the Environment
	Suia Kafure da Rocha	Ministry of the Environment
	Tayna Bortoloso	Secretary of State for the Environment and Indigenous Policies (SEMAPI) Acre
Colombia	Edersson Cabrera Montenegro	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM)
	Emilce Mora Jaime	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
	Diana Castellanos	National Natural Parks (PNN)
	Jaime Barrera	Amazonian Scientific Research Institute SINCHI
	Jhon Jairo Moreno	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Northern and Eastern Amazon (CDA)
	Juan Felipe Pertuz	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
	Kimberly Morris	National Natural Parks (PNN)
Ecuador	Daniel Guerra	Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition

Guyana	Mr. Colis Primo	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	Felicia Adams–Kellman	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	Ms. Odacy Davis	Protected Areas Commission (PAC)
	Ms. Rhea Kanhai	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	Ms. Shuba Soamandaugh	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
	Mr. Steven Husbands	Protected Areas Commission (PAC)
Peru	Coral Calvo	Ministry of Environment former Regional Government of Ucayali
	Deyvis Huaman	National Service for Natural Areas Protected by the State – SERNANP
	Dennis del Castillo Torres	Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (IIAP)
	Juan Sivori Paredes Rios	Regional Government of Huánuco
	Mariela Canepa	Ministry of the Environment
	Mirko Abraham Doza Saboya	Regional Government of Loreto
	Ray Harris Del Águila Montero	Regional Government of Loreto
	Rodrigo Garcia Sayan	Ministry of the Environment
	Ronald Acuña Sobrados	Regional Government of Huánuco
	Vanessa Sánchez Sánchez	Technological Institute of Production (ITP) Ministry of Production former Regional Government of Ucayali
	Walter López	Regional Government of Junín
	Wilderson Maximo Ochoa Espejo	Regional Government of Junín
	Zoila Inés Pando Ávila	Regional Government of Junín
Suriname	Claudine Sakimin	Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management
	Lavanda Koedemoesoe	Ministry of Land Policy and Forest Management
	Prija Gangaram–Panday	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment
	Wanshieka Goli	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment
GEF	Pascal Martinez	GEF Secretariat
World Bank	Ana María Gonzalez	World Bank
	Benoit Bosquet	World Bank
	Bernardette Lange	World Bank
	Genevieve Connors	World Bank
GEF Agencies	Alexandra Fisher	UNDP
	Bryan Drakenstein	UNDP
	Cecilia Guerra	CAF
	Claudia Yep	WWF
	Gabriela Maldonado	WWF
	Isabel Filiberto	WWF

Agencias GEF	James Leslie	PNUD
	Kurt Holle	**WWF**
	Lorenzo Campos	FAO
	Monica Oliveros	**FAO**
	Nathalie Nicole Vela Knockaert	ONUDI
ASL Brazil	Fábio Ribeiro Silva	National project team – Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO)
	Miguel Moraes	**National project team – Conservation International Brazil**
	Neila Cavalcante	National project team – Conservation International Brazil
	Giuliano Senatore	**National project team – Conservation International Brazil**
Heart of the Amazon Colombia	Arelis Arciniegas	National project team
	Luz Adriana Rodriguez	**National project team**
	Beatriz Gallego	National project team
Sustainable Amazon for Peace Colombia	Ana Milena Duque	National project team
	Miguel Mejía	**National project team**
	Viviana Robayo	National project team
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management Ecuador	Gabriela Oñate	National project team
	Joy Woolfson	**National project team**
	Roberto Ulloa	National project team
Securing the Future of Peru's PAs	Liz Clemente	National project team
	Lorenzo Beck	**National project team**
	Milagros Silva	National project team
Sustainable Productive Landscapes in the Peruvian Amazon	Laura Avellaneda	National project team
	Vladimir Barrantes	**National project team**
Building Human Well-being in Amazonian Forests Peru	Anggela Michi	National project team
	David Llanos	**National project team**
	Jorge Elliot	National project team

Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon	Arioene Vreedzaam	National project team
	Artie Sewdien	National project team
	Vincent Esajas	National project team
Speakers and other guests	Alejandra Laina	WRI
	Ana Rosa Saenzx	ANA–IBC
	Carlos Salinas	ACTO
	Corine Vriesendorp	The Field Museum
	Domingo Peas	Indigenous Representative
	Fiona Rodgerson	RARE
	George Neba Akwah	UNEP
	Liz Chicaje	Indigenous Representative
	Maria Franco Chuaire	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
	Mauro Ruffino	ACTO
	Natalia Ruiz	WRI
	Yves Lesenfants	BID
Regional ASL Team	Charo Lanao	World Bank
	Daniel Sumalavia	World Bank
	Federico Hahn	World Bank
	Gabriela Flores	World Bank
	Maria Fernanda Larrea	World Bank
	Sandra Berman	World Bank
	Tanya Yudelman	World Bank
	Tito Cabrera	World Bank

At the end of the event, a survey was shared with Annual Conference participants, to which an average of 74 participants responded. The full results of the survey can be accessed at the following link.

Overall Rating of the Sixth Annual ASL Conference

5 stars	★★★★★
4 stars	★★★★
3 stars	★★★
2 stars	★★
1 stars	★

Completed surveys: 72 participants
Average rating: 4.3/5

★★★★✬

The rating was classified into 5 categories: 5 stras represents the highest rating; 3 stars represents satisfied; 1 star represents the lowest rating.
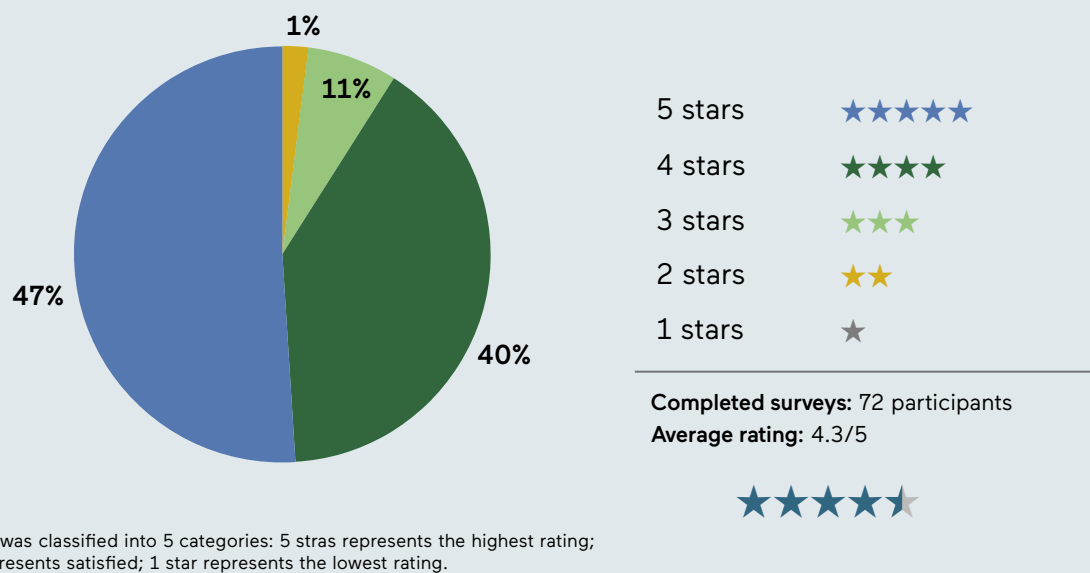
The logistics of the event were satisfactory (registration, transport, location, accommodation, etc.)?
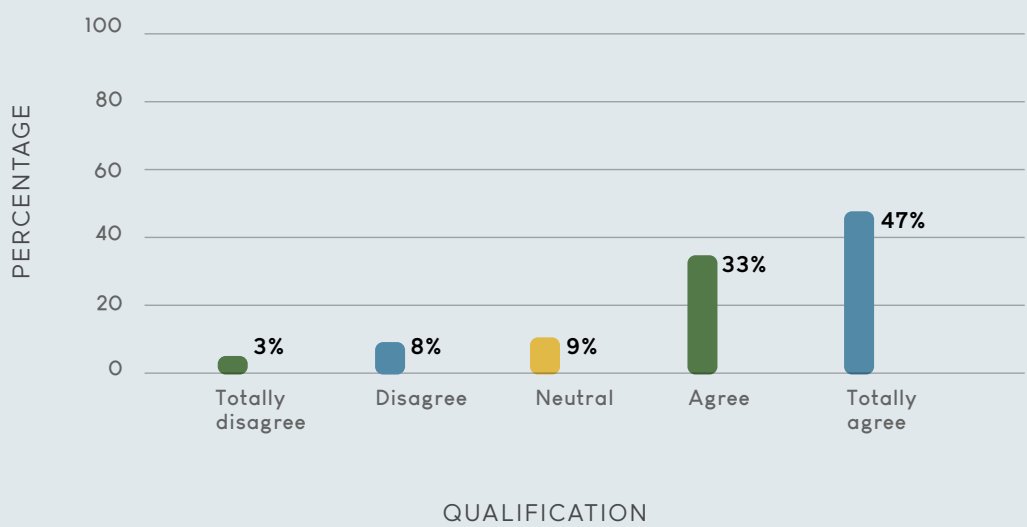
The exchange was useful to share experiences with representatives of other countries related to the projects implemented in their region/country?
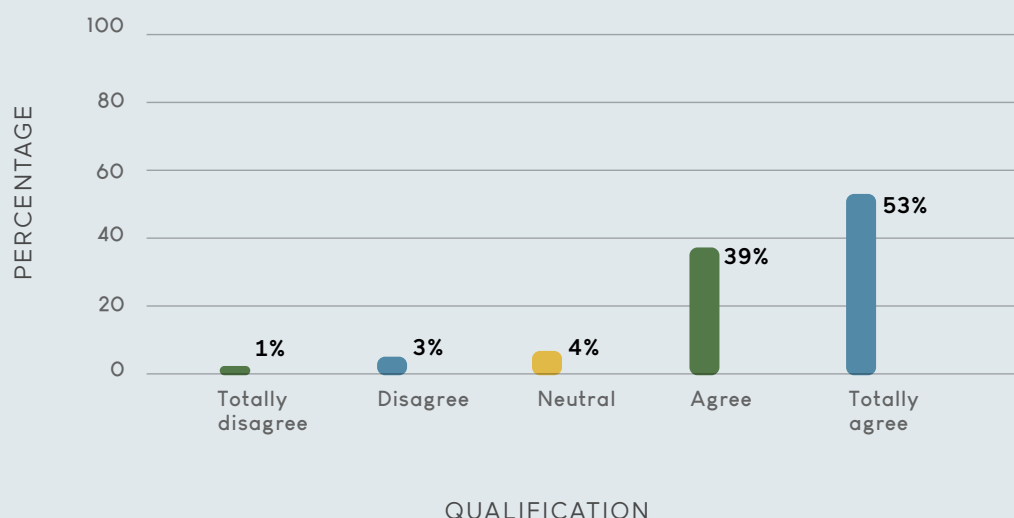
Below is some of the feedback from the event:

- It was my first conference and, even without being fluent in Spanish and English, it was possible to connect with new people and cultures.

- Excellent methodology for each day of the workshop. Important stage for the creation of national and international networks under common objectives.

- Great time and information management. Great facilitation. Lighting was a bit difficult for the performances.

- The conference is an important time to interact, meet, learn, and exchange information and knowledge with people and institutions supported by the ASL.

- Great discussion on the major issues being addressed in each territory.

- The most energetic moments in the room occurred when the groups were discussing topics of common interest. Let's maximize these spaces on future occasions.

- Everyone was very welcoming and open to collaborate or share their knowledge or experiences, even if there was a language barrier. I contributed ideas and solutions to the problems we are experiencing. I finally met the World Bank team.

- Excellent, lots of knowledge, wonderful people, collaborative environment and hope in the face of the challenges we face in the day-to-day implementation of these projects.

- Knowing what is happening in the different countries will facilitate new joint work.

- This has been a scenario of opportunities, of understanding other dynamics and contexts and ways of approaching them. Each project and country has proposals that we can undoubtedly apply, adapt, and innovate.

- Trying to involve as many stakeholders as possible, beyond the environmental sector.

- The microphone was always available to give opinions or ask questions.

- The meeting facilitator was amazing and created an environment conducive to enhancing the community with more knowledge, networks, and plans for the future.

What recommendations do you have for future events?
- That we are all housed in the same place, not dispersed, to facilitate integration.
- It would have been more enriching and profitable to develop the conference in an area associated with one of the ASL projects, including a field visit to the ASL area.
- Visiting experiences implemented by ASL.
- One suggestion would be to dedicate more time to the discussions, we had the feeling of having to rush to reach conclusions. While it is excellent to break the ice, the exercises could be more focused to avoid repetition of concepts (connection, collaboration), perhaps also build on previous exercises with different concepts.
- I believe that more time should be allowed to share the impacts of the projects, the idea of the project fair could be applied in the following occasions. It would be important to invite representatives of community stakeholders from the work areas.
- Present more videos on project implementation.
- Add success stories to illustrate what the ASL is doing.
- Have more information included on (a) regionally consolidated figures on where we are with ASL objectives (area, beneficiaries, percent of Amazon region supported by ASL projects); and (b) more information on ASL project partners—who is who.
- An event organized in a cooler location would be greatly appreciated.
- I believe that at least one presentation on gender associated with the intergenerational and Indigenous people approach should always be incorporated.

What are your suggestions for methods to promote knowledge sharing between the ASL project and other projects shared at the conference?
- It would be ideal to have a facilitator in the working groups, and not to rush the exercises. Also evaluate how many people are new and dedicate a little more time to show what was discussed in the previous conference, otherwise people raise the same issues and opportunities by not knowing what was discussed.
- Optimize specific thematic group discussions based on concrete experiences.
- It is important to promote evaluation exercises (impact) and socialization of the projects.
- Provide a summary document for each country of the activities they have been or are implementing. The countries that have just joined or are new to the ASL2 process have this information gap.
- Sharing the actions carried out by the states within the framework of the ASL project would enrich the exchange of experiences, instead of just talking about its components and phases.

- Communication between the main authorities of the different projects to devise a way forward and dialogue to promote collaboration. A working group could also be created to foster collaboration.
- The variety of speakers is always welcome, not only on finance issues. The presence of Indigenous people was excellent. It would be ideal to have guests from institutions beyond the environment, otherwise we always preach to the faithful, but there was little participation from other sectors.

ASL Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program

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IFAD Investing in rural people

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República del Ecuador

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PERÚ Ministerio del Ambiente

SERNANP PERÚ

BICENTENARIO DEL PERÚ 2021 - 2024

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SBB

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
ASL-INFO@WORLDBANK.ORG