Conservation Agreements in the Amazon: A comparative study

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Motivation

CAs have potential to drive conservation at scale

Mixed evidence on performance

Need to understand what characteristics deliver effectivenss

Study:
1) Synthesize state of knowledge globally
2) Learn from implemenation of CAs in region

Contribution to ASL objectives

Content

1. Introduction
2. Study methodology
3. CA characteristics that contribute to effectiveness
4. Assessment of focal in-region CA programs
5. Recommendations

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Conservation agreements: logic

- For rural land owners, conservation costs often exceed benefits
- CAs: External stream of benefits benefits conditional on conservation
- Convert conservation to an economically attractive choice

Implementation to date

1. Rapid growth
2. Evidence on performance mixed

Table 1. *Summary of Impact Evaluation studies of PES programs*

Authors	Location	Outcome variable	Method	Finding	Impact
Alix-Garcia et al. (2012)	Mexico	Forest cover	Matching	50% lower forest cover loss	Small
Arriagada, Sills, Pattanayak, and Ferraro (2009)	Costa Rica	Income and welfare indicators	Matching		None
Arriagada et al. (2012)	Sarapiquí, Costa Rica	Forest cover	Matching	PES increases fores 11-17%	Large
Baylis et al. (2012)	Monarch Reserve, Mexico	Forest Cover	Matching	PES improves outco management and legal protection	Small
Claassen et al. (2013)	United States	Adoption of conservation practices	Matching	High for structural practices; modest for nutrient management	Large
Costedoat et al. (2015)	Chiapas, Mexico	Forest cover	Matching	Additional forest conservation of 12–	Large
Hegde and Bull (2011)	Mozambique	Welfare measures	Matching	14% income and	Small
Honey-Rosés et al. (2011)	Monarch Reserve, Mexico	Forest cover	Matching	Protected 200–710 ha of high quality habitat but smaller effect on reduced forestation 0–200 ha	Small
Jayachandran et al. (2016)	Uganda	Forest cover	Randomize 50% Trial (RCT)	reduction in forest cover loss	Large
Pagiola et al. (2016)	Colombia	Environmental services index	OLS	Environmental gains permanent years after PES payments stop	Medium (long-term)
Pufahl and Weiss (2009)	Germany	Agricultural intensity	Matching	Increase in grassland area, reduction in livestock density and purchased ultural chemicals	Medium
Robalino and Pfaff (2013)	Costa Rica	Forest cover	Matching 0.2%	annual increase in forest	Small
Robalino et al. (2015)	Costa Rica	Forest cover	Matching	Higher additionality of PES if implemented away from protected	Small

Source: Börner et al., 2017

3. Why?

Effectiveness

1. Additionality
2. Environmental importance
3. Contribution to social and related goals
4. Attractiveness

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Steps

1. Identify relevant CA programs in region
2. Identify characteristics that contribute to effectiveness globally
3. Evaluate relevant programs against characteristics
4. Generate recommendations

Sources of information: ToR, literature (CA and PES), national and international experts

Opinions and errors are the responsibility of the authors

Identification of CA programs in region

Criteria	Subset included
Location	Brazilian, Colombian or Peruvian Amazon
Scale	National, State, (Site)
Mechanism	Voluntary contracts and conditional payments
Who runs the program	Government or partnership between Government/NGO/private sector
Type of incentive provided	Broadly defined - cash, livelihood support, infrastructure
Who conserves	Communities, individuals
What behavior is incentivized	Broadly defined - standing forest, sustainable management, sustainable agricultural practices

Programs assessed

Country	Scale	Program	Age (yrs)
Brazil	National	Bolsa Verde (BV)	8 [a]
	State	Bolsa Floresta (BF)	11
Colombia	National	BanCO2	6
	Multi-state	Proyecto REM Visión Amazonía (REM)	6
	Multi-state	ACs dentro del proyecto Corazón de la Amazonia (CdA)	4 [b]
	Multi-state	Conservación y Gobernanza en el Piedemonte Amazónico (CGPA)	7
	Multi-state	Programa Desarrollo Local Sostenible en Parques Nacionales (PDLS)	2
Peru	National	Programa Nacional de Conservación de Bosques (PNCB)	9
	Site	Acuerdos de Conservación Alto Mayo (BPAM)	9

[a] Currently suspended

[b] Component of the ASL National Project, led by SINCHI in colaboration with the regional environmental authorities (*Corporaciones*)

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Summary

	Location	Participants	Agreement	Benefits	Operations	Continuity
Broadly applicable	High risk of degradation High environmental value	Participants have rights, institutions, and capacity Voluntary	Clear conditionality	Differentiated payments but avoid complexity	Monitor Apply conditionality Quality implementation	
Context dependent or limited information	Poverty criteria Low opportunity costs Transparent criteria regarding where program operates	Enrollment by targeted people subsidized Trustful negotiation climate, incl. implementer legitimacy Informed deliberation Women involved Auctions	Reflect local reality Duration of Contracts Target easily measurable Leakage / spillovers considered Social motivations and free riding	Opportunity and transaction costs considered Deliberations on use (communal only) In kind benefits (communal in particular)	Operational efficiency Communications drawing on behavioral science Learning culture and procedures Internal clarity on program objectives	Incentivize economic transition Build relationships with Finance Ministries Links to CSR, offsets, taxes ES markets

Detail – where to operate

What's effective	Justification
Operate in areas with high risk of degradation	Targeting at-risk areas increases likelihood that participants will enroll land they plan to clear
Operate in areas that provide high environmental value	Environmental values are not uniformly distributed. Targeting can increase the share of those areas enrolled
3 others	

Examples from in region

- Identify and work in regions with higher deforestation
- Prioritize areas that create connectivity (CdA) or carbon (REM)
- Prioritize in and around PAs

Detail - continuity of program impact

What's effective	Justification
Incentivize economic transition	Using CA benefits to cover transition costs where alternatives are greener and more profitable can reduce the need to pay in perpetuity
Establish CA program as a vehicle for meeting corporate interests	Transparent and efficient delivery can make a CA program attractive for CSR. Quantifying impact can make CAs an option for meeting legal requirements like offsets
Establish the CA program as a vehicle for providing ecosystem services	Become the conduit through which beneficiaries pay for ES provision, eg., water payments by water utilities, or deforestation reductions as part of national REDD+ agreements

Important but unresolved issues

Examples:

1. Optimal designs of non-monetary contract characteristics in the Amazon region
2. Role of opportunity costs
3. How can conservation incentives best support poverty alleviation goals?
4. Should incentives be offered to increase compliance with legal obligations?

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Almost always considered and implemented

Often considered and implemented

Expert-highlighted opportunities for improvement

Detail

Where to operate:

Characteristic	Included	Opportunity
Operate in areas with high risk of degradation	Often	Highest
Operate in areas which provide high environmental value	Often	
Prioritize regions with higher incidence of poverty	Almost never	
Prioritize regions with low opportunity cost	Almost never	
Ensure transparent criteria regarding where the program operates	Almost always	

How to increase program continuity?

Characteristic	Included	Opportunity
Incentivize economic transition	Rarely	Highest
Build relationships with Finance or equivalent Ministry	Almost never	Good
Establish the CA program as a vehicle for delivering on CSR, environmental offsets, carbon offsets, and tax write-offs	Rarely	Good
Establish the CA program as a vehicle for providing ecosystem services for local, national, or global markets	Rarely	

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Recommendations

1. Continue to fund and support ASL CA programs for impact, learning, and scale

2. Use the CA design characteristics identified as a checklist

Recommendations

3. Facilitate engagement between ASL CA programs and actors who can provide finance

4. Promote exchanges among CA programs assessed and relevant ASL national projects to share, discuss, and build on effective approaches

Recommendations

5. Engage outside experts in priorities for improvement where additional technical input may be valuable

6. Support participatory research on important characteristics where regional experience and existing technical studies do not provide decisive answers

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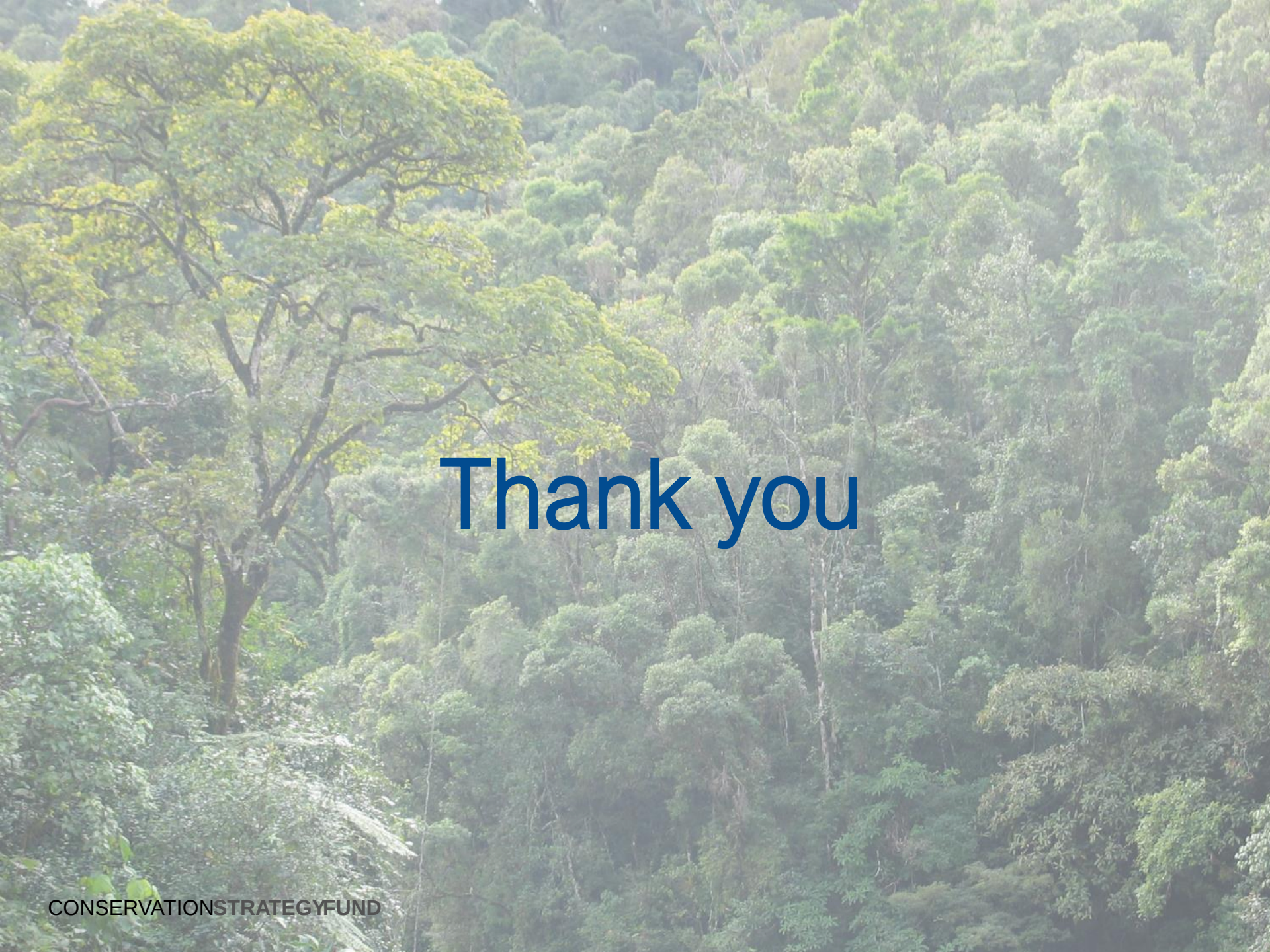
Thank you