



## Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon (P144271)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN | Colombia | Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy Global Practice | Global Environment Project | Investment Project Financing | FY 2015 | Seq No: 19 | ARCHIVED on 05-Apr-2024 | ISR59997 |

Implementing Agencies: IDEAM, Instituto SINCHI de Investigación Amazónica, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Parques Nacionales Naturales, Patrimonio Natural Fondo para la Biodiversidad y Areas Protegidas

**Key Dates****Key Project Dates**

Bank Approval Date: 08-Dec-2014

Effectiveness Date: 02-Mar-2015

Planned Mid Term Review Date: 03-Feb-2020

Actual Mid-Term Review Date: 02-Mar-2020

Original Closing Date: 30-Nov-2024

Revised Closing Date: 30-Sep-2026

**Project Development Objectives**

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The project's global environmental objective (GEO) is the same as the project's development objective (PDO), namely, to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the Project area.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

**Components Table**

Name

1. Protected Areas Management and Financial Sustainability:(Cost \$4.56 M)
2. Sustainable forest and water management and use:(Cost \$9.00 M)
3. Governance, Policies and Incentives:(Cost \$1.31 M)
- 4.Project Coordination, Communications, Monitoring and Evaluation:(Cost \$3.50 M)

**Overall Ratings**

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Satisfactory	<input type="checkbox"/> Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial

**Implementation Status and Key Decisions**

This ISR summarizes implementation progress as it was discussed in the implementation support mission held in Mocoa, Putumayo and Bogota from February 26 to February 29, 2024.



**Overall status and results:** Progress towards achieving the PDO and implementation progress have been upgraded to satisfactory. Project disbursements are at 58.63% considering the full disbursement of the original project (TF18478), 95% of the first additional financing (AF1) (TFA5789) and 11% of the second additional financing (AF2) (TFB5182).

This project with a long-term commitment contributes to land planning and management of a vast territory through the implementation of integrated actions. It promotes conservation, governance, and effective management of protected territories (protected areas, indigenous territories, Ramsar sites), preserving ecosystem connectivity, biological and cultural diversity, and the maintenance of ecosystem services. This contributes to national objectives linked to the Global Biodiversity Framework, the National Biodiversity Plan, and the conservation goals of Herencia Colombia (HeCo), among others. The project also works in deforested and degraded areas of the Amazon, supporting social participation and planning processes towards community forest economy and value chains around the products and services provided by forests and water resources. The project directly contributes to the transformation of four deforestation nuclei into Forest Development and Biodiversity Nuclei (NDFyB). This intervention is part of the National Strategy to Halt Deforestation and the National Restoration Plan. Finally, the project has made progress in establishing agreements with other sectors to promote public policy coherence that contributes to the Amazon's integrated development. This includes agreements with the transportation, agriculture, and planning sectors regarding the development of municipal ordinance plans, road plans, and compliance with the Supreme Court Sentence 4320, which considered the Amazon as a subject of rights.

The project's institutional arrangements continue to be one of its great successes to achieve the PDO of improving governance in a sustainable way. The arrangements deeply involve all relevant entities from the national and subnational environmental system in project execution, increases the institutional skills, and promotes collaboration within the institutions and with community and civil society organizations. This strengthening process will last beyond the project's duration and will facilitate the implementation of new projects to be funded by the recently approved Fund for Life and Biodiversity, whose public resources will finance actions in areas synergistic with the project.

The following positive achievements stand out:

**Component 1:** Protected areas (PA) management and financial sustainability. (i) Six national PAs and three regional PAs improved their management effectiveness levels, adding up approximately 7 million hectares; (ii) Monitoring of deforestation and fire outbreaks continued, through flyovers, satellite imagery and prevention and control on the ground surveillance. (iii) Governance strengthening of indigenous and local communities; (iv) Progress in the declaration of the regional protected area Bajo Guayabero, particularly in the engagement and validation from the communities; (v) Development of Participatory Ecological Restoration (REP) processes, and signing of new food security agreements in indigenous territories; (vi) Promotion of spaces for dialogue among local communities, disseminating best practices in restoration and management of natural resources; (vii) Implementation of strategic lines prioritized within the management plans elaborated with the Mesa Ramsar Estrella Fluvial de Inírida (EFI) and the Asociación Indígena Ticoya in the Tarapoto Ramsar, including the work of the local communities as monitors and territory watchers.

**Component 2:** Sustainable Forest and water management and use. (i) Prioritization and biophysical and socioeconomic characterization of the geographic areas and its local communities and organizations for the development of community forestry and forest management initiatives; (ii) Training to local communities in forest management, including the development of forest inventories and organizational entrepreneurial strengthening; (iii) Identification of local organizations to sign new conservation agreements, including community forestry, bioeconomy and ecotourism; (vi) Active and passive restoration in water recharge areas and biological corridors, considering traditional practices, information from phenological studies of priority native forest species, and technologies such as the use of solar energy systems for enclosures where restoration processes are carried out.

**Component 3:** Governance, policies, and incentives. (i) Strengthening government institutions including providing technical assistance to municipal officials and local governments in adapting their land-use planning instruments; (ii) Support to the transport sector for the application of environmental criteria in the approval, development and maintenance of tertiary roads; (iii) Progress in the consolidation of the Protocol for the Disabling of Illegal Transportation infrastructure and restoration of areas affected by the opening and operation of this type of access in the Amazon; (iv) Cartographic analysis of illegal land roads; (v) Monitoring the implementation of the Amazon Plan for Sustainable Intermodal Transportation (PATIS); (vi) Development of new agreements with the Geographic Institute Agustín Codazzi (IGAC) to work on the Multipurpose Cadaster and with Rural Agricultural Planning Unit (UPRA) to analyze the dynamics of the formal and informal agricultural frontier.

**Component 4:** Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation. (i) Management of the annual operating plan, procurement plan and project's financial execution; (iii) Monitoring and analysis of deforestation by the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System, which reports a 69% decrease in deforestation estimated at the national level between January and September 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. The Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) is piloting a restoration monitoring exercise, which is expected to be applied to the intervention areas; (iii) Participation of partner entities and the government in international events to promote the results of the project, exchange knowledge, strengthen capacities and contribute to the country's negotiations on international agreements; (iv) Progress in the implementation of the communication strategy via multiple media channels (website, social media, podcasts) for external dissemination of project results, as well as capacity building to networks of young leaders; (v) Continuous measurement of the degree of satisfaction of beneficiaries with the support provided by the project, with results indicating that 90% were satisfied.

## Risks



### Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Macroeconomic	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Sector Strategies and Policies	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Fiduciary	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Environment and Social	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Stakeholders	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate
Other	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial
Overall	--	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/> Substantial

### Results

#### PDO Indicators by Objectives / Outcomes

Management and governance for biodiversity conservation strengthened				
▶ Terrestrial protected areas under improved management effectiveness (Hectare(Ha), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	7,067,367.00	7,056,335.00	7,084,558.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	According to the METT, six national PAs improved their management effectiveness even beyond set annual targets (corresponding to an increase in 176,547 hectares). In these national PAs, the increase in effectiveness corresponds significantly with the processes of strengthening governance with indigenous and local communities (PNN Serranía de Chiribiquete (75), PNN Alto Fragua Indi Wasi (67), Serranía Churumbelos (60), FPM Orito Ingi Ande Sanctuary (79), RNN Nukak (48), PNN Picachos (68), PNN Macarena (56), APR Miraflores Picachos (33), RFPN Serranía La Lindosa - Angosturas II (35), Área Protegida Regional Bajo Guayabero (26)). Management in two regional PAs could not improve as expected considering the deteriorated security conditions that constrained field work and the need to strengthen capacity given their recent declaration status.			
▶ Areas under new or improved integrated sustainable management plans as a result of project activities (excluding PA) (Hectare(Ha), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	10,110.00	2,009,237.00	2,009,237.00	3,010,855.00
Date	30-Dec-2016	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	The value for the indicator did not vary in the past semester. However, main results included:			



**Forestry development.** Progress is being made in the implementation of the government's strategy for the containment of deforestation, specifically in the community engagement and diagnosis of the socio-organizational situation in the targeted nuclei for forest development and biodiversity.

**Forest areas under conservation agreements.** During the semester, the extension of the forest hectares conserved under the conservation, restoration and non-deforestation agreements has been maintained. Monitoring compliance of the agreements was carried out using remote sensing and field visits. As a result of these actions, it is confirmed that a total of 25,177.6 hectares of forest have been maintained in an adequate state of conservation.

**Management plans in indigenous reserves.** The project continues the implementation of management plans in different indigenous reserves; and has stressed the need for dialogue when some communities have drifted apart. A key deliverable was the preparation of the ancestral ecological and ritual calendar of the Andoque de Aduche Reserve.

**Management plan for the Ramsar sites Estrella Fluvial del Inirida (EFI) and Tarapoto Lakes.** The project continued to support concerted actions with the communities of the EFI and Tarapoto Lakes wetlands, with the objective of implementing prioritized strategic lines of the management plan, including community monitoring and tourism.

#### Areas of environmental significance under legal protection increased

► New areas of environmental significance brought under legal protection (biodiversity conservation, avoided deforestation) (Hectare(Ha), Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	3,104,945.00	3,104,945.00	3,104,945.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	Although no new areas are reported, the process of declaring the regional area Distrito de Conservación de Suelos Bajo Guayabero has advanced with community dialogues. The environmental authorities and the national government are working with local communities to have their clearance on the following steps to constitute the PA, considering the state of land tenure. Support from national level institutions has been requested to manage risks associated with conflicts.			

#### Sustainable low carbon land use activities implemented

► Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (Hectare(Ha), Corporate)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	25,177.00	25,177.60	699,628.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	The area (25,177.6 ha) under sustainable management practices reported in the previous period was maintained. Users maintain their commitment to conservation by complying with the ACRND on a voluntary basis. Progress in identifying new areas is being made, specifically in new NDFyB. The deployment of subprojects and the engagement of new beneficiaries will accelerate the number of hectares under sustainable landscape management practices.			

#### GHG emissions from avoided/reduced deforestation monitored

► GHG emission levels established annually for the Amazon Region by IDEAM (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	The project continues to measure greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation on an annual basis in accordance with the methodology implemented by IDEAM and the Ministry of the Environment. Latest			



data available reports that the deforested area in Colombia for 2022 was 123,517 hectares, 29.1% less with respect to the loss reported for the year 2021. The reduction of deforestation in the Amazon was 37%, from the same period. This reduction is a significant advance for the country, contributing to the national goals contained in the National Development Plan (NDP).

### Intermediate Results Indicators by Components

Component 1 - Protected Areas Management and Financial Sustainability				
▶ Mechanism for funding of PA system in Colombia designed and operational (Colombia Heritage- HECO) (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	The mechanism's closing conditions were met with the support of project resources and co-financing. With the mechanism in place, funding from the project (following the restructuring approved in January, 2024) will be executed as direct activities through the project's implementation, procurement and management mechanisms and contribute as well to HeCo's goals.			
▶ Leverage funding for the national financing mechanism for protected area system (Amount(USD), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	6,200,000.00	47,277,000.00	4,500,000.00
Date	30-Dec-2019	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	During this reporting period, PNN signed agreements for an additional \$41 million from private funds to leverage the HeCo financing mechanism at national level. These funds will support activities towards HeCo's conservation goals as well as the establishment of the technical, legal and administrative team necessary for the operation of HeCo. In addition, public resources from the collection of compensation measures from the mining and energy sector were used for the expansion and declaration of a PA in the Colombian Orinoco region. On October 10, 2023, the inter-administrative agreement between PNN and FPN was signed. This formalizes the role of FPN as the party in charge of the administrative management of HeCo's resources channeled a transition fund.			
Component 2 - Sustainable forest and water management and use				
▶ Area of land restored (Hectare(Ha), Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	1,707.00	1,707.00	3,877.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	No new hectares were reported this semester. The activities developed by the environmental authorities to advance in the fulfillment of this indicator were focused on replanting in areas that suffered from seedling mortality, technical monitoring of compliance and training in the agroforestry, restoration, and landscape management practices, as well as the maintenance of nurseries and enclosures. Exchanges on traditional knowledge for restoration and plant use were also delivered.			
▶ Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services (Number, Corporate)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	564.00	947.00	947.00	2,037.00



Date	30-Dec-2019	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	<p>No changes in the indicator as no new conservation, non deforestation and restoration agreements were signed. Producers are benefiting from the project with assets (materials, inputs and tools) and technical advisory services for the implementation of agroforestry practices. Work has progressed within the steps towards new agreements to be signed.</p> <p>During this semester, the entities continue their efforts to increase the voluntary participation of women in the subscription and implementation of the ACRND, through the project's training and socialization activities. The aim is for communities and organizations to incorporate equity criteria when selecting project facilitators and assistants, thus promoting the inclusion of women in active roles. In addition logistical measures have been taken to ensure women attend and remain in the meetings; e.g. preparing more food during the meetings so women can take home to their families and do not need to leave early to cook. A simple action has caused a positive impact.</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services - Female (Number, Corporate Supplement)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	229.00	340.00	340.00	917.00
<b>Component 3 -Governance, Policies and Incentives</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of agreements w/ sectors driving deforestation on land-use plan, strat for integrated landscape manag, policies or regulations, signed and under implementa (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	17.00	18.00	13.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	<p>A total of 18 agreements have been signed to date. The new agreement corresponds to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the regional authority, CDA, the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, and the Governor's Office of Guaviare. The purpose of this memorandum is to formalize the application of environmental criteria, specifically the Green Infrastructure Road Guidelines (LIVV) and other technical guidelines, in the planning and preparation of studies and designs for road projects in all municipalities of the Guaviare department. All the other agreements and/or its results have been monitored and continue in place.</p>			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of properties at the agricultural frontier that have been subject to zoning (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	20.00	313.00	313.00	313.00
Date	30-Dec-2016	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	<p>This goal was met in the second semester of 2021. The Sinchi Institute continued to socialize the methodology and lessons learned in the following semesters to contribute to the processes of establishing contracts for forest resource use rights in forest reserve areas. A proposal was prepared to develop a map of the agricultural frontier.</p>			
<b>Component 4 - Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E)</b>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	14,500.00	14,630.00	15,738.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026



Comments:	The indicator increased to 14,630 direct beneficiaries corresponding to 130 new people who received training as part of the readiness, diagnosis and initial planning exercises in the NDFyBs. The gap between men and women is being reduced, to the extent that progress is being made with activities led by women and the signing of by women.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Percentage of women (Percentage, Custom Supplement)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	42.30	44.00	45.00
▶ Strengthened capabilities of environmental authorities for forest monitoring according to specific action plans (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	Training developed by the SMyC continues to result in increased capacity of environmental authorities to generate accurate data on natural forest and deforestation at the national and regional levels. Between September and October 2023, four (4) training sessions were held with a total of 38 participants. In addition, socialization of deforestation monitoring results during the year 2022 and first quarter of 2023, with officials of the Deforestation and Climate Change Control Group of Cormacarena was done through a Virtual Workshop.			
▶ Early warning system (deforestation alerts) in the Amazon region operational according to defined criteria (Number, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Dec-2022	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	The IDEAM published bulletins No. 35 and 36 of regional Early Deforestation Alerts corresponding to Quarters II and III of 2023 respectively. These are available on IDEAM's publications portal ( <a href="https://acortar.link/IB01Mh">https://acortar.link/IB01Mh</a> ). Two bulletins were reported in the previous semester (Bulletin No. 33 and 34 – October to December 2022 and January to March 2023 respectively), completing the target of 4 system reports per year. Bulletins No. 35 and 36 show the critical sites of forest loss in regions within the Amazon. The information comes as a result of deforestation monitoring carried out for the departments of Caquetá, Putumayo, Meta, Guaviare, Guainía and Amazonas and in conjunction with the Environmental Authorities Regional and the national Parks Authority.			
▶ Levels of satisfaction on the effectiveness and relevance of training and knowledge exchange events (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	92.00	90.00	80.00
Date	21-Aug-2014	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	A survey has been designed to measure satisfaction levels and applied to two pilot cases. Project staff were trained by the Bank GEMS team to use KoboToolbox as the main instrument for digital application of the survey. Full implementation is set for the first quarter of 2022. The next steps include: (i) sharing the validated survey with project partners for their feedback and approval (ii) preparing the logistics and administrative requirements for their full implementation; (iii) defining the mechanism for information sharing; and (iv) undertake further training in GEMS for results' analysis.			
▶ Grievances registered related to delivery of project benefits that are addressed (Percentage, Custom)				
	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target



Value	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Date	30-Dec-2019	30-Jun-2023	29-Dec-2023	30-Sep-2026
Comments:	<p>Since year 2016 a total of 98 requests have been received and solved, yet there are 2 requests that still need to be adequately documented in order to be cleared. This implies that 98% (96/98) of the grievances are classified as addressed. Project institutional partners have committed to certify the attention provided to these cases. During the current period, 12 requests were received and solved, mostly related to information queries and demand for project activities. Among these, a registered grievance of the Remolinos del Caguán community involved in conservation agreements was due to delays in their first payment of restoration incentives by a local financial agency. This agency was illiquid at the time when rural participants claimed the payments. In response, the project's staff reached the agency to solve the situation by securing a better programming of future payments.</p>			

### Performance-Based Conditions

#### Data on Financial Performance

##### Disbursements (by loan)

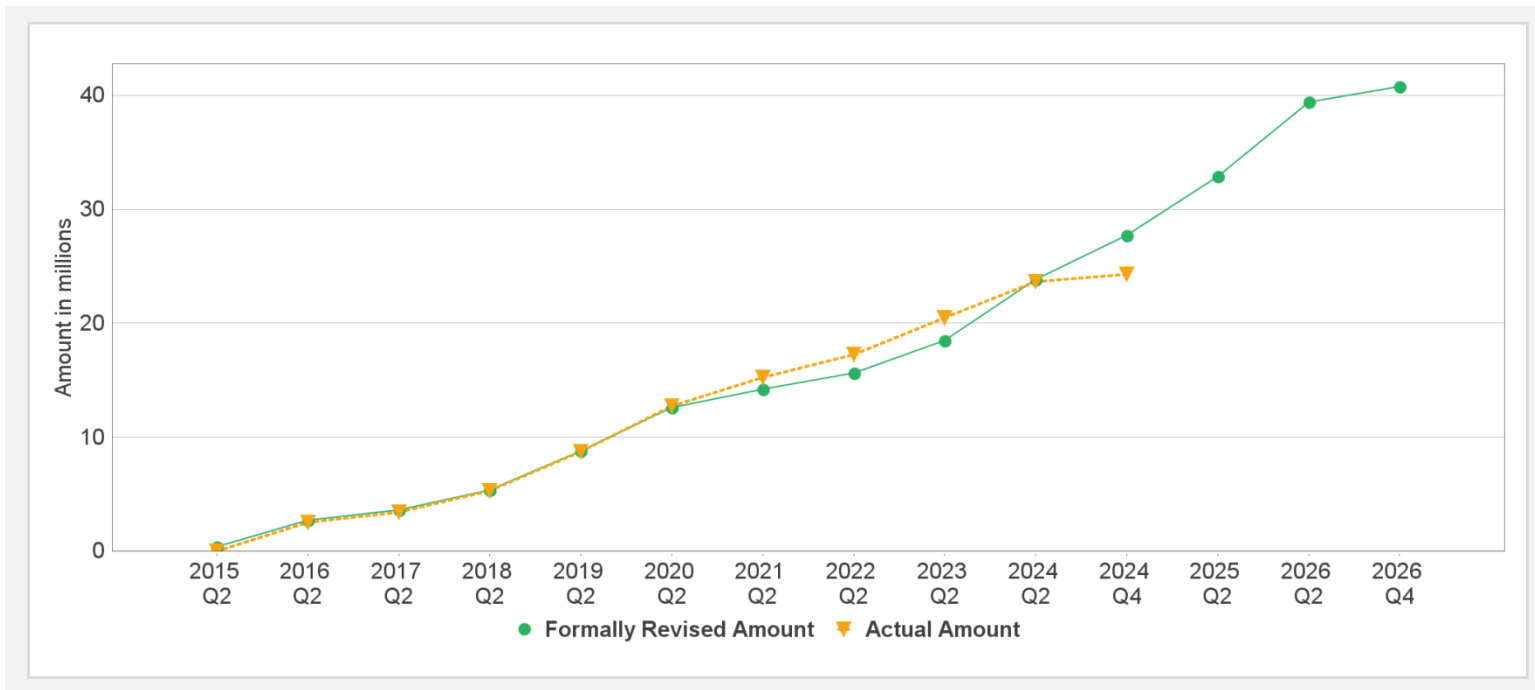
Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P144271	TF-18478	Closed	USD	10.40	10.37	0.03	10.37	0.00	100%
P144271	TF-A5789	Effective	USD	12.00	12.00	0.00	11.38	0.62	95%
P144271	TF-B5182	Effective	USD	18.37	18.37	0.00	2.55	15.82	14%

##### Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P144271	TF-18478	Closed	21-Jan-2015	21-Jan-2015	02-Mar-2015	30-Jun-2019	30-Jun-2019
P144271	TF-A5789	Effective	31-Oct-2017	07-Nov-2017	07-Nov-2017	30-Jun-2022	30-Nov-2024
P144271	TF-B5182	Effective	30-Apr-2021	13-May-2021	05-Oct-2021	30-Nov-2024	30-Sep-2026

### Cumulative Disbursements





### Restructuring History

Level 2 Approved on 21-Jun-2022 ,Level 2 Approved on 09-Jan-2024

### Related Project(s)

P158003-Additional Financing Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon Project ,P171227-Second Additional Financing for the Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon Project