PROGRAM PROGRESS MONITORING REPORT (PPMR)

I OVERVIEW

A. Description

Program name:	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program - Phase II		
Countries:	Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname		
GEF ID:	10198	Implementing Agency:	World Bank
Objective:	To improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region.		
Fiscal Year of Reporting:	FY 2025	Program Approval Date:	5/14/2019

II OUTCOME PROGRESS

A. Progress by Component

The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council in June of 2015. Led by the World Bank, and managed in partnership, the ASL has now grown to a US$320 million regional effort dedicated to ecosystem conservation and sustainable development in the Amazon. By adopting an integrated landscape management approach, 20 national-level projects across three phases address country-specific priorities that align with the program's regional objectives.

In its second phase, the ASL became an Impact Program funded by the GEF with the objective of improving integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region. The ASL Program integrates national projects from seven countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Suriname; and a regional platform child project. The ASL2 national projects are led by the countries' Ministries of Environment or Environmental Agencies and are being executed collaboratively on the ground by public and civil society organizations. The ASL promotes a collaborative programmatic approach where a common goal and long-term vision have been collectively established. Each national project is designed according to its own needs and priorities but contributes to the common goal. Through this integration and enabled by knowledge exchange and dialogue, the approach enables national projects to achieve larger impacts than if they were implemented in isolation.

The Bolivian ASL project, *Amazon sustainable landscape approach in the Plurinational System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of Bolivia*, supported by CAF, aims to strengthen the management effectiveness and financial sustainability of the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) and strategic ecosystems, based on social participation and on the sustainable production of natural resources, focusing on the Bolivian Amazon. The Brazilian ASL project, supported by the World Bank, was processed as an additional financing, aiming to continue the efforts of the ASL1 Brazilian project, ie expand the area under legal protection and improve management of Protected Areas, and increase the area under restoration and sustainable management in the Brazilian Amazon. The Colombian ASL project, *Corazon de la Amazonia*, supported by the World Bank, was processed as an additional financing, aiming to continue the efforts under that part of the ASL1 Colombian project, ie improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities in order to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity in the Project area. The Ecuadorian project, *Connectivity corridors in two priority landscapes of the Ecuadorian Amazon Region*, supported by WWF, aims to improve the ecological connectivity of two priority landscapes, the Putumayo – Aguarico and the Palora-Pastaza, in the Ecuadorian Amazon, through the establishment of two connectivity corridors and associated management mechanisms, to ensure the long-term biodiversity conservation of its ecosystems. The Guyanese ASL project, *Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern* Guyana, supported by WWF, aims to strengthen landscape connectivity through improved management of the Kanuku Mountains Protected Area and North Rupununi Wetlands in southern Guyana. The Peruvian ASL project, *Building human well-being and resilience in Amazonian forests by enhancing the value of biodiversity for food security and bio-businesses, in a context of climate* change, supported by a consortium including FAO, IFAD and UNIDO, aims to advance the conservation of healthy and functional forests and wetlands resilient to climate change, maintaining carbon stocks, preventing GHG emissions, and generating sustainable and resilient local livelihoods. The Suriname project, *Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon*, supported by UNDP, aims to secure equitable management of

Suriname's protected and productive landscapes through integrated approaches that deliver mutually supportive conservation and sustainable livelihood benefits. The regional project led by the World Bank aims to strengthen coordination, access to information and capacity of national projects stakeholders under the GEF 7 Amazon Sustainable Landscape Program.

With different contexts and priorities, but contributing to program-level goals, the national and regional coordination projects include activities around:

- Integrated Protected Areas – A representative area of the Amazon is effectively conserved under various regimes (protected areas, indigenous lands, Ramsar sites, and other area-based conservation measures) (Component 1).
- Sustainable Production Landscapes – Agriculture lands, forests and freshwater habitats sustainably managed and restored, providing economic, social, and cultural, inclusive well-being (Component 2).
- Policies/incentives for protected and productive landscapes – Legal instruments, policies and intersectoral agreements enabling conservation and sustainable development (Component 3).
- Capacity-building and regional collaboration – Institutional and community capacity building and regional multistakeholder cooperation strengthened (Component 4).

Progress has been achieved across Components:

- Under Component 1, in Brazil the ASL2 project supported ordinary meetings of the Council for the Baixo Rio Negro Mosaic (MBRN), which brings together 11 conservation units, working towards integrated governance and management of the areas. Similarly, it supported annual assemblies of the organizations of the Forum Território Media Juruá. In Colombia, the process towards the declaration of the new regional Bajo Guayabero PA, that was prioritized by the government, continues making some progress with new studies that justify its importance in terms of connectivity with other key PAs, and its biophysical value and existing socioeconomic dynamics. Ecuador's ASL project focused on developing the technical documentation required by MAATE for the designation of the two corridors. This was completed for the Palora–Pastaza Corridor and partially completed for the Yasuní–Limoncocha–Cuyabeno Corridor. The documentation includes ecological, socioeconomic (with gender and intercultural approaches), and political viability analyses. Guyana's ASL project made progress towards establishing a representative multi-stakeholder platform for the North Rupununi Wetlands, and the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), one of the project's key executing partners, completed in-house training for PAC staff and Kanuku Mountain Protected Area (KMPA) community rangers. In Peru, the project strengthened territorial planning and the sustainable management of Amazon ecosystems through participatory processes led by sub-national governments. In Suriname, METT assessments for various areas have been completed and game wardens were trained.
- Under Component 2, the Brazilian ASL2 project worked on strengthening the native rubber production chain in the Middle Juruá Region and trained communities in basket weaving and dyeing. Colombia's ASL project secured the formal adoption of the management plan for the Ramsar site Estrella Fluvial de Inirida, result of a long 10 year coordinated effort. The project directly contributes to the transformation of four deforestation nuclei into Forest Development and Biodiversity Nuclei (NDFyB), with training activities conducted; and community-forestry plans were designed. There was an increase in the area that is under integrated sustainable management plans and (a total of 3 million ha), contributing in turn to country level goals including the National Restoration plan. Ecuador's ASL project focused on selecting areas for establishing sustainable production learning communities and identified 19 quadrants. Four priority products/services for bioeconomy were identified: seed jewelry, natural cosmetics, artisanal ceramics (YAPIT brand), and sustainable tourism. Guyana undertook a desk review of previous research, and hosted a gap assessment workshop, to prioritize research needs for the North Rupununi and inform management options for these globally significant important wetlands. In Peru, consolidation of the integrated land management approach started, with significant developments in the articulation of communal life plans and the management of NPAs. In Suriname, a grant for the rehabilitation of old mining areas is to be finalized; and landscape and life plans are being developed.
- Under Component 3, in Colombia, agreements with municipal governments to incorporate environmental criteria in their road infrastructure plans were renewed and there are ongoing conversations with new municipalities. Ecuador developed initial work plans for the corridors and ensured that their integration into local planning instruments · translate directly into public policy tools. Technical assistance was provided to eight prioritized local governments. Guyana conducted an initial consultation on August 15th, 2024 with key stakeholders to discuss the gaps to be considered in the revision of the Protected Areas Act. In Peru, the ASL project worked toward the development of an innovative economic model based on transparency and traceability, and applied to Amazon value chains (Camu Camu, Aguaje, crafts). In Suriname, the project supported significant progress regarding a final draft Nature Protection Act, which takes co-management into account as part of policy.
- Under Component 4, Guyana hosted the ASL Annual conference in March 2025, organized by the Regional project and in which all countries participated. All countries also actively participated in regional project activities including on park rangers, wetlands, connectivity and

corridors, gender and youth, etc. All child projects also developed their communication strategies and started developing communication materials. As part of the Regional project, regular PSC meetings were organized, a new contract with ICCF to promote legislative dialogue in the Amazon, targeted at Parliamentarians was signed, and another one on river dolphins; 4 webinars were organized last year; and participation in 4 external events or side-events (including the Biodiversity COP in Cali) was secured. The Regional project also provided support to OTCA's Amazon Regional Observatory. In addition, the ongoing work on wetlands in the Amazon, for training sessions for Amazon park rangers, for an Atlas on Amazon food, and for the adaptation of the mining calculator in Bolivia are well advancing.

B. Progress on Cross-cutting Priorities

As part of GEF-7, all countries have submitted their Stakeholder engagement plan, gender plan and private sector engagement plan. The following activities were implemented as part of ASL2 child projects.

Gender integration and inclusion
The ASL Regional project has a cross-cutting objective to increase participation of women across all project activities. It strives to ensure that women are well represented in all knowledge exchanges; and provided with a platform to highlight their distinct roles in various contexts. In several national projects, women have gained broader participation and decision-making power within key conservation initiatives, strengthened their access and control over natural resources and increased their access to socio-economic benefits. The integration of a gender approach has not only positively influenced stakeholder engagement at country project level but has also led to consistent behavioral changes at institutional level. The ASL evolved in its approach, highlighting not only the role of women and working towards reducing their gaps in terms of access to resources and voice but also providing differentiated opportunities to people according to their age. The approach acknowledges the differences and provides distinctive opportunities and views; for example, offering employment for youth, recognizing and using the knowledge and experience from elders, and keeping in mind the rights of children for a brighter future.

In 2025, the ASL regional project established a Working Group on Women and Youth to advance understanding, engagement, and empowerment of women, youth, and other underrepresented groups in conservation and sustainable development across the Amazon. This group functions as a collaborative platform for national teams to build capacity, exchange experiences, and share lessons and innovative practices. Its overarching aim is to enhance the impact and inclusiveness of ASL projects through socially responsive and equitable approaches.

Some key outstanding activities from the national child projects include:

- **Brazil:** The experience of implementing Phase 2 showed that when adequate conditions such as logistics, compatible schedules, and support for families are ensured, women's participation increases significantly, enriching decision-making processes. In addition, training initiatives, incentives to produce handicrafts, bio-jewelry, and bio-cosmetics, as well as support for participation in fairs and events to promote these products, have strengthened autonomy and self-confidence, generating positive impacts on local production chains and women's income generation.
- **Colombia:** Results include the emergence of women-led business initiatives, increased female leadership in environmental governance, and the recognition of women’s traditional ecological knowledge as a key contribution to biodiversity conservation and community resilience. Several indicators are tracked by gender and age differences. To foster inclusion, surveys have included the option for people to mark if they do not identify with either man or women. Even though percentages are very low, this has enhanced awareness raising and respect for gender diversity.
- **Ecuador**: The ASL project ASL Ecuador is focusing on empowering women as key actors in territorial management.
- **Peru:** Park rangers and volunteers from four PAs were trained in applying environmental and social safeguards with a gender-sensitive lens.
- **Suriname:** The project focused on supporting an Indigenous women's cooperative to more efficiently utilize NTFPs to create nature-based jewelry.

Stakeholder engagement *(See multi-stakeholder levers for more information)*

All of the ASL national projects are engaging with a variety of stakeholders depending on their country context, and at regional level through the Regional project. Some key results include:

- **Colombia**: Strengthening governance has been possible, among other things, by empowering local communities and indigenous peoples in the design and development of management plans for their territories, recognizing their customary practices and traditional knowledge.
- **Ecuador:** The project implemented robust FPIC activities with various indigenous nationalities present in the corridors.
- **Guyana:** The project consulted with 35 communities within the two project sites – the North Rupununi Wetlands and Kanuku Mountain Protected Areas. These discussions have supported project implementation.
- **Suriname:** two Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) validation workshops have been planned to ensure ongoing community engagement and support.

- **Regional:** ASL continued its engagement with Donors and supported Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)'s Amazon Regional Observatory. The ASL continued its engagement with various Amazon initiatives, including the Panamazon Bioeconomy Network, North Amazon Alliance, Amazon Waters and more.

Private sector engagement

ASL projects interact with the private sector as they pursue their objectives related to sustainable development. Most of the ASL projects, including those in Colombia, Brazil, and Peru, focus on **small businesses** that are aiming to change their behavior to ensure long-term conservation and sustainable development, including through **agro-forestry practices**. The private sector is also being involved in **sustainable forest management** activities in Suriname. Work in **forestry restoration** and supporting more than 54 **small nurseries** has led to new jobs, particularly for women. There have also been positive unintended effects of some of the **fishery conservation programs,** particularly in Colombia, where community members have expressed that working on species conservation motivated them to plan community-based tourism initiatives. Another key private sector for the ASL is **eco-tourism.** For example, in Colombia, as part of the *Heart of the Amazon (Corazón de la Amazonía*), the Nuevo Tolima community in Guaviare has developed community-based tourism to promote economic growth and preserve cultural heritage. Since 2020, young leaders have worked to establish a tourism community effort to find new income-generating opportunities based on the region's natural and cultural assets. Suriname is also planning activities related to tourism with the aim to train 150 persons.

Knowledge management

Since 2015, the ASL regional project has been actively gathering information and translating it into knowledge. It has generated a total of 14 knowledge products, including 11 studies and reports, two guidance notes, and one discussion paper. It has also organized more than 70 regional knowledge and peer-to-peer exchange events. In 2024, it created a repository of data with 90 open-source geospatial data and a publication repository. In addition, recent collaboration with ACTO has focused on the strengthening of its Amazon Regional Observatory (Observatorio Regional Amazónico, ORA), an Information Reference Center in the Amazon that aims to promote the flow and exchange of information among institutions, government authorities, the scientific community, and civil society, supporting evidence-based decision-making. ASL provided technical assistance to conduct a diagnostic of the ORA's status and current capacities. A new vision for the ORA was subsequently created.

Capacity strengthening *(Please see section on Levers for Change that include contributions to capacity strengthening).*

Capacity strengthening is at the heart of the Regional project, and the national child projects also support this cross-cutting objective. Topics to learn from and promote exchange and capacity building are selected based on the expressed needs of regional projects or other partners, ensuring their relevance, potential for scaling across the Amazon and inform national level strategies. The outcomes of such activities are improved capacity to deliver national level activities and the establishment/improvement of strategies in the Amazon on prioritized topics of regional interest, new projects and collaborations emerging, dissemination and awareness raising about the Amazon and ASL.

- **Brazil**: The project trained communities in basket weaving and dyeing; and strengthened governance capacities.
- **Colombia:** Institutional and public governance has been strengthened building capacities to design, implement and monitor conservation and sustainable development actions, and also through the project's institutional implementation mechanism that promotes coordination and collaborative work between partner executing entities that belong to the Environmental National System (SINA, due to its name in Spanish).

- **Ecuador:** The project emphasized sustained accompaniment, legal formalization, participatory territorial planning, and the promotion of nontraditional leadership as key conditions for effective, equitable, and lasting conservation. It also organized several capacity building sessions on land management, governance, satellite imagery and GIS, etc.

- **Guyana:** The project built capacity and strengthened skills for those undertaking the Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices (KAP) surveys and Resource Use Mapping (RUM).

- **Peru:** The project designed a capacity building plan which will lay the foundation for more effective future interventions.

Suriname: The project trained game wardens and community rangers, implemented entrepreneurship training along the Upper Suriname River and a six month training program is currently in implementation by the Suriname Hospitality and Tourism Training Center – SHTTC, with the goal of training 150 persons

C. Contribution to the Levers for Change

This section is specific to GEF-7 Impact Programs and GEF-8 Integrated Programs.

The ASL program has made significant contributions to the four transformational levers. Some of the work began under ASL1 and continues under ASL2. This section outlines key results that used the transformational levers.

1. **Governance and Policies –** Each ASL participating country works towards creating the enabling conditions to advance conservation and sustainable development, including updating or creating new governance structures or policies. In fact, establishing or improving policies and incentives is a key component of the ASL Program. Below are some of the key progresses on governance and policies as reported in the 2024 ASL Annual Report:

- **Brazil –** New regulation enacted in Amazonas State to address environmental emergency caused by illegal deforestation and forest fire. This policy strengthens state's response mechanisms, improves monitoring and enforcement, and mitigates the impact of environmental crimes. A comprehensive *State Plan for Prevention and Combating Deforestation and Forest Fires in Acre* aims to prevent and combat deforestation and wildfires. Implementing a key law that was passed in 2023 - Law Establishing the Environmental Assets and Participations Company of Pará (Companhia de Ativos Ambientais e Participações de Pará - CAAPP). The CAAPP is a state-level entity designed to manage and promote environmental assets.
- **Colombia -** In 2024, significant progress was made in signing and implementing multisectoral agreements for land-use planning and integrated landscape management strategies, involving sectors linked to deforestation such as agriculture, extractive industries, and infrastructure. Nineteen active agreements involving entities from the transportation and infrastructure sectors, regional environmental authorities, as well as municipal and departmental governments. These agreements are being implemented under the coordination and leadership of the Directorate of Environmental, Sectoral, and Urban Affairs of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Instituto Sinchi. Additionally, sustainable management policies for land and agricultural development sectors are being strengthened with the active participation of the National Land Agency, the Agustín Codazzi Geographic Institute, and the Agricultural Planning Unit.
- **Ecuador** - The formal establishment of the Palora–Pastaza Corridor was achieved, covering 300,000 hectares. A Palora—Pastaza Corridor Promoting Group was created, which comprises of representatives from six local governments and five Indigenous nationalities. Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes were carried out in several communities along the northern corridor.
- **Peru** - Two local development plans (Planes de Desarrollo Local Comunitario -PDLCs)—for Atalaya (Ucayali) and Satipo (Junín)—were completed and approved, each incorporating landscape, intercultural, and gender perspectives. Progress also continued integrating the environmental dimension into the Local Development Plan of Junín (75% complete). Notably, the project supported two Local Governments (Junín and Loreto) in aligning their actions with Peru's national budget program PP144, ensuring better financing for ecosystem management. Additionally, the Regional Plan for the Recovery and Restoration of Degraded Terrestrial Ecosystems in Loreto was finalized and approved. These instruments and policy linkages collectively enable more consistent and long-term investment in conservation and sustainable land use.

2. **Innovation and Learning -** The ASL teams use innovation to solve problems more practically and efficiently. The ASL program has experience in four key areas of innovation. **Technology:** ASL projects work to integrate technology to advance existing activities. For example, in Colombia and Peru, the project has effectively integrated camera and motion sensing technology to increase the monitoring of wildlife species. The ASL regional project partnered with Wildlife Insights to create a tailored platform (Wi-ASL Explorer Tool) to facilitate biodiversity monitoring with the use of data from camera traps. It has also partnered with the *Foundation for Conservation and Sustainable Development (FCDS)* to adapt and support the application of the Mining Impact Calculator to quantify the impacts of illegal gold extraction. **Financial Innovation**: ASL has supported processes to support learning to create sustainable finance models (see financial lever for more information). **Innovative Business Models**: In Peru, Brazil, and Colombia, the ASL projects have worked with small businesses to reconsider their models to support conservation and sustainable development. Their pilot work provides a roadmap and potential barriers to scaling efforts. **Institutional Innovation**: Given that governments implement projects, innovation is constant and there is a transformation at the institutional level. Please see Political leverage for more information on some of the new policies that were implemented in

2024.

Learning and Capacity Strengthening are core values of the ASL program and is championed at project level, as well as regional level by the ASL Regional Coordination team. Below is a summary of key learning initiatives that took place during 2024:

- **Brazil:** The project maintained its active role in regional and global dialogues on conservation and sustainable development. It supported participation in key events such as the XI Brazilian Seminar and VI Latin American Meeting on Protected Areas and Social Inclusion, the Brazilian Amazon Dialogues, the UNFCCC COP-28 in Dubai, and the Regional Dialogue "Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World" (SW4SW) at the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) Latin America Conference. A key highlight was ASL Brazil's participation in the "Biodiversity Conservation; Sustainable Use and Management of Forests" panel in the CBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia. These events reinforced Brazil's leadership in conservation efforts for the Amazon.

- **Colombia:** In 2024, the project strengthened the implementation of protocols for monitoring pressures and threats in Colombia's Amazon National Parks, while promoting participatory ecological restoration processes with Indigenous and campesino communities in surrounding areas. It also enhanced internal technical capacities and fostered interinstitutional coordination to address environmental challenges affecting the management of these protected areas. A technical exchange tour was organized with leaders from 14 community local committees (Juntas de Accion Comunal) within the proposed Sustainable Conservation District of Bajo Guayabero. This event fostered knowledge exchange with another Colombian region and particularly with the Black Communities Council of the Tolo River Basin and Southern Coastal Zone (COCOMASUR), on issues related to community governance, inclusive decision-making, nature-based tourism as a conservation strategy, and community wildlife monitoring. These were recognized by participants as vital for local participatory management. The knowledge exchange motivated the project's participants to consider the establishment of management agreements to bring benefits to the communities. Additionally, the project trained 342 officials and contractors through 21 in-person and virtual sessions in the departments of Meta, Guaviare, Caquetá, and Bogotá. The training focused on forest monitoring data management and deforestation tracking within national deforestation hotspots. It also supported technical training for key entities such as the National Land Agency and the National Police on technical environmental matters and prepared three staff members within Autonomous Corporations (Environmental Authorities) to validate thematic forest monitoring information.

- **Ecuador:** The project strengthened both technical and social capacities of local, institutional, and regional stakeholders. Activities included the delivery of a course titled "Use and Application of Planet Imagery for Land and Risk Management" aimed at technical staff from national and local governments. The project also hosted the webinar "ACUS and GAD: The Path to Sustainability" and supported the environmental education event "October Big Day Migratory Bird Count." At the regional level, the First Connectivity Corridors Meeting was held with participation from Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. The event featured 11 keynote speeches, 19 technical presentations, 3 specialized workshops, and over 260 participants. It reinforced MAATE's institutional commitment—along with other Amazonian countries—toward regional conservation systems and contributed to the preparation of the ASL 3 phase for Ecuador. Finally, early design was completed for the Amazonian Indigenous Women's Program, which will offer scholarships to support women-led initiatives within the corridors. These actions promote participation, equity, and positive incentives for conservation and sustainable land use.

- **Guyana:** The Protected Areas Commission (PAC) conducted training for its staff and Kanuku Mountain rangers. Resource Use Mapping training sessions were held in Georgetown (July 28) and Lethem (September 4–5), complemented by public speaking and communication workshops in Lethem (September 2–5) to support future survey and outreach activities.

- **Peru:** A comprehensive diagnosis of capacity gaps was completed, accompanied by a detailed capacity-building plan targeting local and regional stakeholders in integrated territorial management. Progress was also made in the participatory development of three communal life plans—in Meteni, Quiteni, and Samaniato—all reaching 75% completion and incorporating connectivity and integrated landscape principles. The Institutional Life Plan of EcoAsháninka was finalized and approved, enhancing the strategic planning and governance capacities of this indigenous organization. Moreover, the project provided training in identifying investment projects related to ecological restoration and supported the design of pilot initiatives in target provinces. These efforts have strengthened local ownership and built technical foundations for replicable and collaborative conservation models.

- **Suriname:** Community Ranger Training Advanced: Two of the three training phases for a new cohort of 26 community game wardens were successfully delivered. The final phase, to be conducted in collaboration with the national police academy, is scheduled for completion in August 2024. Once finalized, this will significantly enhance on-the-ground enforcement capacity.

- **Regional Coordination Project** – Since 2015, the ASL Regional Coordination Project has organized over 70 knowledge exchange events, including webinars. In 2024, The ASL participated/supported the following events:

- Amazon Waters Week 2024 (May 21 to 22, 2024 - Manaus, Brazil)
- Knowledge Exchange on Sustainable Finance for the Amazon – November 19 to 21, 2024
- Workshop High-Integrity Carbon and Emission Reduction Crediting in Amazonian Countries: Challenges and Opportunities – May 29 – May 31, 2024
- ASL participation in the Indigenous Women Tech camp in Pucallpa (September 5, 2024 – Pucallpa, Peru)
- Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program: Results and Lessons after 10 Years (held at COP16 in Cali, Colombia)
- Amazon Mining Watch: The Power of Partnerships and Technology to Reduce the Impact of Illegal Gold Mining on Biodiversity and Livelihoods hosted by Amazon Conservation and focused on monitoring tools, enforcement strategies and community-based solutions to reducing impacts of mining.
- Ecological and Social Restoration: A Pact of Peace with Nature hosted by IDB, the World Bank and ASL.
- On the Frontline: Strengthening Ranger Capacity for a Resilient Amazon- he regional ASL project brought together specialists from the national teams to co-design a knowledge activity aimed at strengthening the capacity of park rangers across seven Amazon countries and across ASL's intervention areas such as protected landscapes.
- Working Groups – The ASL Regional Coordination project also hosts 4 thematic working groups (Sustainable Financing, Connectivity and Corridors, Wetlands and River Dolphins, and Bioeconomy) and 3 cross cutting working groups (Gender and Youth, Communications, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning)
- It also hosted four external facing webinars reaching 675 people on the following topics: "Financing Nature through Debt Conversion," "Putting geospacial data into action: Indigenous Peoples' community-led rainforest monitoring in the Amazon region," "Rapid Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the Amazon Basin/Region," and "Landscapes Connectivity – Ecological and Cultural Approaches in the Amazon."

3. Financial leverage- During ASL1, the ASL Regional Coordination project launched a working group to promote sustainable financing mechanisms for protected dares. This group promoted peer-to-peer exchange visits between Brazil, Colombia, and Peru to learn more about Project Finance for Permanence (PFP). As a result of this process, countries shared best practices and established sustainable financing mechanisms. In Colombia, ASL contributed with funds and technical assistance to the design and implementation of Herencia Colombia, which by the end of 2023 had secured more than $45 million from multiple sources to finance conservation goals. In Peru, as part of ASL1's Sustainable Productive Landscape project, Patrimonio Natural del Peru (PdP) was created. This fund has $ 70 million and manages the 16.9 million hectares of Peruvian Amazon, covering 38 protected areas. The Brazil ASL project contributed $ 30 million to the Amazon Region Protected Area (ARPA) Transition Fund, which is currently valued at $238 million, exceeding the $215 million target, and supports 60.88 million hectares and 120 conservation units until 2039. In 2025, the ASL Regional project, alongside WWF, WB, and IDB, held a regional workshop on Sustainable Finance for Nature Conservation to increase the capacity of key stakeholders to continue the discourse on sustainable solutions. Survey results from the 3-day event indicate a desire for ongoing information exchange through bilateral and regional dialogue.

4. **Multi-stakeholder Dialogue.** The ASL child projects undertake several multi-stakeholder dialogue processes to ensure that project results are relevant, produce positive results, and are sustainable. Multi-stakeholder dialogue involves discussions between local, regional, and national governments, alongside organizations including civil society and representatives of Indigenous Peoples. In fact, at the 2025 annual conference, ASL participants shared that fostering inclusive and sustained multi-stakeholder collaboration is crucial to enable program success. They stressed that "p*rojects need to emphasize the importance of strengthening governance processes to ensure that consultations are meaningful and lead to tangible outcomes for communities.*" Below is a summary of a few of the key multi-stakeholder dialogue processes that took place in 2024.

- **Ecuador -** The formal establishment of the Palora–Pastaza Corridor was achieved covering 300,000 hectares. A Palora–Pastaza Corridor Promoting Group was created which comprises of representatives from six local governments and five Indigenous nationalities. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes were carried out in several northern corridor communities. Through an alliance-based model, the project has fostered effective participation of municipal, provincial, and national governments, together with Indigenous peoples, local communities, and civil society organizations such as EcoCiencia and Kolibria. This inclusive process strengthens project sustainability by generating ownership and building local capacities.

- **Guyana -** Validation consultations were carried out across all 35 project communities between July 16 and October 11, 2024. The process prioritized inclusivity and alignment with the project's Gender Action Plan, ensuring broad participation and community representation. A total of 981 individuals participated, including 396 men, 585 women, and 539 youth aged 15–35.

Regional Coordination Project - In 2024, the ASL partnered with the North Amazon Alliance (ANA), an alliance that brings together nine CSOs that work in close partnership with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the Amazon. The partnership helped support the event, IV Amazon Knowledge Exchange Meeting, Conversations of the Amazon from August 4–9 in Leticia, capital of the department of Amazonas in the Colombian Amazon. The event was also supported by the Gaia Foundation from Colombia, the Socio-Environmental Institute (ISA), the Institute of Indigenous Research and Training (Iepé) from Brazil, and the Common Good Institute (IBC) from Perú, as members of the ANA, and other invited institutions. Fifty Indigenous leaders from multiple Amazon countries attended the event to exchange experiences in territorial protection, learn from each other and identify common ground to strengthen the shared purpose of protecting life and territories. The event resulted in an agreed set of 16 recommendations to enhance territorial protection strategies in terms of dialogue and collaboration between communities, organizations and their diverse knowledge.

D. Partnerships and Trends

This section is specific to GEF-7 Impact Programs and GEF-8 Integrated Programs.

With the ASL, a regional vision emerges while respecting and acknowledging national priorities, sovereign rights, and distinct roles. This vision fosters collaborative action to protect and sustain the Amazon. This shared approach aims to maintain, improve, and manage the connectivity of key Amazon ecosystems, ensuring the conservation of biodiversity that holds significance at local, regional, and global levels. It seeks to avert ecosystem tipping points by promoting a development model that delivers tangible local benefits, such as green jobs, inclusive growth, and equitable welfare gains. To this aim, the World Bank as lead agency designated by the GEF partners with the 8 other GEF agencies and more than 25 executing agencies including public institutions, development and conservation agencies that participate or have participated in the ASL program throughout its three phases, as well as countless other partners and associations that continue to play important and strategic roles.

Central to this vision is enhancing the resilience and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, and vulnerable populations. By valuing and integrating traditional, local, and scientific knowledge and voices into decision-making, the region can chart a sustainable and inclusive path forward.

Implementation and Coordination: The countries' environment ministries and agencies play the leading role in implementing conservation and sustainable development efforts for the Amazon, and the ASL program enhances their technical and financial capacities. By consolidating what could have been multiple stand-alone projects into a unified framework, the ASL Program optimizes resources, improves coordination, and strengthens knowledge-sharing and networks across the region. This strategic approach provides the conditions for peer-to-peer learning and ongoing relationship building between countries. It advances environmental cooperation, strengthens institution-building, and establishes a foundation for sustainability of efforts in the Amazon.

Co-creation and flexibility The ASL's participatory approach ensures that countries participate in the ASL from the design phase, into implementation, and during monitoring and reflection. The ASL includes a governance structure with a Program Steering Committee (PSC) that includes representatives of government institutions, project coordinators, GEF Secretariat, and GEF agencies. The PSC is supported by thematic and technical working groups that respond to the countries' needs and support the design of thematic regional activities. This structure empowers national projects to take the lead on identifying relevant topics and prioritizing regional activities to share peer-to-peer experiences. Another important mechanism is the annual conference, which brings together key stakeholders, including project team members, to learn together and discuss the work plan for the following year based on the collective wisdom of participants and emerging topics.

The regional ASL program supported key partners to implement their agendas or spotlighted them in webinars to share their knowledge. More than 100 ASL members came together in 2025 to celebrate the 10 Years of the ASL and reflect jointly on the partnership and achievements of the ASL. Key highlights from some of the diverse actors that the ASL regional project works with are:

1. **Park rangers**: With support from Wildlife Conservation Society and the University for International Cooperation, the ASL is implementing a series of knowledge exchange events to build the capacity of park rangers in ASL intervention areas to improve PA management, as well as showcase their stories to better communicate their challenges and the role in protecting nature. A regional exchange will bring together rangers from multiple countries to connect, share their experiences and build a community of practice (2026).

2. **Members of Parliament:** The ASL provides information grounded in technical, traditional and scientific knowledge to policy makers, including the legislative branch of each participating country. In 2022, the ASL initiated a consultancy with the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), to raise awareness, share knowledge, and facilitate regional dialogue among Amazon region's parliamentarians. This initiative focused on Brazil, Colombia and Peru, and was delivered through a series of briefings and field visits on conservation and sustainable development for the Amazon. This engagement was closely coordinated with the Amazon Parliament (Parlamento Amazónico, PARLAMAZ), which is a regional parliamentary body created by the member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). With support from ICCF and in partnership with Inter- American Development Bank (IDB), and coordination with ACTO, a second series of technical dialogues is under implementation.

3. **Donor Engagement**: Since 2019, the ASL also facilitates the donor technical working group consisting of over 60 international cooperation agencies. Studies and meetings are organized to assess the flows of non-reimbursable funding to the Amazon, discuss topics of common interest, and improve donor collaboration. Several studies and reports have been produced under this working group leading to increased information, and identification of synergies among projects and initiatives. Lessons from this donor working group have informed country level or thematic donor groups. The ASL regional project completed a study on donor funding, the International Funding for Amazon Conservation and Sustainable Management: An analysis of grant funding from 2013 to 2022. The study found that during the 2020-2022 period there was a decrease in funding conservation and sustainable management. Between 2020-2022, the conservation and sustainable management strategies that received the most funding included (1) REDD Program and Policies, (2) Protected Areas Creation and Management, and (3) Indigenous Peoples and Land. Notably, species conservation strategies received the least funding. A new study covering 2023-2024 is ongoing.

Beyond those, and as highlighted in other sections, partnerships have been strengthened with a variety of partners, including Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Panamazon Bioeconomy Network, North Amazon Alliance, Amazon Waters and more.

III IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

A. Challenges and Adaptive Management

Overall ASL projects have reported various challenges that delay progress. These include low capacity and/or resources (in particular time/workforce) to implement the activities and/or participate in the regional ASL activities. Operational issues include the increase in illicit economic activities that prevent access to intervention areas, increase insecurity and add to the ongoing challenges of deforestation and forest fires. Consultation processes are recognized as being extremely important to ensure ownership of the activities and understanding the needs of the local communities and indigenous peoples, but also flagged as being long, requiring a lot of organization and preparation. While the results of proper consultations are positive across all projects, this has implied delays or changes in approaches. Another challenge is linked to indicators not recognizing the multiple steps needed for example to register the creation or restoration of areas in hectares, leading to low outcome numbers while multiple activities are in fact implemented. In some countries (eg Brazil and Suriname), challenges linked to procurement processes were also raised, limited to no market responses for calls for applications due to scarce availability of providers.

Specific additional challenges include:

- **In Bolivia,** project implementation has not yet begun, and progress has been delayed due to multiple political transitions within the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA). However, the Project Execution Agreement has been successfully negotiated and signed between CAF, the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA), and the Productive Development Bank (BDP) on May 8, 2025. This agreement formalized the institutional arrangements necessary for project implementation. The recruitment process for the recruitment of the Project Coordinator has started.

- **In Brazil**, some of the technical agreements remain to be signed due to administrative challenges.
- **In Colombia**, the issues related to security and conflict remain challenging. The constantly changing circumstances, the vulnerability of local communities, restrictions to access markets, among other issues, place this project under fragile, conflict and vulnerable situations even if the country is not registered as such. The challenge has been addressed with adaptive management, adjusting activities in areas where access is secure, working with local facilitators, and strictly following the security risk protocol designed with all public partner entities. In areas affected by armed conflict, building trust and maintaining open communication channels with communities has been particularly complex, and some planned processes—such as the declaration of a new conservation area—have had to be postponed.
- **In Ecuador,** institutional fragmentation and weak governance at national and local levels persist. Leadership changes at MAATE, coupled with electoral cycles, have created uncertainty and required repeated re-engagement with new authorities. In addition, and despite successful participative processes in corridor recognition, participation of local and national actors also remains unequal and limited. There are also challenges related to financial sustainability, logistical, and operational barriers.
- **In Guyana,** some activities were delayed (construction activities), and others delayed due to the national election process.
- **Peru** is experiencing complex interinstitutional coordination and high turnover of staff

    - Suriname mentioned that concerns persist from ITP stakeholders regarding land rights, FPIC implementation, and alignment of community ranger systems. This is being managed with meetings/consultations with indigenous peoples and FPIC processes

B. Proposed Actions

The decisions on activities for the following year are taken at the ASL Annual Conference, scheduled in the first week of March 2026, in Brazil. This will allow participatory decision on priorities, taking into account the needs of the ASL national projects. Until then, the key main activities that remain to finalize as part of the regional project include a regional workshop on wetlands as part of the activity evaluating economic importance of wetlands, a regional workshop with park rangers, finalization of the support to OTCA's Regional Observatory of the Amazon, continuation of the activities on environmental crimes in the Amazon, publication of the Amazon Donor analysis, implementation of the action plan of the Corridors and Connectivity Working group, and continued activities of the transversal working groups on Gender and Youth, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning, and Communications.

C. Child Project Implementation Progress

GEF ID - Project Name	Country	Agency	Rating (IP|DO)	Financing	Disbursed	CEO Endrst. Date	MTR date	Completion Date	Expected Completion Date	TE Date
10737 - Amazon Regional Technical Assistance	Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname	World Bank	NR | NR	9,000,000.00	3,869,878.00	03/24/2021			06/30/2026	
10749 - BRAZIL AMAZON SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES PROJECT – PHASE 2	Brazil	World Bank	MS | S	21,020,000.00	2,605,609.00	04/20/2021	09/30/2022		12/31/2026	
10252 - Strengthening management of protected and productive landscapes in the Surinamese Amazon	Suriname	UNDP	MU | MU	5,630,000.00	746,778.06	08/20/2021			01/25/2028	
10295 - Amazon sustainable landscape approach in the Plurinational System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of Bolivia	Bolivia	CAF	S | S	10,961,246.00	1,000,000.00	06/08/2021			12/15/2028	
10288 - Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana.	Guyana	WWF-US	S | S	5,616,500.00	639,553.81	05/24/2022			12/31/2027	
10259 - Connectivity corridors in two priority landscapes of the Ecuadorian Amazon Region	Ecuador	WWF-US	MS | HS	7,002,000.00	1,648,586.52	06/10/2021			06/30/2028	
10248 - Building human well-being and resilience in Amazonian forests by enhancing the value of biodiversity for food security and bio-businesses, in a context of climate change	Peru	FAO, UNIDO, IFAD	MS | MU	17,003,000.00	4,196,068.16	06/11/2021			12/22/2027	
10300 - Forest Conservation and Sustainability in the Heart of the Colombian Amazon (AF2)	Colombia	World Bank	S | S	20,020,000.00	4,968,704.00	02/09/2021	09/26/2024		09/30/2026	

Note: The rating scale for the Implementation Progress (IP) and Development Objective (DO) ratings is: Highly Satisfactory **(HS)**, Satisfactory **(S)**, Moderately Satisfactory **(MS)**, Moderately Unsatisfactory **(MU**), Unsatisfactory **(U)**, Highly Unsatisfactory **(HU)** and Not Rated **(NR)**.

D. Program Results

Indicator Name (Unit of measure)	Latest value (Actual)	Closing target (Expected)
1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (Hectares)	7,084,559	65,247,091
1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created (Hectares)	-	50,000
1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness (Hectares)	7,084,559	65,197,091
3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration (Hectares)	1,707	13,425
3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration (Hectares)	1,526	8,186
3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration (Hectares)	181	4,149
3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration (Hectares)	-	1,090
4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (Hectares)	2,009,238	25,095,280
4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (Hectares)	1,984,060	24,294,096
4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (Hectares)	25,178	801,184
4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported (Hectares)	295,623	-
6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (Tons)	6,057,589	36,725,995
6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU sector (Tons)	6,057,589	36,725,995
6.5 AFOLU - Direct (Tons)	6,057,589	35,951,078
6.6 AFOLU - InDirect (Tons)	-	774,917
11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments (Number)	15,004	40,654
11.1 Female (Number)	6,569	18,762
11.2 Male (Number)	8,435	21,892

E. Program Co-financing

Co-financing Type	Latest amount disbursed (Actual)	Closing target (Expected)

Grant	54,683,925.00	241,326,802.00
In-kind	26,437,720.00	108,675,222.80
Loans	0.00	43,561,105.00
Public Investment	0.00	136,467,406.66
Other	0.00	1,891,602.00
Total	81,121,645.00	531,922,138.46

Co-financing Source	Latest amount disbursed (Actual)	Closing target (Expected)
GEF Agency	4,060,000.00	90,869,008.00
Civil Society Organization	7,678,152.00	50,954,546.00
Donor Agency	43,970,997.00	133,335,963.00
Recipient Country Government	14,842,023.00	242,047,642.46
Private Sector	0.00	3,570,992.00
Other	10,570,473.00	11,143,987.00
Total	81,121,645.00	531,922,138.46

ANNEXES

A. Results Framework

With different contexts and priorities, but contributing to program-level goals, the national and regional coordination projects include activities around:

- Integrated Protected Areas – A representative area of the Amazon is effectively conserved under various regimes (protected areas, indigenous lands, Ramsar sites, and other area-based conservation measures) (Component 1).
- Sustainable Production Landscapes – Agriculture lands, forests and freshwater habitats sustainably managed and restored, providing economic, social, and cultural, inclusive well-being (Component 2).
- Policies/incentives for protected and productive landscapes – Legal instruments, policies and intersectoral agreements enabling conservation and sustainable development (Component 3).
- Capacity-building and regional collaboration – Institutional and community capacity building and regional multistakeholder cooperation strengthened (Component 4).

Progress has been achieved across Components:

- Under Component 1, in Brazil the ASL2 project supported ordinary meetings of the Council for the Baixo Rio Negro Mosaic (MBRN), which brings together 11 conservation units, working towards integrated governance and management of the areas. Similarly, it supported annual assemblies of the organizations of the Forum Território Media Juruá. In Colombia, the process towards the declaration of the new regional Bajo Guayabero PA, that was prioritized by the government, continues making some progress with new studies that justify its importance in terms of connectivity with other key PAs, and its biophysical value and existing socioeconomic dynamics. Ecuador's ASL project focused on developing the technical documentation required by MAATE for the designation of the two corridors. This was completed for the Palora–Pastaza Corridor and partially completed for the Yasuní–Limoncocha–Cuyabeno Corridor. The documentation includes ecological, socioeconomic (with gender and intercultural approaches), and political viability

analyses. Guyana's ASL project made progress towards establishing a representative multi-stakeholder platform for the North Rupununi Wetlands, and the Protected Areas Commission (PAC), one of the project's key executing partners, completed in-house training for PAC staff and Kanuku Mountain Protected Area (KMPA) community rangers. In Peru, the project strengthened territorial planning and the sustainable management of Amazon ecosystems through participatory processes led by sub-national governments. In Suriname, METT assessments for various areas have been completed and game wardens were trained.

- Under Component 2, the Brazilian ASL2 project worked on strengthening the native rubber production chain in the Middle Juruá Region and trained communities in basket weaving and dyeing. Colombia's ASL project secured the formal adoption of the management plan for the Ramsar site Estrella Fluvial de Inirida, result of a long 10 year coordinated effort. The project directly contributes to the transformation of four deforestation nuclei into Forest Development and Biodiversity Nuclei (NDFyB), with training activities conducted; and community-forestry plans were designed. There was an increase in the area that is under integrated sustainable management plans and (a total of 3 million ha), contributing in turn to country level goals including the National Restoration plan. Ecuador's ASL project focused on selecting areas for establishing sustainable production learning communities and identified 19 quadrants. Four priority products/services for bioeconomy were identified: seed jewelry, natural cosmetics, artisanal ceramics (YAPIT brand), and sustainable tourism. Guyana undertook a desk review of previous research, and hosted a gap assessment workshop, to prioritize research needs for the North Rupununi and inform management options for these globally significant important wetlands. In Peru, consolidation of the integrated land management approach started, with significant developments in the articulation of communal life plans and the management of NPAs. In Suriname, a grant for the rehabilitation of old mining areas is to be finalized; and landscape and life plans are being developed.
- Under Component 3, in Colombia, agreements with municipal governments to incorporate environmental criteria in their road infrastructure plans were renewed and there are ongoing conversations with new municipalities. Ecuador developed initial work plans for the corridors and ensured that their integration into local planning instruments translate directly into public policy tools. Technical assistance was provided to eight prioritized local governments. Guyana conducted an initial consultation on August 15th, 2024 with key stakeholders to discuss the gaps to be considered in the revision of the Protected Areas Act. In Peru, the ASL project worked toward the development of an innovative economic model based on transparency and traceability, and applied to Amazon value chains (Camu Camu, Aguaje, crafts). In Suriname, the project supported significant progress regarding a final draft Nature Protection Act, which takes co-management into account as part of policy.
- Under Component 4, Guyana hosted the ASL Annual conference in March 2025, organized by the Regional project and in which all countries participated. All countries also actively participated in regional project activities including on park rangers, wetlands, connectivity and corridors, gender and youth, etc. All child projects also developed their communication strategies and started developing communication materials. As part of the Regional project, regular PSC meetings were organized, a new contract with ICCF to promote legislative dialogue in the Amazon, targeted at Parliamentarians was signed, and another one on river dolphins; 4 webinars were organized last year; and participation in 4 external events or side-events (including the Biodiversity COP in Cali) was secured. The Regional project also provided support to OTCA's Amazon Regional Observatory. In addition, the ongoing work on wetlands in the Amazon, for training sessions for Amazon park rangers, for an Atlas on Amazon food, and for the adaptation of the mining calculator in Bolivia are well advancing.

B. Uploaded document

Document Title
ASL 10 Years Report 2025
ASL Annual Report CY2024