

Protected Areas

WWF Colombia is carrying out different activities to strengthen, consolidate and implement key actions at different levels of the National System of Protected Areas - SINAP.

We have prioritized a work scheme with particular implementation of i) declaration and expansion of protected areas ii) strengthening of finances and sustainability mechanisms of protected areas and systems iii) consolidation of governance schemes and formulation of management agreements with different types of stakeholders in the territory and iv) implementation of key actions to improve effective management (including evaluation methodologies for different PA categories and management levels).

We implement these actions through different projects, sources and initiatives, where **we link the participation of public, private and community organizations, local communities, academia and others**, seeking an integrated and participatory management of protected areas according to their ecological, social and cultural contexts.



Support for **policy formulation is key in our work, and in this regard, the implementation of CONPES 4050 with a vision to 2030 is a fundamental initiative to support the consolidation of SINAP.** As a major commitment to the sustainability of the System, **we have supported the structuring and management of the Herencia Colombia initiative,** where we analyze the alignment with the public policy in force for SINAP, the sources of financing and the different instruments that are being implemented in the prioritized territories.

In recent years, **we have collaborated with Colombia's National Natural Parks and regional environmental authorities in the establishment of more than 20 million hectares of new protected areas, the planning of more than 40 areas of all categories using the SINAP planning guide,** increasing the number of PAs with management effectiveness analysis information, strengthening financial sustainability mechanisms, **supporting restoration actions in strategic landscapes and consolidating management agreements in areas of high social and environmental conflict such as the areas of the Macarena and connectivity zones between the Serranía del Chiribiquete National Natural Park and the Sierra de la Macarena.**

We also **implemented with Colombia's National Natural Parks the IUCN Green List standard for protected and conserved areas,** promoting mechanisms of excellence in management and community participation. **Herencia Colombia (HECO) allows us to continue implementing these actions, strengthening the management of protected areas and SINAP, and contributing to the fulfillment of national and international commitments based on protected and conserved areas.**





HERENCIA COLOMBIA: THE PROGRAM THAT GUARANTEES LONG-TERM FUNDING FOR THE COUNTRY'S PRIORITY PROTECTED AREAS AND LANDSCAPES

On June 23, 2022, the National Government, along with several public and private sector partners*, including WWF, ratified their commitment to the long-term conservation of the country's priority protected areas and landscapes by signing a joint declaration to launch the Heritage Colombia Program's (HECO) Permanence Funding Project (PFP). **This initiative seeks to secure \$245 million in public and private funding to permanently protect nearly 29 million hectares of iconic landscapes and seascapes.**

We are proud to be part of this initiative that facilitates significant progress towards Colombia's 30X30 goal, which seeks to protect 30% of its continental territory and 30% of its seas by 2030. **This program is part of other initiatives that together provide permanent protection for approximately 12% of the entire Amazon rainforest.**

The initiative will ensure the long-term conservation of both new terrestrial protected areas and future expansions and declarations in strategic areas that are not yet represented and have the potential to contribute to climate change mitigation.



Over the first 10 years, the Herencia Colombia PFP will support the creation of more than 2 million hectares of new terrestrial protected areas and around 15 million hectares of new marine areas in the Caribbean and the Pacific, thus achieving Colombia's goal of protecting 30% of its seas.

Through the PFP, the conservation, effective management, and strengthening of governance and connectivity of about 14% of the Colombian territory are guaranteed by promoting the consolidation of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) and contributing to the 2020 - 2030 vision of the country proposed in the SINAP policy through (a) increasing the coverage and representativeness of SINAP, (b) improving the management of existing protected areas and implementing new ones (c) strengthening governance and improving the livelihoods of communities in ecological corridors associated with protected areas, thus contributing to improving the ecological connectivity of the system.

Likewise, it will contribute to energizing the bet proposed for the next four-year period (2022-2026) that envisions Colombia as a world power of life, through different transforming axes, on which **HECO will contribute to land use planning around water and internationalization, productive economy for life and climate action, helping with its actions to care for water and natural resources as a basis for the development of vulnerable communities mainly, while it is conceived as a financial vehicle for the implementation of strategic actions.**



* In addition to WWF, these actors are HECO partners: Andes Amazon Fund, Bezos Earth Fund, Becht Family Charitable Trust, Blue Nature Alliance, Bobolink Foundation, Carmen Busquets, Conservación Internacional, Unión Europea, Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, Enduring Earth, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, Gobierno de Colombia, Global Environment Facility, Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, Ministerio de Cooperación Económica y Desarrollo (BMZ) de la República Federal de Alemania a través de KfW, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de Colombia, Parques Nacionales Naturales, Patrimonio Natural, Pew Bertarelli Ocean Legacy, Tammy y Bill Crown, The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Wildlife Conservation Society, Banco Mundial, Fundación Wyss y ZOMALAB.

GCF / HECO

The proposed GCF project, as part of the implementation of Herencia Colombia (HECO), is a cornerstone of WWF's regional vision and strategy for the Amazon and landscapes of special importance in Colombia, which aims to realize a new paradigm of sustainable landscape financing that combines climate-resilient management practices in and adjacent to protected areas that sequester and store carbon and generate water regulation and supply in a changing climate, while enhancing the resilience of local people and improving livelihoods.

Three complementary components have been designed to contribute to the achievement of this objective: i) improved and implemented governance structures for climate-sensitive planning and development; ii) participatory monitoring systems that generate climate information used to improve decision making in territorial planning; and iii) improved land management and implementation of restoration to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities.



Project interventions will bring 5.72 million hectares under climate-resilient management practices and directly benefit 329,658 people through increased capacity to use climate information, manage on-farm climate risks, and restore and rehabilitate to reduce landslide and flood risks.

Ecosystem-based adaptation interventions that protect and maintain ecosystems that regulate water and supply large urban populations will indirectly benefit 16,944,180 people representing 33% of the total population.