

Hope for Nature

Latin America Achievements
Towards Our 2030 Goals
2023 & 2024

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Life on Earth depends on a finely balanced network of interconnected ecosystems. Oceans, rivers, forests, grasslands, and even the smallest soil organisms sustain biodiversity and regulate the natural systems that underpin human health, food security, clean water, and economic stability. When nature thrives, so do we.

Yet, traditional economic models have long treated nature in isolation, leading to overexploitation of natural resources, habitat loss, and a worsening climate crisis. These challenges threaten the very ecosystems we depend on. At The Nature Conservancy (TNC), we believe there is a better way forward – one that aligns economic development with environmental responsibility. By restoring and protecting lands, rivers, and oceans; strengthening climate resilience; and promoting sustainable food and water systems, we can build a future that supports both people and the planet.

Latin America is central to this vision. Home to five of the world's most biodiverse countries – Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and Peru – our region harbors nearly 40% of global biodiversity. It also stands as a global breadbasket with growing demand for its agricultural and livestock products. This growth, while full of opportunity, must be guided by sustainability. Ensuring that agricultural expansion and economic development go hand in hand with ecosystem protection is no longer optional, it is urgent.

Latin America's unique ecosystems, including the Amazon Basin, Cerrado, Gran Chaco, Humboldt Current, Maya Forest & Mesoamerican Reef, and Orinoquia, are not only biodiversity hotspots, they are also powerful carbon sinks, freshwater reservoirs, and buffers against climate extremes. Rich in natural capital, cultural heritage, and a dynamic, resilient population, Latin America has the potential to drive transformative change on the global stage.

This report highlights our most meaningful contributions toward TNC's 2030 goals. From pioneering financial tools like debt-for-nature swaps to forging bold partnerships with corporations, governments, and communities that enable deforestation-free supply chains, we are combining on-the-ground conservation with systemic change. These results are possible thanks to our deep regional expertise, radical collaboration, and the unwavering support of our donors, partners, communities, governments, and businesses – those who recognize the urgency of this moment.

TNC Latin America will continue advancing innovative solutions that scale impact, advance equity, and protect the unique lands and waters across this vast territory. Together, we can shape a more sustainable and resilient future for people and the planet.



Paula Caballero

Regional Managing Director for Latin America



Our Guiding Principles

We lead with our values — honoring Indigenous and local peoples' voices, choices, and actions. We ground our strategies in the places identified by our science — maximizing our ability to effect change for nature and the people who rely on it. We strive for multiple benefits by pursuing solutions that benefit biodiversity, sequester carbon, reduce risk to people most vulnerable to the harm caused by climate change, and work hand-in-hand with productive sectors. We leverage policy, partnerships, and finance mechanisms to advance conservation and more sustainable development far beyond any one place.

TNC Latin America 2030 Ambition



Healthy
Lands

182M
hectares



Healthy
Oceans

616M
hectares



Lakes and
Wetlands

18.8M
hectares



River
Systems

342K
km of rivers



Climate
Adaptation

10M
of people



Climate
Mitigation

1B
metric tons of CO2/yr



People
Benefiting

5M

Latin America: The Power of Nature

Our planet is facing the interconnected crises of rapid climate change and unprecedented biodiversity loss. In Latin America we also face a third one, a deepening social inequality. We have years, not decades, to address these existential threats. The science is clear: We must act now to halt catastrophic climate change and biodiversity loss.

Latin America plays a decisive role in this global effort. It is the most biodiverse region on Earth, holding one-third of the planet's freshwater and one-fourth of its remaining primary forests. Its cultural richness is just as profound, home to more than 826 Indigenous nations whose traditional knowledge and stewardship are essential to preserving the region's ecological balance. At the same time, Latin America is the world's largest net food exporter, with the potential to double its agricultural output by 2050, positioning the region at the heart of global food security.

Our work in Latin America is pivotal to our delivering large-scale, lasting impact. We expect the region to contribute nearly 30% of TNC's global 2030 Goals, including one-quarter of our land management outcomes and half of our source water protection efforts.

To deliver on this ambition, we are focusing on six of Latin America's most critical ecosystems: the Amazon, the Brazilian Cerrado, the Gran Chaco, Maya Forest & Mesoamerican Reef, the Colombian Orinoquia, and the Humboldt Current. These ecosystems are not only biodiversity strongholds and carbon sinks, they are also home to vibrant communities whose futures depend on a more just and sustainable path forward.

MAYA FOREST
& MESOAMERICAN REEF

MEXICO

BELIZE

GUATEMALA

COLOMBIA

ORINOQUIA

ECUADOR

PERU

AMAZON

BRAZIL

CERRADO

GRAN
CHACO

CHILE

HUMBOLDT

ARGENTINA

PACIFIC OCEAN

From the Andes to the Amazon: Latin America's Key Role in Global Health

40%
Species

25%
Forests

33%
Freshwater

35%
of the forests are under
the stewardship of
Indigenous people

55%
lower deforestation
rates in Indigenous
territories

Our Impact at a Glance

During 2023 and 2024, we took significant steps toward achieving our goals. Among the many actions initiated, these milestones stand out as particularly impactful.

1. Historic Debt-for-Nature Swap to Protect the Amazon

Securing \$460 million for conservation and management of 4.6 million hectares of protected areas and 18,000 km of rivers in the Ecuadorian Amazon.

2. Innovative Traceability to Reduce Deforestation and Land Conversion

Advancing Cattle Traceability in Pará (Brazil) and Sustainable Soy in Gran Chaco (Argentina, Paraguay).

3. A National Park to Conserve the Savannas of the Orinoco Basin

Manacías safeguards a vital wildlife corridor and a globally important ecosystem.

4. Electronic Monitoring to Combat Overfishing in the Humboldt Current

A groundbreaking regional initiative to increase transparency in fisheries management.

5. Indigenous-led Conservation in Cerrado

Partnering with the Xavante communities through a finance initiative around food security, territorial & environmental management that has potential to be scaled across Brazil.

6. Community Actions that Sustain Maya Forest Conservation

Strengthening local organizations to benefit 45,000 smallholders with win-win solutions conserving 293 thousand hectares and generating sustainable livelihoods in southern Mexico.

Learn more:
nature.org/latinamerica



Our Local Partners

Voices from Latin America

Latin America is home to 621 million people in 20 countries.

Our people-centered approach transforms systems. Combining cutting-edge science with ancient wisdom, we work in partnership with those who best understand the region's qualities and challenges. Together, we create a future where human development and the natural world coexist in harmony.



"For generations, we have been committed to the conservation of the biodiversity of the Llanero landscape, which for us is an infinite paradise confined in time. The savannas are and exist for all of us who live in them. They are in our thoughts, in our history, in our traditional cattle ranching practices, and in our aspirations".

Francisca Reyes

Member of the Casanare Livestock Collective - Cabresteros Orinoquia - Colombia



"My biggest dream is for people to be aware of conserving nature and keeping the forest standing. The world would be very different".

Rosely Dias

Smallholder from Pará Amazon - Brazil



"Getting involved in the Sustainable Livestock Project marked a turning point for me. I've gained confidence, expanded my knowledge, and this is just the beginning".

María Esmeralda Canul Celis

Participant of the Sustainable Livestock Project in Southern Yucatán Maya Forest - Mexico



"Thanks to our work with TNC, we have realized that when theory is combined with practice, things go well, especially when the participation of us fishermen is integrated into the work".

Héctor Samillan

Former president of Asociación de Extractores de Mariscos y Pesca Submarina de Ancón (AEMAPSA). Humboldt Current - Peru

"The forest is becoming more degraded, making it harder to sustain my livestock. But I dream of a future where my children can thrive off the land. It's not just about me; it's about our entire community in the Chaco".

Pasión Agüero

Small rural producer Gran Chaco - Argentina

"The importance of territorial management on the Xavante indigenous land has to do with the natural resources that exist here. And this is something we also need to strengthen and preserve".

Lúcio Wa'ane Terowa'a

Representative of Xavante Indigenous People Cerrado - Brazil





Protecting the Andean Amazon

Historic Debt-for-Nature Conversion

This Nature Bonds Program is the largest debt conversion in history, and the first to support terrestrial and freshwater conservation on the Amazon.

The Government of Ecuador, with the support of TNC, the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and Bank of America, announced the financial close of a debt conversion facilitated by TNC's Nature Bonds Program to advance the Amazon Biocorridor Program. The debt conversion refinanced approximately \$1.53 billion of Ecuador's international bonds, generating over \$800 million in net fiscal savings for this country by 2035. The transaction is expected to secure approximately \$460 million to support the Amazon Biocorridor Program (*Programa Biocorredor Amazónico, BCA*) for the conservation of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems in the Ecuadorian Amazon—representing the largest amount raised for conservation in any debt conversion to date.

The Amazon Biocorridor Program, aims to improve the management of 4.6 million hectares of existing protected areas and protect an additional 1.8 million hectares of forests and wetlands. This model will also protect 18,000 kilometers of rivers, bolster climate resilience, and support human wellbeing. [Read more](#)

Safeguarding the Curaray River Basin

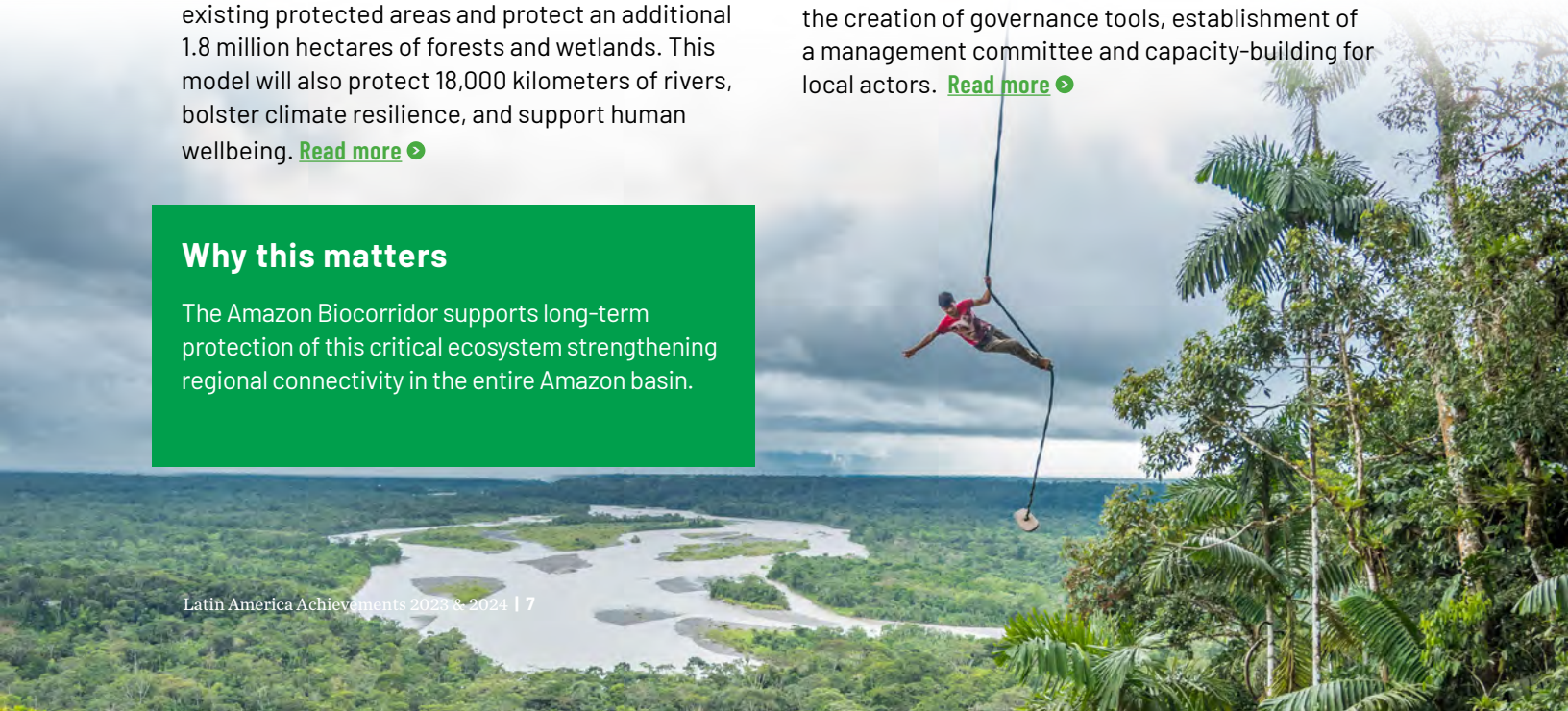
TNC has assessed the key conditions to launch a community-led freshwater conservation initiative in Ecuador's Amazon, covering two-thirds of the Curaray River Basin that represents more than 300,000 hectares. The initiative integrates Indigenous ancestral knowledge, focusing on protecting river health and biodiversity, which are essential to local livelihoods and subsistence. Over the coming years, TNC will provide technical support to implement the management plan, strengthen the governance model and establish a long-term financial sustainability mechanism. [Read more](#)

Technical Management Plans for Water Protection Areas

TNC collaborated with the government of Ecuador to establish five Water Protected Areas (WPA), including the largest to date: Aguarico, Chingual and Cofanes WPA, covering over 100,000 hectares. In partnership with local stakeholders, technical management plans were developed for each area. Aguarico, Chingual and Cofanes is leading the way in implementing its plan, with progress including the creation of governance tools, establishment of a management committee and capacity-building for local actors. [Read more](#)

Why this matters

The Amazon Biocorridor supports long-term protection of this critical ecosystem strengthening regional connectivity in the entire Amazon basin.



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Brazil's Sustainable Food Revolution

Cattle Traceability, a Landmark Initiative for Climate Action

By December 2026, the program promises comprehensive cattle traceability, flourishing pasturelands, and increased productivity.

A transformative journey began in the heart of the Brazilian Amazon. Under Governor Helder Barbalho's leadership, the state of Pará launched the Pará Livestock Integrity and Development Program at COP28 in Dubai. This initiative, developed by TNC and a coalition of 13 institutions, marked Brazil's first step toward mandatory individual cattle traceability with a focus on environmental sustainability.

A major milestone in 2024 was the launch of cattle traceability in the state, marked by the first application of ear tags. Measurable goals include tracing every animal transported in the state, accelerating compliance and market inclusion, improving pasturelands, increasing productivity, and supporting rural producers in fulfilling the new obligations. By December the program will support rural producers across areas larger than France, Spain, and Norway combined. [Read more](#) ➔



Brazil's Leadership in Regenerative Agriculture

Launched at COP16 on Biological Diversity, the new National Plan for the Recovery of Native Vegetation (Planaveg) reinforces Brazil's ambitious commitment to restore 12 million hectares of native vegetation by 2030. TNC, alongside key partners and stakeholders, played a central role in the plan's technical revision, anchored in three foundational systemic drivers: strong governance, innovative finance mechanisms and robust monitoring systems. This updated policy serves as a critical tool meeting Target 2 of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which calls for the restoration of at least 30% of the world's degraded ecosystems. [Read more](#) ➔ (Portuguese)

Why this matters

By focusing on individual cattle traceability in the most deforested state of the Amazon, TNC is paving the way for a more sustainable livestock sector.



Revitalizing the Peruvian Amazon

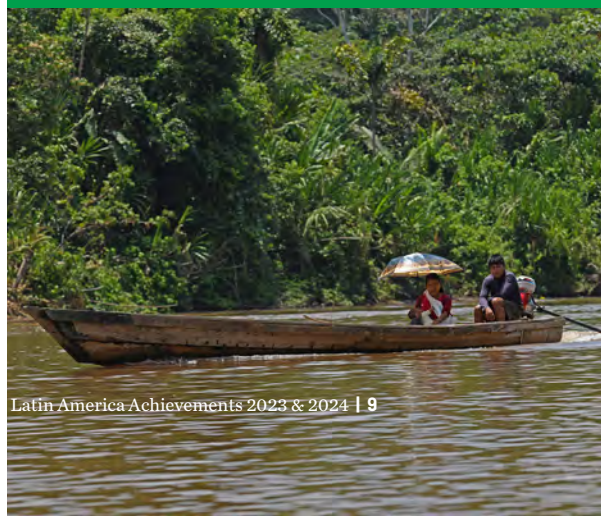
First Freshwater Portfolio for Biodiversity Conservation

Peru's Blueprint covers 30,000 km of rivers and 47,700 km² of wetlands.

A comprehensive freshwater portfolio now guides conservation efforts across the Marañón, Ucayali, and Napo river basins in the upper Amazon basin. Developed collaboratively by experts, scientists, and local communities, this Blueprint serves as a strategic foundation for TNC's freshwater work in the upper Amazon. Through a rigorous, data-driven methodology, it identifies priority areas for conservation, with a clear focus: safeguarding the ecological connectivity of rivers and wetlands. By mapping migratory routes for fish and other species, the Blueprint ensures that critical freshwater systems remain linked and resilient for generations to come. [Read more](#) 🇪🇸 (Spanish)

Why this matters

Maintaining river and wetland connectivity is key to protecting species, supporting biodiversity, and ensuring the long-term resilience of the Amazon's natural resources and local communities.



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Sustainable Infrastructure Initiative

Backed by the Moore Foundation and led by TNC in collaboration with the Development Analysis Group and WCS, the Future of Sustainable Infrastructure initiative is shaping a new path for infrastructure development in Peru's Amazon, one that safeguards both people and nature. The groundbreaking effort has influenced key national policies, including the integration of social and environmental safeguards into Peru's new National Sustainable Infrastructure Plan for Competitiveness (PNISC). It also helped embed environmental criteria into the Ministry of Energy and Mines' energy planning and advanced a bold, forward-looking vision for sustainable energy future in the Loreto region of the Amazon.

Indigenous Platforms for Climate Action

TNC has played a pivotal role in the co-creation of the "Platform of Indigenous Peoples for Addressing Climate Change", a powerful mechanism to amplify Indigenous and local communities' voices in climate action. Launched by the Peruvian government, this platform ensures that local perspectives shape climate policies at all levels. Operational in the regions of Junín and Ucayali, with a third platform underway in San Martín, it is supporting Indigenous communities to develop Nature Climate Solutions proposals and gain access to climate finance tailored to their unique needs and priorities.

Debt-for-Nature Agreement to Protect Amazonian Forests

A Nature Bond, or debt-for-nature agreement, mobilized nearly \$20 million to enhance the management of protected areas in Peru's Amazonian forests, which face significant threats over the next 25 years. TNC and other leading conservation organizations, such as Conservation International, WCS, and WWF, were part of this innovative financial arrangement that restructured part of Peru's debt to the United States.



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Fostering a Sustainable and Equitable Future

Scaling Up the Socio-Bioeconomy

By 2050, the socio-bioeconomy could grow to an estimated \$30 trillion, representing one-third of the global economy and redefining the path to sustainable development.

At the margins of the G20 summit, the G20 Initiative on Bioeconomy (GIB) was officially launched, accompanied by the approval of the ten High-Level Principles on Bioeconomy. As a member of the initiative's support group, TNC contributed vital technical expertise to demonstrate how a robust socio-bioeconomy can drive a fair, inclusive, and climate-resilient transition, benefiting both people and nature. Among key deliverables of this group is the influential study *Financing a Sustainable Global Bioeconomy*, developed by NatureFinance and the World Bioeconomy Forum. Drawing from global data, the study estimates the current value of the bioeconomy at \$4 to 5 trillion, with significant potential for exponential growth by 2050. [Read more](#) (Portuguese)

Investing in Nature

At the G20 summit, a groundbreaking alliance of public and private sector leaders launched the Brazil Restoration & Bioeconomy Finance Coalition (BRB Finance Coalition), a bold initiative to accelerate the conservation and restoration of Brazil's forests. With a shared goal of mobilizing at least \$10 billion in investments by 2030, the Coalition is set to catalyze transformative action at scale. As the world looks ahead to Climate Change COP30, in Belém, Brazil, in November 2025, this initiative brings unprecedented global attention to the urgent need for nature-positive finance and positions Brazil as a leader in driving a resilient, forest-based socio-bioeconomy. [Read more](#)

Strengthened Indigenous Organizations Across the Nine Brazilian Amazon States

TNC and the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB) have launched the Amazon Indigenous Networks Project, a transformative four-year, \$12M initiative designed to strengthen Indigenous Peoples' leadership in Climate Action and expand their access to public climate finance and policy frameworks. Spanning nine states across the Brazilian Amazon, the project strengthens Indigenous organizations to actively shape climate and ethno-development policies through capacity building, strategic support and practical tools. At its core, the initiative champions equitable resource distribution and amplifies Indigenous voices in the governance of the Amazon's future.

Why this matters

The socio-bioeconomy blends conservation with the sustainable use of the Amazon's natural and cultural wealth. Grounded in Indigenous and local knowledge, it supports livelihoods, ecosystem services, and forest protection.



AMAZON

Advancing Gender Equity and Community Collaboration

Amazon Guardians

For over a decade, TNC has partnered with communities in Caquetá to curb deforestation in the Colombian Amazon.

Gender equity and respect for local communities are at the heart of our conservation efforts in Latin America. In Solano, Colombia, TNC and trusted partners led the creation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP), ensuring women's equitable participation and leadership in natural resource management.

A major milestone was the Women's Intercultural Meeting and Fair held in Solano in 2023 and 2024. TNC helped facilitate discussions and updates to the GAP, amplifying the voices of women from over 18 Indigenous communities. These leaders are now driving new dialogues at both municipal and international levels. Their involvement is crucial in shaping Solano's Policies for Women, ensuring that the voices of local and Indigenous women are integral to policy making. [Read more](#) > (Spanish).

Conservation Agreements for Impact at Scale

TNC partnered with three Indigenous organizations representing 17 communities in Caquetá, Colombia, to revise territorial management plans and signed conservation agreements aimed at protecting 220,000 hectares of land and 4,500 hectares of vital freshwater ecosystems.

Why this matters

Promoting gender equity is key to building inclusive, resilient communities. By actively involving women in community decision-making, TNC helps ensure that conservation and development efforts are more representative, effective, and sustainable.



Indigenous Priorities Reflected in Local Planning

Through strategic policy advocacy, TNC supported 18 Indigenous communities in Caquetá, Colombian Amazon, in shaping their municipal Development Plans, ensuring their environmental priorities and traditional knowledge are embedded in local governance and long-term planning.

Protecting Strategic Territories in Mato Grosso

An Indigenous-Led Financial Mechanism

The Podáali Fund is unlocking direct access to resources for sustainable development initiatives led by the Xavante People.

In partnership with TNC, the Federation of Indigenous Peoples and Organizations of Mato Grosso (Fepoint), and the Coordination of Indigenous Organizations of the Brazilian Amazon (COIAB), the Podáali Fund is channeling financial resources into Indigenous-led territorial and environmental management and food security led by the Xavante People, one of the largest Indigenous groups in Mato Grosso, with a population of around 30,000.

TNC supported the implementation of the Xavante Award as an initiative to test an Indigenous-led financial mechanism within a jurisdictional REDD+ framework, demonstrating its effectiveness in a climate program led at the state level. Its success marked a transformational milestone in Indigenous-led climate finance, inspiring organizations across the Brazilian Amazon to explore replicating the model in other ethnoregions in Mato Grosso. In Pará, discussions are now advancing with the state government and the Federation of Indigenous People's of Pará (FEPIPA) to co-develop new climate finance solutions, centered on Indigenous governance and financial autonomy. [Read more](#) 🌐 (Portuguese)

Blueprint Study for Araguaia River

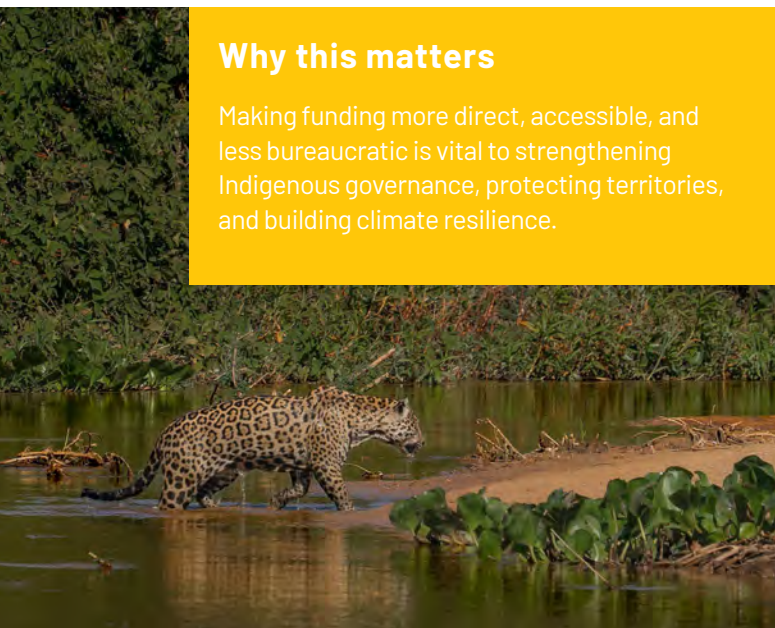
TNC completed the Araguaia Conservation Blueprint, a strategic study that identified 334 priority conservation units covering approximately 60% of the Araguaia-Tocantins river basin, a vital ecological corridor that supports biodiversity, Indigenous communities, and sustainable livelihoods across central Brazil. The study also outlined 52 targeted conservation strategies across key themes, including biodiversity protection, Indigenous stewardship, governance, sustainable production, environmental quality, and scientific research and monitoring. This Blueprint serves as a vital roadmap for preserving one of Brazil's most important river systems.

Regenerative Agriculture and Deforestation-Free Production

To accelerate the adoption of regenerative practices across key territories, TNC partnered with influential stakeholders, including the Brazilian Support Service for Micro and Small Companies (SEBRAE). By integrating technical assistance with traceability and environmental regularization, TNC generated critical insights that are now informing both private sector initiatives and public policies, most notably, Brazil's National Plan for the Recovery of Degraded Lands.

Why this matters

Making funding more direct, accessible, and less bureaucratic is vital to strengthening Indigenous governance, protecting territories, and building climate resilience.



Building Thriving Fisheries and Resilient Communities

Electronic Monitoring to Combat Overfishing

The initiative aims to enhance transparency in fishing practices.

The Humboldt Current, spanning the coasts of Chile, Peru, and Ecuador, supports one of the world's most productive fisheries. This rich marine ecosystem offers a critical opportunity to transform fisheries management within Economic Zones and beyond.

In Chile, TNC, in collaboration with government agencies, has advanced the implementation of the world's largest electronic monitoring program for the artisanal fleet, covering over 600 vessels ranging from 15 to 18 meters. In Ecuador, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with a leading tuna fishing company to equip its fleet with electronic monitoring systems, marking a transformational step toward more accountable and sustainable ocean stewardship.

Why this matters

Electronic Monitoring is a cornerstone of TNC's Large Scale Fisheries strategy, setting a new benchmark for transparency, accountability, and sustainability in global fishing practices.



Community-Led Restorative Seaweed Aquaculture in Chile

TNC and its partners are advancing a roadmap to build a sustainable community-led seaweed aquaculture industry in Chile. As part of this initiative, in-water research is underway to demonstrate the economic feasibility and operational scalability of seaweed aquaculture farming, while also showcasing its potential to improve water quality and help mitigate environmental impacts of salmon farming.

Mangrove Restoration in Ecuador

TNC initiated a transformative mangrove restoration initiative in the Gulf of Guayaquil, in partnership with the shrimp industry and U.S. retailers committed to sustainable seafood. This effort not only supports large-scale mangrove restoration in Guayas, but also establishes innovative financial mechanisms to help small and medium-sized farms transition to sustainable, low-carbon, and deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) practices. In parallel, TNC is working closely with the government to shape policies that incentivize sustainable aquaculture and long-term ecosystem resilience.

Improving Livelihoods in Coastal Communities of Peru

As part of a Blue Action Fund (BAF) project, and in partnership with the Peruvian Development Finance Corporation (COFIDE), TNC has provided technical support to 27 UNICA in the departments of Tumbes, Piura, and Ica. UNICA, a community-led savings and credit association, offers vital financial services in areas with limited access to traditional banking. By 2024, participants had mobilized over \$108,000 in collective savings from their own contributions, with 1,271 loans issued totaling more than \$692,000. This initiative is directly benefiting 475 community members boosting local resilience and economic opportunity.

Protecting the Natural Savannas of the Colombian Orinoco

A New National Park is Born

Serranía de Manacacías National Park ensures crucial connectivity between the Orinoquia Basin and the Amazon rainforest.

Colombia celebrated the establishment of its 61st National Natural Park, the Serranía de Manacacías. This 68,000-hectares park protects six unique ecosystems previously at high risk from industrial agriculture. It also ensures crucial connectivity between the Orinoquia Basin, the world's second most biodiverse, and the Amazon rainforest. Given its status as the world's most biodiverse country per square kilometer, Colombia is pivotal in achieving the global goal of protecting 30 percent of the Earth's habitats by 2030. The creation of this park is a significant step toward this target.

TNC was instrumental in this achievement, working in close partnership with the Colombian National Parks System. With support from donors, TNC helped facilitate land acquisitions and conducted rigorous due diligence to support the park's creation. This initiative is part of TNC's goal to conserve 200,000 hectares within the Manacacías Range. TNC continues collaborating with local ranchers and producers surrounding the park to establish a conservation mosaic, integrating sustainable production with ecosystem protection.

[Read more](#) ➤

Why this matters

The National Natural Park Serranía de Manacacías, safeguards a vital wildlife corridor and a globally important ecosystem that was not represented in the Colombian protected area system.

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Improving Development Plans for a Sustainable Future

In Colombia, TNC strengthened its partnership with the Government of Casanare—one of the four departments in the Orinoquia region—by formalizing a strategic agreement to embed sustainability into regional Development Plans. This collaboration led to key policy commitments, including the integration of the Watershed Sustainability Index (WSI), promotion of regenerative agriculture and sustainable cattle ranching, and scaling of resilient production models. Additional priorities include implementing climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, advancing the Paz de Aripоро Cattle Landscape Action Plan, and fostering sustainable tourism. These efforts mark a critical step toward aligning local governance with broader environmental and climate resilience goals.

GeoDatabase of Climate Change Risks in the Orinoco River Basin

As part of TNC Colombia's Climate Risk Vulnerability Project supported by TNC's Accelerate Impact Fund, a comprehensive GeoDatabase of the Colombian Orinoco River Basin has been developed. This strategic tool maps the spatial distribution of climate change hazards across the basin, providing essential data to inform risk assessment, adaptation planning, and decision-making for more resilient ecosystems, communities and – critically – agricultural sector whose unsustainable practices threaten this highly vulnerable region.



Deforestation-Free Agriculture

Pioneering Sustainable Soybean Trade in Argentina and Paraguay

The Gran Chaco, Argentina's largest ecoregion and a major global breadbasket, is also one of the world's deforestation hotspots.

The Argentine government adopted the VISEC platform (Visión Sectorial del Gran Chaco), developed by TNC and partners, as the official system for soybean traceability and trade. VISEC is helping position Argentina as a deforestation-free soybean supplier to the European Union (EU) by enhancing transparency, ensuring legal compliance, and promoting responsible sourcing across the value chain.

In a landmark move, VISEC also signed an agreement with leading agricultural organizations in Paraguay to implement a Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for the soybean value chain in the Paraguayan Gran Chaco. This joint effort strengthens both countries' ability to meet EU environmental standards and secure their roles as reliable, sustainable suppliers in global markets.

[Read more](#) ➔

Why this matters

Rising global demand for commodities must be met without further land conversion. The soy and beef systems now offer deforestation-free, fully traceable supply chains.

Safeguarding Freshwater for People and Nature in the Bermejo River

In the Argentine Gran Chaco, TNC is spearheading a pioneering initiative to protect critical freshwater sources by uniting local stakeholders and decision-makers. At the heart of this effort is The Chaco + Water Portfolio, a groundbreaking planning process designed to guide sustainable water management that benefits both communities and ecosystems. Within this framework, the Bermejo River basin has been identified as a top conservation priority. The strategy focuses on preserving key ecological attributes, essential to sustain its unique biological, social, and cultural integrity, including healthy fish populations to support food security; free-flowing rivers; water quality, and essential breeding and nursery habitats for endemic and migratory species.

Revitalizing the Gran Chaco: A Regenerative Cattle Ranching Model

TNC is driving innovation in cattle ranching for small and medium-sized producers across the Gran Chaco region by introducing a regenerative model that blends scientific expertise with traditional knowledge. This approach supports ecosystem adaptation, conservation, and restoration, while enhancing livelihoods. By adopting this model, producers benefit from increased, more stable yields and supply of calves, higher income, and overall greater land productivity. It also supports compliance with Argentina's native forest land-use planning law by promoting sustainable practices through silvopastoral systems that integrate trees, shrubs, grasses, cattle, and native forest fruits like carob pods as supplemental feed.

Thriving Communities for Sustainable Forestry

Driving Climate Action in Mexico's Local Communities

*Inclusive innovation in agriculture, tourism,
and forestry.*

TNC strengthened 216 farm and forest producer organizations across Chiapas, Oaxaca, and the Yucatán Peninsula, directly benefiting over 45,000 people and advancing the sustainable management of more than 293,000 hectares of land. These efforts led to the reduction or avoidance of 577,906 metric tons of CO₂e and mobilized over \$51 million in support of sustainable practices and resilient livelihoods.

Through 14 Territory Innovation Networks (RITER), the initiative fostered community leadership in apiculture, coffee, cocoa, tourism, ranching, and forest management. These community-led platforms scaled up sustainable production, reduced deforestation, and expanded market access for smallholder producers, prioritizing Indigenous and local communities with a strong emphasis on gender equity and social inclusion.

Regenerative Farming Takes Root in Belize

Spearheaded by the Belize Maya Forest Trust in collaboration with TNC, the launch of a regenerative agriculture program in the Belize Maya Forest exemplifies how forest protection and community development can go hand-in-hand.

Why this matters

TNC works across Belize, Guatemala, and Mexico in the Maya Forest and Mesoamerican Reef, deeply interconnected ecosystems of global importance. By integrating land and seascape conservation, we align initiatives such as regenerative agriculture and ranching to address shared socio-environmental challenges. Leveraging TNC's regional strength, we deliver scalable, cross-border impact.



The program strengthened local communities, especially youth, to adopt climate-smart farming practices that enhance soil health, improve food security, and reduce pressure on natural ecosystems. Through hands-on training, community engagement, and agroforestry techniques—such as planting thousands of fast-growing inga trees—the initiative is fostering a new generation of environmental stewards. This integrated approach not only sustains a vital 95,000-hectare ecosystem but also builds long-term resilience for people and nature across the region. [Watch video](#) ➤

Restoring Forests and Strengthening Communities in Guatemala

To combat the annual degradation of 2,000 hectares of forest in Guatemala, TNC is leading large-scale restoration efforts in the Maya Forest by supporting 15 community-based organizations with forestry incentives, resulting in the protection of over 575,000 hectares. These initiatives promote sustainable resource use and create economic opportunities for vulnerable communities. In addition, TNC has strengthened community-led tourism by improving infrastructure, offering training programs in partnership with national institutes, and enhancing local governance through collaborative capacity-building. This integrated approach fosters inclusive development while safeguarding the long-term sustainability of Guatemala's forests. [Read more](#) ➤ (Spanish)

Celebrating 20 Years of Conservation: The Valdivian Coastal Reserve

Safeguarding approximately 50,000 hectares of the region's temperate forests.

Chile's Valdivian Coastal Reserve (VCR), one of the world's last large expanses of temperate rainforest, celebrated its 20th anniversary. TNC, the World Wildlife Fund, and Conservation International purchased the land in 2003 to protect these forests from the sawmill industry. Since then, the VCR has become a model for safeguarding and restoring native forests and other valuable ecosystems and its biodiversity, while building sustainable livelihoods.

The Reserve's old-growth forests sequester over 800 metric tons of CO₂ per hectare, significantly contributing to planetary health. Since 2014, carbon credit sales from these forests have generated \$3.2 million, which have been reinvested in community-led conservation initiatives.

The Valdivian Coastal Reserve showcases a pioneering co-management model that integrates Indigenous knowledge and community participation into conservation. Developed in partnership with neighboring Mapuche communities, the Chilean government, and other local stakeholders, this model has guided two decades of collaborative land stewardship. Through shared decision-making, restoration of native ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods like regenerative agriculture and tourism, the Mapuche have become key actors in transforming the area from a deforested landscape into a thriving haven for biodiversity and people. The VCR now serves as a national and global example of how Indigenous-led conservation can drive long-term environmental and social resilience.





Latin America in the Spotlight

A strong media strategy is key to achieving our 2030 Goals. By sharing powerful stories and highlighting innovative, sustainable solutions, we show how nature plays a vital role in building a healthier, more resilient future for people and the planet.

Over the past two years, TNC has been featured in more than 3,000 media stories across top outlets in the region, including over 500 related to COP16 on Biological Diversity. This visibility has boosted our advocacy efforts and strengthened relationships with key partners.



Ecuador's Amazon Debt Swap Set to Cancel \$1.5 billion of Bonds

Bloomberg

Ecuador is looking to combine debt reduction with conservation.

[Read more](#) ➤



Colombia and Ecuador Fight to Save Vital Wetlands Amid Drought

Reuters

Rural communities fight to protect fragile high-altitude wetlands that regulate the area's water cycles, as sharp water and energy rationing hit both nations. [Read more](#) ➤



A victory for Conservation

New York Times

National Park in the Colombian Orinoquia protects a link between the tropical savannas and the Amazon. [Read more](#) ➤



Gran Chaco, an Example of Sustainable Agriculture Against Deforestation

France24

In the second-largest forest in South America after the Amazon, corn and soybean producers and ranchers are committed to conservation.

[Watch video](#) ➤ (Spanish)

Paula Caballero Editorials

Regional Managing Director for Latin America

El País

COP16, Key to Advancing the Leadership of Latin America and the Caribbean. [Read more](#) ➤ (Spanish)

Forbes

The Influence of COP16 in The Future of Biodiversity. [Read more](#) ➤ (Spanish)

El País

The power to generate wealth through the protection of our resources. [Read more](#) ➤ (Spanish)

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Hope for Nature

Latin America Achievements Towards Our 2030 Goals



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