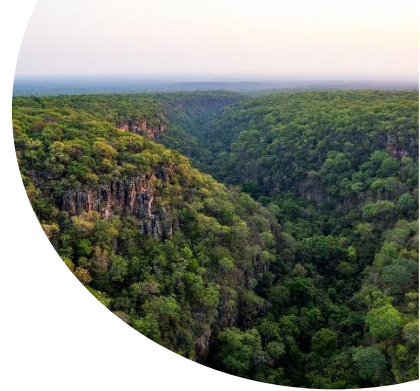




Multifunctional Landscapes

Executive Summary

South America is one of the most ecologically and culturally diverse regions on Earth, home to iconic landscapes such as the Amazon rainforest, the Andes mountains, the Pantanal wetlands, the Gran Chaco dry forests, and the Cerrado savannas. These interconnected ecosystems support extraordinary levels of biodiversity, vital ecosystem services, and millions of people whose livelihoods, identities, and food systems are directly tied to nature. However, this richness is increasingly threatened by unsustainable land-use change, deforestation, extractive industries, urban sprawl, water scarcity, and the intensifying impacts of climate change. Landscape degradation not only undermines ecological integrity but also weakens the resilience of communities and national economies. Despite these challenges, the region holds immense potential for large-scale ecological restoration, Nature-based Solutions (NbS), and inclusive land governance strategies. A landscape approach offers a powerful framework to reconcile conservation, sustainable development, and climate adaptation goals, by integrating ecological, social, and economic dimensions across sectors and jurisdictions. Strategic investments in this approach can unlock high-impact opportunities for biodiversity recovery, carbon sequestration, water security, and socio-environmental resilience, positioning South America as a global leader in nature-positive development.

The global conservation community needs to provide clear direction on how working with nature can achieve not only durable mitigation and just transition objectives but also nurture adaptive resilience. Mechanisms to incentivise the recognition of ecosystem services and storage of biome-based carbon that go beyond market-based transactions and carbon offsetting narratives need to be urgently tested, promoted and taken to scale with new frameworks that recognise and reward the maintenance of existing carbon stocks and potential role of ecosystems in disaster risk reduction, food and water security.

Program Targets

- National and international climate strategies, frameworks and actions optimise the role of NbS while avoiding adverse biodiversity impacts from novel climate technologies.
- Adoption of high-integrity NbS by the public and private sector, development partners and communities in the design, implementation and assessment of actions and initiatives to deliver enhanced outcomes for biodiversity.
- Significant progress in establishing sustainable, nature-positive and multifunctional agricultural production landscapes and seascapes has been achieved and further loss of biodiversity prevented.
- Collaborative multi-stakeholder ecosystem conservation and restoration at landscape scale have engaged government, private sector, and non-government actors to advance landscape outcomes, enhancing both ecological integrity and ecosystem services.

Geographical Opportunities

- ♣ Amazon basin
- ♣ Andes Mountains (Mountain forests and agricultural landscapes)
- ♣ Dry Forests (Perú & Ecuador)
- ♣ Grasslands and Savannas (Pampas, Llanos, Pantanal)
- ♣ Gran Chaco
- ♣ Chocó bioregion
- ♣ Cerrado savannas
- ♣ Atlantic Forest
- ♣ Mangroves in the tropical Pacific & Atlantic coasts

Investment Opportunities

Donors can engage with IUCN regional office in South America for scaling pilots with proven impact, co-financing programs and regional initiatives, supporting innovation for integrated landscape management through project funding, earmarked support or multi-stakeholder coalitions. Regional opportunities include:

- **Scaling up Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Climate-Resilient Landscapes in South America:** Promote initiatives to restore, conserve and sustainably manage ecosystems and agroecosystems to address climate risks and impacts, safeguarding biodiversity and securing food and water security for rural and urban populations. Focusing on integrated landscape management, the approach supports inclusive governance models that engage local authorities, Indigenous peoples, local communities, and women as key actors in planning and implementation. Monitoring and reporting systems of EbA measures allows showcasing local contributions to national climate and biodiversity targets.
- **Fostering sustainable food and agricultural systems.** Agrobiodiverse food and agricultural system stakeholders (producers, governments, financial and corporate institutions, civil society and academia) receive support to co-design and implement solutions contributing to sustainable and nature-positive multifunctional agricultural landscapes, promoting deforestation-free agricultural production and the integration of ecosystem services in value chains and business models.
- **Guidance for the effective application of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions** within specific national and regional contexts and circumstances, including sector specific needs. Participatory application of tools for robust design, implementation and assessment of NbS and other specific approaches within this conceptual umbrella.
- **Strengthening Knowledge Platforms and Tools for Scalable Landscape Restoration:** Effective restoration at scale requires accessible, science-based information to guide planning, prioritize interventions, and monitor outcomes. By enhancing data availability, mapping technologies, and participatory planning tools, this opportunity will empower governments, communities, and practitioners to design and implement high-impact, cost-effective restoration strategies.
- **Unlocking Blue Carbon through Coastal Ecosystem Restoration and Resilience:** Focused on restoring and integrated management of blue carbon ecosystems (mangroves, estuaries, salt marshes, and seagrass beds) to deliver powerful climate, biodiversity, and community resilience benefits. Strategic investments will support large-scale restoration and protection of coastal ecosystems, while promoting sustainable use models that enhance food security and climate adaptation for local communities.
- **Fostering high-integrity blended finance for Nature-based Solutions.** Catalytic financing models can be structured combining philanthropic and public grants with private sector capital to create de-risked pathways for high-impact investments in South American landscapes, where appropriate.

Why Partner with IUCN?

- Over 75 years of global conservation leadership.
- Trusted network: States, subnational governments, NGOs, Indigenous organizations, academia.
- Evidence-based and rights-focused approach.
- Strong regional presence and impact monitoring systems
- Science-based international policy work strengthening multilevel and multistakeholder dialogues with practical solutions.

South America is rising. Join us in advancing bold action for people and nature.

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