

Initiativa
20x20

A MOVEMENT FOR THE
RESTORATION
OF
LANDSCAPES
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PROGRESS AND STRATEGY TO 2030

San Ignacio de Kiuñalla Peasant Community, Apurímac, Peru.
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WORLD
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YEARS

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THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of the Environment,
Climate and Biodiversity



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030



INTRODUCTION

Latin America and the Caribbean are home to exceptional landscapes. From the Gran Chaco to the Mayan Jungle, passing through the Amazon, this region has 23% of the world's forests and is home to 60% of the global terrestrial biodiversity. However, its diverse ecosystems are highly vulnerable to environmental changes and human intervention, which have already caused deforestation and degradation of more than 40% of its forests.

ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:



Agricultural and livestock expansion



Mining



Urban and Infrastructure development, among others

That influence the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as climate regulation and resource provision essential for:



Economy



Food security



The culture of millions of people.

“

Given this reality, conserving and restoring forests, wetlands and other ecosystems is essential to halt and reverse these negative processes.

Considering that 58% of greenhouse gas emissions come from land use, land-use change and the forestry industry, restoration is a tool to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis. At the same time, it is an effective ecosystem-based adaptation practice, and a Nature-Based Solution (NBS) that, in the long term, maintains the economic and social benefits of sectors such as agriculture and forestry.



**IN THIS CONTEXT,
THE INITIATIVE
20X20 AROSE**

A regional movement that seeks to transform the dynamics of land degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean. For the last 10 years, it has been working with governments, civil society allies, the private sector and academia with a comprehensive restoration approach that seeks to recover the functionality of degraded ecosystems.

This document presents the progress and milestones achieved throughout this process, as well as the new challenges and pillars of work that have been agreed in a participatory way for the 2024-2030 Strategy.

RESTORATION AND GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

THE RESTORATION OF LANDSCAPES AND ECOSYSTEMS IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMON FUTURE. IN THIS REGARD, THE INITIATIVE 20X20 SUPPORTS THE BONN CHALLENGE AND THE NEW YORK DECLARATION ON FORESTS, GLOBAL COMMITMENTS TO RESTORE 350 MILLION HECTARES OF DEFORESTED AND DEGRADED LANDS IN THE WORLD BY 2030.



IN ADDITION, CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF VARIOUS AGREEMENTS AND GLOBAL GOALS SUCH AS:



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG):

It contributes significantly to objectives ranging from the eradication of poverty and hunger to the conservation of life on land and sea.



UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE:

It is a fundamental solution for adaptation and to mitigate climate change, by sequestering carbon and promoting the sustainability of forests.



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY:

It helps to reverse the loss of biodiversity and achieve the vision of "living in harmony with nature".



UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION:

It is a key tool to combat desertification and improve the resilience of communities.



THE RAMSAR CONVENTION:

It contributes to the conservation of wetlands and their capacity to store carbon.

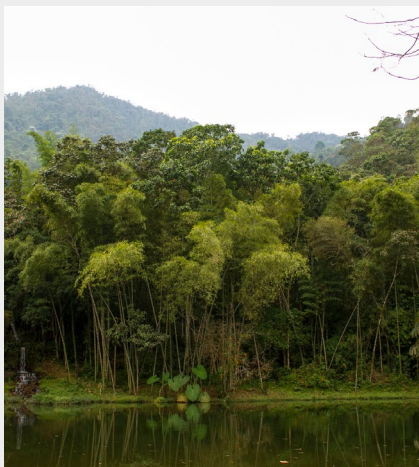
As can be seen, landscape and ecosystem restoration is a multifaceted strategy that offers environmental, social and economic benefits. By addressing global challenges in an integrated manner, restoration contributes to a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet.

CONTEXT



Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is home to 23% of the world's forests, covering approximately 47% of the region.

Field trip to Farallones National Natural Park in Cali, Colombia
© James Anderson, World Resources Institute.



DIVERSITY OF ECOSYSTEMS

The region has unique ecosystems such as

- ◆ The Mayan Jungle
- ◆ The Chocó-Darién
- ◆ The Gran Chaco
- ◆ The Amazon
- ◆ Wetlands
- ◆ Moors
- ◆ Mountain ecosystems
- ◆ Peat bogs
- ◆ Cloud forests

These are essential for biodiversity and services ecosystems.

Birds of Apurímac, Peru
© Nicolas Villaume for the Andean Forests Program.



BIODIVERSITY

LAC contains about 60% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, including:



A wide range of endemic species



Tropical forests



Other specialized ecosystems

Cleared forest, Costa Rica
© Aaron Minnick, World Resources Institute



DEGRADATION DYNAMICS



+ of 40% of the **FORESTS OF THE REGION** have been deforested or degraded.



Between 1990 and 2020, **7% OF THE COVER** of the forest was lost, equivalent to 138 million of hectares, an area larger than that of Colombia or Bolivia.

Reserva de la Biosfera de Lauca, Chile
© Nicolás Villalume para el Programa Bosques Andinos



CARBON STORAGE



The **FORESTS OF LAC** represent the

37 % OF **GLOBAL FOREST CARBON.**



Ecosystems such as wetlands have twice as much carbon storage capacity as the forests.

Parque Arví, Colombia
© Nicolás Villalume para el Programa Bosques Andinos



EMISSIONS

THE **58 %** of the **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** from LAC come from:



Use of the land



Unsustainable forestry activities

Ganado en Costa Rica
© Luciana Gallardo Lomeli, World Resources Institute



MAIN THREATS



Agricultural expansion



Urban development and infrastructure



Grazing



Governance issues, such as land tenure



Mining

Are the main drivers of **DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION.**

RESTORATION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Ecosystem restoration offers nature-based solutions:



Improving ecological functionality



Sequestering carbon



Increasing resilience to climate change



Tolhuaca National Park, Chile
© Nicolas Villalume for the Andean Forests Program

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The restoration also promotes benefits such as:



The conservation of biodiversity



The health of the soil



Water regulation



Adapting to extreme weather events such as floods and fires



Rio Carrillo Reserve, Chile
© Nicolas Villalume for the Andean Forests Program

CHALLENGES



Alncrease the financing



Strengthening technical capacities



Improving governance



Integrating gender equity and social inclusion



Addressing problems of land tenure

Are key aspects for the sustainability of the efforts of restoration in the region.



Training on restored trees, recently harvested after 15 years of growth, Costa Rica
© Sabin Ray, World Resources Institute

A DECADE OF PROGRESS

The 20th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP20), held in Lima in 2014, was the setting for the launch of the Initiative 20x20, a voluntary regional effort led by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for landscape restoration. This is a strategy to address global challenges that are closely related, such as climate change and biodiversity loss.

This coalition, made up of 18 countries, has the goal of achieving 52 million hectares protected and restored by 2030, an area larger than the size of Spain. There is also a commitment to leverage approximately USD2.5 billion in public and private investment for the restoration.

To achieve these objectives, it works with a wide network of 136 technical partners and 32 financial partners, according to a governance structure largely defined by the Initiative Secretariat, in charge of the World Resources Institute (WRI), as well as by an advisory Steering Committee and thematic working groups.



18 COUNTRIES
MAKE UP THE
INITIATIVE 20X20

32 FINANCIAL
PARTNERS

136 TECHNICAL
PARTNERS

THE GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE
52 MILLION HECTARES
OF PROTECTED AND
RESTORED HECTARES BY 2030

THE MEMBERS AND PARTNERS HAVE JOINED FORCES THROUGH THREE PILLARS OF ACTION:

POLICY

Countries' policy needs and challenges have been identified and their solutions supported through collaboration with technical and financial partners in the formulation of policy instruments, especially through policy accelerator programs.

KNOWLEDGE

Seven thematic working groups have been promoted. In addition, communities of policy makers have been formed to foster peer exchanges and direct knowledge synthesis activities.

PRIVATE FINANCING

Promising catering business models and potential investors have been identified. Ongoing work is also being done to build bilateral connections for investment and project development.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20



During these years of joint efforts, the results in the region are encouraging. Currently, member countries, technical and financial partners have voluntarily reported that about 8 million hectares of degraded land have been restored and more than 14 million hectares have become conservation areas.

But its most important achievement has been to create a “*Momentum restoration*” in the region, by proposing, for the long term, to create and grow a solid network of technical and financial partners, who align concepts, efforts, communication channels and, in general, objectives.

WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK, THE INITIATIVE 20X20 HAS PROMOTED THE CREATION OF ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR RESTORATION. AMONG ITS MAIN ADVANCES ARE:



To improve policy-making processes by training, technical assistance and the creation of monitoring tools.



Improve governance by creating spaces for political dialogue and projects of restoration that promote local socio-economic development.



Create national roadmaps for policy changes to overcome “bottlenecks” and meet commitments on emission reductions and biodiversity conservation.



Create and disseminate priority case studies and knowledge through technical briefs and thematic summaries.



Organizing the programs *Landscape Policy Accelerator* and *Landscape Monitoring Accelerator* to improve the capabilities of policy makers and the monitoring of commitments restoration, respectively.



Organizing the program *Land Accelerator (LA)*, that empowers entrepreneurs whose businesses restore lands.



Implement investment tables in Guatemala, Colombia and Brazil.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: 2024-2030 STRATEGY

Thanks to the participation of more than 60 key actors, including governments, technical and financial organizations, the Initiative 20x20 has developed a Strategic Plan that establishes four fundamental pillars to guide actions over the next six years:



In the face of changing land use and the forestry industry, restoration is a tool to mitigate the effects of the climate crisis.

These pillars, the result of a comprehensive and participatory process, outline the priorities, strategies and goals to achieve a transformative impact in the region. They all reinforce each other, creating synergies that will drive landscape restoration and sustainable management of natural resources. Below we present each one.



Visit to Assisted Natural Regeneration plot in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.
© Aaron Minnick | World Resources Institute



Pillar 1: **POLICY**_{ESTE}

THIS PILLAR HAS AS PRIORITY TO PROMOTE PUBLIC FINANCING BASED ON INCENTIVES FROM THIS SECTOR FOR LAND RESTORATION, WHICH WILL BE DEMONSTRATED BY OPERATIONAL AND COMPREHENSIVE MONITORING SYSTEMS.

MAIN INDICATORS



Instruments of ongoing and formalized policies



Supported governments



Policy Accelerator Programs

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?

Between 2024 and 2026, the implementation of restoration programs will continue, which have made it possible to address the “bottlenecks” for the deployment of effective restoration policies:



Landscape Policy Accelerator

The Restoration Policy Accelerator (LPA). This program offers a learning plan for public policy makers, through personalized training and mentoring, exchanges between peers from different countries and fostering collaboration by creating networks of mutual support and promoting smart policies.



Landscape Monitoring Accelerator

The Landscape Monitoring Accelerator (LMA). This program helps governments monitor their restoration commitments and the effects of their policies through workshops, mentoring with world-class experts, and mutual learning, where participants identify challenges and co-create solutions for their restoration programs.

WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED?



IN THE SHORT TERM (2026-2028):

Governments, with the support of technical partners, are expected to identify and address policy bottlenecks, with priority being given to those related to public incentives and restoration monitoring.



MEDIUM-TERM (2028-2030):

It is planned to improve the national and regional policy framework to achieve the ambitions of the countries in the field of landscape restoration.



Pillar 2

KNOWLEDGE

IT FOCUSES ON THE TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE AROUND SEVEN PRIORITY THEMES FOR RESTORATION IN THE REGION:

GOOD PRACTICES; BIODIVERSITY; POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND INCENTIVES; INVESTMENT ECOSYSTEMS AND CARBON MARKETS; MONITORING AND TRANSPARENCY; SECONDARY FORESTS AND ASSISTED NATURAL.

MAIN INDICATORS



Trained people



Spaces for the exchange of knowledge



Publications emblematic

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?



Continuing with the experience gained in these years, knowledge management will be carried out, from 2024 to 2026, through thematic working groups that will develop and implement their roadmaps through activities such as case studies, webinars, state of the art, among others, as well as dialogue and exchange meetings.

WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED?



IN THE SHORT TERM (2026-2028)

Presentation sessions on progress, innovative products and main lessons learned from the working groups will be held within the framework of the annual meetings of the Initiative 20x20.



MEDIUM-TERM (2028-2030)

A Regional Knowledge Agenda on Restoration will be developed based on the exchange and collaboration between the working groups and their members.



Agroforestry Plot in the Peruvian Amazon, Madre de Dios, Peru
© World Resources Institute



Pillar 3

PRIVATE FINANCING

ITS PURPOSE IS TO LEVERAGE FINANCING FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR TOWARDS RESTORATION BUSINESSES THAT ARE BOTH PROMOTERS AND LINKED TO LANDSCAPE RESTORATION.

MAIN INDICATORS



Business models promoted



Male and Female Entrepreneurs promoted

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?



Two strategic lines of action will be implemented until 2026. First, business models with proven success in restoration that are oriented towards secondary forests and gender equity (priority issues) will be identified, characterized and promoted. Second, these business models will be scaled up.

WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED?



IN THE SHORT TERM (2026-2028)

Promising investment models will be scaled up together with financial partners within the framework of financing mechanisms identified by the Initiative 20x20 and adapted to promote restoration.

MEDIUM-TERM (2028-2030)



Funding flows from private sources will be invested in priority landscapes for soil restoration, the latter based on an initial proposal that will be validated by the members and partners of the initiative.



Forest sapling, Guanacaste, Costa Rica
© Aaron Mimnick | World Resources Institute



Pillar 4:

SOCIAL AND GENDER EQUALITY

THE FOCUS ON GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION HAS BEEN TRANSVERSAL TO THE WORK OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20; HOWEVER, THE NEED TO DEEPEN ITS APPLICATION STRATEGICALLY IN THE RESTORATION SECTOR IN THE 20X20 NETWORK HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED. THEREFORE, THIS NEW PILLAR HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2030, THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF WHICH WILL BE ITS COLLECTIVE CONSTRUCTION.

MAIN INDICATORS



Leaders, women and indigenous people actively participating



Women's, youth and indigenous organizations reached

HOW WILL IT BE DONE?



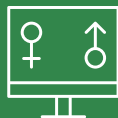
Leaders from the 20x20 partner network will be identified and worked with, and regional priorities regarding equity will be systematized through virtual and in-person spaces.

IN THE SHORT TERM (2026-2028):



Leaders, with the support of the Secretariat, will propose political, financial and technical recommendations for the Initiative's regional agenda, as well as its organizational agenda. At the same time, they will define their own approach to building alliances and constructing a regional roadmap.





WHAT RESULTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACHIEVED?



MEDIUM-TERM (2028-2030)

It is planned to form and adopt a Gender and Social Inclusion (GES) platform for political, financial and technical acceleration. This platform should be equipped with enough resources, materials and key messages to provide support in its areas of action, implement policy advocacy and financial advice.

THE 2024-2030 STRATEGY IN SUMMARY

	 POLICIES	 FINANCING	 KNOWLEDGE	 GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY
Priority	Mobilize public financing in the restoration with public incentives.	Gender and social equity: transformative businesses and secondary forests	7 thematic areas	Inclusion of marginalized groups in the Initiative 20x20
Medium-term	Strengthening political conditions for investment: public USD and monitoring systems	Scaling of models of successful	Regional knowledge restoration agenda	Roadmap and recommendations
Short-term	Addressing political "bottlenecks"	Identify, characterize and promote successful restoration businesses	20x20 spaces for knowledge exchange	Participatory identification of priorities and key messages
Means of implementation	Policy Accelerator and Monitoring	Visibility and technical support for effective business models	Knowledge management activities of working groups	Collective work with a group of male and female leaders

AD HOC COMPONENT: THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

This component seeks to strengthen the positioning of the Secretariat, as well as its inter-institutional relations and the appropriation of functions in the 20x20 network, thus contributing to the sustainability of the Initiative 20x20.

This will be achieved through the formalization of an operations manual, for which a preliminary structure is already in place to define guidelines for membership, the competencies and functions of the Secretariat, the Steering Committee and the working groups, among other points.

In this route there will also be a communication strategy to reach and sensitize the prioritized target audiences through multiple channels, including digital media, events and communication materials.

To that end, the brand identity of the Initiative 20x20 will be updated.

Finally, periodic activities such as the Annual Meetings of the Initiative 20x20 are being considered, which provide an opportunity to simultaneously present progress, maintain momentum, coordinate collaborative actions and enhance the strength of the network.

The Secretariat of the Initiative 20x20 has managed to mobilize resources to implement a part of the priority activities; however, the cooperation of all the members of the 20x20 network is still necessary for the full implementation of the strategic actions and operational activities. The Strategy identifies these funding gaps for the joint mobilization of efforts.





"Mahogany" plant growing at the Horizontes Experimental Forest Station, Guanacaste, Costa Rica.
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