Initiative 20x20

INITIATIVE 20X20 STRATEGY

RESTORING

MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND DIVERSE

LANDSCAPES

IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

2024-2030

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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

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SECRETARIAT OF THE 20X20 INITIATIVE

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INITIATIVE 20X20 STRATEGY

RESTORING
MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND DIVERSE
LANDSCAPES
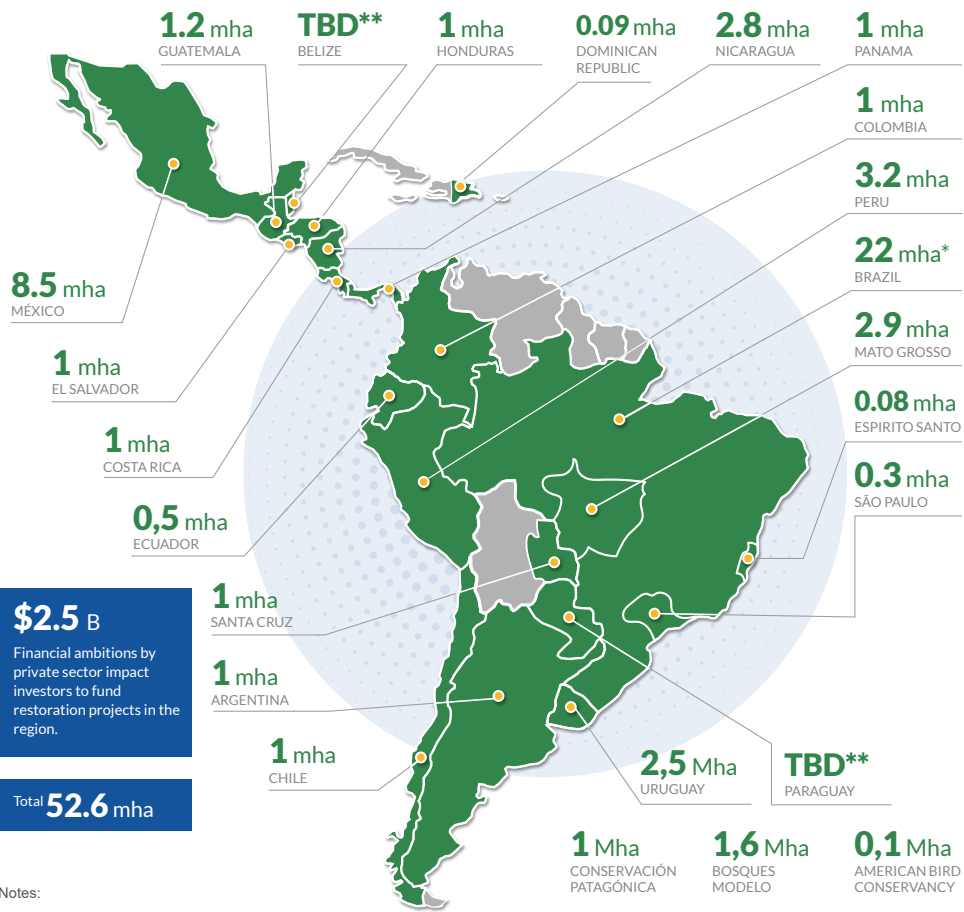### IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
2024-2030

Initiative 20x20 is a country-led effort seeking to change the dynamics of land degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean in support of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Initiative 20x20

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030

Beginning to protect and restore **52,6 million** hectares of land in Latin America & the Caribbean by **2030.**

COMMITMENTS
52.6 mha by governments
$2.5 B of private sector capital

1.2 mha
GUATEMALA

TBD
BELIZE

1 mha
HONDURAS

0.09 mha
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

2.8 mha
NICARAGUA

1 mha
PANAMA

1 mha
COLOMBIA

3.2 mha
PERU

22 mha*
BRAZIL

2.9 mha
MATO GROSSO

0.08 mha
ESPIRITO SANTO

0.3 mha
SÃO PAULO

8.5 mha
MÉXICO

1 mha
EL SALVADOR

1 mha
COSTA RICA

0,5 mha
ECUADOR

1 mha
SANTA CRUZ

1 mha
ARGENTINA

1 mha
CHILE

2,5 Mha
URUGUAY

TBD
PARAGUAY

1 Mha
CONSERVACIÓN PATAGÓNICA

1,6 Mha
BOSQUES MODELO

0,1 Mha
AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

$2.5 B
Financial ambitions by private sector impact investors to fund restoration projects in the region.

Total **52.6** mha

Notes:

* Goals to be accomplished by 2030

** Commitment to define a national restoration strategy

CON TENT

ANNEXES

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration
ALAP	African Landscapes Action Plan
ALC	Latin America and the Caribbean
ARLI	Resilient African Landscapes Initiative
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
CATIE	Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture (from Bioversity-CIAT Alliance)
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
COP	Conference of the Parties
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FERM	Framework for Monitoring Ecosystem Restoration
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
GSE	Gender and Social Equity
GPFLR	Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
LA	Land Accelerator
LDBA	Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation
LMA	Landscape Monitoring Accelerator
LPA	Landscape Policy Accelerator
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NAP	National Adaptation Plans
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
US	United States of America
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
WRI	World Resources Institute

PREFACE

Latin America and the Caribbean are regions characterized by a rich and diverse social fabric, where historical dynamics have continuously shaped their landscapes. Over centuries, many of these landscapes have experienced processes of degradation, management, and restoration. Some of these processes have been cyclical, offering the lesson that change is not only inevitable but also an opportunity to rehabilitate and rejuvenate our territories. However, other transformations have followed a more linear trajectory, leading to significant degradation of the natural resources that underpin the region's social and ecological fabric. These linear processes often allow us to trace an ecological reference point, revealing the pathway of degradation that has brought us to our current challenges.

These contrasting dynamics—cyclical and linear—highlight a persistent paradigm: the unfulfilled promise of conserving and sustainably managing our forests and ecosystems. It is within this context that the Initiative 20x20 Strategy emerges as a beacon of hope. While the journey to fulfill this promise is far from complete and the horizon remains uncertain, the strategy is deeply rooted in the diverse ecosystems of the region. It is gestated in the heat of the Amazon and the Mayan jungle, fed by rivers, coasts, wetlands and mangroves, and progressively emerges between the Andes Mountains, the Central American Cordillera and the Sierra Madre. This collective vision allows us to look toward the future with optimism, grounded in the belief that the actions outlined in this strategy can reverse the historical degradation of our landscapes.

The Initiative 20x20 represents a unique collaborative effort among countries, technical partners, and financial institutions. It is built upon a voluntary social agreement that facilitates the exchange of experiences and knowledge across diverse dimensions, all with the shared goal of restoring landscapes. This initiative, born in the heart of Latin America, stands as a contribution to the world and aligns with the goals of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

The 20x20 Strategy is neither linear nor purely cyclical—it is evolutionary. It reflects the challenges and complexities of our time, rooted in a Latin American social consensus and pointing toward a future that is still being written. Through this forward-looking approach, the strategy seeks to honor the promise of restoration and sustainable use of our landscapes, charting a path that leads to a resilient and thriving future.

René Zamora Cristales
Natalia Ruiz Guevara

1

INTRODUCTION

Since its launch, THE INICIATIVE 20x20 has established itself as a country-led effort to change the dynamics of land degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) by promoting conservation and restoration in this area of the world. The Initiative, formally launched at COP 20 in Lima in 2014, supports the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests, global commitments that aim to restore 350 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded lands by 2030. According to the first commitments of six countries (Guatemala, Peru, Costa Rica, Chile, Mexico and Colombia), the initial ambition of the Initiative was to restore 20 million hectares of degraded land by 2020. To date, 18 countries and subnational governments have committed to conserve and restore more than

The Initiative 20x20 Secretariat is hosted by the World Resources Institute (WRI). The main function of the WRI core team is to enable dialogue and networking and promote synergies between national and subnational governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to build a coalition to achieve the Initiative's objectives.

> **The Secretariat of the Initiative 20x20 is based at the World Resources Institute (WRI). The main role of the WRI core team is to facilitate dialogue, networking and promote synergies between national and subnational governments, civil society, academia and the private sector to build a coalition to achieve the objectives of the Initiative.**

To fulfill this role, the Secretariat's core team relies on the advice and support of the Steering Committee, composed of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Teaching Center (CATIE), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Bioversity International Alliance (CIAT) and WRI itself. To carry out its mission, the Initiative 20x20 has 136 technical partners and 32 financial partners. This extensive network of partners has been built up over the nine years of the Initiative's life and is the result of WRI's work as a facilitator and the growing prestige of 20x20.

What began as a country commitment has evolved over time into a complex set of task forces and learning communities, focused especially on the creation of policy improvement tools, in addition to a wide range of other actions. Although chapter 4 of this document describes the progress of the Initiative in detail, it is important to highlight the main achievements here:

Create a "Restoration *Momentum*" that will lead to the issue being addressed in global spheres as well as in national, sub-national and multi-sectoral dialogue, promote multi-stakeholder engagement, and bring together governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), businesses and other key stakeholders in a collaborative effort to address landscape and ecosystem restoration in the region.

Improve political and financial conditions in countries that have advanced national instruments to finance, implement and monitor restoration, especially those supported by the Initiative.

Promote and support restoration projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, ranging from assisted natural regeneration, agroforestry and grassland restoration to the recovery of coastal ecosystems.

Generate evidence on the linkages between restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

While the Initiative 20x20 has made considerable progress, it also faces ongoing challenges, such as maintaining funding for priority efforts and targeting them to landscapes, coordinating multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral platforms, and measuring its progress through unified monitoring systems.

However, it remains an outstanding example of regional cooperation and action to address land degradation and promote landscape restoration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This document was prepared with a twofold purpose. First, it constitutes a long-term strategic framework for the Initiative 20x20 (which could even go beyond the currently defined time horizon), compiling the narrative of its theory of change, collectively constructed during the process of giving life and action to this regional movement. For that purpose, it was require a process of compiling the Initiative's historical progress to date to identify and analyze in depth the key milestones, challenges faced and lessons learned, as well as to describe current operations and then propose evidence-based objectives for the coming period in light of the progress made. The duration of this strategic framework is estimated at six to 10 years.

The second purpose of this document is to provide an operational roadmap for the Initiative Secretariat as 20x20 facilitator for the next four to six years. This operational section defines the key milestones to be achieved, the methods to be used, the pathways to be followed to move towards the strategic priorities and the fundraising priorities.

It is relevant to note that these milestones, tools and pathways were validated during a participatory consultation process involving 65 people (approximately 33% men and 64% women) from various countries, organizations and institutions. These participants work in different areas of action (regional, national and local), performing a wide range of functions, including technical assistance, public policy management, facilitation of governance processes, financial services and restoration itself.

2

CONTEXT

According to the latest Global Forest Resources Assessment,[1] Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is home to 23% of the world's forests, covering approximately 47% of the region (up to 940 million hectares). It is important to note that 83% of this area is in the Amazon region, while 9% is in Mesoamerica, 7% in the Southern Cone and 1% in the Caribbean. The region has an exceptional variety of ecosystems, including the Maya Forest, the Amazon basin, the Chocó-Darién forest, the Gran Chaco, temperate, dry and high Andean ecosystems, among others. In addition, Latin America also has a variety of fragile ecosystems such as mangroves and marine-coastal wetlands, cloud forests, peatlands and paramos, which are particularly sensitive to environmental changes and anthropogenic disturbances and represent unique and highly specialized ecosystems in the region, providing multiple ecosystem services.

1   FAO (2022). *FRA 2020 remote sensing survey.* FAO Forestry Paper No. 186.

This vast expanse and variety of ecosystems in the region harbors approximately 60% of the world's terrestrial biodiversity, in addition to marine and riverine flora and fauna.[2] Tropical forests are among the most abundant on Earth in terms of species diversity, and the montane forests and paramos of the Andes contain a wide range of endemic and narrowly distributed species. This is due to several environmental factors, including their complex evolutionary history and highly variable geography, geology and climate. On the other hand, Latin America is home to 59% of global wetlands, including both natural marine-coastal wetland areas and studied inland areas, which are declining dramatically at a rate greater than that of forests.[3] These resources and ecosystems play a central role in the region's productive sector, accounting, for example, for approximately 13% of global food and fiber trade. In addition to other essential ecosystem services such as water provision and regulation, it is notable that the carbon stored in the forests of Latin America and the Caribbean represents about 37% of the world's total forest carbon. Other ecosystems such as wetlands, despite their reduced distribution, show twice the carbon storage capacity of all the world's forests.[4]

However, more than 40% of the region's forests have already experienced deforestation or degradation: from 1990 to 2020, forest cover decreased by 7%, representing a staggering loss of 138 million hectares (Mha), an area larger than Peru. The main drivers of deforestation and degradation are cropland expansion, livestock grazing, mining, and urban and infrastructure development.

2   Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014). *Global biodiversity outlook.*

3   Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (2018). *Global wetland outlook: State of the world's wetlands and their services to people.* Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

4   Von Unger, M., Tonneijck, F. H. & Soto, C. (2022). *Voluntary carbon markets for wetland conservation and restoration.* Wetlands International.

Restored areas in a cattle ranching landscape in the hills of Guanacaste, Costa Rica.
© Sabin Ray, World Resources Institute

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Tropical forests are among the most abundant on Earth in terms of species diversity, and the montane forests and paramos of the Andes contain a wide range of endemic and narrowly distributed species.

THE MAIN DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION AND DEGRADATION ARE:

Cropland expansion

Mining

Livestock grazing

Urban and infrastructure development

Studies conducted by CIFOR-ICRAF[5,6] in Bolivia and Peru, for example, have found that the common underlying causes are predominantly related to problems of land tenure (perception of land availability), weak inter-sectoral coordination, lack of control and monitoring, increased land trafficking and weak implementation of governance tools. These activities release significant amounts of carbon while contributing to biodiversity loss and the reduction of ecosystem services, with negative socioeconomic and cultural impacts. To date, approximately 58% of greenhouse gas emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean can be attributed to land use, land-use change and unsustainable forestry practices, with serious implications for climate, biodiversity and local communities (FRA 2020).

Conserving and restoring forests, wetlands and other ecosystems is key to halting and reversing these negative processes, while protecting LAC's rich flora and fauna. Promoting efforts to conserve forests and ecosystems in their different forms of protection and sustainable use is urgent, since the current rate of degradation is unsustainable if we wish to maintain the functionality of ecosystems and consequent human well-being. On the other hand, given the current state of fragmentation, degradation and deforestation, the restoration of forests, ecosystems and landscapes also provides answers to these challenges by recovering ecological functionality, improving human well-being and resilience to climate change and other risks, through carbon sequestration and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, it supports other key ecosystem services, such as biodiversity conservation and restoration, soil health and productivity, microclimatic conditions, water benefits, etc.[6,7]

5   Müller, R., Pacheco, P. & Montero, J. C. (2014). *EThe context of deforestation and forest degradation in Bolivia: causes, actors and institutions.* Documentos Ocasionales 100. CIFOR.

6   Garrett, L., Lévite, H., Besacier, C., Alekseeva, N. & Duchelle, M. (2022). *The key role of forest and landscape restoration in climate action.* FAO. **https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2510en**

7   International Union for Conservation of Nature (2023). *Contributing to climate action through restoration.* Technical brief. **https://www.iucn.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/iucn-cop-28-technical-brief-cem-contributing-to-climate-action-through-restoration.pdf**

Restoration can also be an effective ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction practice, providing a nature-based solution to address climate change.[8] Investing in land restoration provides a unique opportunity to convert these areas from carbon sources to carbon sinks, thereby reducing the region's carbon footprint and promoting decarbonization. These actions are crucial to meeting countries' climate goals and achieving their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets.

The application of restorative approaches through sustainable agriculture, livestock and forestry practices can bring benefits to farmers, land managers and society in terms of ecosystem services and biodiversity, while addressing the growing demand for commodities, creating employment, expanding forest and natural ecosystem cover and contributing to the natural functioning of ecosystems. Also, these practices help local communities cope with the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events by improving soil health, increasing water retention, controlling erosion, curbing the risk of severe forest fires, reducing the risk of catastrophic flooding, among other ecosystem and biodiversity benefits.

Despite significant progress, several challenges remain for landscape and ecosystem restoration in Latin America. These include mobilizing sufficient funding and investment, particularly from the private sector, to scale up restoration efforts and achieve ambitious targets for both strengthening enabling conditions and implementing restoration practices in the territories.

Also, it is necessary to strengthen governance frameworks and policy instruments to support sustainable land management practices and

> **Investing in land restoration provides a unique opportunity to convert these areas from carbon sources to carbon sinks, thereby reducing the region's carbon footprint and promoting decarbonization.**

facilitate restoration initiatives, especially as they relate to the landscape. It is also necessary that the implementation of restoration is accompanied by addressing land tenure issues, lack of technical capacities, as well as social inclusion and gender equity. All these factors enhance community participation as a collective of essential stakeholders to ensure the success and sustainability of restoration projects. Overcoming these challenges requires continued collaboration, coordination of multiple levels of government, innovative approaches and concerted efforts with local organizations and communities to seize the full potential of landscape restoration in the region.

To address these challenges, **the Initiative 20x20 advocates a vision of landscape restoration.**

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8   Fuchs, G. & Noebel, R. (2022). *Restoring Latin America's Landscapes.* Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

THE INITIATIVE TAKES A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO RESTORATION THAT GOES BEYOND SIMPLY INSTALLING TREES.

ITS CONCEPT OF RESTORATION IS BASED ON RECOVERING THE FUNCTIONALITY OF DEGRADED ECOSYSTEMS, INCLUDING:

Biodiversity regeneration

Soil restoration

Protection of water sources and ecosystems for sustainable and resilient landscapes.

This involves a variety of practices such as, among others, reforestation (both natural and assisted), *rewetting*, invasive species control, conservation and halting forest degradation and deforestation.

IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS, THE INITIATIVE 20X20 PROMOTES A WIDE RANGE OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS, SUCH AS:

Agroforestry

Silvopasture

Sustainable grassland management

Carbon emission reduction[9]

In both agricultural and forested landscapes, restoration can strengthen solutions to climate change by increasing the potential for carbon sequestration, but also by improving resilience and adaptation to climate hazards.

9   Initiative 20x20 (n. d.). *Restoring Latin America's Landscapes.* **https://initiative20x20.org/restoring-latin-americas-landscapes**

3

BACKGROUND

3.1. **GLOBAL AND REGIONAL RESTORATION MOVEMENTS**

In recent decades there has been a growing recognition of the importance of landscape and ecosystem restoration as a key strategy for addressing global challenges such as climate change, desertification, biodiversity loss and the increasing needs of the human population. This recognition has been driven by several factors, including an increased awareness of these challenges, as well as a more accurate understanding of their implications by different sectors, including political managers and private investors. In addition, the increasing flow of data-driven information on the economic, social and environmental benefits of restoration has led to greater interest and commitment (both formal and voluntary) from governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector worldwide.

In response to this growing awareness and commitment, global movements for landscape and ecosystem restoration have emerged. Characterized by a collaborative, multi- stakeholder approach, these movements seek to raise awareness, promote knowledge sharing, mobilize resources, and foster coordinated actions to restore degraded landscapes and damaged ecosystems around the world. **The Initiative 20x20 in Latin America is the first regional movement** (described in more detail in section 4).

The **BONN CHALLENGE** for Restoration was launched in 2011 during the High-Level Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This is an initiative led by Germany and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with the support of numerous countries, international organizations, NGOs and private sector companies. Its initial goal was to restore 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by 2020, later increased to 350 million hectares by 2030. While significant progress has been made in terms of awareness raising, on-the-ground actions, policies and fund mobilization, major challenges remain, including insufficient funding and the need to address the underlying causes of landscape degradation. The regional objectives of the Initiative 20x20 contribute directly to the global objectives of the Bonn Challenges.

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Bonn's initial objective was

RESTORE
150
MILLION
hectares of degraded and deforested land

BY
2020

later increased to

RESTORE
350
MILLIONS
hectares

BY
2030

UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, PROCLAIMED BY THIS INSTITUTION, BEGAN IN 2021 WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF "PREVENTING, HALTING AND REVERSING THE DEGRADATION OF ECOSYSTEMS ON ALL CONTINENTS AND IN ALL OCEANS" DURING THE PERIOD 2021-2030.

THIS INITIATIVE WAS LAUNCHED BY A COALITION OF COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations **(FAO)**

and

The United Nations Environment Programme **(UNEP)**

with the support of governments, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders.

TO DATE, SEVERAL ACTIONS COORDINATED BY THIS INITIATIVE HAVE BEEN EXECUTED, INCLUDING

The implementation of restoration projects at the local level

The promotion of favorable policies and regulatory frameworks

The organization of task forces

The strengthening of institutional and community capacity for the restoration of degraded landscapes

The mobilization of financial and technical resources

The Initiative 20x20 coordinates regional efforts aligned with the Decade, especially in terms of policy advocacy and knowledge management.

The **AFRICAN FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE** (AFR100) is a country-led effort to restore 100 million hectares of these deforested landscapes and degraded forests across Africa by 2030. AFR100 was launched in 2015 during the Climate Summit in Paris, France, as a joint commitment by several African countries, international organizations and development partners. With the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) as its Secretariat, the initiative connects policy partners - participating African nations - with technical and financial support to scale up land restoration and realize the associated benefits for food security, climate change resilience and poverty alleviation. The Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), WRI and UNEP, among others, are supporting AFR100. To date, AFR100 has mobilized restoration commitments from more than 30 African countries and supported the implementation of restoration projects across the region, working closely with local communities, governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. AFR100's main actions include the development of national restoration strategies, the identification and

prioritization of restoration areas, the mobilization of funds and technical resources, and the promotion of policies and regulatory frameworks favorable to the restoration of degraded landscapes in Africa. AFR100 thus contributes to the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI) and complements the African Landscapes Action Plan (ALAP) and the broader African Union's Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land Degradation (LDBA) program. In doing so, it accelerates progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement.

3.2. LINKAGES BETWEEN LANDSCAPE AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION WITH GLOBAL COMMITMENTS

Restoration is key to achieving multiple global commitments such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity targets and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), as it provides multiple benefits that constitute key technical solutions and contribute to a wide range of indicators. By restoring ecosystems, it is possible to mitigate climate change, preserve biodiversity, support sustainable development and combat desertification, addressing interconnected environmental challenges.

Restoration is key to achieving multiple global commitments such as the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Convention on Biological Diversity targets and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)"

3.2.1. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

According to the United Nations Decade of Restoration, landscape and ecosystem restoration involves a broad set of practices that provide a unique opportunity for productive systems, especially agriculture and forestry, to make progress in addressing global challenges such as the elimination of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

THE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE PANEL (2019)[10] FOUND POSITIVE CO-BENEFITS OF ECOSYSTEM AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION TO SUPPORT THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE 2030 AGENDA.

For example, land restoration and rehabilitation itself represents one of the three main strategies to achieve SDG 15 ("Life of terrestrial ecosystems").

13 ACCIÓN POR EL CLIMA

14 VIDA SUBMARINA

At the same time, restoration shows a high potential to achieve climate goals (SDG 13), as well as other related SDGs, such as SDG 14, linked to the conservation and sustainable use of marine- coastal ecosystems.

According to this study, preventing, reducing or reversing land degradation can generate many benefits that contribute directly or indirectly, for example, to achieving gender equity (SDG 5), but only when appropriate means and approaches are ensured. To maximize their potential, it is necessary to consider the different time scales of impacts arising from restoration, as well as the significant implications of action and project planning. While the immediate co-benefits - such as alleviating poverty by increasing incomes - are obvious in the medium term, improving agricultural production and reducing hunger, or improving the sustainability of cities, may take years or even decades to materialize. Other SDGs related to education and partnerships are, at the same time, conditions and co-benefits of landscape and ecosystem restoration.

Integrated landscape approaches, which consider spatial variability and involve diverse stakeholders, are crucial to maximizing returns on land restoration investments and addressing inequity issues.

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10   IRP (2019). *Land restoration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: a think piece from the international resource panel.* United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya.

3.2.2. UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

RESTORATION IS ONE OF THE KEY SOLUTIONS IN:

The agriculture

Forestry

And other land use (AFOLU) sector envisaged by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), particularly under the Paris Agreement. This was confirmed by the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land during the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (FAO 2022).
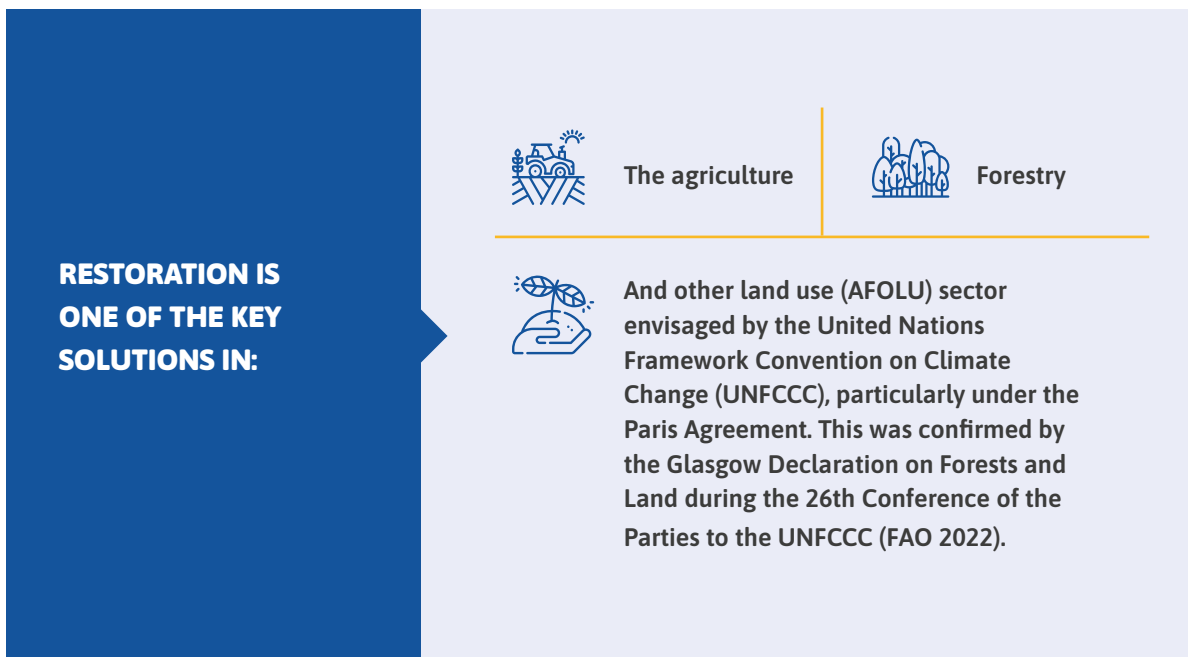
Countries have included restoration actions in their Nationally Determined Contributions as part of the REDD+ mechanism (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation plus conservation, sustainable management and enhancement of forest carbon stocks), and they are increasingly appearing in the assessment of ecosystem vulnerability and adaptation in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).[11]

Many large-scale restoration initiatives and projects stand out for their multiple potential climate benefits. Forest and landscape restoration plays an active role in climate mitigation as a relatively cost-effective approach to support carbon sequestration, conservation and sustainable use of forests, making it attractive for climate funds. Likewise, another collateral benefit of restoration that is relevant to climate action is that it can support sustainable bioenergy (particularly the wood energy sector), which is also key to assisting in the conservation of existing forests and landscapes to protect and enhance the carbon already stored in ecosystems such as peatlands.

11   Fuchs, G. & Noebel, R. (2022). Fuchs, G. & Noebel, R. (2022). *The role of ecosystem restoration for the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.* Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

> "Forest and landscape restoration is playing an active role in climate mitigation, as a relatively cost-effective approach to support carbon sequestration, conservation and sustainable use of forests, making it attractive for climate funds.

3.2.3. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Convention on Biological Diversity (2022) emphasizes the fundamental role of ecosystems and their biodiversity in supporting economic growth, sustainable development and human well-being. It is globally recognized that overexploitation of natural resources over centuries has altered ecological systems worldwide, leading to land and ecosystem degradation. Article 8, subsection 'f' of the Convention states: "Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies."

In order to make these intentions operative, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period 2021-2030 as the Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. Within this framework, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 15), held in Kunming, China, adopted the Post- 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will guide global efforts towards the CBD's vision for 2050 ("Living in Harmony with Nature"), and considers ecosystem restoration essential to achieving this vision and reversing biodiversity decline.

According to the IPBES Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration, restoring 15% of converted land in strategic locations could prevent 60% of projected species extinctions. UN Member States are committed to creating synergies between existing ecosystem conservation and restoration initiatives, including the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, to accelerate progress towards restoration targets and address the global biodiversity crisis.

RESTORING MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND DIVERSE LANDSCAPES
in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024-2030

3.2.4. UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)

Restoration plays a key role in achieving UNCCD objectives, as restoration-based efforts reverse land degradation and desertification, while enhancing biodiversity and carbon storage. Restoration promotes a sustainable balance between nature and human well-being.[12]

By focusing on forest landscape and ecosystem restoration, the restoration movement addresses not only the restoration of degraded lands, but also community resilience, improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation. This holistic approach underpins important international efforts, such as the Bonn Challenge, demonstrating the vital role of restoration in achieving UNCCD objectives and combating desertification globally.[13]

Restoration efforts directly contribute to specific UNCCD objectives by improving soil quality, reducing erosion and increasing organic matter, critical steps in achieving land degradation neutrality. Integrating local communities and using innovative science-based strategies in restoration projects further ensures the success and sustainability of these efforts, providing a practical model for addressing desertification and achieving UNCCD objectives.[14]

12   Wolff, S., Schrammeijer, E. A., Schulp, C. J. E. & Verburg, P. H. (2018). Meeting global land restoration and protection targets: what would the world look like in 2050? *Global Environmental Change*, 52, pp. 259-272. ISSN 0959-3780. **https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2018.08.002**

13   Mansourian, S. (2018). *Forest landscape restoration*. **https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315111872**

14   Rimal, B., Keshtkar, H., Stork, N. & Rijal, S. (2021). Forest cover and sustainable development in Lumbini province, Nepal: past, present and future. *Remote Sens.*, *13*(20), 4093. **https://doi.org/10.3390/rs13204093**

3.2.5. CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Restoration is also closely linked to meeting the objectives of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), which emphasizes the vital importance of these ecosystems for biodiversity, climate control and human well-being.

Forest and landscape restoration contributes to these objectives by improving ecological connectivity, soil integrity, and water quality, essential factors for wetland health. In addition, restorative actions and practices help to increase their capacity to store carbon, a crucial function for climate change mitigation. Wetland restoration initiatives also promote the resilience of these ecosystems to extreme events, in line with the Ramsar principles of promoting sustainable management and recovery of degraded habitats.[15]

> **According to the IPBES Thematic Assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration, restoring 15% of converted land in strategic locations could prevent 60% of projected species extinctions.**

15   Anisha, N. F., Mauroner, A., Lovett, G., Neher, A., Servos, M., Minayeva, T., Schutten, H. & Minelli, L. (2020). *Locking carbon in wetlands: Enhancing climate action by Including wetlands in NDCs*. Alliance for Global Water Adaptation and Wetlands International.

4

INITIATIVE 20X20 (2014-2024)

WHAT IS INITIATIVE 20X20?

THE INICIATIVE 20x20 is a voluntary Latin American regional movement, a **country- led** effort **that seeks to change the dynamics of land degradation in Latin America and the Caribbean by promoting the protection and restoration of 50 million hectares of forests, agricultural areas, grasslands, wetlands and other land uses in landscapes by 2030.** To achieve this goal, the Initiative leverages the expertise and capacity of a network of local partners from the public, private and civil society spheres to drive the implementation of restoration and conservation efforts throughout the region.

It is supported by more than 130 technical and 30 financial partners who are leading the restoration movement in LAC. Technical partners meet in nine task forces to build a community of learning and practicing around key restoration issues such as carbon markets, incentive policies and wetlands.

Financial partners, including impact investors and private companies, act as agents of change in the region by contributing innovative projects that offer social and environmental improvements with financial returns. This group is supporting the expansion of restoration throughout the region by leveraging the market value of its spin-off products.

Governments of 20x20 member countries that have made commitments under the Initiative are actively engaged in restoration programs to improve public policies and instruments, as well as capacities to drive positive change. A more detailed description of 20x20 members and key governance figures can be found in sections 4.1 and 4.2.

4.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20

SO FAR,

18

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

AND

3

REGIONAL PROGRAMS

have COMMITTED, through the INITIATIVE 20x20:

TO RESTORE MORE THAN

52

MILLION HECTARES OF LAND,

an area larger than the size of Spain.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS ,

IMPACT INVESTORS

AND

THE COUNTRIES OF LAC

promote successful restoration projects and business cases among the network and have committed to leverage approximately

US$2,5

BILLION IN PRIVATE INVESTMENT FOR RESTORATION.

FIGURE N.° 1

Commitments of the countries within the framework of the Initiative 20x20

Iniciativa 20x20

Beginning to protect and restore **52,6 million** hectares of land in Latin America & the Caribbean by **2030.**

COMMITMENTS

52.6 mha by governments

$2.5 B of private sector capital

1.2 mha
GUATEMALA

TBD**
BELIZE

1 mha
HONDURAS

0.09 mha
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

2.8 mha
NICARAGUA

1 mha
PANAMA

1 mha
COLOMBIA

3.2 mha
PERU

22 mha*
BRAZIL

2.9 mha
MATO GROSSO

0.08 mha
ESPIRITO SANTO

0.3 mha
SÃO PAULO

8.5 mha
MÉXICO

1 mha
EL SALVADOR

1 mha
COSTA RICA

0,5 mha
ECUADOR

$2.5 B
Financial ambitions by private sector impact investors to fund restoration projects in the region.

Total **52.6** mha

1 mha
SANTA CRUZ

1 mha
ARGENTINA

1 mha
CHILE

2,5 Mha
URUGUAY

TBD**
PARAGUAY

1 Mha
CONSERVACIÓN PATAGÓNICA

1,6 Mha
BOSQUES MODELO

0,1 Mha
AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY
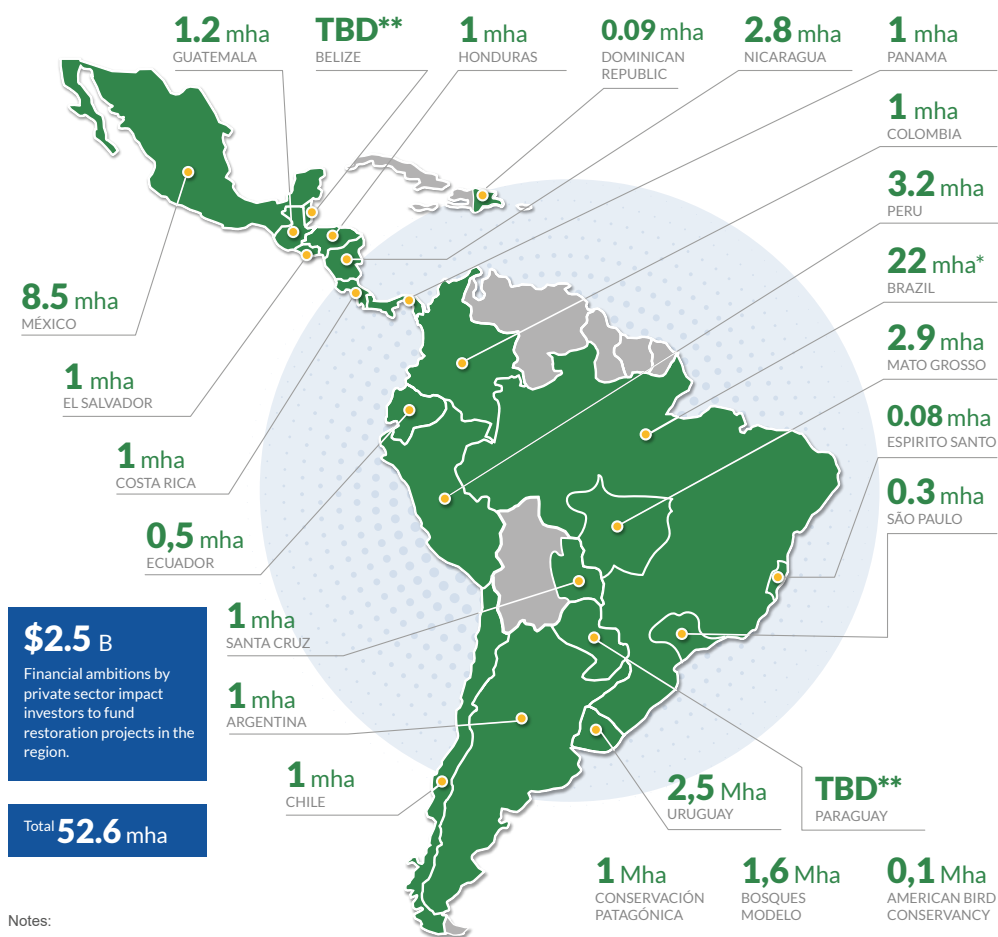
Notes:

*   Goals to be accomplished by 2030

** Commitment to define a national restoration strategy

4.3.   THEORY OF CHANGE OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20

The Initiative 20x20 began as a voluntary movement subscribed to by countries, and over time has evolved into a compilation of interconnected actions. Thus, its theory of change has been built on the process of incorporating members and commitments, as well as on discovering the best ways to attract attention and mobilize action. After almost 10 years of existence, the Initiative and its network of members, with the facilitation of its Secretariat, have succeeded in identifying priorities and pillars of action. Within the framework of these pillars, activities have been carried out during this first decade to facilitate the enabling conditions for restoration in terms of policy, financing and technical capacity.

During the development of this Strategy,16 four pillars of action have been proposed and validated to guide the Initiative's priorities and actions over the next six years, which are expected to be reviewed and adjusted in the medium term. For each of these pillars, priorities, short- and medium-term milestones and means of action have been identified. In addition, indicators have been proposed at three levels of monitoring and evaluation. All these components are described in greater detail and in an operational manner in Chapters 5 and 6 of this document, which refer to short-term (operational) and medium- to long-term (strategic) planning.

The summary of this theory of change is presented in the following paragraphs.

VISION OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20 TO 2030:

By 2030, the Initiative 20x20 will drive the restoration of 52 million hectares of degraded land in Latin America and the Caribbean, more than doubling its initial target. This ambitious expansion aims to further mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable development throughout the region. The Initiative 20x20 strives to create resilient landscapes and thriving communities through collaborative action and innovative approaches.

16   The fourth pillar on gender and social equity (GSE) is new (not ongoing with an explicit agenda for the last nine years) and corresponds to the need to analyze and explore priorities for improving the GSE approach in the other three pillars. In this strategic period, the pillar will have a special focus on women, youth and indigenous peoples and local communities.

TO ACHIEVE THIS VISION, THIS STRATEGY PROPOSES:

1. POLICY

If the Initiative convenes policy dialogues and enhances multi-level and multi-sector governance to support effective restoration policies and incentives that benefit people, climate and nature. Through country-tailored, multi-stakeholder policy acceleration projects and programs that effectively address policy 'bottlenecks', governments will be able to improve the policy enabling conditions that ultimately lead to landscape restoration and the fulfillment of country ambitions. In this strategic period, the priority of this pillar is to catalyze -that is, to favor or accelerate- public financing with public incentives for land reclamation. All this, demonstrated by operational and comprehensive monitoring systems.

2. PRIVATE FINANCING

If the Initiative drives private investment into restoration projects that complement government action by identifying, characterizing and promoting successful business models through visibility and technical support, then the private sector and impact investors will be able to scale promising investment models that ultimately foster financing for priority landscapes and increase restoration investment from private sources to restore land.

In this strategic period, the priority of this pillar is to leverage private financing for gender and social equity transformative businesses and secondary forest management businesses, both of which are drivers of - or linked to - landscape restoration.

3. KNOWLEDGE:

If the Initiative provides technical assistance to project developers and implementers (both public and private sector) through task force activities that are led by the technical partners and 20x20 exchange spaces are held, then the network of members will be able to create a regional knowledge restoration agenda or catalog, which will ultimately increase the transfer of knowledge and capacity to support the regional restoration movement. As complementary activities, technical partners, especially academia, will implement courses and other training to build capacity in the region.

The priorities for this pillar are defined according to the themes of each task force (best practices; biodiversity; policies, legislation and incentives; investment ecosystem and carbon markets; monitoring and transparency; secondary forests and assisted natural regeneration; and wetlands). However, this could be updated considering the priority themes identified during the process of developing this Strategy, which are described in more detail in Section 5.3.

4. SOCIAL AND GENDER EQUITY

if the Initiative identifies in a participatory manner the priorities and key messages for policy, financial and technical assistance actions through collective work with a group of leaders building a roadmap and case studies, then an initial task force can drive the inclusion of marginalized groups in the Initiative 20x20 in equity conditions, which ultimately raise awareness to improve social and gender equity in restoration in the 20x20 platforms and the region.

The priority of this pillar will be its construction through a participatory process co- managed by technical partners.

4.4. MEMBERS AND KEY FIGURES IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20

The Initiative 20x20 is a regional partnership with three distinct types of members: countries (or governments), technical partners and financial partners. Strong commitment and clear organization among these networks of members are key to ensuring their contribution to the overall objectives. To achieve this, the Initiative 20x20 is facilitated by a governance structure largely defined by the Initiative's Secretariat, as well as by an advisory Steering Committee and thematic task forces.

All 20x20 partners are leaders in the field of restoration and possess a deep understanding of the landscapes and people of Latin America. Each partner is admitted once their official representatives' express interest, and acceptance is based on demonstrated impact and desire to advance restoration movements across the continent.

FIGURE N.° 2

Members and key governance figures of the 20x20 Initiative

COUNTRIES	TECHNICAL PARTNERS	FINANCIAL PARTNERS	TASK FORCES
18	**136**	**32**	**7**
National governments, regions and programs spanning more than one country, who commit to restore and conserve hectares of land, as well as to implement any policy and strategy in support od restoration and conservation.	Organizations and institutions providing expertise and research supporting the implementation of restoration and conservation across the region.	Private sector groups who earmark investment for restoration, including impact investors and companies financing restoration projects.	Iniciative 20x20's task force are groups of representatives from across the inciative's technical partners. The members of each task force convene to discuss a key theme of restoration. Each task force works to address a key theme for restoration.
POLICY	SUPPORT	FINANCE	KNOWLEDGE

◆ SECRETARIAT

As the Secretariat of the Initiative 20x20, the **WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE**[17] facilitates dialogue between governments, civil society and the private sector to build a coalition that can achieve the Initiative's objectives.

IT PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN COORDINATING AND FACILITATING THE INITIATIVE'S ACTIVITIES, ACTING AS:

- The central administrative body responsible for managing communications

- Organizing meetings and events

- Facilitating partnerships

- Providing technical support to member countries and organizations

The Secretariat also plays a key role in monitoring progress towards the Initiative's objectives and in building the capacity of members. Overall, it acts as a focal point for collaboration and coordination among all stakeholders involved in the Initiative 20x20, helping to drive collective efforts towards achieving landscape restoration goals.

17   WRI is an international NGO that partners with governments, entrepreneurs, investors and experts to create social and financial conditions to conserve natural landscapes and restore degraded ones. It has led many specific initiatives on a global scale, such as Global Forest Watch, Forest Legality and the Global and Restoration Initiative. WRI provides technical assistance to regional initiatives such as AFR100 in Africa and the Initiative 20x20 in Latin America.

◆ STEERING COMMITTEE

The Initiative's Steering Committee is composed of one representative from each of its four main technical partners: CATIE, IUCN, IATTC and WRI. Its purpose is to provide strategic advice to the Secretariat.

ITS FITS ROLE IS CRITICAL IN

Providing strategic direction and oversight to the Initiative

Ensuring alignment of actions with the goals and objectives of the Initiative

It also facilitates collaboration and coordination among the different actors involved in landscape restoration efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean.

◆ MEMBERS

◆ COUNTRIES

National governments, represented by the Ministers of Environment and/or Agriculture and regional programs covering more than one country, formally committed to restore and conserve hectares of land. Following these restoration and conservation ambitions, countries are leading the definition and implementation of policies and strategies.

FIGURE N.° 3

Initiative 20x20 Member Countries

Belize	Santa Cruz Department, Bolivia	Argentina	Brazil
Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Dominican Republic
Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras
Mexico	Nicaragua	Panama	Paraguay
Peru	Uruguay		

GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP IN THE INITIATIVE 20X20 INVOLVES A COMMITMENT TO:

Promote landscape restoration

Implement policies

Collaborate with stakeholders to achieve restoration goals

It involves active participation in meetings, training programs, resource mobilization and monitoring progress towards the 20x20 goals.

Restoration objectives. Ultimately, it means a dedication to sustainable land management and environmental stewardship in Latin America and the Caribbean. More information on each country's approach, resources, objectives, funding mechanisms and restoration projects can be found, CLICK HERE.

◆ **TECHNICAL PARTNERS**

Organizations and institutions that provide expertise, knowledge and research to support the implementation of restoration and conservation throughout the region. A technical partner is committed to providing technical assistance, academic guidance, and offering capacity building and support to advance landscape restoration efforts.

They work closely with governments, stakeholders and other partners to develop and implement restoration projects, share knowledge and contribute to monitoring and evaluation. By leveraging their expertise and resources, technical partners contribute significantly to achieving restoration goals, promoting sustainable land management practices and building environmental resilience in the region. For more information on how technical partners relate to the Initiative CLICK HERE.

◆ **FINANCIAL PARTNERS**

Private sector groups that have allocated financial resources and are deploying investments for restoration, including impact investors and companies that fund restoration projects. A financial partner is intended to play a critical role in providing funds and resources to support landscape restoration efforts in the region by investing in projects and programs. Their support is key to mobilizing additional resources, leveraging public and private investments, and scaling up restoration initiatives, ultimately furthering the achievement of the Initiative's goals. More information on funding partners can be found, **CLICK HERE.**

"

All 20x20 partners are leaders in the field of restoration and possess a deep understanding of the landscapes and people of Latin America.

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

◆ TASK FORCES

Specialist groups with members from all technical partners to consolidate a community of practice. As part of these task forces, organizations and experts collaborate to develop strategies, share knowledge and implement specific actions to advance landscape restoration goals.

THEY ARE INTENDED TO:

Play a critical role in driving innovation

Fostering collaboration

Addressing specific challenges in their respective focus areas.

By facilitating dialogue, coordinating efforts and promoting best practices, the task forces contribute to the overall success and impact of the Initiative 20x20. More information on the task forces can be found, CLICK HERE.

As of December 2023, the Initiative 20x20 had 136 technical partners, 32 financial partners and 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, involving more than 3,000 people directly involved.

Capacity building at a former cattle ranch under Assisted Natural Regeneration, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. © Aaron Minnick | World Resources Institute

" As of December 2023, the Initiative 20x20 had:

136 technical partners

32 financial partners and

18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

4.5. **CURRENT PROGRESS ON THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20: IMPORTANCE AND CHALLENGES OF MONITORING**

To achieve its restoration goals, the Initiative 20x20 depends on the political will of countries and the collaboration of technical and financial partners in the region. Although the conservation and restoration ambitions are non-binding, strong evidence of progress is crucial to illustrate the impact of the approaches implemented and the gaps that have not yet been addressed to continue building the restoration movement.The Secretariat has compiled a track record based on progress reported18 by technical and financial partners and governments. According to the technical partners, this effort reveals an estimated progress, from December 2014 to June 2022, of **up to 8.2 million hectares of degraded land restored, and 14.6 million hectares converted into conservation areas.** These achievements were made possible through the efforts and investments of civil society, private investors and governments.

This self-reporting of progress is not without challenges related to the strength of its evidence and the scope of its sources. Since the report is based on figures and data provided voluntarily by investors and governments, many research-driven or independently funded initiatives may be outside this accounting. Although the self-reporting modality allows capturing important aspects of restoration projects (period of action, origin of funds, area, practices, location, among others), it also has limitations in terms of evidence, standard means of verification and completeness

of information (several reported initiatives are not able to provide complete information, especially regarding co-benefits for climate, food production and biodiversity).

"

From December 2014 to June 2022 of up to

8,2
MILLION
hectares of degraded land restored

and

14,6
MILLION
hectares converted into conservation areas

These achievements were made possible through the efforts and investments of civil society, private investors and governments.

18   Voluntary report on initiatives located in Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru.

> **To achieve its restoration goals, the Initiative 20x20 depends on the political will of countries and the collaboration of technical and financial partners in the region.**

From governments, although many of them have deforestation monitoring systems, **official restoration monitoring faces a wide range of challenges related to technical issues** (diversity of ecosystems and practices, slowness of restoration processes compared to deforestation, adequacy of image data, software capacity and human resources, among others), but also challenges related to monitoring objectives, taking into account that landscape restoration often involves multiple objectives that demand a tailored monitoring system.[19] Nevertheless, several countries in the region have taken steps towards national restoration monitoring systems, such as El Salvador, which has created a restoration index that provides support for governmental decisions to facilitate the implementation of restoration actions and their associated impacts.

19   AURORA (Assessment, Understanding and Reporting of Restoration Actions) is a tool launched by the IRG and FAO to help stakeholders develop a monitoring system tailored to their needs by identifying indicators and metrics to monitor progress towards their stated objectives.

THE RESTORATION BAROMETER REPORT 2022 (IUCN 2022) PRESENTS OFFICIAL INFORMATION (BASED ON AN ONLINE TOOL VALIDATED BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES) RELATED TO:

4 IMPACT INDICATORS

Y

4 ACTION INDICATORS

(hectares, carbon sequestered, biodiversity and socioeconomic aspects)

(agreements and policies, financing, technical planning and monitoring)

THIS METHODOLOGY HAS BEEN APPLIED BY 18 COUNTRIES AND SUPPORTED BY 50 MORE WORLDWIDE, AND COMPILES INFORMATION ON NATIONAL PROGRESS IN MEXICO, GUATEMALA, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, PERU AND COLOMBIA SINCE 2010 IN TERMS OF POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS, WHICH FOR LATIN AMERICA IS EXPRESSED IN:

EMPLOYMENT

(over 2 million short-term and 190 261 long-term)

FINANCE

(up to US$4.4 billion)

AREA

(7 million hectares)[20]

The Barometer report, although comprehensive and based on official data provided by governments, does **not yet include all Latin American countries** (data collection for Ecuador is ongoing), and places the results in one of three categories based on the strength and verifiability of the evidence provided.

---

20   The report also notes that of these area accounts, a percentage is dedicated to protected areas and key biodiversity areas, 40% in El Salvador, 4.9% in Mexico and 71.4% in Costa Rica.

Restoration Barometer Report - 2022 (IUCN 2022)

HECTARES UNDER RESTORATION BY COUNTRY

GLOBAL HECTARES UNDER RESTORATION
14 240 519

5 219 984 Mexico

379 192 Guatemala

575 185 Kazakhstan

90 074 Tajikistan

198 332 Bangladesh

136 249 Kyrgyzstan

278 908 El Salvador

498 279 Costa Rica

90 552 Peru

559 509 Colombia

650 295 Uganda

5 241 Sri Lanka

2 608 125 Kenya

1 746 959 Malawi

628 338 Ghana

597 718 Rwanda

17 526 Mozambique
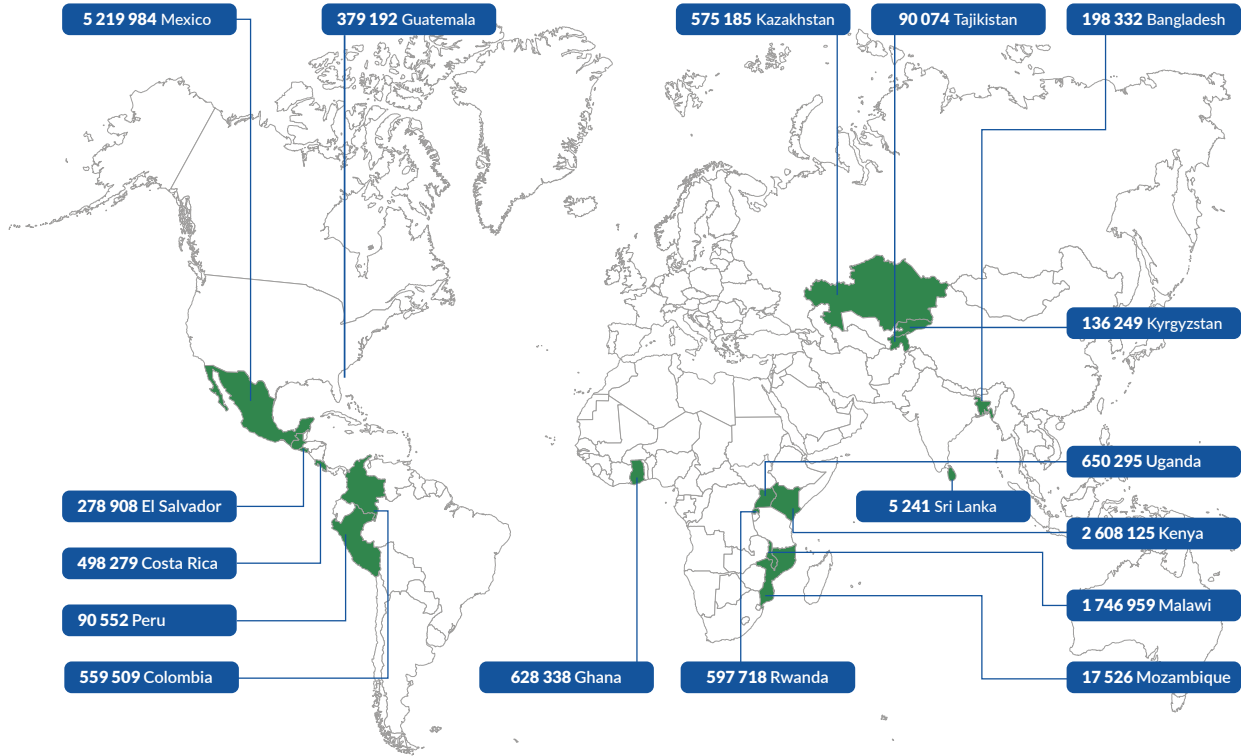
CONAFOR-supported restoration site in Mexico
© Luciana Gallardo Lomeli, World Resources Institute.

4.6. **CONTRIBUTION OF THE SECRETARIAT TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20**

TO DATE, WRI, AS THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20, HAS FOCUSED ITS EFFORTS ON

Building connections among a variety of stakeholders

Aligning efforts

Promoting restoration implementation

Creating enabling conditions under three pillars of action: Policy, Private Finance and Knowledge.

The Initiative 20x20 has achieved many significant accomplishments since its launch, the most important being the creation and maintenance of a *"Regional Restoration Momentum".*

4.6.1. PILLAR 1: POLICY

The focus of this pillar is to identify countries' policy needs and challenges and then support the solution of these needs through collaboration with technical and financial partners. This scheme has been progressively brought to life through the *Landscape Policy and Landscape Monitoring Accelerator* programs. The following is a brief description of the main achievements to date under this pillar.

A) **IMPROVE POLICY FORMULATION PROCESSES.** In close coordination with national governments, the Secretariat has focused on strategic policy areas, such as incentive programs, that are essential for scaling up restoration in the region. The Initiative provides support through one or more modalities, including capacity building among policy makers through peer-to-peer exchange, hiring specialists to facilitate the policy formulation process, and developing state-of-the-art tools to track restoration progress and policy effectiveness.

FIGURE N.° 5

Restoration policy history

CHILE NATIONAL RESTORATION PLAN
Outlines a set of Public Incentives to foster restoration

EL SALVADOR COMPENSATIONS MANUAL
Compensation with ecological equivalence

CHILE NDC
Commitment to restore 1M ha

MEXICO MATCHING FUNDS
COANFOR and the water districts

GUATEMALA Probosque
Strategic Plan for Resource Allocation

NICARAGUA RESTORATION ON NDC
Restoration goals institutionalized in the NDC

PERU ProRest
National Restoration Plan 2021-2030

COSTA RICA
Environmental permits in support of the National Plan

B) LEADING THE CREATION OF NATIONAL ROADMAPS FOR POLICY CHANGES to effectively implement restoration. The Secretariat collaborates with nations to identify policy gaps, especially in public incentives and monitoring, through one-on-one support and policy accelerator programs. By jointly developing detailed roadmaps, it outlines the steps needed to overcome 'bottlenecks' and improve policies, facilitating implementation and progress towards NDCs and commitments. These roadmaps are critical for countries to improve their processes and for the Secretariat to provide targeted technical assistance.

FIGURE N.° 6

Guatemala's roadmap for policy changes
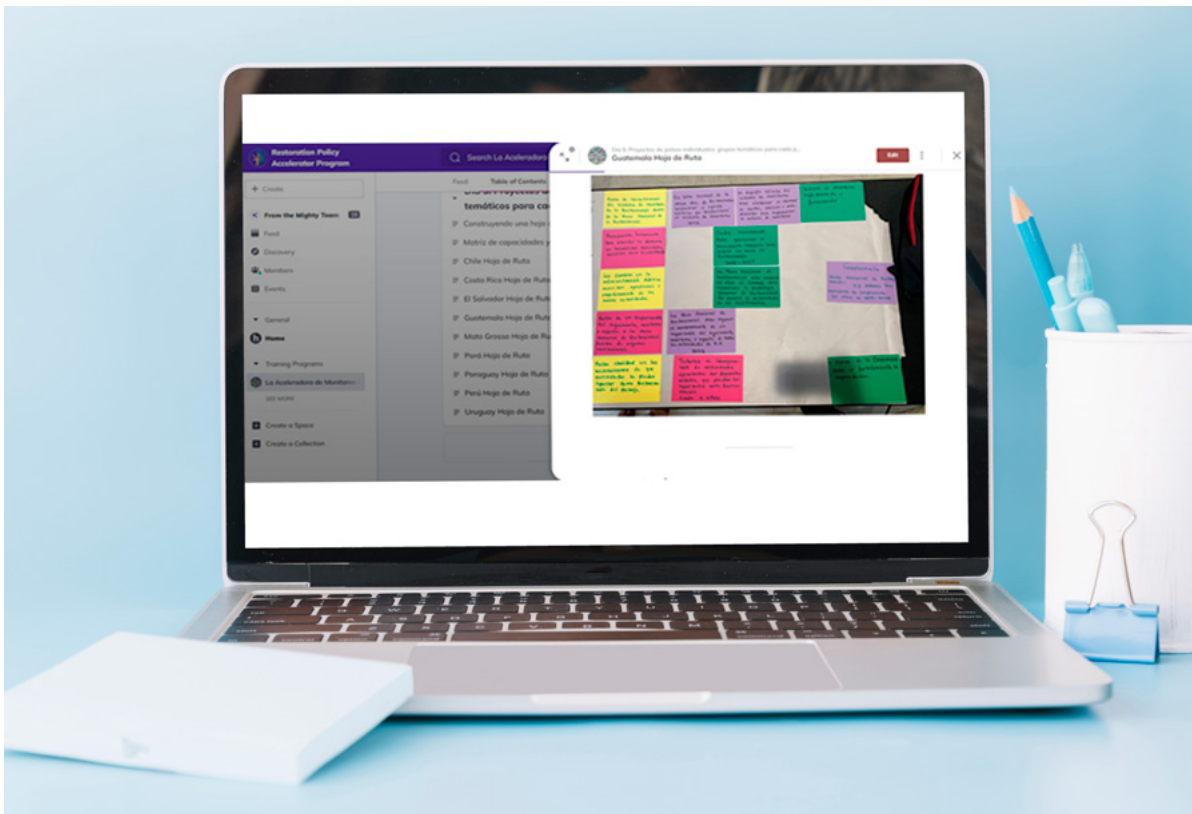
C) ORGANIZE THE LANDSCAPE POLICY ACCELERATOR. The *Landscape Policy Accelerator* program offers a unique learning plan designed to enhance the capacity of policymakers to address policy challenges. This program combines a week of intensive training and peer-to-peer exchanges with up to two years of customized mentoring for each country.

KEY FEATURES INCLUDE :

> Cataloging 'bottlenecks' with respect to each country's landscape issue

> Fostering collaboration between national and subnational governments to devise solutions

> Refining incentives to integrate ecosystem restoration principles and leverage combined funding from public, private and philanthropic sources.

D) BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF THE LPA THROUGH THE LANDSCAPE MONITORING ACCELERATOR. The *Landscape Monitoring Accelerator* (LMA) program, like its sister program (LPA), helps governments monitor their restoration commitments and the effects of their policies. Like the LPA format, it combines a week-long exchange with customized support to address 'bottlenecks' but focuses solely on technical elements such as spatial analysis, indicator selection and the development of monitoring frameworks. The LMA therefore significantly improves government monitoring systems, ensuring more accurate measurement of progress towards restoration targets.

> Each Monitoring Accelerator program recognizes and seeks to strengthen the national monitoring programs and tools that each country is developing and promotes their articulation with global monitoring initiatives such as the Framework for Monitoring Ecosystem Restoration of the Decade of Restoration (FERM).

A more detailed description of the LPA and LMA programs can be found in Annex 1.

FIGURE N.° 7

LPA and LMA Program Logos

E) **IMPROVING THE GOVERNANCE OF RESTORATION IN THE REGION.** The Initiative has significantly strengthened national governance by creating a variety of spaces (face-to-face meetings, webinars, training, etc.) for policy dialogue between national and subnational governments, international organizations and civil society. These efforts are necessary to enhance multi-stakeholder collaborations to advance enabling conditions for forest and landscape restoration. In landscapes, the Initiative 20x20 has supported the development of restoration projects that consider not only restoring ecosystems and conserving biodiversity, but also boosting local socioeconomic development and building good governance.

> **"**
> *The Initiative has significantly strengthened national governance by creating a variety of spaces (face-to-face meetings, webinars, training, etc.) for policy dialogue between national and subnational governments, international organizations and civil society.*

Capacity building in restoration in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.
© Aaron Minnick | World Resources Institute

4.6.2. PILLAR 2: KNOWLEDGE

The Initiative has promoted the formation of thematic task forces and policymaker communities to foster peer-to-peer exchanges in addition to direct knowledge synthesis activities. At the same time, the policymaker communities, nurtured by the LPA and LMA programs, engage in dynamic exchanges to transform restoration ambitions into tangible policies.

A) TO SUMMON THEMATIC TASK FORCES AS SPECIALIZED GROUPS OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL THE TECHNICAL PARTNERS OF THE INITIATIVE. Members of each task force meet to discuss and address a key restoration issue, a process in which it is hoped to create, systematize and disseminate critical knowledge.

THEY SERVE AS SPECIALIZED GROUPS FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING ON

- Best practices
- Biodiversity
- Policy
- Legislation and incentives
- Monitoring and transparency
- Investment ecosystem and carbon markets
- Secondary forests and assisted natural regeneration; and wetlands

In these groups, the participation of an academic institution is encouraged and is important to promote research, knowledge synthesis and capacity building.

B) TO FORM COMMUNITIES OF POLICY MANAGERS THAT SHARE SPACES AND DYNAMICS OF PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES. These communities provide opportunities for policy makers to share and internalize concepts, principles, priorities and tools to maintain the momentum of restoration and transform ambitions into concrete policies and processes in the countries. These communities were created and are sustained through the LPA and LMA programs and are characterized by the active participation of their members through different communication channels such as *Slack, WhatsApp* and *Mighty Networks*.

> **These communities provide opportunities for policy makers to share and internalize concepts, principles, priorities and tools to maintain the momentum of restoration and transform ambitions into concrete policies and processes in the countries.**

Landscape Monitoring Accelerator Cohort 2023

C) **TO CREATE AND DISSEMINATE CASE STUDIES AND PRIORITY KNOWLEDGE THROUGH TECHNICAL NOTES AND ISSUE BRIEFS SPECIFICALLY TARGETED AT POLICYMAKERS.**

TO DATE, THE INITIATIVE HAS CREATED THREE SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS:

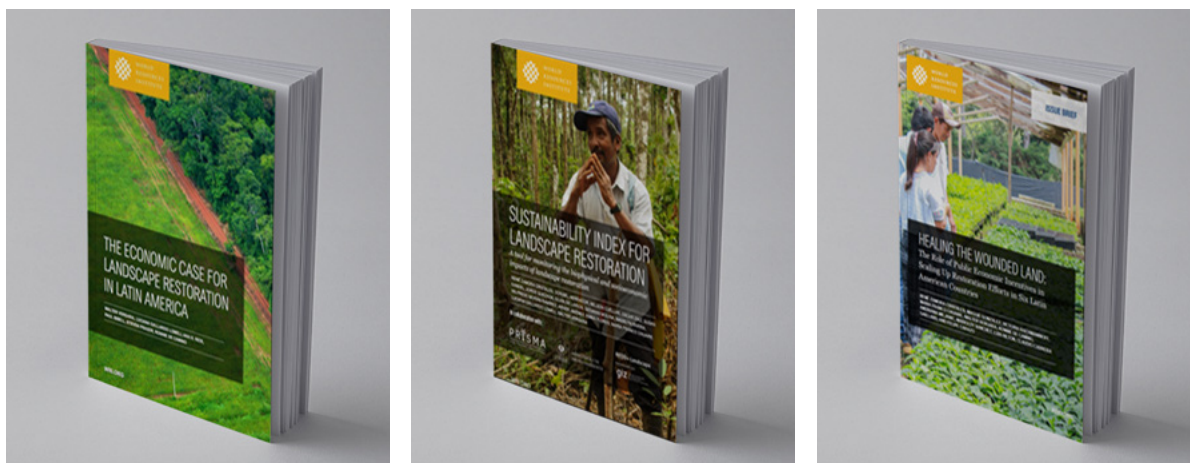THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN LATIN AMERICA

SUSTAINABILITY INDEX FOR LANDSCAPE RESTORATION: A TOOL FOR MONITORING THE BIOPHYSICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF LANDSCAPE RESTORATION.

HEALING WOUNDED LAND: THE ROLE OF PUBLIC ECONOMIC INCENTIVES IN SCALING UP RESTORATION EFFORTS IN SIX LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

In addition to these studies, the Initiative's core team has contributed numerous publications and knowledge products in collaboration with other initiatives and institutions. Likewise, the website **(INITIATIVE20X20.ORG)** is useful to give visibility to research materials, studies and other materials from across the network.

FIGURE N.° 9

Synthesis of Initiative 20x20 Knowledge

4.6.3.   PILLAR 3: FINANCE

Throughout its lifespan, the Initiative 20x20 has ranged from large-scale efforts to the identification of promising business restoration models. It also conducts ongoing work in forming bilateral connections for investment and project development.

Two of the most important actions carried out under this pillar are:

> **Official restoration monitoring faces a wide range of challenges related to technical issues but also challenges related to monitoring objectives, taking into account that landscape restoration often involves multiple objectives that demand a tailored monitoring system.**

A) **ORGANIZING THE LAND ACCELERATOR (LA) PROGRAM AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL AND AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IN THREE COUNTRIES (BRAZIL, PERU AND ECUADOR).** The *Land Accelerator* is a WRI training and mentoring program that empowers entrepreneurs whose businesses restore land to build their capacity in key business areas, present their businesses to impact investors, and sell their products more effectively.

FIGURE N.° 10

Land Accelerator Latin America (April 2021)

B) IMPLEMENTATION OF INVESTMENT ROUNDTABLES IN GUATEMALA, COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL. In Brazil, this resulted in the participation of impact investors in four pre-investment cases (carbon concessions, native reforestation, agroforestry and low-carbon agriculture).

FIGURE N.° 11

Brazil's first restoration investment roundtable arouses the enthusiasm of the private sector.

4.7. WHAT IS THE ADDITIONAL VALUE OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20?

After nine years of history, it is logical to ask why is the Initiative 20x20 still necessary? In addition to the direct results described above, what is the more general result that justifies its existence, what would not happen if the Initiative did not exist?

The Initiative 20x20 has contributed, in general, to create a **"Restoration Momentum"** in the region, by proposing, for the long term, to create and grow a **solid network of technical and financial partners,** thus generating an alignment of concepts, efforts, communication channels and, in general, objectives.

THIS WORK ON MAINSTREAMING RESTORATION HAS FOCUSED ITS EFFORTS ON CREATING ENABLING CONDITIONS UNDER THE THREE PILLARS, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF NATIONAL POLICIES AND INCENTIVES, AS WELL AS FINANCING MODELS. IN ADDITION, THE INITIATIVE 20X20 HAS PROVIDED MEETING SPACES FOR:

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS

BOTH VIRTUAL
(webinars, working meetings)

AND

FACE-TO-FACE
(courses, annual meetings)

which provide the opportunity to collectively build strategies and establish collaborations.

IN THE AREA OF KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, THE INITIATIVE HAS PROMOTED INNOVATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO RESTORATION MONITORING (GLOBAL FOREST WATCH), THROUGH

TECHNICAL COURSES

EMBLEMATIC CASE STUDIES

OTHER CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

It has also encouraged the creation of *task forces* on priority issues, which are made up of key actors who have assumed leadership of the movement in their respective areas of action.

5

STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20 (2024-2030)

The current Strategic Plan of the Initiative 20x20 (2024-2030) is based on four fundamental pillars:

POLICY	PRIVATE FINANCE
KNOWLEDGE	SOCIAL AND GENDER EQUITY

Each pillar has been meticulously elaborated in a participatory process to define priorities, implementation methods and specific outcomes, covering short- and medium-term milestones.

This structured approach ensures comprehensive and impactful progress in sustainable landscape restoration and equitable resource management throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.
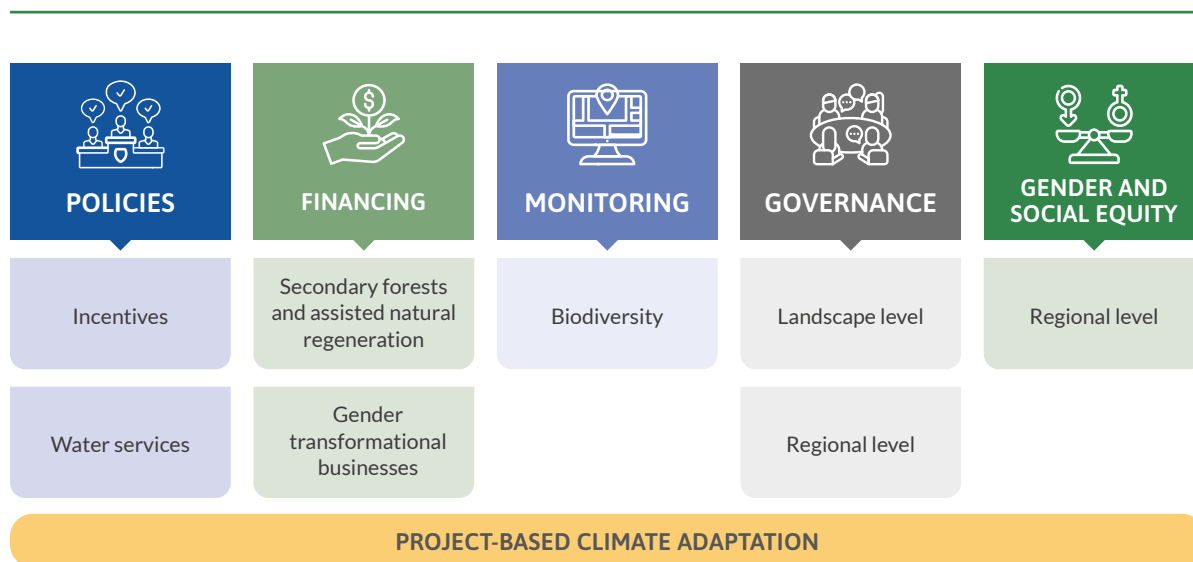
5.1. PRIORITY THEMES FOR STRATEGIC ACTION

Restoration involves a wide range of practices, benefits and cross-cutting issues that are being addressed by the extensive network of Initiative 20x20 members. To optimize efforts and move towards its key milestones, the Initiative has decided to focus the activities implemented by the Secretariat on priority themes for the 2024-2030 period. These themes **are incorporated into the seven prioritized by the knowledge management task forces** (described in sections 4.2. and 4.4.2.a) and are cross-cutting to the activities of all pillars:

FIGURE N.° 12

**Priority themes for the Initiative 20x20 Secretariat
(2024-2030)**

POLICIES	FINANCING	MONITORING	GOVERNANCE	GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY
Incentives	Secondary forests and assisted natural regeneration	Biodiversity	Landscape level	Regional level
Water services	Gender transformational businesses		Regional level	

PROJECT-BASED CLIMATE ADAPTATION

5.2. SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC LINES AND ACTIONS FOR THE 2024-2026 TERM

The Strategic Plan is organized into four pillars, and strategic lines of action have been established for each of them. This planning was carried out based on self- diagnosis, a review of the Initiative's materials, an internal analysis and planning workshop with the Secretariat core team and a validation process with more than 60 members of the Initiative (government representatives, technical and financial partners).

For each pillar, this document provides a subsection indicating its strategic elements: priority, main means of implementation, expected results and milestones in the short and medium term, and strategic lines of action (nine in total). All of these are summarized in the following chart.

FIGURE N.° 13

Strategic elements of each pillar

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

Operationally, it also proposes a description of the specific activities required to achieve the short, medium and long-term results, and the type of action required from the core team (direct execution, coordination of delegated activities, or both) and members of the Initiative, the availability of funds and the need for additional funding and/or fundraising, as shown below.

PILLAR	STRATEGIC LINES OF ACTION
POLICY	Policy Accelerator Program
	Monitoring Accelerator Program
KNOWLEDGE	Knowledge management activities of the task forces
	Participation in and organization of training activities for capabilities
FINANCING	Identification, characterization and technical assistance of business models related to secondary forests and/or transformational gender.
	Business model scaling
GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY	Collective work with a group of male and female leaders
MANAGEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT	Initiative 20x20 Operations Manual
	Stakeholder engagement strategy
	Communications strategy

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT NONE OF THESE PILLARS AND COMPONENTS (AND THEIR RESPECTIVE STRATEGIC ACTIONS) ARE INDEPENDENT OF EACH OTHER, BUT RATHER THEY FEED BACK ON EACH OTHER AND, IN CERTAIN CHAINS OF ACTIVITIES, DEPEND ON EACH OTHER. FOR EXAMPLE:

Establishing a strong relationship with stakeholders under the Initiative requires a strong operations manual (a component of Secretariat Management).

Successful leveraging of private investment (Financing pillar) will be made possible by strong stakeholder relationships (Secretariat Management component).

The design process of the Gender and Social Equity pillar will be based, among other things, on activities that also correspond to the Knowledge Management pillar.

Policy accelerators (Policy pillar) generate inputs for communication activities (Management component of the Secretariat).

5.3. POLICY PILLAR

The Initiative 20x20 has made significant progress in policy support, particularly through the Policy Accelerator and Monitoring programs (section 4.4.1.). By convening policy dialogues and providing technical assistance to address priority 'bottlenecks', the Initiative has been successful in encouraging the deployment of effective restoration policies to incentivize landscape restoration. Based on testimonies from government representatives and feedback from the validation process of this Strategy, stakeholders agree that Accelerator Programs should continue to be pursued as a means of implementing this pillar.

5.3.1. STRATEGIC ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY PILLAR

A) PRIORITY 2024-2030

This pillar should contribute to mobilizing significant public sector funding for landscape conservation and restoration intervention. Therefore, the priority is to favor or accelerate public finance with public incentives to restore land, measured in hectares and demonstrated by operational and comprehensive monitoring systems.

**B)   MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION
(2024-2026)**

Policy accelerator and monitoring programs, organized by the Secretariat with the support of technical partners.

**C)   SHORT-TERM RESULTS
(2026-2028)**

Governments identify and address policy bottlenecks with the support of technical partners, in relation to public incentives and restoration monitoring. This requires the collaborative establishment of country roadmaps and the formation of task forces.

**D)   MEDIUM-LONG   TERM   RESULTS
(2028-2030)**

Actions under this pillar should contribute to improving the national and regional policy framework to achieve the countries' ambitions for landscape restoration.

E) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The success of this pillar in terms of impact will be evaluated through the number of hectares under restoration favored by policy instruments and the amount of money mobilized from public sources. To monitor operational progress, it is proposed to track the number of policy accelerator programs, governments supported and policy instruments in place and formalized (medium-long term results).

F) MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Governments supported by technical partners.

> *The Initiative 20x20 has made significant progress in policy support. By convening policy dialogues and providing technical assistance to address priority 'bottlenecks', the Initiative has been successful in encouraging the deployment of effective restoration policies to incentivize landscape restoration.*

FIGURE N.° 14

Chronology and theory of change for the Policy pillar

2024-2026
Means of implementation

Landscape Monitoring and Policy Accelerator Programs

2026-2028
Short-term results

Addressing political bottlenecks in public incentives and monitoring

2028-2030
Medium-term results

Strengthened policy framework for landscape restoration and countries' ambitions

Priority 2030: Catalyzed public finance to restore lands demonstrated by operational monitoring systems

SECRETARIAT → GOVERNMENTS → GOVERNMENTS

Key stakeholders: Governments supported by technical partners

5.3.2. OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY PILLAR

A) ACTIVITIES

Implementing the strategic lines of action under this pillar requires a list of activities to be carried out during the years 2024 to 2026 (at a minimum). These activities will be carried out by the Secretariat with the support of technical partners specialized in policy technical assistance, as indicated in the table below.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	STAKEHOLDERS AND ROLES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
POLICY ACCELERATOR PROGRAM	**Secretariat:** organization of programs and follow-up of activities. **Governments:** active participation in the programs, identification of policy bottlenecks and leadership in processes to improve policy frameworks. **Technical partners:** provide technical support.	➤ **Program implementation:** organization, implementation and systematization of lessons learned. ➤ **Follow-up of bottlenecks:** prioritization, coordination, consultancy, dissemination of results, advocacy. ➤ **Performance monitoring:** through progress indicators (number of accelerators, number of people trained, number of countries supported, number of institutions supported, number of roadmaps tracked, number of issues addressed, number of policy instruments/processes monitored) and evaluation indicators (level of progress of roadmaps, level of progress of capacities, number of instruments, number of policy objectives achieved).
MONITORING ACCELERATOR PROGRAM		

Alto de San Miguel Regional Protective Forest Reserve, Antioquia, Colombia.
© Nicolás Villaume for the Andean Forests Program.

B) FUNDING PRIORITIES

The implementation of these strategic actions and operational activities requires investment and resources to cover the allocation of manpower, funds to hire specialized consultancies and technological support to implement the accelerator programs. Current available funds (2024) and financial gaps are summarized in the following table..

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	CURRENT FUNDS AND SOURCES	FUNDING GAPS
POLICY ACCELERATOR PROGRAM	Coordination until 2024 for scaling up the Program in Indonesia and Ethiopia. **Adaptation Fund:** program in Belize, Honduras and Guatemala. **FLR Hub – IKI:** program in Peru.	➤ **Funds to address policy bottlenecks in countries that are currently not supported:** Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile. ➤ Funds to support the Program beyond 2024.
ACCELERATOR TO MONITORING PROGRAM	Addressing bottlenecks in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Uruguay and Chile. **FLR Hub – IKI:** addressing 'bottlenecks' in Peru. **Canada project:** regional program focused on gender and biodiversity.	➤ **Funds to address political bottlenecks in currently unsupported countries:** Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile. ➤ Funds to support the Program beyond 2025.

5.4. KNOWLEDGE PILLAR

A KEY KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20 HAS BEEN THE FORMATION OF :

7 TASK FORCES

AND

DEVELOPMENT OF SIGNIFICANT KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

as detailed in section 4.4.2

THE TASK FORCES HAVE PLANNED AND CARRIED OUT KNOWLEDGE SHARING ACTIVITIES WITH THE GOAL OF FOSTERING

THE DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO LANDSCAPE RESTORATION THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

In these experiences, one of the lessons learned has been that inter-agency coordination is itself a process that cannot be rushed but encouraged, and that each task force has a dynamic and focus that is in keeping with the nature of its member's types and the current context of its subject matter.

During the Strategy validation process, stakeholders agreed that the task forces should act as key governance entities and forums to foster the implementation of their own roadmaps.

To augment their outlined priorities, additional topics have been suggested (section 5.1), and there are also plans to promote the visibility of these collaborative efforts during formal 20x20 meetings, such as the Annual Meeting, which is intended to further encourage mutual showcasing and learning.

5.4.1. STRATEGIC ELEMENTS FOR THE KNOWLEDGE PILLAR

A) PRIORITY 2024-2030

This pillar should contribute to increasing knowledge transfer on the following priority topics:

- Good restoration practices
- Policy, legislation and incentives
- Investment ecosystem and carbon markets
- Wetlands
- Biodiversity
- Monitoring and transparency
- Secondary forests and assisted natural regeneration

To these official themes, the Strategy proposes to add water services within policy activities; social and gender equity for finance; biodiversity for monitoring; and regional and landscape governance.

B) MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION (2024-2026)

Implementation of the activities of the task forces (case studies, webinars, state of the art, etc.) according to their roadmaps and the calendar of meeting spaces of the Initiative 20x20.

C) SHORT-TERM RESULTS (2026-2028)

Dynamic presentation and sharing session led by the task forces during the annual meeting of the Initiative 20x20, organized by the Secretariat. This session will highlight recent progress, innovative products and key lessons learned from the task forces. As complementary activities, the technical partners propose the implementation of courses and other academic training to build capacity in the region.

D) MEDIUM-LONG TERM RESULTS (2028-2030)

Exchange and collaboration between the task forces and their members promoted with the support of the Secretariat should guide the collective establishment of a Regional Restoration Knowledge Catalog or Agenda.

E) MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

Progress under this pillar will be measured through performance indicators such as number of people reached and/or trained and knowledge sharing events. In terms of medium-term results, this pillar should contribute to the publication of flagship knowledge synthesis as a key indicator of contribution to enabling conditions for restoration.

F) MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Task forces composed of their members (technical partners) and led by their coordinating organizations

FIGURE N.° 15

Chronology and theory of change for the Knowledge pillar

2024-2026
Means of implementation

Task force activities (studies, webinars, exchanges) and specialized courses

2026-2028
Short-term results

Reports and spaces for exchange during the Annual Meeting

2028-2030
Medium-term results

Restoration Knowledge Agenda

Knowledge transfer in priority thematic areas in Latin America and the Caribbean

SECRETARIAT → SECRETARIAT → **MEMBERS OF 20X20 AS A WHOLE**

Key stakeholders: task forces comprised of its members (technical partners) and led by their coordinating organizations.

5.4.2. OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS FOR THE KNOWLEDGE PILLAR

A) ACTIVITIES

Implementing the strategic lines of action requires, in the case of this pillar, that a series of activities be carried out during the years 2024 to 2026 (at a minimum). These activities, listed in the table below, will be carried out by the task forces and their members with the support of other technical partners and the Secretariat.

> *A key achievement in knowledge management of Initiative 20x20 has been the formation of seven working groups and the development of important knowledge products.*

SHARES STRATEGIC	STAKEHOLDERS AND ROLES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCES	**Secretariat:** to provide methodological guidelines. **Task forces:** to lead, organize and report on the activities of the task forces.	➤ Elaboration and dissemination of methodological guidelines to align language, contents, schedules, among others. ➤ Round of meetings organized by the Secretariat to share intentions with the coordinators of the task forces. ➤ Coordinated implementation of the activities of the task forces, led by the coordinating organizations. Preparation of reports. ➤ Rounds of reporting sessions and open spaces for exchange during the Annual Meeting.
PARTICIPATION AND ORGANIZATION OF COURSES, TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES	**Technical partners:** lead, organize and implement specialized capacity building activities.	➤ Rounds of meetings to explore possible academic institutions that could implement restoration training. ➤ Explore opportunities for synergies and work plans. ➤ Implementation.

B) FUNDING PRIORITIES

Lthe implementation of these strategic actions and operational activities requires investments and resources to cover the work assignment, funds to hire specialized consultancies and technological support to start Accelerator programs. Current available funds (2024) and financial gaps are summarized in the following table.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	CURRENT FUNDS AND SOURCES	FUNDING GAPS
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE TASK FORCES	➤ Only to maintain dialogues related to policy accelerators. ➤ Hub on incentives. ➤ Systematization of cases in the framework of the ➤ Adaptation Fund projects, FLR Hub and Canada.	➤ Work assignments to encourage task force actions and reporting. ➤ Funds for priority case studies on biodiversity, investment, ecosystems, gender, water and wetlands.
PARTICIPATION IN AND ORGANIZATION OF COURSES, TRAININGS AND ACTIVITIES TO STRENGTHEN CAPABILITIES	Not currently.	➤ Funds to organize specialized courses.

5.5. PRIVATE FINANCING PILLAR

The Initiative 20x20 has shown intentions to promote private financial participation in restoration projects, especially landscape-level impact investment. Through the *Land Accelerator* program and the investment roundtables in Brazil (section 4.4.3), the Initiative succeeded in placing restoration on the agenda of regional financiers. These initiatives were carried out with the main objective of advancing the mobilization of private investment, facilitating public-private partnerships and supporting innovative financing mechanisms.

One of the lessons learned from these early efforts was the need to identify a clear and specific niche where the efforts of the Secretariat and the Initiative could be targeted to support emerging, promising and equitable restoration initiative models in an efficient manner. Therefore, after exploring the perspectives of entrepreneurs, investors and government representatives, we proposed and validated a restoration business approach that addresses secondary forest management and/or apply gender- transformative approaches.

5.5.1. STRATEGIC ELEMENTS FOR THE PRIVATE FINANCE PILLAR

A) PRIORITY 2024-2030

This pillar aims to help leverage private finance towards gender and social equity transformative businesses and secondary forest management businesses, both enabling and linked to landscape restoration. This includes mobilizing public and private capital towards specific business models that could increase biodiversity and carbon.
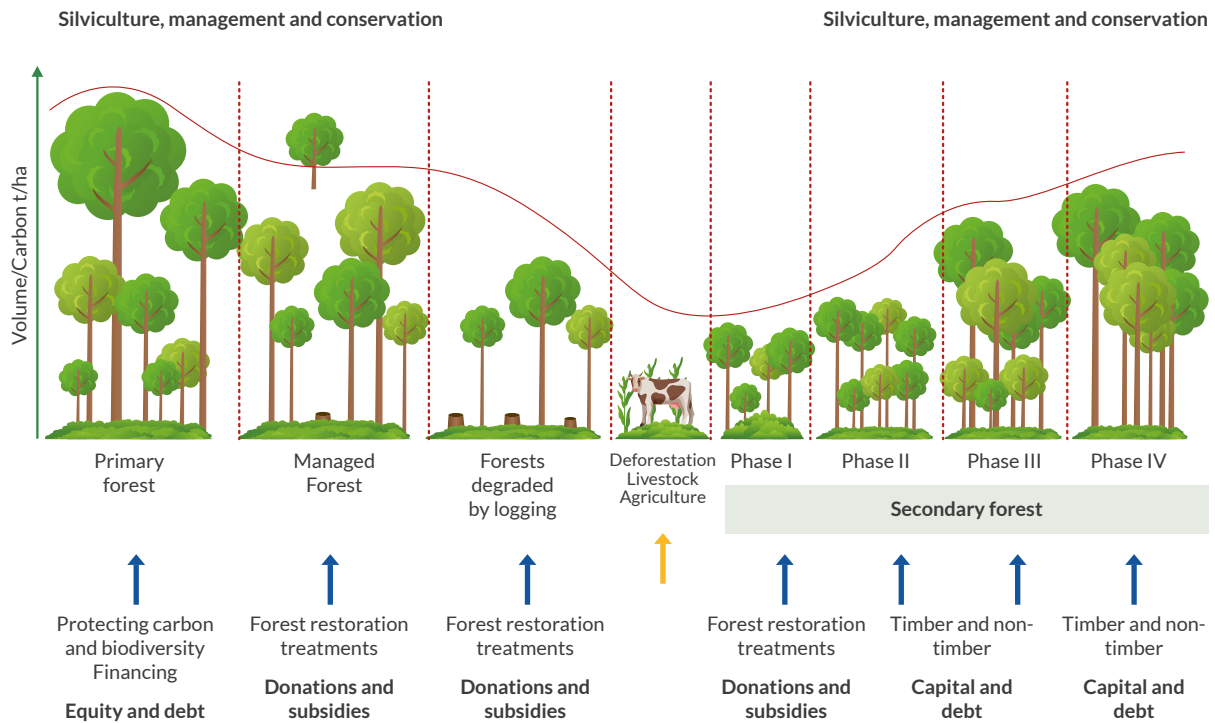
B) MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION (2024-2026)

Identification, characterization and promotion of successful business models for restoration that are gender transformative and/or manage secondary forests through exhibition and technical support. The identification of funders will also be key to supporting the different types of required financing, including grants, equity and debt. These activities will be organized by the Secretariat with the support of technical and financial partners. While secondary forests are the main niche of this pillar, the Secretariat will explore various models of financing mechanisms to promote integrated financial models in accordance with the principles of integrated landscape management. To this end, it is proposed to analyze the following general model:[21]

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[21]   De Camino R., Losch P., Wansleen K. 2019. Guidance for silvicultural practices in FCCF forest management initiatives. Forestry and Climate Change Fund (FCCF).
https://fccf.lu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Orientacion-para-las-practicas-silviculturales-en-iniciativas-de-manejo-forestal-del-FCCF.pdf

Example of models of successful business financing mechanisms

Silviculture, management and conservation

Silviculture, management and conservation

Primary forest	Managed Forest	Forests degraded by logging	Deforestation Livestock Agriculture	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV

Secondary forest

Protecting carbon and biodiversity Financing	Forest restoration treatments	Forest restoration treatments		Forest restoration treatments	Timber and non-timber	Timber and non-timber
Equity and debt	**Donations and subsidies**	**Donations and subsidies**		**Donations and subsidies**	**Capital and debt**	**Capital and debt**

C) SHORT-TERM RESULTS (2026-2028)

Scaling up promising investment models by engaging private investors (financial partners) under financing mechanisms identified by the Initiative 20x20 and adapted to promote restoration while bringing social and environmental benefits.

D) MEDIUM-LONG TERM RESULTS (2028-2030)

Funding streams from private sources are leveraged and invested in priority landscapes for land restoration.

The priority landscapes will be validated during task force meetings, annual meetings and project implementation. However, we propose for discussion an initial list:[22]

22   These maps are not to scale. Figures are for location reference only.

FIGURE N.° 17

Priority landscape corridor in North America: Sierra Norte in Mexico

FIGURE N.° 18

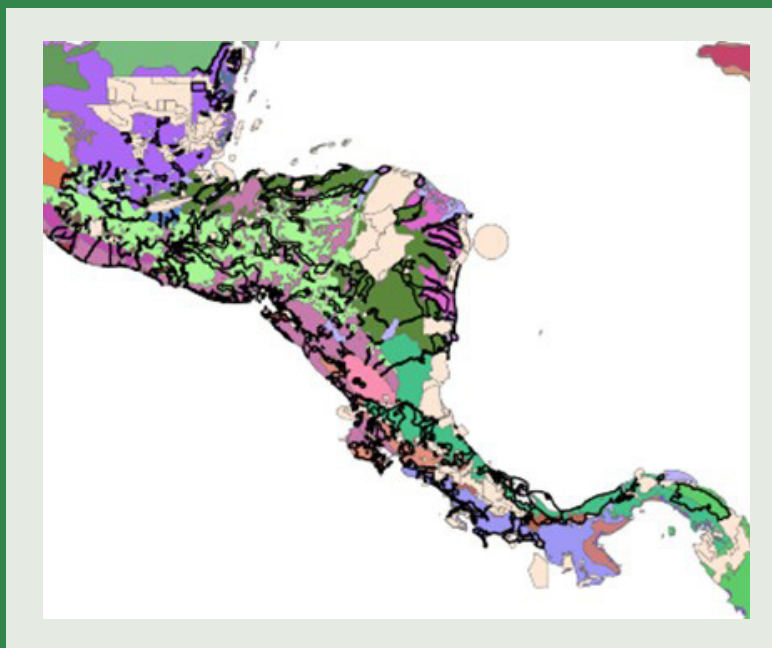**Priority landscape corridor in Central America: Biodiversity Corridor**

Priority landscape corridor in South America: Andes-Amazon and temperate forests affected by forest fires.
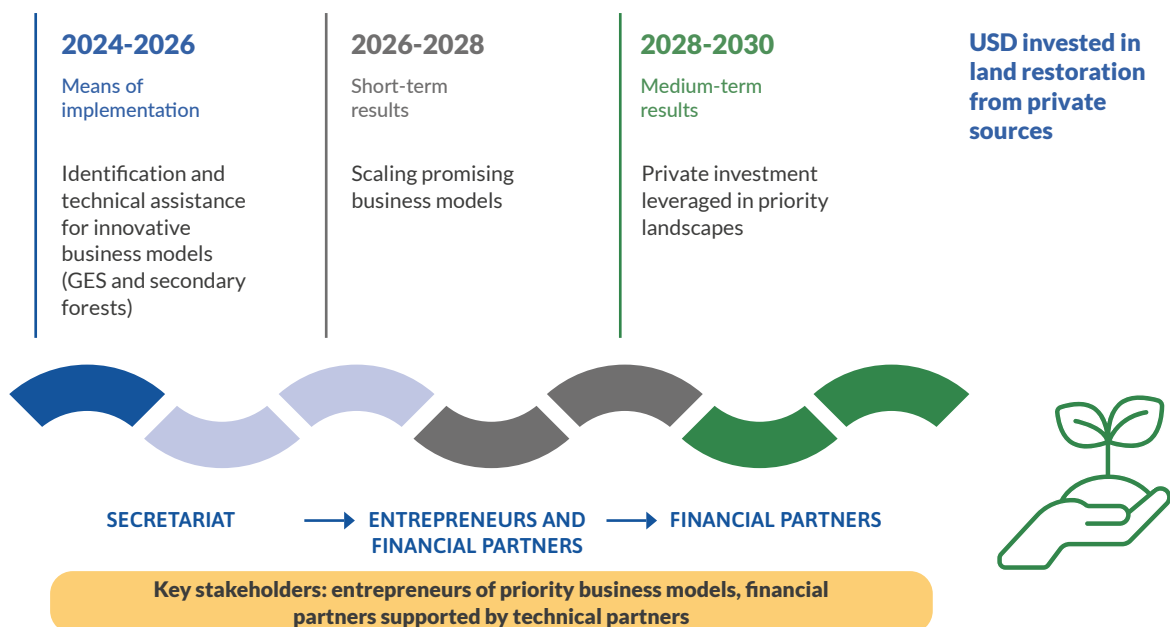
E) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Since this pillar has a strong focus mainly on business models, its operational progress will be monitored in terms of the number of business models and ventures fostered. In terms of medium and long-term results, the key indicator proposed is the number of business models scaled through financing agreements or investments; and the main impact indicator is the amount of private financing mobilized by the Initiative.

F) MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Entrepreneurs of priority business models. Financial partners supported by technical partners.

FIGURE N.° 20

Chronology and theory of change for the Finance pillar

2024-2026

Means of implementation

Identification and technical assistance for innovative business models (GES and secondary forests)

2026-2028

Short-term results

Scaling promising business models

2028-2030

Medium-term results

Private investment leveraged in priority landscapes

USD invested in land restoration from private sources

SECRETARIAT → ENTREPRENEURS AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS → FINANCIAL PARTNERS

Key stakeholders: entrepreneurs of priority business models, financial partners supported by technical partners

5.5.2. OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS OF THE PRIVATE FINANCING PILLAR

A) ACTIVITIES

The implementation of actions under this pillar involves two consecutive steps.

ETHESE ACTIVITIES WILL BEGIN WITH THE SECRETARIAT'S EFFORTS TO:

IDENTIFY AND STRENGTHEN RESTORATION BUSINESS MODELS WITH THE GREATEST POTENTIAL

and then,

ENCOURAGE THEIR SCALING UP THROUGH:

THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE 20X20 INITIATIVE'S FINANCIAL PARTNERS,

as shown in the table below

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	STAKEHOLDERS AND ROLES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
IDENTIFICATION, CHARACTERIZATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF BUSINESS MODELS RELATED TO SECONDARY FORESTS AND/OR GENDER TRANSFORMATIONAL APPROACH.	**Secretariat: :** to lead, implement and coordinate technical support. **Technical and financial partners:** to participate in technical support.	➤ Identification and characterization of promising business models through specialized studies. ➤ Round of dialogues to identify needs, priorities and opportunities to provide technical assistance to emerging entrepreneurs for scaling up. ➤ Implementation of technical assistance. ➤ Visibility of the business models with the greatest potential.
EXPANSION OF PROMISING BUSINESS MODELS	**Financial partners:** to co-design strategies for scaling up models. To lead financial arrangements.	➤ Rounds of meetings to present most potential business cases. ➤ Explore opportunities for synergies and work plans. ➤ Implementation.

B) FUNDING PRIORITIES

The implementation of these strategic actions and operational activities requires investments and resources to cover the work allocation, funds to hire specialized consultancies and technical support. Current available funds (2024) and financial gaps are summarized in the following table.

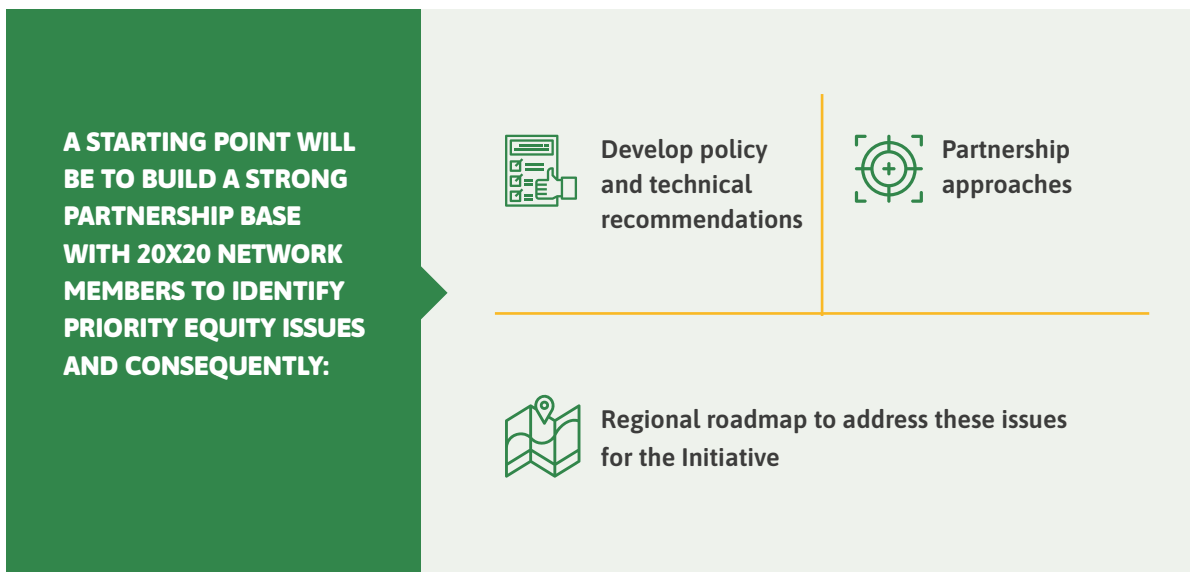| STRATEGIC ACTIONS	CURRENT FUNDS AND SOURCES	FUNDING GAPS
IDENTIFICATION, CHARACTERIZATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OF BUSINESS MODELS RELATED TO SECONDARY FORESTS AND/OR TRANSFORMATIONAL APPROACH OF GENRE	Exploration around gender transformative business. **Adaptation Fund:** mini- Land Accelerator in three landscapes.	➤ Allocation of time to approach investors. ➤ Funds to initiate actions with secondary forests.
EXPANSION OF PROMISING BUSINESS MODELS	Not currently.	➤ Allocation of time to approach investors.

Araucaria landscape in the Quinquén Mapuche-Pehuenche community, Araucania region, Chile.
© Nicolás Villaume for the Andean Forests Program.

RESTORING MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND DIVERSE LANDSCAPES
in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024-2030

5.6. GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY PILLAR

Gender and social equity (GES) have been cross-cutting themes for the Initiative 20x20. It has been considered in the promotion of policies and instruments, as well as in capacity building (modules in Accelerators and webinars). Case studies on transformative and gender-sensitive business have also been carried out.

Nevertheless, there is a general impression that the mainstreaming of the GES is necessary and needs to be further advanced. Addressing structural inequalities requires a more focused approach and strategic partnerships to address power relations. This means that more strategic, focused and co-created actions are needed for GES work in the 20x20 network in terms of visibility, knowledge, policy advocacy and financial innovation. Thus, this new Strategy prioritizes its intention to address social and gender inequalities in the restoration sector in the 20x20 network **by building this fourth pillar of action dedicated exclusively to addressing these issues.**

A STARTING POINT WILL BE TO BUILD A STRONG PARTNERSHIP BASE WITH 20X20 NETWORK MEMBERS TO IDENTIFY PRIORITY EQUITY ISSUES AND CONSEQUENTLY:

Develop policy and technical recommendations

Partnership approaches

Regional roadmap to address these issues for the Initiative

These ideas and strategies will be put in place to design a GES platform in a way that will accelerate social and gender equity actions by providing the necessary facilitation and key resources to governments, technical and financial partners, especially in policy and finance. Lessons learned from this specific work will also be used progressively to improve the quality of social and gender equity mainstreaming in all other pillars of action of the Initiative (Policy, Private Finance and Knowledge). The methodological approach to the work carried out under this new pillar of action is described in more detail in Annex 2.

5.6.1. STRATEGIC ELEMENTS FOR THE GES PILLAR

A) PRIORITY 2024-2030

The priority of this pillar will be its own construction according to a participatory and equitable approach. Although the main objective is to contribute to addressing social and gender inequalities in the restoration sector in the 20x20 network, the information available today is not sufficient to identify more specific priorities in terms of GES topics, target audiences or recommendations. Therefore, the priority for the period 2024 to 2030 will be to collectively build the key contents of the pillar itself.

B) MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION (2024-2026)

The Secretariat will facilitate the identification of leaders from the 20x20 partner network and the systematization of regional priority equity issues. This process can be carried out using online tools and/or through face-to-face activities.

C) SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES (2026-2028)

The network of leaders, with the support of the Secretariat, will collectively identify a set of policy, financial and technical recommendations to be considered in the Initiative's regional agenda and in the organizational and institutional agenda of its members. In addition, they are expected to identify their own approach to shaping partnerships, establishing synergies and building a regional roadmap.

D) MEDIUM-LONG TERM RESULTS (2028-2030)

Due to the implementation of the first stages of this pillar process, the entire network of Initiative 20x20 members could form and adopt a GES platform for policy, financial and technical acceleration. This platform, composed of a broad group of members, should be equipped with sufficient resources, materials and key messages to provide support in its areas of action, implement policy advocacy and financial advice.

E) MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Progress under this pillar will be measured through performance indicators such as the number of leaders actively participating in pillar activities and the number of women's, youth and indigenous organizations receiving support (technical and financial) from the Initiative 20x20. In terms of medium-term results, this pillar should contribute to the creation of key GES products and strategies for acceleration (set of policy recommendations, roadmap, official partnerships, among others).
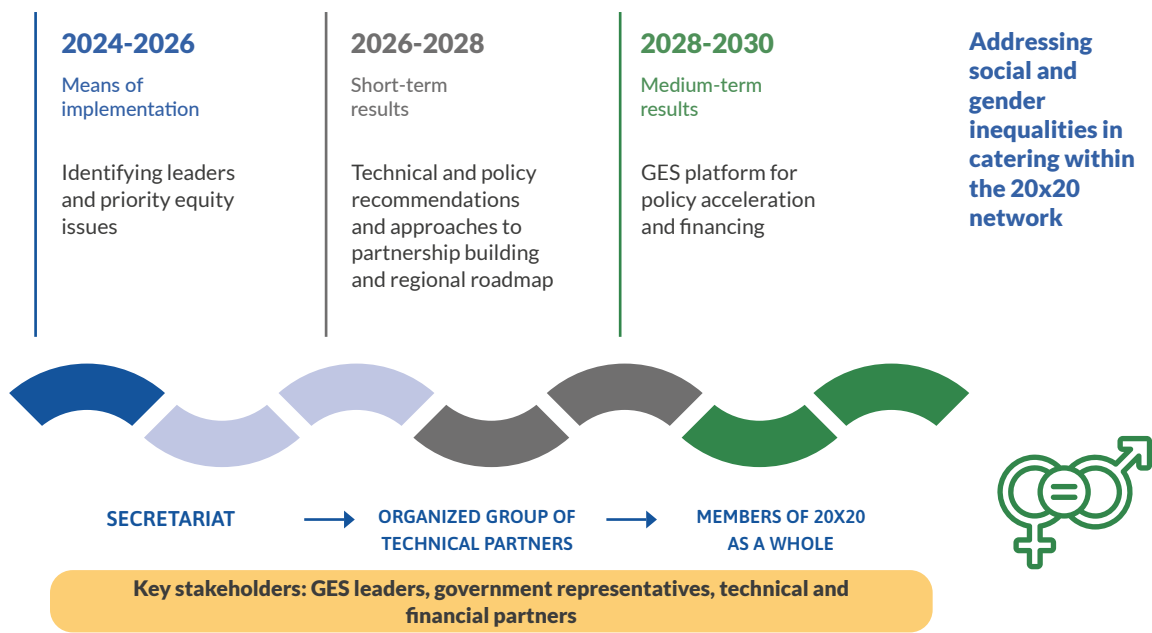
F) KEY STAKEHOLDERS

GES leaders, government representatives, technical and financial partners.

FIGURE N.° 21

Timeline and theory of change for the Gender and Social Equity pillar

2024-2026

Means of implementation

Identifying leaders and priority equity issues

2026-2028

Short-term results

Technical and policy recommendations and approaches to partnership building and regional roadmap

2028-2030

Medium-term results

GES platform for policy acceleration and financing

Addressing social and gender inequalities in catering within the 20x20 network

SECRETARIAT → ORGANIZED GROUP OF TECHNICAL PARTNERS → MEMBERS OF 20X20 AS A WHOLE

Key stakeholders: GES leaders, government representatives, technical and financial partners

5.6.2. OPERATIONAL ELEMENTS FOR THE GES PILLAR

A) ACTIVITIES

Implementing actions under this pillar involves three consecutive steps, as shown in the left column of the table below:

a) Formation of a network of champions and identification of priority issues

b) Identification of key recommendations and strategies

c) Formation of the GES acceleration platform

STRATEGIC ACTIONS	STAKEHOLDERS AND ROLES	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
CREATION OF A NETWORK OF MALE AND FEMALE LEADERS AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY ISSUES	**Secretariat:** leadership and methodological facilitation. **Technical partners:** active participation and designation of representatives as champions.	➤ Preparation of materials and tools for mapping and surveying potential leaders and cases. Systematization of information (priority topics). ➤ Round of direct interviews with a sample of male and female leaders. ➤ Refinement and sharing of the pillar work plan through online and/or face-to-face events.
IDENTIFICATION OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES	**Technical partners:** support the formation of the champions network through the designation of representatives. Provide technical support for the identification of policy, financial and technical recommendations. Support partnerships and roadmap.	➤ Rounds of meetings to explore the potential contributions of technical partners to the shaping of the champions' network. ➤ Call for leaders. ➤ Initial workshop and formation of task forces. ➤ Rounds of follow-up meetings. ➤ Systematization of political, financial and technical recommendations. ➤ Strategy development: alliances, roadmap and methodologies.
CONFORMATION OF THE GES ACCELERATION PLATFORM	**Technical partners:** support the formation of the platform and participate in its development actively.	➤ Methodological framework for the GES platform. ➤ Start of acceleration activities.

B) CREATION OF THE GES ACCELERATION PLATFORM

SHARES STRATEGIC	CURRENT FUNDS AND SOURCES	FUNDING GAPS
CREATION OF A NETWORK OF CHAMPIONS AND IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY TOPICS **IDENTIFICATION OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND STRATEGIES** **CONFORMATION OF THE GES ACCELERATION PLATFORM**	Exploration around gender transformational business. Gender approach only in project activities: ➤ **Adaptation Fund:** analyze the landscape context. ➤ **FLR Hub:** gender focus in studies. ➤ **Canada:** gender considerations in monitoring.	➤ Assignment of manpower to lead, facilitate and follow the process. ➤ Funds to conduct a regional series of co-creation workshops, regional research based on case studies, communication.

RESTORING MULTIFUNCTIONAL AND DIVERSE LANDSCAPES
in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024-2030

5.7. **ADDITIONAL COMPONENT: MANAGEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT**

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY REQUIRES

A STRONG POSITIONING OF THE SECRETARIAT	**THE STRENGTHENING OF INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS**	**AND THE APPROPRIATION OF ROLES IN THE 20X20 NETWORK.**

TO PROGRESSIVELY ACHIEVE THIS PERMANENT OBJECTIVE, A SEQUENCE OF IMMEDIATE ACTIONS AND MILESTONES IS PROPOSED FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT, WHICH, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS DOCUMENT, IS CONSIDERED AS AN ADDITIONAL COMPONENT OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2026.

THE IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO FULFILL THE FUNCTIONS AND ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF THE SECRETARIAT WILL BE

The formalization of an operations manual

A communication strategy to reach and sensitize the prioritized target audiences.

In addition, this component considers periodic activities to facilitate a relationship in the 20x20 network (meetings, registration).

5.7.1. OPERATING MANUAL

Guidelines for:

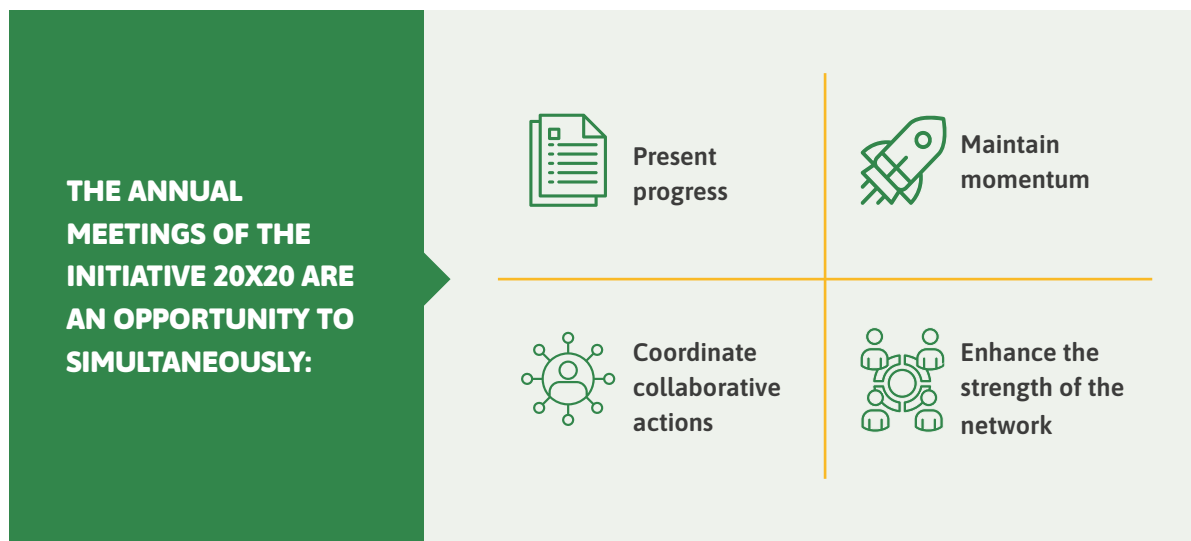| PROPOSED COMPONENTS	DESCRIPTION/DETAILS
ACCESSION PROCEDURE	**Indicative text specifying:** ➤ Minimum requirements ➤ Expectations, roles and commitments ➤ Communication channel ➤ Dynamics: decision-making spaces, annual meetings, reports, etc. ➤ Minimum requirements (in time) to consider an active/committed membership (transparency, contributions, participation).
STEERING COMMITTEE GUIDELINES/EXPECTATIONS (STATEMENT)	**Indicative text specifying:** **Institutions** ➤ Roles and responsibilities ➤ Scope: What types of decisions does the Steering Committee participate in? ➤ Methodology: decision-making spaces, annual meetings, reports, milestones to be reached, etcetera.
SECRETARIAT GUIDELINES	**Indicative text specifying:** ➤ Minimum roles and responsibilities that the core team must implement to maintain the operation of the Initiative 20x20. How to distribute them. ➤ Scope: what kind of action the core team can or cannot take on its own. ➤ Dynamics: internal decision-making spaces, annual meetings, reports, project management, etc. ➤ Relationship with the network: bilateral communication channel, procedure for admitting members, network communication channel, annual meetings, etc.
GUIDELINES/EXPECTATIONS OF THE TASK FORCES (STATEMENT)	**Indicative text specifying:** ➤ Topics. ➤ Roles, activities and suggested products. ➤ Dynamics: Secretariat support, suggested communication channels.
SET OF INDICATORS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20.	**Described in section 6.**
CROSS-CUTTING GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY GUIDELINES	**Guidelines for:** ➤ Impact on policies and instruments. ➤ Visibility (communication, website). ➤ Significant capacity building (accelerator programs, webinars). ➤ Knowledge (task forces, consultancies). ➤ Financial impact.

5.7.2. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

New graphic line: logo, color palette, fonts, templates, etc., as detailed in the table below

PROPOSED COMPONENTS	DESCRIPTION/DETAILS
PRIORITIZED COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS	Set of communication products, e.g., 20x20 fact sheet, Accelerator and country roadmaps/fact sheets, systematization of courses, infographics of main themes/pillars.
WEBSITE AND CHANNEL UPDATES	➤ To evaluate current website, propose key messages to convey (thematic orientation, including diversity and inclusion). ➤ To develop a new structure for the web site. ➤ To set up the new website (bring ideas from AFR100).
REBRANDING (REBRANDING)	➤ **New graphic line:** logo, color palette, fonts, templates, etcetera. ➤ To hire/delegate graphic design.

5.7.3.   ANNUAL MEETINGS

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE INITIATIVE 20X20 ARE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SIMULTANEOUSLY:

- Present progress
- Maintain momentum
- Coordinate collaborative actions
- Enhance the strength of the network

This activity requires a high level of dedication; allocation of monetary, human and logistical resources; and the leadership of the national government, which acts as host of each meeting.

Current available funds and financial gaps are summarized in the following table.

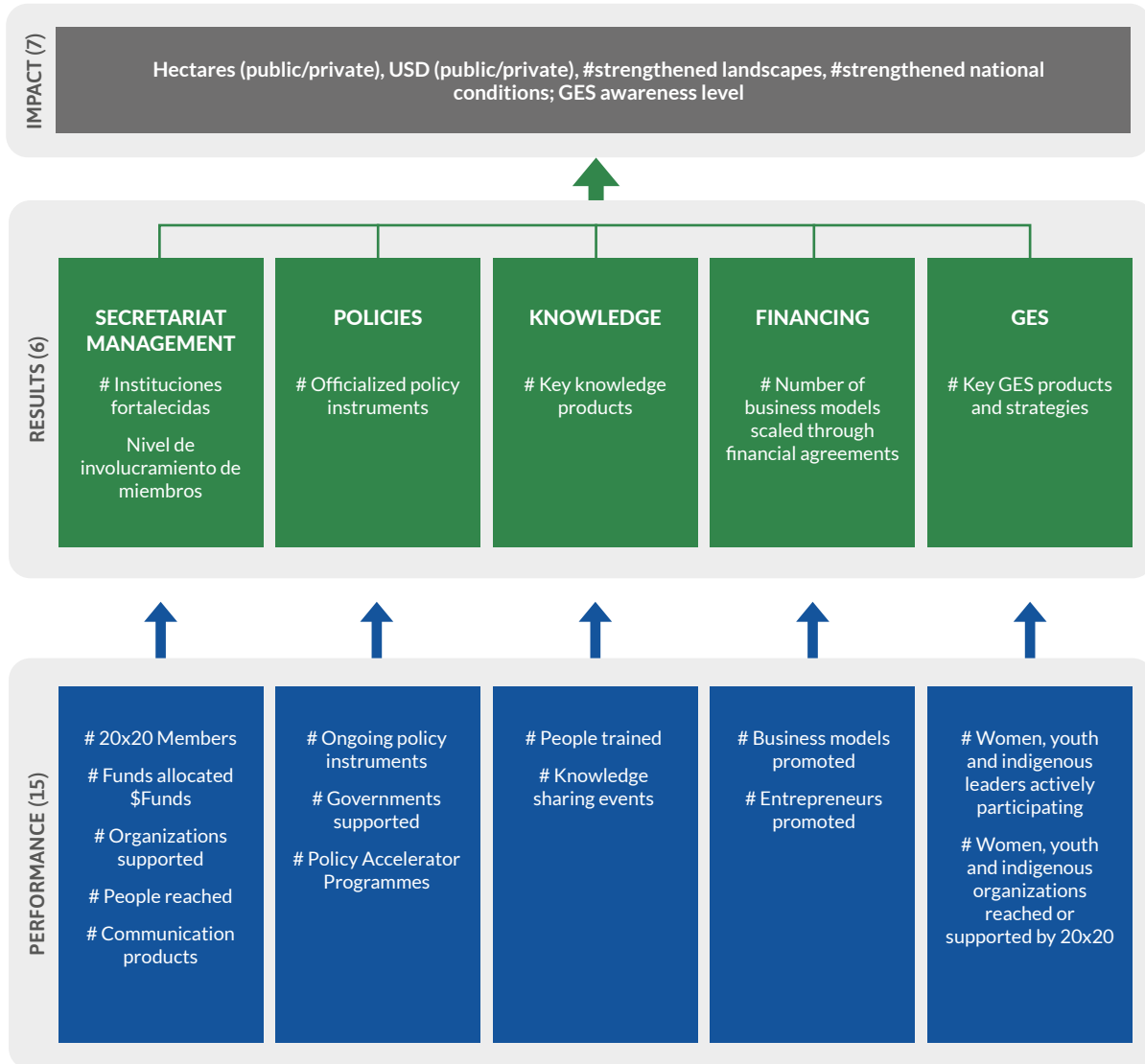| SECRETARIAT ACTIVITY	CURRENT FUNDS	GAPS
OPERATION OF THE SECRETARIAT (INCLUDING MONITORING)	**Operation:** Policy pillar activities. Marginal allocation of manpower to coordinate the Knowledge Management, Financing and GES pillars. **Monitoring:** monitoring systems in Central America, linked to NDC	**Operation:** Operating costs for activities in accordance with the Knowledge Management, Finance and GES pillars. **Monitoring:** Full support for national restoration monitoring systems on hectares.
COMMUNICATION	Project blogs.	20x20 *rebranding* funds, 20x20 main products.
ANNUAL MEETING	USD 50 K (HSCB).	Funds to cover lodging, flights, facilities.

6

MONITORING INDICATORS

The establishment of a system to monitor the activities of the Secretariat and the Initiative, through a set of indicators, is one of the strategic actions foreseen under the "Operations Manual" activity and the four pillars of action. While the set of indicators will be designed and validated by the second half of 2024, an initial proposal of descriptions for each of them can be found in Annex 3. As input for this next process, the following indicator structure has been proposed.

Monitoring indicators

IMPACT (7)	Hectares (public/private), USD (public/private), #strengthened landscapes, #strengthened national conditions; GES awareness level

	SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT	POLICIES	KNOWLEDGE	FINANCING	GES
RESULTS (6)	# Instituciones fortalecidas Nivel de involucramiento de miembros	# Officialized policy instruments	# Key knowledge products	# Number of business models scaled through financial agreements	# Key GES products and strategies

PERFORMANCE (15)	# 20x20 Members # Funds allocated $Funds # Organizations supported # People reached # Communication products	# Ongoing policy instruments # Governments supported # Policy Accelerator Programmes	# People trained # Knowledge sharing events	# Business models promoted # Entrepreneurs promoted	# Women, youth and indigenous leaders actively participating # Women, youth and indigenous organizations reached or supported by 20x20

> *The 20x20 Initiative has shown intentions to promote private financial participation in restoration projects, especially impact investment at the landscape level. In particular through the Land Accelerator program and the investment roundtables in Brazil, the Initiative succeeded in placing restoration on the agenda of regional financiers. These initiatives were carried out with the main objective of advancing the mobilization of private investment, facilitating public-private partnerships and supporting innovative financing mechanisms.*

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1

ACCELERATOR DESCRIPTIONS

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LAND ACCELERATOR

The *Land Accelerator*, through its online and in-person boot camps and one-on-one mentoring, empowers entrepreneurs to present to impact investors and sell their products more effectively. By fostering entrepreneurship, this first-of-its-kind program provides a cost-effective approach to restoring and developing rural areas around the world.

This valuable network of business and investment opportunities can also help accelerate restoration in the target regions of Africa, Latin America and South Asia. And the network is growing. More than 4450 inspiring entrepreneurs have already applied to the *Land Accelerator*. You can learn more about each regional program in the tabs above.

POLICY ACCELERATOR

The Restoration Policy Accelerator[23] is a collaborative network that helps government leaders solve these key issues and push each other toward success. By creating mutually supportive south-south networks and promoting smart policies, the Policy Accelerator hopes to help governments drive restoration implementation on the ground and continue to lead the global movement to restore landscapes.

Landscape Policy Accelerator

THE PROGRAM GUIDES GOVERNMENT LEADERS THROUGH A SEVEN-STEP PROCESS OF EFFECTIVE POLICY REFORM TO:

1 Identify the general problem of the Policy.

2 Learn from the experiences of other countries in the design and implementation of programs.

3 Invite government officials and mentors to co-create solutions.

4 Identify possible solutions in collaboration with participants from peer countries.
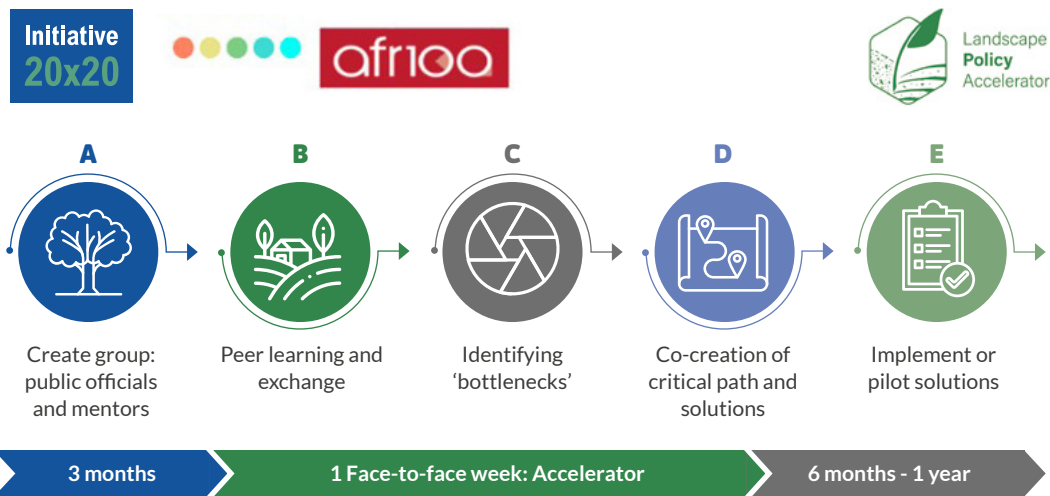
5 Discuss the new vision with other ministries and incorporate comments.

6 Prioritize and implement.

7 Measure results and manage adaptively.

23   World Resources Institute (s. f.). *The Landscape Policy Accelerator.* **https://www.wri.org/initiatives/restoration-policy-accelerator**

Policy Accelerator

A — Create group: public officials and mentors

B — Peer learning and exchange

C — Identifying 'bottlenecks'

D — Co-creation of critical path and solutions

E — Implement or pilot solutions

| 3 months | 1 Face-to-face week: Accelerator | 6 months - 1 year |

Regeneration of secondary forest in a wildlife corridor linking Guanacaste National Park with Rincón de la Vieja National Park, Costa Rica.
© Aaron Minnick | World Resources Institute

MONITORING ACCELERATOR

The Landscape Monitoring Accelerator24 is a peer-to-peer capacity building program for policymakers and government officials seeking to improve or design monitoring systems to track the performance and impacts of restoration and land use policies. Through workshops and one-on-one mentoring with world-class experts, participants identify challenges and co-create solutions to change and measure the effectiveness of their restoration programs. By collaborating with mentors and other cohort members, participants will design systems that help them better understand whether their policies support smallholder farmers, protect endangered species, sequester carbon, and more.

The Monitoring Accelerator supports policy focused on the implementation of national NDCs for land use, land use change, forestry (LULUCF) and agriculture sectors. It brings together leading practitioners, data scientists, economists, and experts in their fields to share their expertise in monitoring, data management, and policy and incentive programs, including carbon taxes, offsets, and payments for ecosystem services, to support the needs of policy innovators. The program supports policymakers by providing access to analysis, mentors and networks that enhance policy innovators' abilities to advocate for cost-effective policies that support forest and agricultural land restoration and land use planning in their respective countries.

THE GOAL OF THE MONITORING ACCELERATOR IS TO HELP POLICY INNOVATORS BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW TO IMPROVE MONITORING SYSTEMS LINKED TO POLICY PERFORMANCE AND IMPACTS. TOGETHER WITH OTHER ACCELERATOR PARTICIPANTS, POLICYMAKERS SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MONITORING SYSTEMS.

24   World Resources Institute (s. f.). *The Landscape Policy Accelerator.* **https://www.wri.org/initiatives/restoration-policy-accelerator**. **https://www.wri.org/initiatives/landscape-monitoring-accelerator**

THE ACCELERATION SESSIONS ARE DESIGNED:

To propose innovative solutions to the main 'bottlenecks' in the design and implementation of monitoring systems for landscape restoration in support of NDCs in the LULUCF and Agriculture sectors.

To create a network of leaders in landscape restoration policy innovation with expertise in tools and methods for monitoring and transparency.
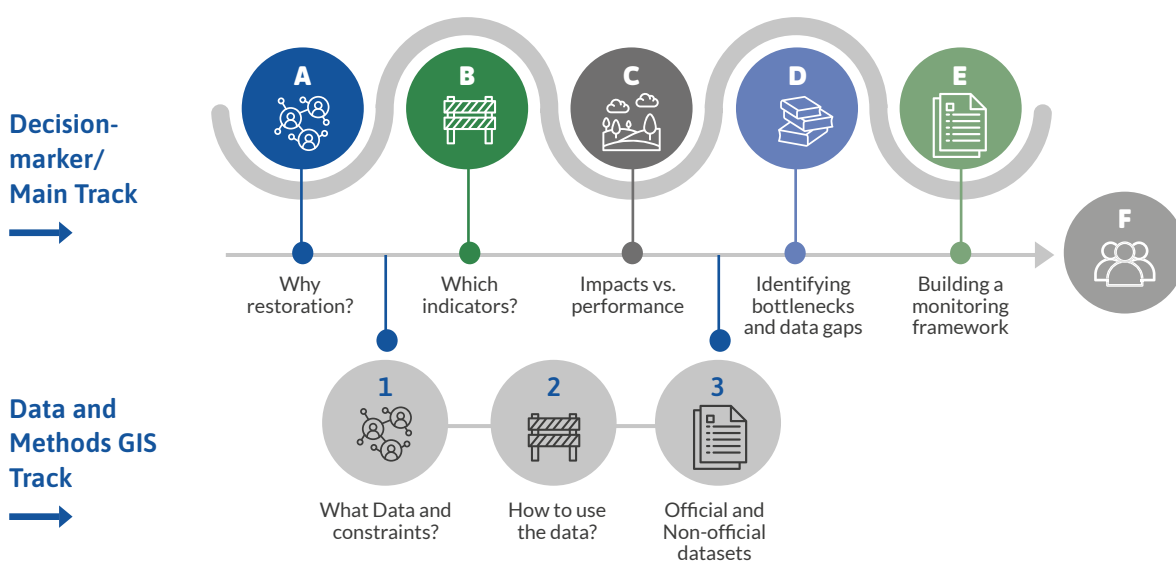
To facilitate the exchange of experiences on monitoring frameworks and data to inform decision making on policy performance and impacts.

To strengthen national capacities to implement monitoring systems for restoration and land use policies that promote sustainable production, enhance biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions and support the livelihoods of landowners and smallholder farmers.

Monitoring Accelerator Objectives

Decision-marker/ Main Track

A — Why restoration?

B — Which indicators?

C — Impacts vs. performance

D — Identifying bottlenecks and data gaps

E — Building a monitoring framework

F

Data and Methods GIS Track

1 — What Data and constraints?

2 — How to use the data?

3 — Official and Non-official datasets

One of the core elements of the program is the use of the **AURORA** (*Assessment, Understanding and Reporting of Restoration Actions*) tool. This online tool aims to help stakeholders develop a monitoring system tailored to their needs by identifying indicators and metrics to monitor progress towards their established goals, according to a comprehensive approach that includes the following elements:

AURORA Tool
(Assessment, Understanding and Reporting of Restoration Actions)
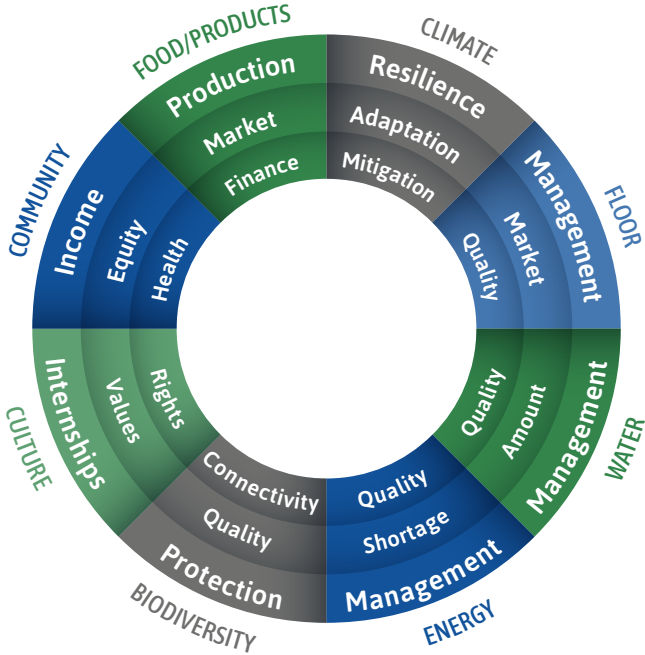
ANNEX 2

METHODOLOGICAL PROPOSAL FOR THE GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY PILLAR

The intention of the core team as the Secretariat of the Initiative 20x20 is to facilitate intentional and focused efforts to address the gender and social inequalities inherent in the restaurant sector. It aims to establish a specific pillar on gender and social equity (GSE) with a two-fold objective. First, it will promote the inclusion of women, youth and ethnic groups, as well as the creation of a solid knowledge and input base to progressively improve the integration of GSE into the Initiative's other three pillars of action. To achieve this objective, the Secretariat has included a fourth pillar of action dedicated to Social and Gender Equity.

The starting point of this pillar will be the participatory identification of its own priorities. To that end, a proposed roadmap has been developed and will be shared and socialized with key stakeholders in the 20x20 networks to obtain feedback and begin building alliances and synergies for collaborative actions, while identifying a list of GSE champions and priority issues relevant to the network.

For this purpose, the following sequence of activities is proposed:

PARTICIPATORY CO-CREATION OF A ROADMAP FOR THE PILLAR

The Secretariat will conceptualize a process of co-creation of the roadmap for the construction and implementation of the pillar. The co-creation approach is primarily used to define a shared understanding of GSE-related issues, priorities, pathways and operational strategies for the GSE pillar through engagement with 20x20 members. Engagement will be conducted through multiple channels (surveys, webinars, workshops, etcetera).

To make the process more efficient, a first draft of the roadmap will be proposed, taking as a starting point the ideas of the Secretariat, as well as the results of a first round of an exploration survey, addressed to a small group of technical partners. This survey will include the GSE elements mentioned in the previous paragraph and will provide information on potential champions and case studies.

A LIST OF KEY TECHNICAL PARTNERS WILL BE ESTABLISHED AND INVITED TO TAKE PART IN PARTICIPATORY ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

Online surveys

Online and/or face-to-face strategic workshops

In-depth interviews.

Afterwards, the roadmap of priorities and activities for the pillar will be shared and validated with the 20x20 network.

KEY RESULT(S):

Shared understanding of the issues, priorities, pathways and operational strategies related to gender and social equity for the GSE pillar through 20x20 member engagement.

Development of a roadmap with priority GSE themes and functions for the GSE pillar.

Identified target group: which type of stakeholder interested in landscape restoration in the region is the main advocate for the expected impacts of the pillar.

PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE SYNTHESIS

An important component proposed for the pillar's roadmap will be participatory research and knowledge synthesis. In this line, the main objective is to identify lessons learned, opportunities and challenges to promote equitable conditions for restoration in the region, and to collectively build a set of recommendations for policy makers, investors, development practitioners, among others. For this purpose, the following sequence of activities is proposed:

> *An important component proposed for the pillar's roadmap will be participatory research and knowledge synthesis.*

Identification of promising experiences and key actors (organizations, groups and networks currently working to promote social and gender equity in landscape restoration and conservation initiatives).

First round of experience sharing and participatory design of the research approach, methodology and alignment of efforts (multi-stakeholder workshops).

Conducting research: capture of primary and secondary information, analysis, synthesis and writing.

First approach to explore synergies, interests and availability to participate as case study, active co-investigator, mentors, technical partners, etcetera.

Feedback and validation.

Publication and socialization.

COMMUNICATION, CAPACITY BUILDING AND ADVOCACY

ONCE THE PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROCESS IS COMPLETED, ONE OR MORE ROUNDS OF DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED:

Once the roadmap with GSE priority themes and functions for the GSE pillar has been developed, shared and confirmed, we will prepare a communications summary to share with the external audience. The exact format will be decided later.

Webinars

Communication materials

Exchanges of knowledge and experiences.

Content packages and key messages to communicate and include in capacity building, policy advocacy, policy acceleration programs, among other activities.

> "
> *The intention of the core team as the Secretariat of the Initiative 20x20 is to facilitate intentional and focused efforts to address the gender and social inequalities inherent in the restaurant sector.*

ANNEX 3

DESCRIPTION OF INDICATORS

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
IMPACT INDICATORS (7)					
IMPACT	Hectares under restoration in public land	Number of hectares reported and verified by governments under restoration and conservation efforts, driven by public instruments, investment and/or efforts	Annual	To be defined (options: restoration barometer, self report, national monitoring systems)	none
IMPACT	Hectares under restoration in private land	Number of hectares reported and verified by governments under restoration and conservation efforts, driven by private or civil investment and/or efforts	Annual	To be defined (options: restoration barometer, self report, national monitoring systems)	none
IMPACT	Public finance for restoration leveraged (USD)	Amount of money raised from public sources to be invested in restoration	Annual	Self report (by governments)	none
IMPACT	Private finance for restoration leveraged (USD)	Amount of money raised from private and civil sociatey (donors, cooperation) sources to be invested in restoration	Annual	Self report (by private and civil society)	none
IMPACT	Landscapes enhanced for restoration through 20x20 actions (#)	Number of priority territories in which Initiative 20x20 has directly intervened to pilot/implement restoration techniques, practices or projects	Biannual	Self report (by Secretariat)	none
IMPACT	National enabling conditions enhanced for restoration (#)	Number of goverments/countries consistently and efectively supported by 20x20 (over three years, continuous or not) to enhance its policy, technical and/or finance conditions (enabling) in at least two of the following options: ➤ Ellaboration and officialization of policy instruments on restoration ➤ Implementation of public, private or blended finance mechanisms for restoration ➤ Designing, piloting and/or institucionalization of tools, methodologies or platforms (for example monitoring) ➤ Consistent (medium term) capacity building process(es) in priority themes (water, biodiversity, monitoring, GSE, incentives, etc.). ➤ Others	Biannual	Participatory evaluation by specialized team (whether the team is external or internal to the Secretariat). The type of support will be evauated based on Secretariats records. The effectiveness of that support will be evaluated based on deep analysis with government´s representatives.	**Cathegories of support:** ➤ Policy instruments ➤ Finance mechanisms ➤ Tools, methodologies an/or platforms ➤ Capacity building ➤ Others

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
IMPACT	Level of empowerment of GSE awareness among Initiative 20x20 members	Level of contribution of 20x20 to improve equity conditions in marginalized groups (average or most part of 20x20 actions), based on the following qualitative scale: ➤ **Gender concious (1):** Acknowledges rules, rights, privileges, responsabilities and other gender norms. ➤ **Gender sensitive (2):** Acknowldeges gender norms and take measures to not increase gaps during regular interventions, but do not aims to address them nor to tackle structural roots of them. ➤ **Gender receptive (3)**: Designed to directly mitigate gender gaps effects, but does not addresses structural roots of them. ➤ **Gender transformative (4):** Asseses and tackles gender norms and root causes of gender gaps and seeks to redefine systems and institutions that nurture inequities.	Biannual	Participatory evaluation by specialized team (whether the team is external or internal to the Secretariat) Evaluation will be based on both, Secratariat´s records and stakeholders testimonies	**Level of contribution:** ➤ Gender concious (1) ➤ Gender sensitive (2) ➤ Gender receptive (3) ➤ Gender transformative (4)

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT (8)					
PERFORMANCE	# 20x20 partners	Number of technical and financial partners officialy joined to Initiative 20x20	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type pf partner** ➤ Technical partners ➤ Financial partners
PERFORMANCE	# Grants earned	Numbers of grants leveraged by 20x20 Secretariat for its own operation and/or partner´s operations	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Executing entity** ➤ Secretariat ➤ Partner
PERFORMANCE	$ Funds leveraged	Amount of funds leveraged by 20x20 Secretariat for its own operation and/or partner´s operations	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Implementing entity** ➤ Secretariat ➤ Partner
PERFORMANCE	#Organizations supported	Number of public, private or civil entities supported by 20x20 at least once, through at least one of the following options of technical support: ➤ Acces to finance mechanisms ➤ Implementation of scale up strategies ➤ Designing, piloting and/or adopting of tools, methodologies or platforms (for example monitoring) ➤ Consistent medium term capacity building process(es) in priority themes (water, biodiversity, monitoring, GSE, incentives, etc.). ➤ Improvement of organizational performance ➤ Others	Semiannual	Self-report (by the Secretariat).	**Type of entity** ➤ Public ➤ Civil organizations ➤ Private entrepreneurs **Type of support** ➤ Finance ➤ Scale up strategies ➤ Tools, methodologies an/ or platforms ➤ Capacity building ➤ Organizational performance ➤ Others

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
PERFORMANCE	# People outreached	Number of people outreached (not trained) as audience through the following activities: ➤ Webinars and online events ➤ On presence events ➤ Newsletters ➤ Spread of communication products (briefs, videos, etc.) ➤ Others	Semiannual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of media** ➤ Online events ➤ On presence events ➤ Newsletter ➤ Communication products
PERFORMANCE	# Comms products realeased	Number of communication products released by the Secretariat to spread information about Initiative 20x20. For example: ➤ Factsheets ➤ Infographics ➤ Policy brief ➤ Videos ➤ Newsletters ➤ Others	Semiannual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of product** ➤ Factsheets ➤ Infographics ➤ Policy brief ➤ Videos ➤ Newsletters ➤ Others
RESULTS	# Institutions enhaced	Number of public, private or civil entities consistently and effectively supported by 20x20 (over three years, continuous or not) to reach institutional consolidation through at least two of the following options of technical support: ➤ Access to finance mechanisms ➤ Implementation of scale up strategies ➤ Designing, piloting and/or adopting of tools, methodologies or platforms (for example monitoring) ➤ Consistent medium term capacity building process(es) in priority themes (water, biodiversity, monitoring, GSE, incentives, etc.). ➤ Improvement of organizational performance ➤ Others	Biannual	Participatory evaluation by specialized team (whether the team is external or internal to the Secretariat) Evaluation will be based on both, Secratariat´s records and stakeholders testimonies	**Type of technical support** ➤ Finance ➤ Scale up strategy ➤ Tools, methodologies or platforms ➤ Capacity building ➤ Organizational performance
RESULTS	Level of involvement of partners	Average level of involvement, contribution and appropriation of 20x20 partners into Initiative´s activities, based on the following qualitative scale : ➤ (1) Does not participate when called to 20x20 activities. ➤ (2) Participates as audience when called , but does not engages further in emerging activities . ➤ (3) Participates when called and remains active in emerging activities. ➤ (4) Co-organize and/or collaborates in 20x20 activities. ➤ (5) Leads 20x20 activities.	Biannual	Participatory evaluation by specialized team (whether the team is external or internal to the Secretariat) Evaluation will be based on a sample of 20x20 members, through self perception and/or evaluation of the Secretariat. Evaluation might be aseparated accoding to types of members and governance figures (steering committe, technical and financial partners)	**Level of involvement:** ➤ (1) Does not participate when called to 20x20 activities. ➤ (2) Participates as audience when called , but does not engages further in emerging activities. ➤ (3) Participates when called and remains active in emerging activities. ➤ (4) Co-organize and/or collaborates in 20x20 activities. ➤ (5) Leads 20x20 activities.

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
PILLAR POLICY (4)					
PERFORMANCE	# Policy instruments in progress	Number of processes of elaboration and officialization of public policy instruments of any type and level (policy, law, regulation, incentive, tool, guidelines, etc), supported by 20x20. **Might include any phase of the following stages:** ➤ Inception ➤ On progress ➤ Validation ➤ Officialization in progress ➤ Officialized by government	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of public policy:** ➤ Policy ➤ Law ➤ Regulation ➤ Incentive ➤ Tool ➤ Guidelines ➤ Others **Stage of support:** ➤ Inception ➤ On progress ➤ Validation ➤ Officialization in progress ➤ Officialized by government
PERFORMANCE	# Government entities supported	Number of public entities supported by 20x20 at least once, through at least one of the following options of technical support: ➤ Ellaboration and officialization of policy instruments on restoration ➤ Support to enable public, private or blended finance mechanisms for restoration ➤ Designing, piloting and/or institucionalization of tools, methodologies or platforms (for example monitoring) ➤ Capacity building in priority themes (water, biodiversity, monitoring, GSE, incentives, etc.). ➤ Others Notes: *This indicator differs from Impact´s one (National enabling conditions enhanced for restoration), since it´s referred only to the account of governments supported but not the effectivenes in the medium term . It also differs from the Secretariat´s one (#organizations supported) since only includes public entities.*	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of technical support:** ➤ Policy instruments designing ➤ Finance ➤ Tools, methodologies or platforms ➤ Capacity building ➤ Others
PERFORMANCE	# Policy accelerators programs	Number of programs Landscapes Policy Accelerator and Monitoring Accelerator programs held by 20x20	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type** ➤ Landscape Policy Accelerator ➤ Monitoring Accelerator
PERFORMANCE	# Policy instruments achieved	Number of officialized public policy instruments of any type and level (policy, law, regulation, incentive, tool, guidelines, etc), supported by 20x20.	Biannual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of public policy:** ➤ Policy ➤ Law ➤ Regulation ➤ Incentive ➤ Tool ➤ Guidelines ➤ Others

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
PILLAR GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY (5)					
PERFORMANCE	# Female/youth/ indigenous lead organizations reached out/ supported	Number of organizations (civilian, formal or not), lead or mostly composed by women, young people and/or indigenous people, that have been supported by 20x20 at least once, through at least one of the following options of technical support: ➤ Acces to finance mechanisms ➤ Implementation of scale up strategies ➤ Designing, piloting and/ or adopting of tools, methodologies or platforms (for example monitoring) ➤ Consistent medium term capacity building process(es) in priority themes (water, biodiversity, monitoring, GSE, incentives, etc.). ➤ Improvement of organizational performance ➤ Others	Semiannual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of entity:** ➤ Public ➤ Civil organizations ➤ Private enterpreneurs **Type of support:** ➤ Finance ➤ Scale up strategies ➤ Tools, methodologies an/ or platforms ➤ Capacity building ➤ Organizational performance ➤ Others
PERFORMANCE	# Women, youth, indigenous champions actively participating	Number of women, youth, indigenous champions actively participating in activities under GSE pillar	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Stage/ activity of the pillar of activity:** ➤ Conformation of a network of champions and identification of priority issues; ➤ Identification of key recommendations and strategies ➤ Conformation platform GSE acceleration.
RESULTS	# Key GSE products and strategies created	Products resultant of the activities under GSE pillar in the short term, might be:	Self report (by Secretariat)	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of key product:** ➤ Set of policy, financial and/ or technical recommendations ➤ Case studies ➤ Knowledge synthesis ➤ Strategy of action ➤ Partnership agreement ➤ Others

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
PILLAR FINANCE (4)					
PERFORMANCE	# Entrepreneurships boosted	Number of people leading businesses related to landscape restoration supported by 20x20 to incubate, consolidate and/or scale up, through technnical assistance, training, visibilization in platforms at scale, connection with potential investors, among others.	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of support** ➤ Technnical assistance ➤ Training ➤ Visibilization in platforms at scale ➤ Connection with potential investors
PERFORMANCE	# Business models boosted	Number business related to landscape restoration supported by 20x20 to incubate, consolidate and/or scale up, through technnical assistance, training, visibilization in platforms at scale, connection with potential investors, among others.	Annual	Self report (by Secretariat)	**Type of support** ➤ Technnical assistance ➤ Training ➤ Visibilization in platforms at scale ➤ Connection with potential investors
RESULTS	# Number of business models scaled up through finance agreements	Number of financial agreements to scale up business models related to restoration that were supported by Initiative 20x20 (through any of the four types of support)	Biannual	Participatory evaluation by specialized team (whether the team is external or internal to the Secretariat)	**To be defined**

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The aim is to establish a specific pillar on gender and social equity (GSE) with a dual objective. First, it will promote the inclusion of women, youth and ethnic groups, as well as the creation of a solid base of knowledge and contributions to progressively improve the integration of CSE into the other three pillars of action of the Initiative.

TYPE	INDICATOR (SHORT NAME AND UNIT)	DESCRIPTION	FREQUENCE	METHOD OF INFORMATION RETRIEVE	ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDICATOR
GENDER AND SOCIAL EQUITY PILLAR (5)					
PERFORMANCE	No. of organizations led by women/ youth/indigenous people reached/ supported	Number of organizations (civil, formal or not), led or composed mostly by women, youth and/ or indigenous people, that have been supported by 20x20 at least once, through at least one of the following technical support options: ➤ Access to financing mechanisms. ➤ Implementation of expansion strategies. ➤ Design, piloting and/ or adoption of tools, methodologies or platforms (e.g. monitoring). ➤ Coherent medium-term capacity building process(es) on priority issues (water, biodiversity, monitoring, GSE, incentives, etc.). ➤ Improved organizational performance. – Others.	Semiannual	Self-report (by the Secretariat).	**Type of entity** ➤ Public ➤ Civil organizations ➤ Private entrepreneurs **Type of support** ➤ Financing ➤ Expansion strategies ➤ Tools, methodologies and/or platforms ➤ Capacity building ➤ Organizational performance ➤ Other sectors
PERFORMANCE	No. of active participation of women, youth and indigenous champions	Number of women, youth and indigenous champions who actively participate in the GSE pillar activities	Annual	Self-report (by the Secretariat).	**Stakeholders and functions:** ➤ Formation of a network of champions and identification of priority issues. ➤ Identification of key recommendations and strategies. ➤ Platform for GSE acceleration conformation
DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES	Knowledge management activities of the task forces	Secretary's Office: ➤ Provide methodological guidelines to the task forces. work. ➤ Lead, organize and report on the activities of the task force. ➤ Action strategy. ➤ Partnership agreement ➤ Others	Semiannual	Autoreporte (por la Secretaría)	**Technical partners:** ➤ Lead, organize and implement specialized capacity building activities. ➤ Case studies. ➤ Knowledge synthesis. ➤ Action strategy. ➤ Agreement partnership agreement. ➤ Others.

Plot under Assisted Natural Regeneration in Santa Cecilia de La Cruz, Guanacaste, Costa Rica
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Initiative 20x20