

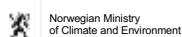
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Enero – diciembre
2023

REM Colombia II Visión Amazonía

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIRE	Ecological Restoration Incentives Areas
ASECADY	Yarí (San Vicente del Caguán) Farmers' Business Association
ASOJUNTAS	Association of Community Action Boards
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CDA	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Northern and Eastern Amazon
CISSA	Internal Committee on Socio-Environmental Safeguards
CONPES	National Council for Economic and Social Policy
CORPOAMAZONIA	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Southern Amazon
CORMACARENA	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the La Macarena Special Management Area
CPLI	Free Prior and Informed Consultation
DAASU	Directorate of Environmental, Sectoral and Urban Affairs
DBBSE	Directorate of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
DCC	Directorate of Climate Change
DCI	Joint Declaration of Intent
DGOAT	General Directorate of Territorial Environmental Planning
EICDGB	Comprehensive Deforestation Control and Forest Management Strategy "Forests Territories of Life"
ENREDD+	National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
EPSEA	Agricultural Extension Services Providing Companies

ESSA	Environmental and Social Systems Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FIMA	International Environment Fair
FPN	Natural Heritage, Biodiversity and Protected Areas Fund
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse gas emissions
GIRSA	Integrated Socio-Environmental Risk Management System
GruC	Environment Sub-Group Cooperating Partners Group
IDEAM	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies
IFA	Amazon Forest Incentive
IFV	Green Financial Instrument
JAC	Community Action Board
KfW	KfW Development Bank / Development Bank responsible for the German Government's financial cooperation
MGAS	Environmental and Social Management Framework
Minambiente	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
MIAACC	Amazonian Indigenous Environmental and Climate Change Roundtable
MOP	Project Operation Manual
MRA	Regional Amazonian Roundtable
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
MUSE	Unexploded Ordnance
NAD	Active Deforestation Cores
NDFyB	Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units

NTS	Sectoral Technical Standards
NGO	Non-Governmental organisation
OPIAC	National Organisation of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon
PAD	Disbursement-based Procurement Plan
PAR	Returns-based Procurement Plan
PAS	Accompaniment and Monitoring Platform - Pillar 4
PFNMB	Non-Timber Forest Products
PGAS	Environmental and Social Management Plan
PICD	Integral Plan for the Containment of Deforestation
PID	Investment Plan by Disbursement
PIG	Global Investment Plan
PIR	Returns-based Investment Plan
PIVA	Indigenous Visión Amazonía Pillar
PMC	Continuous Improvement Plan (FSC)
PMF	Forest Management Plan
PND	National Development Plan
PNN	National Natural Parks of Colombia
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
PPPI	Stakeholder Participation Plans
PQRSD	Requests, Complaints, Claims, Suggestions and Reports
PRAES	School Environmental Projects
PROCEDAS	Citizen Environmental Education Projects
PSA	Payments for Environmental Services



REM	REDD Early Movers
RENARE	Registration in the National Greenhouse Gases and Emissions Registry
RIS	Safeguard Information Summaries
SENA	National Training Service
SMBByC	Forest and Carbon Monitoring System
SNIA	National Agricultural Innovation System
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCA	Annual Felling Unit (from a Forest Management Plan)
UER	Executing Unit of the REM Visión Amazonía Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIAMAZONIA	University of the Amazon
VA	Visión Amazonía (Ministry of the Environment Programme)

Summary of the REM Colombia II Programme Visión Amazonía

Country	COLOMBIA
Programme	REDD Early Movers REM Colombia II Visión Amazonía.
Executing Entity	Visión Amazonía / Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.
Financial mechanism	Patrimonio Natural- Biodiversity and Protected Areas Fund.
Duration	4 years (December 2022 to December 2026).

Ultimate Objective	Improving environmental protection, sustainable management of natural resources, conservation of forests and biodiversity and climate protection in Colombia.
Programme Target	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation in Colombia and promoting the sustainable use of natural forests in the Colombian Amazon region by local communities and indigenous peoples that inhabit them.

Source: Colombia Vision II Visión Amazonía Programme

Executive Summary

This first Annual Report covers the period from January 1st to December 31st, 2023 of the REM COLOMBIA II Visión Amazonía Programme, implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, which presents the progress of the Programme and its corresponding budget execution. It also includes a brief analysis of changes in the context of implementation and challenges for the coming year. This first year corresponds to a transition period between the technical and financial closure of REM I and the start of REM II activities. In this regard, it corresponds to the preparation phase, which consisted of strategic planning and conceptualisation of actions and the preparation of preliminary studies and terms of reference for the various interventions approved in the procurement plans.

Within the framework of President Gustavo Petro's National Development Plan, "Colombia Potencia de la Vida" (Colombia, Power of Life), and based on lessons learned from the Visión Amazonía Programme, Minambiente formulated the Integrated Plan for Deforestation Control, which seeks to transform 22 Active Deforestation Cores [NAD for its acronym in Spanish] into Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units [NDFyB Spanish acronym]. The Programme also supported Minambiente in designing the Fund for Life and Biodiversity, which will administer, among other things, 80% of the resources collected from the National Carbon Tax. The Fund for Life, with a budget of COP 508 billion for 2023, will invest mainly in the NDFyB in the Amazon through the National environmental System [SINA Spanish acronym] entities. In this way, the REM COLOMBIA II Programme will take charge of six of the 22 NDFyB, while other programmes and entities will manage the other NDFyB in the Amazon and six in the rest of the country.

Within the framework of the peace negotiation processes, the resulting reconfiguration of social organisations in the region has required the Programme to coordinate once again its intervention with the Associations of Community Action Boards [ASOJUNTAS]. The Programme has supported the Ministry of the Environment [Minambiente] in the signing of three social agreements in Cartagena del Chairá, Remolino del Caguán-NDFyB and Nueva Ilusión and

Calamar-NDFyB Los Puertos. These agreements aim to foster joint efforts among communities, organisations, government and international cooperation to curb deforestation and implement a model that positions the forest as the main component in the sustainable use of the land. These agreements are part of the achievements reported under the macro goals by the Directorate of Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services [DBBSE Spanish acronym] of Minambiente to the Office of the Presidency in relation to the national goal for deforestation containment.

Programme Coordination Spaces (see chapter 2.4.2)

From September 10 to 17, KfW carried out its first monitoring mission to the REM COLOMBIA II programme, with the aim of monitoring the closure of REM I and the progress of REM II, with field visits to Guaviare and Guainía. A roadmap was agreed upon for the closure of REM I and the transfer of balances from REM I to the REM II account, the strengthening of the UER, a proposal to the Patrimonio Department to finance a second phase for the development of the Visión Amazonía Information Management System for REM II [SIVA II], progress with the Environmental and Social Management Framework [MGAS for its acronym in Spanish] and the publication of the Summary of Safeguard Information – RIS VI and VII, for the periods 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, respectively. During the period, two Executive Committees were held, in February to approve the PIR I of REM II and the transfer of unspent balances from REM I to the REM II account, and in September within the framework of the KfW Monitoring Mission. Two Monitoring Committees were also held with the Ministry of Environment to approve the investment plans, and five Financial Committees were held to define the Programme's investment portfolio and the roadmap for contracting the delegated portfolio management. In terms of planning and monitoring, weekly monitoring meetings were held with the participation of the UER and FPN, and in the first half of the year, four REM II strategic planning workshops were held on the intervention strategy and the organisation of UER staff in REM II in line with the new challenges of integrated pillar management in the NDFyB, with the participation of the Director of the DBBSE of Minambiente.

Coordination with Cooperation Partners (see chapter 2.4.3)

The coordination team of Visión Amazonía arranged several meetings with other projects and representatives of international cooperation agencies such as USAID's *Amazonia Mia*, which has maintained a steady partnership through joint work in NDFyB Orotuyo, as well as with GCF Visión Amazonía, GIZ's Probosques, the Environment Sub-group Cooperating Partners Group [GruC] and the Swedish Embassy to discuss a potential contribution to REM II (May). With the support of KfW, the first REM programme experience-sharing workshop (Colombia, Ecuador, Acre and Mato Grosso) was organised in September in Leticia. In December 2023, the Programme Coordinator presented the Programme at COP 28 of the UNFCCC in Dubai.

Progress in the Management of the Programme (see chapter 2.1)

The REM COLOMBIA II Programme is making progress in its comprehensive intervention strategy in six NDFyB areas, namely: Los Puertos, Orotuyo, Nueva Ilusión, Agua Bonita, Ciudad Yará and El Camuya. During 2023, progress was made in social dialogue and administrative processes that lay the foundations for the implementation of a comprehensive package of interventions in the NDFyBs starting in the first half of 2024. In this regard, the formulation of two Forest Management Plans [PMF for its acronym in Spanish] is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2024 for the Agua Bonita NDFyB (18,000 hectares) in the municipality of Calamar, Guaviare department, and the completion of the Aguas Claras PMF – Yará (50,000 hectares), municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, department of Caquetá, with a value of €112,000 and €176,638, respectively. Support will be provided to the Los Puertos NDF with an aerial cable system for timber transport (€66,520) and two portable sawmills, a dragging kit, safety equipment, accessories and tools for their operation, for Los Puertos and Orotuyo (€73,000). A voluntary process for Forest Stewardship Council [FSC] for forest management certification has been initiated for the Los Puertos, Orotuyo, Peregrinos and Aguas Claras-Yará NDFyBs. Forest certification under the Continuous Improvement Process for small community forestry operations is scheduled for 2024 (€52,401). Similarly, progress was made together with the DBBSE of the Ministry of Environment and the GIZ ProBosques programme in designing the content of the Forest Extension programme, and training and implementation are expected to be contracted in 2024, at a cost of €145,000. Following a consultation process, at the request of the Ministry of Environment, with new actors for the Programme such as Asojuntas, a diploma course entitled "Community Forest Stewards" was signed in September 2023 with the University of the Amazon, aimed at 1,000 young people to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural forests, with an investment of €720,936. In February 2024, the first woodworking course will begin with the Santo Domingo School of Arts and Crafts, at a cost of €103,170, to train 30 farmers. At the beginning of 2024, four professionals will be hired to lead the forestry roundtables in Amazonas, Caquetá, Putumayo and Guaviare, and to purchase materials and logistics, with a total investment of €105,000.

With regard to strengthening social organisation, in May 2023, the Nueva Ilusión Sustainable Forest based Development Units Association was established, with 144 member families. Since part of the area initially designated for the NDFyB fell within the expanded Huitorá Indigenous Resguardo, a participatory process is underway to realign the area, adjust the PMF, and relocate the first annual logging unit. The peasant leaders of the six NDFyBs participated in the First Congress of Wood Industry Professionals organised by "Fedemaderas" in March 2023, expanding the possibilities for legal timber trade for the NDFyBs. An exchange of experiences between the NDFyBs Los Puertos and Agua Bonita was also organised. Likewise, support continues for strengthening the control and monitoring capacity and environmental governance of the three Regional Autonomous Corporations, with an initial investment of €350,000 to hire

32 professionals in Corpoamazonia, CDA and Cormacarena. It should be noted that the corporations held general elections for directors in the last quarter of the year.

Regarding the **Amazon Forest Incentive [IFA Spanish acronym]**, in 2023, contracts were signed with ASOJUNTAS Cartagena del Chairá, ASOJUNTAS Calamar, and the Community Action Boards of las Piscinas and Nueva Esperanza in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, for a total amount of €698,018. These agreements aim to engage 100 community-based technicians who will carry out 24 village-level outreach activities and characterize 2,200 parcels, a process scheduled to continue until early 2024. Due to public order issues, particularly in the Yará region of Caquetá, priority was given to conducting the characterizations in Cartagena del Chairá. The first payments of IFA to an initial group of 300 new beneficiaries are expected to begin in March 2024, and 600 existing IFAs from REM I will be renewed starting in January 2024. The Programme's budget for IFA under REM II amounts to €3,564,000, which would only be sufficient to cover two quarters based on the new proposed value of COP 900,000 per month set by Minambiente. Accordingly, Minambiente would assume the subsequent payments through 2026 via the *Fondo para la Vida y la Biodiversidad* (Fund for Life and Biodiversity), at a projected annual cost of €10.7 million. A transitional arrangement is foreseen to allow the Ministry to gradually assume these commitments, based on progress in structuring the *Fondo para la Vida*.

Under **Pillar 2: Sectoral Planning**, the agreement with the National Land Agency was renewed, with €342,000 allocated to support the adjudication of up to 415 rural parcels to individual beneficiaries within the Programme's intervention area. With a budget of €103,000, support was provided to the Corporación de Turismo Sierra de la Macarena NATUPAZ to train 60 young tour guides in the Güejar Canyon, and a carrying capacity study will be conducted for the Guape Canyon tourism circuit. Support was also provided to the Ministry of Environment's Directorate for Environmental Sectoral and Urban Affairs [DAASU Spanish acronym] through the engagement of two consultants to incorporate environmental criteria into infrastructure projects within the NDFyB areas of influence. In the upcoming semester, support will be provided for the formulation of Municipal Development Plans in six municipalities in Guaviare and Caquetá to facilitate the incorporation of NDFyB, the environmental determinants of the Land Use Planning Scheme [EOT Spanish acronym], agricultural extension plans, community energy initiatives, and Payments for Environmental Services [PSA Spanish acronym]. Additionally, ongoing support is provided to the Climate Change Directorate of Minambiente for the regulation of the carbon market, through the hiring of a consultant and logistical support for meetings.

Pillar 3, Agro-environmental, will support NDFyB with the National Training Service [SENA] through its CampeSENA programme, to link agricultural extension workers who support food sovereignty issues, green financial instruments and the marketing of products developed in the initial phase in NDFyB. Departmental Agricultural Extension Plans [PDEA

Spanish acronym] are being financed in the departments of Amazonas, Caquetá, Guaviare, Guainía and Vaupés, with zero deforestation criteria. A new agreement was signed with Banco Agrario to offer green loans with capital incentives for forest conservation for at least 500 credit operations. It is worth noting that the Programme received recognition for its management of Green Financial Instruments in REM I from Asobancaria in Cartagena. The programme will contribute €1,029,909 as a capital incentive and up to €617,945 for the provision of technical assistance services, which, together with another €1,647,854 from the Banco Agrario's ordinary portfolio, will reach a total of €3,295,707 in loans. For credit management and assistance, a Agricultural Extension Service Providing Companies [EPSEA for its Spanish acronym] is expected to be contracted in the first half of 2024. Finally, support will be provided for the marketing of products and innovations developed in phase I in the assisted value chains of cocoa, rubber, açái, sachá inchi and canangucha. An auditorium, offices and a collection centre were handed over to the Procacao association in Solano, Caquetá, with support from Minambiente's Green and Sustainable Business programme.

Pillar 4, Environmental Governance with Indigenous Peoples, supported the holding of two Regional Amazonian Roundtables [MRA Spanish acronym] in March and December 2023. At the latter, agreements were reached to enable the fourth call for proposals, scheduled for March 2024, with a total budget of €6,066,528. The Programme is also supporting the holding of a Free Prior and Informed Consultation [CPLI Spanish acronym] for the Visión Amazonía Programme, as an umbrella for intervention in the Amazon Biome, in compliance with the agreements of the May 2021 MRA. Consultants were hired to facilitate the preparation of the consultation, and progress was made in hiring OPIAC as the accompanying agency in charge of this process, for which a budget of COP 3,200,000,000 will be provided by the GCF Project and COP 1,200,000,000 (€248,107) by REM. The Ministry of Environment will propose the documents to be submitted for consultation, namely: (i) the Visión Amazonía Programme base document; (ii) the Indigenous Visión Amazonía Pillar [PIVA] document; and (iii) the proposal for an efficient and guarantee-based mechanism. The Visión Amazonía prior consultation is scheduled to begin in the first half of 2024.

Under Pillar 5: Enabling Conditions, support was provided to the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System [SMByC] of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies [IDEAM], with an investment of €807,654. The SMByC published four quarterly Early Deforestation Warning bulletins, identifying a decrease in early deforestation alerts nationwide when comparing the first and second semesters of 2023 with 2022. In addition, the annual update of natural forest and deforestation monitoring figures was carried out, reporting a 29% reduction in the national deforestation rate in 2023 and a 36.4% reduction in the Amazon region. It is also worth highlighting the monitoring of conservation agreements covering 123,609 hectares of forest from 2,571 beneficiaries of the Amazon Forest Incentive [IFA].

The **Communications Strategy** supported the Programme's visibility at events such as the International Environmental Fair [FIMA], and by December 2023, had built an audience of over 23,000 followers across social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Spotify. The communications strategy achieved strong outreach through the dissemination of biweekly bulletins, podcasts, radio commercials, and videos broadcast via local radio stations, social media, and WhatsApp lists, focusing on promoting the forest-based development model, raising awareness of Visión Amazonía Programme actions, and highlighting the cooperation between Colombia, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Norway.

Management of Social and Environmental Safeguards (see chapter 2.5)

In December 2023, the new version of the Environmental and Social Management Framework [MGAS] was submitted to the Internal Committee for Socio-Environmental Safeguards [CISSA for its acronym in Spanish] for forwarding to KfW in the first quarter of 2024. Progress has been made with the Environmental and Social Management Plan [PGAS] for the Forest Management Plans for Los Puertos and Orotuyo, Green Credits, Amazon Forest Incentive and Agro-Environmental Projects, which has made it possible to identify the benefits, risks and mitigation measures for each intervention. The development of a methodological proposal for the Stakeholder Participation Plans [PPPI Spanish acronym] for the REM II Programme was initiated, as well as the corresponding Participation Plan for the NDFyB of Los Puertos and Agua Bonita. Security Protocols were addressed on issues such as Unexploded Ordnance, the public order conditions in the area, snakebite accidents, potential physical injuries during fieldwork, tropical diseases, and support will be provided to implementing entities for the development of their Internal Work Regulations document. Additionally, emerging cases related to the presence of illegal armed groups in the territory were documented (see Annex 5). With the reactivation of the Minambiente's CISSA, it is expected that the Summary of Safeguard Information Services - RIS VI and RIS VII will be made available for public consultation and submitted to the UNFCCC info Hub during the first half of 2024.

Budget Execution (see Chapter 3 Budget Management)

The total expected budget for the programme is up to €34.48 million, subject to payments upon achievement of policy milestones (Modality 1 of the DCI). As of December 2023, two PIDs totalling €28,478,057 have been approved. The first disbursement was received on December 23, 2023 and its procurement plan was approved on March 10, 2023. The second PID was approved in November 2023, corresponding to the second disbursement from Germany, and its procurement plan is currently awaiting approval, which will allow interventions to begin in the first half of 2024. With the transfer of part of the proceeds generated in REM I that were not executed, the Investment Plan for Proceeds [PIR I] was established for an amount of €2,979,945. In addition, in September 2023, the transfer of €2,014,913 from returns generated

in REM I was approved to finance the strengthening of the UER. With regard to budget management, as of December 31, 2023, approximately €7 million, corresponding to 21% of the Programme's total resources, was appropriated through the signing of contracts, agreements and sub-agreements. Likewise, 5% of the approved budget was executed through payments made under these contracts.

Progress on Logical Framework Indicators (see chapter 2.6)

With regard to the targets of the REM COLOMBIA II Programme's Logical Framework, progress was made in the implementation of two of the four NDFyBs, and the remaining ones are in the design and development stage. Sub-agreements were also signed with the three corporations to strengthen forest governance and implement the Amazon Forest Incentive, and a sub-agreement was signed with the Guaviare Governor's Office. For the other indicators, the inputs required to make progress in their fulfilment are being prepared. This is understandable given that REM COLOMBIA II is in the preparation phase, engaging in consultation with communities and initiating interventions.

1 Introduction: the New Phase of REM Visión Amazonía

1.1 Background

Visión Amazonía (VA) is a long-term programme of the Colombian Government that serves as an umbrella for several projects, such as the REDD Early Movers Colombia Visión Amazonía II (REM COLOMBIA II) programme, Corazón de la Amazonía, financed by the Global Environment Facility [GEF] and the Green Climate Fund [GCF] Visión Amazonía. These programmes are part of the strategies that the country is developing to implement a green growth model that will help mitigate the effects of climate change and contribute to peace, with the goal of reducing emissions from deforestation in the Colombian Amazon region.

The REM COLOMBIA II Programme is also part of the REDD Early Movers - REM Global Programme, a mechanism created by the German government and administered by the KfW Development Bank, which provides financing to countries that are already implementing forest protection measures in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] and thus contribute to climate protection through forest protection.

REM COLOMBIA II is the second phase of REM I, a programme implemented from 2016 to 2023 with funding from Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom totalling USD 87 million (excluding interest), under a result-based payment scheme for reduced emissions from

deforestation (Modality 2). REM COLOMBIA II, scheduled for a four-year period (2022-2026) adopts Modality 1, in which payments are conditioned on the achievement of policy milestones defined in Annex 2 of the Renewed Joint Declaration of Intent-JDI [DCI Spanish acronym], adopted in December 2020. On December 14, 2022, the Separate Agreement for REM COLOMBIA II was signed between KfW, Minambiente and Patrimonio Natural, initially with a financial contribution from the Government of amounting to up to €20 million. On the same date, the Financial Contribution Agreement with the Kingdom of Norway was signed, for the euro equivalent of up to NOK 150 million, along with the corresponding addendum to the Separate Agreement to include these additional funds in the Programme.

The REM COLOMBIA II Programme seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and to promote the sustainable use of natural forests in the Colombian Amazon region by local communities and indigenous peoples inhabiting these territories. This objective is structured around three implementation results: 1) Forest development hubs are implemented within the framework of an integrated territorial intervention strategy; 2) Indigenous peoples and local communities are strengthened in their environmental governance; and 3) Territorial entities and national and regional environmental authorities are strengthened in forest management, governance and deforestation monitoring.

On December 19, 2022, the Programme's first Investment Plan by Disbursement [PID 1 Spanish acronym] was approved by the Executive Committee and on December 23, 2022, the first disbursement of €24,328,057 was received. In November 2023, the second disbursement of €4,150,000 was received. At COP 28 of the UNFCCC in December 2023, the United Kingdom committed an additional contribution of £15 million and Norway committed 10 million NOK, which are expected to be programmed in 2024.

The programme seeks to contribute to the Comprehensive Deforestation Control and Forest Management Strategy "Bosques Territorios de Vida" [EICDGB for its acronym in Spanish], to the goals and objectives of the new National Development Plan 2022-2026 "Colombia Potencia Mundial para la Vida" and to the implementation of the Integral Plan for the Containment of Deforestation [PICD Spanish acronym]. The 2022-2026 National Development Plan establishes a macro-goal of reducing natural forest loss by at least 20% nationwide, equivalent to nearly 35,000 hectares less than in 2021 (baseline of 174,103 hectares deforested nationwide in 2021). In addition, it proposes to expand the areas undergoing restoration, recovery and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems to 1.7 million hectares.

Based on the experience gained in the Visión Amazonía Programme, Minambiente formulated the "Integral Plan for the Containment of Deforestation" with the aim of transforming Active Deforestation Cores [NAD] into Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units [NDFyB] in the Colombian Amazon, and to improve the living conditions of local communities, especially peasants and indigenous peoples. A portfolio of 22 priority areas for sustainable

forest management has been identified, covering an area of 3.2 million hectares. In terms of deforestation, for the period 2014-2021, these areas account for 30% of national deforestation and 50% of deforestation in the Amazon biome, highlighting the importance of intervention to ensure effective reduction of deforestation.

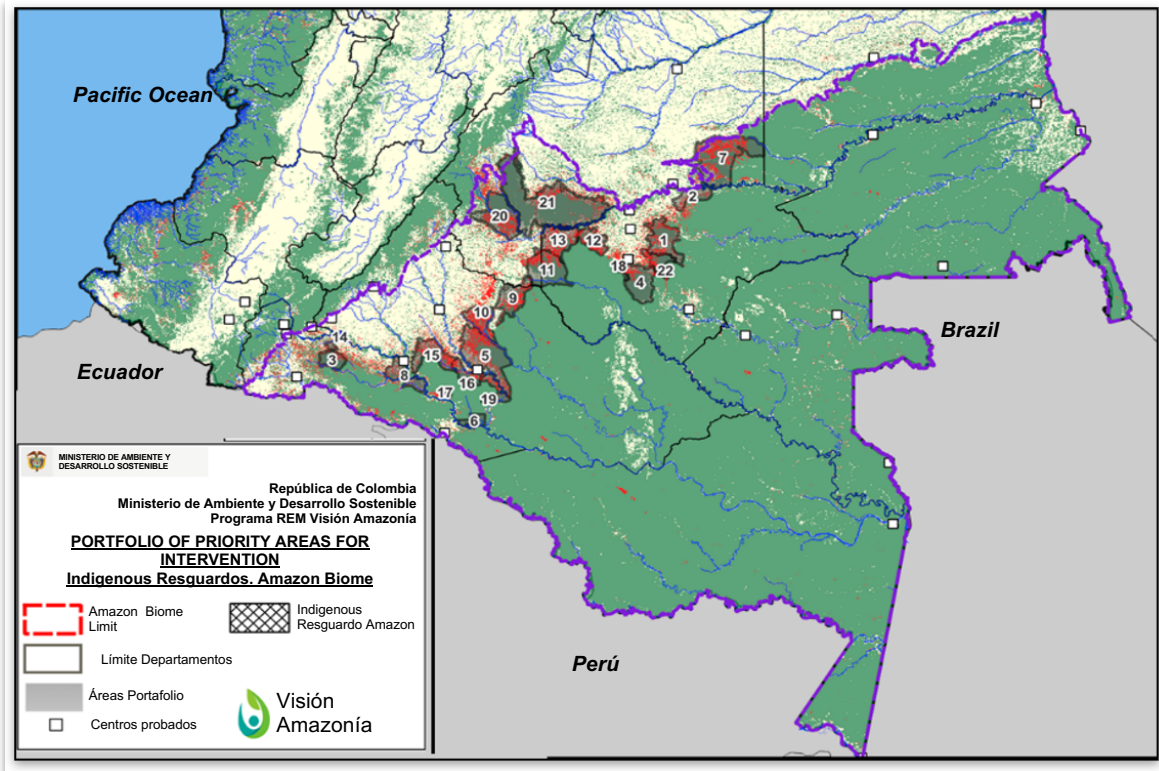


Figure 1 Deforestation Containment Plan for the period 2023-2026, Minambiente

Deforestation in 2022 and 2023

The official deforestation figure for 2022 in Colombia is 123,517 hectares, corresponding to a reduction of 29.1% compared to the loss reported for 2021, as shown in Figure 3.

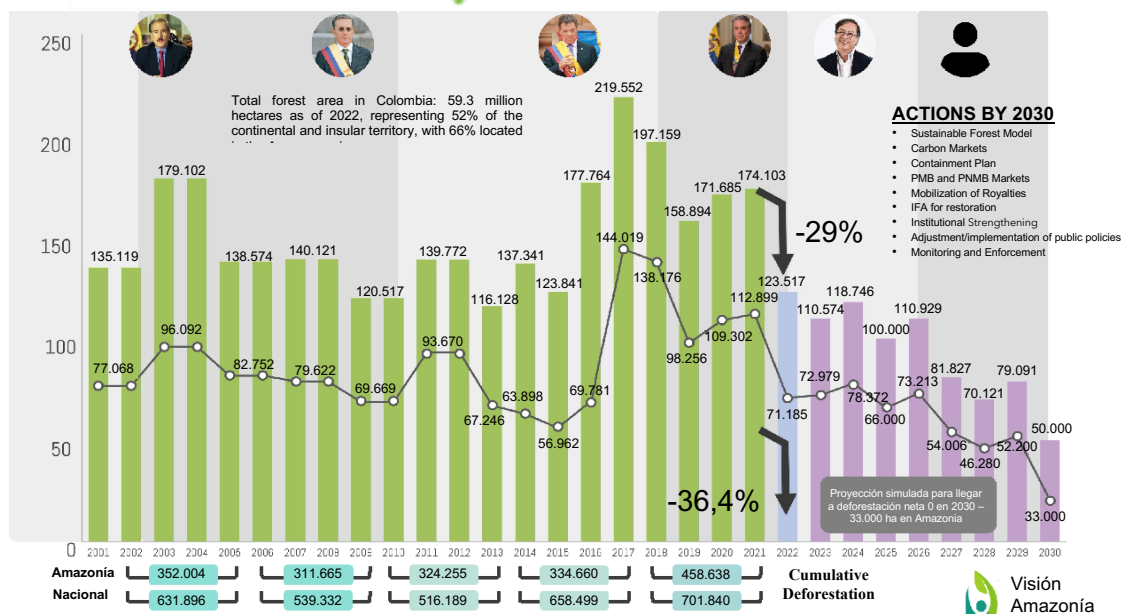


Figure 2 Dynamics of deforestation at the national level and in the Amazon biome. Period 2001–2022

The dynamics of deforested area in Colombia over the last 10 years (2013–2022) show a return to deforestation figures not seen in Colombia since 2015, reflecting progress in meeting the national targets contained in the PND and the DCI. Of particular note is the reduction in deforestation in the Amazon biome, from 112,899 ha in 2021 to **71,185 ha in 2022**, a **reduction of 37%**, which is greater than the national result. In general, in 2022, the Amazon experienced an important slowdown in its main deforestation fronts, with the exception of the northwestern border of the department of Putumayo.

With regard to 2023, IDEAM's Early Warning Bulletins reported a significant reduction in the deforestation rate for the Amazon compared to the first three quarters of 2022.

Table 1 Summary of Quarterly Early Warning Bulletins on Deforestation

Early Warning Bulletin on Deforestation	Deforestation in the seven departments of the Amazon (ha)	Change (%) compared to the previous year	Largest reduction
1st quarter 2023	12,500	-	Caquetá
2nd quarter 2023	850	-	Caquetá
3rd quarter 2023	5,500	-	Meta, Putumayo

2 Implementation Status of the REM COLOMBIA II Visión Amazonía Programme

2.1 Progress of the Pillars

In the context of the National Development Plan "Colombia, a Global Power of Life" - PND 2022-2026, the Programme focused its actions on consolidating the six prioritised Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units [NDFyB]. This year, many administrative processes were advanced, laying the groundwork for the implementation of a comprehensive package of interventions in the NDFyB starting in the first half of 2024.

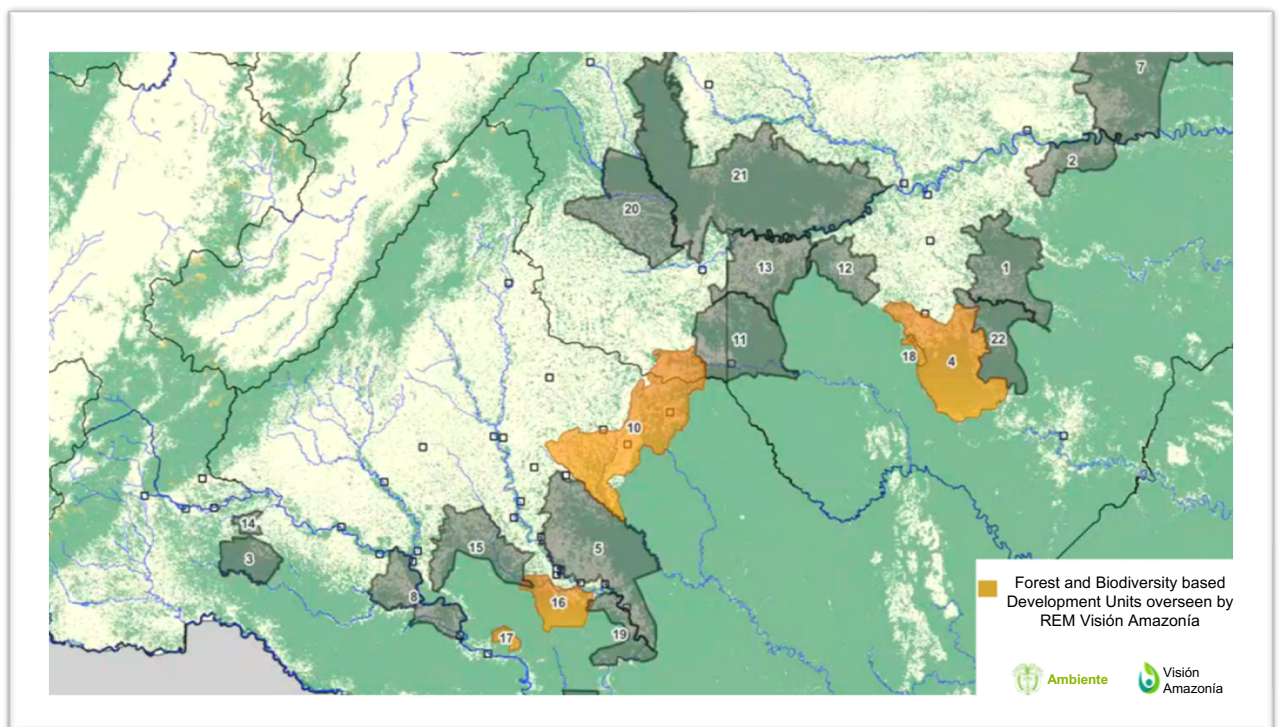


Figure 3 Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units under REM II

2.1.1 Pillar 1 Governance and Sustainable Forest Development

As a result of the administrative management carried out in 2023, the implementation of two **Forest Management Plans [PMF]** is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2024. These plans had been carried over from REM I due to insufficient time for execution: one for the Agua Bonita NDFyB (18,000 ha) in the municipality of Calamar, department of Guaviare, and the completion of the Aguas Claras – Yarí PMF (50,000 ha) in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, department of Caquetá, with values of €112,000 and €176,638, respectively. The 11

villages (*veredas*) originally included in the initial proposal for the Agua Bonita NDF in 2024 will be expanded to 17 villages (16 in Calamar and 1 in the municipality of Miraflores) and 3 Indigenous *Resguardos*, covering a total area of 232,066 hectares. In addition, it will be necessary to define the expansion and adjustment in terms of area and participants for the Nueva Ilusión PMF, covering 30,000 ha with a value of €74,153. With these PMFs already formulated and under formulation, 610 families will benefit, gaining access to the sustainable use of 114,092 hectares of forest.

The Los Puertos NDFyB will be supported with an aerial cable system for timber transport (€66,520) and two portable sawmills, a dragging kit, safety equipment, accessories and tools for their operation, for Los Puertos and Orotuyo (€73,000). This equipment helps minimise environmental impacts by avoiding contact with the ground during the timber utilization process and minimising waste through the use of portable sawmills. It will be contracted in the first half of 2024.

A voluntary process was initiated for **Forest Stewardship Council [FSC] forest management certification** for the NDFyB Los Puertos, Orotuyo, Peregrinos and Aguas Claras-Yarí to ensure that forest utilization complies with criteria of environmental sustainability, social legitimacy and economic profitability. By 2024, forest certification is scheduled to be carried out under the Continuous Improvement Process scheme, which allows for a gradual approach to certification for small community operations (€52,401). Progress was also made, together with the DBBSE of the Ministry of the Environment and the ProBosques programme, in designing the content of the **Forest Extension Programme**, which will focus on shifting from a livestock culture to a forestry culture. It is expected that the training and implementation of the forest extension service will be contracted for one year in the NDFyB in 2024, at a cost of €145,000.

Following a consultation process, at the request of the Minambiente, and with the involvement of new stakeholders in the Programme such as Asojuntas, a diploma course titled “**Community Forest Stewards**” was signed in September 2023 with the University of the Amazon. This course is aimed at 1,000 young people to promote the conservation and sustainable use of natural forests, with an investment of €720,936. The call for participants has been launched, and registration will close in March 2024.

Regarding the strengthening of social organization, in May 2023 the Nueva Ilusión Sustainable Forest Development Units Association was established, with 144 associated families. Since part of the area initially designated for the PMF and the forest use permit for the Nucleus was included within the expanded Huitorá Indigenous Resguardo by the National Land Agency [ANT], a participatory process is underway to realign the area, adjust the PMF, and relocate the first annual harvesting unit.



Figure 4 Assembly to form the Nueva Ilusión NDFyB Association - 2023

In the Los Puertos NDFyB, the forest harvesting process began with 125 trees of the 1,493 authorised in the first Annual Felling Unit [UCA 1 for its acronym in Spanish], in accordance with Resolution 437 of November 30, 2021 of the CDA. This activity yielded good profits, which have helped reinforce the perception that forest-based enterprises are profitable. The participation of peasant leaders from the six NDFyB in the First Wood Industry Congress organised by Fedemaderas in March 2023 expanded market opportunities for legal timber for the forest development units. Additionally, an exchange of experiences was organized between Los Puertos and Agua Bonita NDFyBs.



Figure 5 Participation of leaders in the Fedemaderas event

Furthermore, during the first half of 2024, the first **woodworking course** will be launched in partnership with the Santo Domingo School of Arts and Crafts, with an investment of €103,170, to train 30 farmers. The scope of this course is to build skills in woodworking, diversify timber uses, improve income opportunities and capacities, produce with higher quality standards, reduce waste, and generated alternative livelihood options for the communities.

At the beginning of 2024, four professionals will also be hired to lead the forest roundtables in Amazonas, Caquetá, Putumayo and Guaviare, along with the acquisition of materials and logistical support, with a total investment of €105,000.

*Illustration 5. Use of Portable Sawmill.
Primary Wood Processing*



*Illustration 4. Forestry Worker. Use of Safety
Gear*



*Illustration 3. Use of Technology for Tree
Mapping and Harvest Planning*



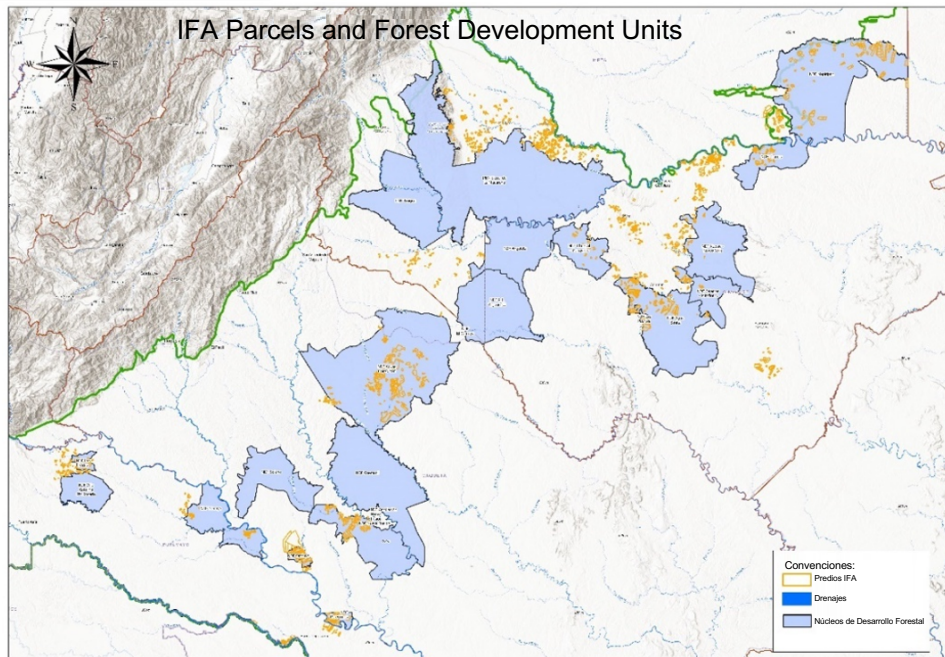
Figure 6 Images of sustainable forest use in the Los Puertos NDF – 2023.

With regard to **strengthening the environmental governance of environmental authorities**, support continues to be provided to strengthen the control and monitoring capacity and environmental governance of the three Regional Autonomous Corporations, with an initial investment of €350,000. At the beginning of 2024, 32 professionals and technicians will be hired as follows: Corpoamazonia (12), CDA (10) and Cormacarena (10). It should be noted that the corporations held general elections for directors in the last quarter of the year.

In May 2023, two support professionals were hired for Pillar 1: a consultant for forest extension design and certification, and an environmental education professional who provides professional services in Cartagena de Chairá to strengthen the environmental education component and participatory processes in the municipalities with the highest deforestation rates in Caquetá.

Amazon Forest Incentive [IFA]

The Ministry of environment welcomed the IFA as part of its NDFyB intervention approach in its Integral Deforestation Containment Plan. The Programme facilitated the development of the "Conservar Paga" (Conservation Pays) incentive scheme for forest conservation in the Amazon biome, which will be financed by the Fund for Life and Biodiversity. While the programme has been paying an IFA of COP 300,000 per month against conservation agreements, based on the option value of potential income from tasks generated in forest development centres, the Ministry of Environment, in its commitment to the communities, proposed a new IFA value of COP 900,000 per month in November 2023. The "Conservar Paga" strategy aims to reach 16,000 families in the deforestation arc and surrounding areas.



Source: REM Visión Amazonía Programme

Figure 7 Location of properties with IFA in the NDFyB to be covered by the Visión Amazonía REM Programme

The Programme committed to the characterization and payment of 2,200 new families and the renewal of existing beneficiaries (2,571 families), for a total projected number of 4,806 families. In the Integral Plan for Deforestation Containment, the Ministry of Environment [Minambiente] proposed the Community Action Boards [JAC Spanish acronym] as the organizations responsible for conducting the field characterizations. Accordingly, in 2023, with an appropriation of €698,018, contracts were awarded to the environmental authorities CDA, Corpoamazonia, ASOJUNTAS Cartagena del Chairá, ASOJUNTAS Calamar, JAC Las Piscinas, and Nueva Esperanza in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán to hire 100 local technical staff. These technicians were tasked with conducting 24 community meetings and characterizing 2,200 properties starting in early 2024. Due to public order issues, particularly in the Yará region of Caquetá, the initial characterizations were only allowed to begin in Cartagena del Chairá. It is expected that payments of IFA to an initial 300 new beneficiaries will start in March 2024, along with the renewal of 600 IFAs previously paid under REM I, starting in January 2024. In Calamar, the characterization process is scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2024.

The budget for the Programme's IFA under REM II is €3,564,000, with carryover funds of up to nearly €2 million from REM I. This budget would only cover two quarters based on the new proposed value of COP 900,000 per month set by Minambiente. Minambiente would then take over payments from the third quarter of 2024 through 2026 via the Life and Biodiversity Fund, at an annual cost of €10.7 million. A transitional arrangement is foreseen to allow the Ministry

to gradually assume these commitments, depending on progress in structuring the Life and Biodiversity Fund.

2.1.2 Pillar 2 Sustainable Sectoral Planning and Development

The agreement with the National Land Agency [ANT] was renewed for the titling of rural parcels under the REM COLOMBIA II Programme to natural persons, in compliance with Ruling 4360 of 2018. With a contribution of €342,000, up to 415 rural properties will be targeted, distributed as follows:

Table 2 Distribution of parcels benefiting from titling, by municipality and department

Department	Municipality	No. of parcels
Caquetá	Cartagena del Chairá	10
	San Vicente del Caguán	5
	Solano	87
Guaviare	Retorno	39
	San José del Guaviare	48
South of Meta	Puerto Concordia	55
	Puerto Rico	4
	La Macarena	2
Putumayo	Puerto Leguízamo	25
	Puerto Guzmán	2
	TOTAL	41

Source: Parcels identified in Specific Partnership Agreement No. 001/2021 of Framework Agreement 007/202 between ANT and FPN.

With a budget of €103,000, support was provided to the Sierra de la Macarena NATUPAZ Tourism Corporation, which represents tourism companies located in five municipalities of the so-called Sierra de la Macarena Route in southern Meta, namely Uribe, Mesetas, Vistahermosa, San Juan de Arama and Lejanías in the department of Meta. Sixty young guides from the Güejar Canyon will be trained in accordance with the Technical Sector Standards and rafting certification required for safe tourism and quality, and a study of the carrying capacity of the Güejar Canyon tourist circuit will be carried out. Support for nature tourism will also continue in the municipality of La Macarena, in the department of Meta, based on the experience gained on the Sierra de la Macarena route with Natupaz.

Incubation of energy communities will also be advanced in three NDFyBs, which will facilitate the competitiveness of the forest economy and sustainable development.

In support of the Directorate of Environmental Sectoral and Urban Affairs [DAASU] of the Minambiente, the process to hire two consultants was initiated to incorporate environmental criteria into infrastructure projects within the area of influence of the NDFyBs. Additionally, support is being provided to the Climate Change Directorate in the regulation of the carbon market, through a consultant and logistical support for meetings.

In the coming semester, assistance will be provided for the formulation of Municipal Development Plans for the municipalities of San José del Guaviare, El Retorno, Calamar, and Miraflores in the department of Guaviare, as well as Cartagena del Chairá and Solano in the department of Caquetá. This will facilitate the incorporation of the NDFyBs, the environmental determinants of the Land Use Planning Scheme [EOT], agricultural assistance plans, energy communities, Payment for Environmental Services [PSA], and, in general, all the actions implemented by Visión Amazonía.

2.1.3 Pillar 3 Agro-environmental Development

Agro-environmental development focuses on four main activities within the framework of the NDFyB: food sovereignty, agricultural extension, green financial instruments, and marketing of developed products.

With regard to **food sovereignty**, the National Training Service [SENA], through its CampeSENA programme, will launch "early interventions" involving mixed gardens (vegetables, traditional species and Amazonian Forest species), identification, sustainable exploitation and use of species from the range of non-timber forest products (palms, oils, salts, fruits, buds, honey) and basic processing of dairy products, and support will be provided to rural enterprises.

The same as in REM I, the new phase of the programme involves **agricultural extension workers** who, together with SENA, support food sovereignty, green financial instruments and the marketing of products developed in the initial phase. Once the food sovereignty phase is complete, forest extension workers will be incorporated into the NDFyB.

The Programme finances the Departmental Agricultural Extension Plans [PDEA] in the departments of Amazonas, Caquetá, Guaviare, Guainía and Vaupés, with criteria of environmental sustainability and zero deforestation, in accordance with the provisions of Law 1876 of 2017- National Agricultural Innovation System [SNIA], and agricultural extension agreements will eventually be signed with municipalities prioritised in areas of high deforestation. The Forest Governance component accompanied the process of developing content for the forest extension service.

The **Green Financial Instrument [IFV]** is the economic benefit received by small-scale producers through credit, for managing agro-environmental activities and conserving forest on their land. It is designed for small producers in low-intervention areas of the deforestation arc and applies to eight productive lines: Non-timber forest products – Açai; Protective-Productive Forest Plantation; Management of Natural Regeneration with protective-productive forest species; Agroforestry Systems – Rubber (establishment and production); Agroforestry Systems – Cacao; Agroforestry Systems – Peach Palm fruit (Chontaduro); Silvopasture Systems through natural regeneration; and Amazonian Fish Farming.

During the REM programme exchange of experiences held in Leticia, a new agreement was signed with Banco Agrario to offer green loans with capital incentives for forest conservation. The goal is to initially place at least 500 credit operations for the same number of small producers, whose main benefit is a capital incentive of up to 50% for signing forest conservation agreements and receiving agricultural extension services. The credit lines are aimed at planting and utilizing agroforestry systems, native and promising forest species, non-timber forest products, and fish farming. The Programme will contribute €1,029,909 as a capital incentive and up to €617,945 for the provision of technical assistance services. Together with an additional €1,647,854 from Banco Agrario's ordinary loan portfolio, this will total €3,295,707 in credit placements.

To launch the agreement, the contracting process is underway for the Service Extension Providing Company [EPSEA], which will be responsible for credit management and assistance. Simultaneously, work is progressing with the financial intermediary on the development of the operational annex, ensuring that credit approvals prioritize areas with larger forest coverage, agroforestry systems, fish farming, and reduce the allocation of livestock-related loans.

It is worth noting that the Programme received recognition for its management of Green Financial Instruments in REM I from Asobancaria in Cartagena.



Figure 8 *Asobancaria recognition for Green Financial Instruments*

With regard to **zero deforestation chains and productive partnerships**, support will be provided for the marketing of products and innovations developed in phase I in the assisted value chains of cocoa, rubber, açai, sacha inchi and canangucha (moriche palm).

Table 3 *Assisted Value Chains*

Value chain	Programme support
Rubber	A marketing proposal is being developed with the Asoprocaucho association in El Retorno, Guaviare department, for concentrated latex and domestic glue.
Rubber	A marketing proposal is being developed with the Asoheca association in Florencia-Caquetá for controlled viscosity rubber, TSR-CV.
Açaí	A marketing proposal is being developed with the Asoprocegua association in San José del Guaviare for the marketing of frozen and freeze-dried açai pulp (a non-timber product).
Sacha inchi	A marketing proposal is being developed with the Asoprocegua association in Puerto Concordia, Meta, and San José del Guaviare for oil and products derived from sacha inchi almonds.
Canangucha	A marketing proposal is being developed with the Acaiconucacha association in Cartagena del Chairá-Caquetá for oil and derivatives of the canangucha palm, a non-timber product.
Cocoa	A process has begun to support productivity and organic certification for cacao produced in El Retorno and Calamar, Guaviare, San Vicente del Caguán and Solano in Caquetá, and Puerto Guzmán, Putumayo.

An auditorium, offices and collection centre were handed over to the Procacao association in Solano, Caquetá, with support from Minambiente's Green and Sustainable Business programme.

2.1.4 Environmental Governance with Indigenous Peoples

Pillar 4: Environmental Governance with Indigenous Peoples supported the organization of two Amazon Regional Roundtables [MRA]. In the March 2023 session, the methodological roadmap was agreed upon for conducting the Prior Consultation process for the Visión Amazonía Programme. Additionally, in the 79th session of the MRA in December 2023, agreements were finally reached on modifications to the Project Operation Manual [MOP Spanish acronym] and certain programme procedures to enable the fourth call for indigenous project proposals.



Figure 9 Amazon Regional Roundtable

Prior to this Regional Roundtable, the National Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Colombian Amazon [**OPIAC for its Spanish acronym**] appointed three technical specialists to draft a technical document based on recommendations made during Sessions No. 63 and 74. These individuals were contracted by the Programme for three months, and based on the resulting technical document, working meetings were held with the UER and FPN to review proposals and reach preliminary agreements ahead of the Amazon Indigenous Environmental and Climate Change Roundtable [MIAACC Spanish acronym] as a technical validation space and the Expanded Regional Roundtable as the political decision-making forum.

At During the session held on December 14 and 15, the proposals were discussed with indigenous leadership, reaching the following agreements: OPIAC will act as the consulting organization providing technical assistance and support to implementing entities under the framework of the Fourth Call for PIVA projects; 50% of the resources from this call will be

allocated to projects for women and family, led by women; an additional indigenous focal point will be contracted, and depending on the results of the call, up to two more may be hired for Pillar 4; a political advisor or indigenous expert will be contracted for the sessions of the Accompaniment and Monitoring Platform [PAS Spanish acronym]; and one delegate from the indigenous peoples of the Colombian Amazon will be invited to participate in the selection committees for new personnel for the Indigenous Pillar. Additionally, in the fourth call, contracts will be signed exclusively with indigenous organizations, not with NGOs (the detailed agreements are presented in Annex 2). All these recommendations will be applied in 2024 to enable the launch of the Fourth Call for Proposals under the REM II Programme, scheduled for March 2024, with a total budget of €6,066,528.

Prior Consultation on the Visión Amazonía Programme

The Programme, together with the FAO's GCF Results-Based Payment Project, is supporting the implementation of a Free, Prior and Informed Consultation [CPLI] for the Visión Amazonía Programme, as an overarching framework for interventions in the Amazon Biome, in compliance with the agreements reached at the MRA in May 2021. The objective is to safeguard the various cooperation projects executed under the Visión Amazonía Programme through the design of a Guarantee Mechanism that ensures the effective participation of Amazon Indigenous Peoples in the financing projects implemented in the region. Consultants have been hired to facilitate the preparation of the consultation process, and progress has been made in contracting OPIAC as the accompanying agency responsible for this process. A budget of COP 4,400,000,000 has been allocated for this purpose, as agreed in the MRA, with contributions of COP 3,200,000,000 from the GCF Project and COP 1,200,000,000 (€248,107) from REM Visión Amazonía. As part of the Pre-consultation phase, Minambiente will propose the documents to be submitted for consultation, namely: i) the base document of the Visión Amazonía Programme, ii) the PIVA document, and iii) the proposal for an efficient and guarantee-based mechanism. These documents will be reviewed by the MRA prior to the installation of the formal Consultation phase. The start of the Visión Amazonía prior consultation is scheduled for the first half of 2024.

Throughout 2023, Pillar 4 has been working with a team appointed by the Minister's Advisor on Ethnic Affairs, which includes professionals from the Directorates of Participation, Forests, and Climate Change. Together, they have participated in specific negotiations with OPIAC to prepare all phases of the consultation process, as well as the necessary administrative and financial mechanisms to enable the contracting of OPIAC as facilitator of the process.

2.1.5 Pillar 5 Enabling Conditions

The operation of the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System [SMByC] of the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies [IDEAM] during 2023 was carried out thanks to the financial support of the REM COLOMBIA II Visión Amazonía programme, the GEF initiative "Heart of the Amazon" and the World Bank's BioCarbono Fund project in the Orinoquia region. With regard to REM COLOMBIA II, a new agreement was signed in November 2023 to support the operation and strengthening of the SMByC, for an amount of €807,654. This will enable the hiring of professionals from the digital satellite image processing team, which is crucial for generating early warnings and annual deforestation reports. Of particular note is the monitoring of the effectiveness of conservation agreements, through SMByC regional links, of 123,609 hectares of forest belonging to the 2,571 beneficiaries of the Amazon Forest Incentive [IFA] in the departments of Guaviare, Meta, Caquetá and Putumayo.

During 2023, the SMByC produced four quarterly bulletins on early detection of deforestation, identifying critical sites of forest loss in Colombia (Nos. 33, 34, 35 and 36, corresponding to the period from the fourth quarter of 2022 to the third quarter of 2023, available on the IDEAM institutional website:

(https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DAtwf5IBOaf2Lemi8NF74BPCgace2bcQ?usp=drive_link).

The consolidated report in these bulletins includes the results of deforestation monitoring carried out with the focal points contracted under Pillar 5 of the Programme for Corpoamazonía, Cormacarena and CDA, which provide monitoring information for the departments of Caquetá, Putumayo, Meta, Guaviare, Guainía, Amazonas and Vaupés, in conjunction with the focal point for National Natural Parks contracted through the GEF-Corazón de la Amazonía initiative. A decrease in early deforestation alerts at the national level was identified for the first and second quarters of 2023, compared to the first and second quarters of 2022.

Likewise, the Annual Update of natural forest and deforestation monitoring figures for the country is carried out and presented at the end of the first half of each year. Finally, since January 2019, the SMByC has been generating early warning reports on deforestation in near real time (weekly) to support environmental authorities in their management. Under this scheme, the SMByC has reconstructed the dynamics of deforested areas for the last 23 years, generating a biennial historical series for the period 2000-2012 and an annual historical series from 2013 to 2022 (see Introduction). The result of the greenhouse gas emissions [GHG] calculation for the year 2022 in the Amazon Biome amounts to 31,543,982 TCO₂eq, considering aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, litter, and soil carbon.

In the first half of 2024, a consultant will be hired to calculate and analyse the thematic accuracy of activity data, adjusted estimators and uncertainty for thematic maps of natural forest area and

forest area change (deforestation) at the national and regional levels for the annual reports for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

2.2 Communications Strategy

The REM II Communications Strategy has focused on positioning the sustainable forest development model proposed for the Amazon region and highlighting the progress made by the NDFyBs that are in the process of being strengthened, such as Los Puertos, Orotuyo and Nueva Ilusión, showing the way forward and how to replicate this in Yará – Caguán and Agua Bonita.

In the second half of 2023, the audiovisual production company Suricata Films was contracted, along with a designer and a community manager, funded by REM II resources. These positions will transition to employment contracts as part of the UER staff in 2024. To maintain a media presence in the region, contracts were once again signed with local radio stations, including an independent journalist with a large audience in Florencia through the programme Enfoque Caquetá.

Throughout 2023, **39 press bulletins** were produced, resulting in 78 media appearances in Amazon regional outlets, as well as national and other regional media across the country (see Annex 4). The “Territorio Jaguar” **bulletin**, which compiles the main news from the REM COLOMBIA Visión Amazonía Programme, reaches a mailing list of 2,500 recipients. By December 2023, the Programme had produced **Podcast #116**, which is distributed to local radio stations and social media platforms.

This year also saw a continued upward trend in the number of the Programme’s followers across social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram, YouTube, and Spotify (see Table 9).

Table 4 Number of followers of the Visión Amazonía Programme on social media

Social network	December 2022	December	% growth
Facebook	12,619	14,102	12
Twitter	5,400	5,844	8
Instagram	2,358	2,795	19
YouTube	516	629	22
Spotify	12	64	433

A webinar was also held in collaboration with the Universidad Distrital Francisco José de Caldas, presenting six lectures through its academic platform. These sessions were aimed at

undergraduate and postgraduate students, faculty, and research groups, addressing topics such as productive reconversion, sustainable use of non-timber forest products, and promising species in the Amazon region.

Throughout 2023, various events in the region related to the closing of REM I were covered, including: the inauguration of the Procacao headquarters with the participation of the Director of the Green and Sustainable Business Office of the Ministry; the delivery of conservation incentives under the agreement with Banco Agrario de Colombia; the inauguration of the Canangucha processing plant with the Inga community in the municipality of Villa Garzón, Putumayo; and the inauguration of the Sacha Inchi processing plant in San José del Guaviare, attended by the Minister.



Figure 10 Signing of the Social Agreement in Calamar and visit by KfW

Within the framework of REM COLOMBIA II, support was provided to the Ministry of Environment with the signing of a social agreement between the rural communities of Cartagena de Chairá and Calamar and the Minister of Environment, Susana Muhamad, with a visit from international cooperation and campaigns such as forest week and water week.

At the international level, the REM II Programme's participation in COP 28 of the UNFCCC in Dubai was covered.



Figure 11 Participation of the REM COLOMBIA II Programme in COP 28 of the UNFCCC

One of the most important events that provided an opportunity to showcase the work carried out under the REM COLOMBIA II Programme, was the pre-summit, or road to the Amazon summit, held in Leticia. This event brought together representatives from the Amazonian countries to jointly build the thematic agenda for the Amazon Presidents' Summit in Belem de Pará in August 2023.

At the national level, the REM Programme participated in March at the International Environmental Fair [FIMA], where the book compiling lessons learned from REM I was officially presented.

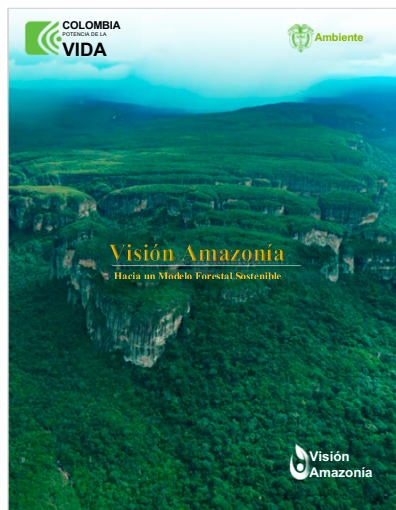


Figure 12 Cover of the REM I experience book and participation in FIMA 2023

Several other events were covered in which the REM Programme participated, including the first wood industry congress organized by Fedemaderas, where participating farmers spoke on camera about their experiences and future expectations for developing a forest-based economy. The Programme was also present at the Banco Agrario event in Florencia, Caquetá, recognizing

green credit initiatives; the presentation of the Asobancaria Award to Banco Agrario and Visión Amazonía in Cartagena de Indias; the dialogue to build Colombia's energy transition Roadmap, organized by the Ministry of Mines and Energy in Bogotá; and the experience exchange on the implementation of PIVA projects in the municipality of La Mesa, Cundinamarca, which included the presentation of lessons learned in rural extension by the Rural Development Agency [ADR Spanish acronym]. Additionally, the Programme took part in the first board meeting of the Nueva Ilusión Sustainable Forest Development Units Association in Remolino del Caguán, a knowledge exchange among rural extension agents, and the Amazonian Fruits Roundtable in Caquetá. Participation also included Agroexpo, upon invitation from the Ministry of Agriculture and Banco Agrario, featuring technical talks and delegations of beneficiary farmers. The Programme supported the Universidad de la Amazonía and Minambiente in promoting the Escuela de Selva diploma course, amplifying its message through social media to encourage participation.

Toward the end of the year, the Programme participated alongside the Minister at the inauguration ceremony for the new governor and 15 mayors of Caquetá, promoting the signing of a political agreement for deforestation containment. It also widely publicized the presentation by the Municipality of Calamar of the Cruz de Chiribiquete Order to the Minister of Environment, the General Coordinator, Pillar 1 and 3 leaders, and three focal points of the REM Programme.

2.3 Mechanism for Questions, Complaints and Claims Prior Consultation of the Visión Amazonía Programme

During the period covered by this report, a total of 116 requests were received, corresponding to 37 petitions, 70 requests for supplies or information, 4 informative documents and 5 invitations through the Minambiente ARCA correspondence system, via the link on the Programme's website for submitting PQRSDs online <https://visionamazonia.minambiente.gov.co/pqr/> and the email address visionamazonia@minambiente.gov.co.

The main topics of the requests received have been inquiries about the methodology used by the Programme to guarantee safeguards and interest in the IFA (Incentive for Environmental Forest Conservation). Questionnaires have also been received regarding the Programme's actions and results in controlling deforestation in the Amazon. Another recurring issue has been requests for clarification concerning the emissions accounting process for the development of carbon projects by entities other than the Programme.

It is important to note that the requests received do not distinguish between REM I and REM II, as they are generally addressed to the Programme as a whole and its actions within the Amazon Biome. Lastly, the Programme's website continues to keep its documentation up to date, ensuring easy access to information for any interested citizen.

2.4 REM Implementation Unit [UER]

2.4.1 UER Team

Throughout 2023, the UER staff remained stable, carrying out activities both for the closing of REM I and the launch of REM II. The recruitment process for REM II UER staff was completed, with employment contracts signed under REM II as of July 2023. As part of the UER Strengthening Plan, approved during the Monitoring Mission in September, administrative processes were advanced for the hiring of the first 5 of 10 new professionals who will begin in January 2024 (a Safeguards Coordinator, Legal Advisor, Logistics Support, and for the communications strategy, a Community Manager and a Graphic Designer).

2.4.2 Programme Coordination Spaces

From September 10 to 17, 2023, the first KfW Monitoring Mission for the REM COLOMBIA II Programme was conducted, with the objective of monitoring the closing of REM I and assessing the progress of REM II. Field visits were carried out in Guaviare and Guainía. A roadmap was agreed upon for the closure of REM I and the transfer of REM I remaining balances to the REM II account. Discussions were held on the UER Strengthening Plan, the completion of the Environmental and Social Management Framework [MGAS], the delivery by Patrimonio Natural of a proposal for the Visión Amazonía Information System [SIVA II Spanish acronym], and the publication of the Safeguards Information Summaries [RIS VI and RIS VII], corresponding to the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 periods respectively.

During the period, two Monitoring Committees of Minambiente were held: the first on February 15, for the approval of PIR I of REM II and the corresponding transfer of over USD 4 million in unexecuted balances from REM I to the REM II account; and the second on April 14, to monitor the closure of the REM I Programme and the hiring process for REM II UER staff. In addition, five Financial Committees were held (January 23, February 3, June 16, October 3, and December 1), during which decisions were made on the Euro planning rate for PID 1 [Investment Plan by Disbursement] and PIR I [Returns-based Investment Plan], the monitoring of the Programme's financial investments, and the process for tendering the delegated portfolio.

In terms of planning and monitoring, weekly follow-up meetings were held with participation from UER and FPN, and four REM II strategic planning workshops took place: on January 30–

31, 2023, to refine the investments for both PID 1 and PIR 1, serving as input for the preparation of the respective procurement plans, with participation from the Vice Minister of Environmental Policies and Standardization, the Director of Forests, and other Minambiente officials. On February 13–14, a workshop was held on NDFyB governance. On April 12–13, a strategic meeting took place regarding the organization of UER staff under REM II in relation to the management of Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units [NDFyB]. And from May 8 to 11, 2023, a strategic planning workshop on the NDFyB was held in Anapoima, with the participation of the Director of Forests from Minambiente during the final conclusion session.

2.4.3 Coordination with Cooperation Agencies and other events

The Programme organized several meetings with other projects and cooperation representatives, including a coordination meeting with USAID’s Amazonía Mía (February); a meeting of the Environmental Sub-Group Cooperating Partners [GruC], featuring a presentation by Minambiente on progress with the design of the Fondo para la Vida (March); and support for the Vice Minister in preparing the agenda for a strategic meeting with cooperating partners on the Containment Plan (February). The team also participated in an event hosted by the Embassy of the Netherlands to present a private deforestation monitoring initiative by SARVISION, and held meetings with the Embassy of Sweden to discuss a potential contribution to REM II (May). Additionally, the Programme took part in the 75th anniversary celebration of KfW, attended by Christiane Laibach of the KfW Board of Directors and Claudia Arce, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean. In March, the Programme also accompanied the Norwegian Minister of Environment on a visit to Guaviare.

Following the Monitoring Mission, from September 18 to 22 in Leticia, and with the support of KfW, the first REM programme experience-sharing workshop was organized, involving participants from Colombia, Ecuador, Acre, and Mato Grosso. The objective was to create a knowledge exchange platform for valuable experiences related to the implementation of the REM programme in different countries and contexts.

In December 2023, the General Coordinator presented the Programme at the COP 28 of the UNFCCC in Dubai. That same month, the coordinator also presented the progress of REM COLOMBIA II at KfW headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany, ahead of his participation in COP 28. During the COP, the United Kingdom and Norway announced additional contributions to Visión Amazonía, of GBP 15 million and USD 10 million, respectively.

Other events in the region

The Programme has accompanied the Ministry of the Environment in the signing of three social agreements to work together with the community, organisations, government and international

cooperation to contain deforestation and implement a model that makes the forest the main component of sustainable land use. The first social dialogue took place in December 2022 in Cartagena del Chairá¹. On February 24, 2023,² a social dialogue and consultation meeting was held in the Remolino del Caguán district of Cartagena del Chairá between communities and organisations that are part of the Caquetá and Sur del Meta Peasant Roundtable in the municipalities of Cartagena del Chairá, Solano, and San Vicente del Caguán, and the Ministry of the Environment in an effort to advance the urgent process of reducing deforestation. Participants included coordinators from 20 community groups, presidents of ASOJUNTAS, presidents of 14 Community Action Boards, representatives of the Mesa de Concertación Campesina, social organisations Acaiconucacha, ASOES, Chocaguán, women leaders from Bajo Caguán, the departmental coordinator of Peasant Organisations, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Visión Amazonía, Corpoamazonia, and SINCHI. The third dialogue took place in March in Calamar-NDFyB Los Puertos³.

On December 28, the Programme accompanied Minister Susana Muhamad to a meeting in Cartagena del Chairá with environmental leaders, as well as to the inauguration of the Governor of Caquetá, attended by the 16 mayors of the department, where the signing of a political agreement for deforestation containment was promoted. Among other events in which the Programme participated were the presentation of lessons learned on rural extension, invited by the Rural Development Agency [ADR Spanish acronym]; attendance at the first board meeting of the Nueva Ilusión Association of Forest Development Units in Remolino del Caguán; participation in an experience exchange session where rural extension agents presented productivity results; and involvement in the Amazonian Fruits Roundtable in Caquetá. Additionally, the Programme received the Cross of Chiribiquete Order (Cruz de Chiribiquete) from the Municipality of Calamar, an event that was also widely publicized.

2.5 Programme Safeguards and Risk Management

During 2023, we participated in the Internal Committee for Socio-Environmental Safeguards [CISSA] in the consolidation of the National Safeguards System [SNS Spanish acronym]. Likewise, we participated in the sessions of the Working Group [GT] on Safeguards and Integrity of the UN-REDD Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean, organised by UNEP, with experts working on the design, implementation and monitoring of REDD+

¹ <https://www.minambiente.gov.co/gobierno-firma-primer-acuerdo-social-para-proteger-las-selvas-y-contener-la-deforestacion-en-el-pais/>

² <https://www.minambiente.gov.co/se-crea-la-primer-empresa-para-148-familias-que-viven-en-areas-de-deforestacion/>

³ <https://visionamazonia.minambiente.gov.co/news/acuerdo-social-con-las-comunidades-de-calamar-guaviare/>

safeguards, both at the national/subnational level and in project teams or REDD+ results-based payment initiatives.

In 2023, progress was made in consolidating the **Environmental and Social Management Framework [MGAS]**, based on *the Advanced Draft* accepted by KfW in December 2022. Contributions from specialists from UNEP UN-REDD, KfW and BioCarbono Orinoquía were integrated, and feedback was shared with various departments of the Ministry of Environment, including the Directorate of Climate Change and Risk Management, the Sub-Directorate of Education and Participation, and the Open Government Coordination Unit within the framework of CISSA. In December 2023, the new version of the MGAS was submitted to CISSA for endorsement and subsequent submission to KfW in the first quarter of 2024.

The MGAS is a living document under continuous improvement; the next version is expected to incorporate the following components, which are still under development: i) Development of the Stakeholder Participation Plan [PPPI]; ii) Development of an Indigenous Peoples Framework, which defines participation mechanisms for activities that complement those carried out under the Indigenous Pillar calls; iii) Free, prior and informed consultation of the Visión Amazonía; iv) Development of the Programme's Gender Strategy (to be consolidated in 2024); and v) Consolidation of the Occupational Safety and Prevention System.

Progress was made on the **Environmental and Social Management Plans [PGAS Spanish acronym]** for prioritised interventions, in accordance with the risk analysis: these include the implementation of Forest Management Plans [PMFs] for the NDFyB Los Puertos and Orotuyo; Green Credits; Amazon Forest Incentive [IFA]; and Agro-Environmental Projects. This exercise, carried out with the technical team for each intervention, has made it possible to identify and systematise the benefits of each intervention, as well as to identify risks and mitigation measures.

In November 2023, a contract was awarded for the development of a methodological proposal for the **Stakeholder Participation Plans [PPPI]** for the REM II Programme, as well as the corresponding Participation Plan for the NDFyB of Los Puertos and Agua Bonita, which includes a study of the socio-environmental conflicts and threats associated with the historical occupation model of the NDFyB and its area of influence, an inventory of actors, construction of the Framework for Indigenous Peoples and the roadmap for social agreements on specific interventions in the Agua Bonita-Los Puertos NDFyB. The methodological proposal is expected by May 2024; it will become part of the MGAS and will be implemented in the other NDFyBs.

Security protocols are being updated on issues such as Unexploded Ordnance [UXO Spanish acronym], public order conditions in the area, snake bites, possible physical injuries during fieldwork, and tropical diseases. In partnership with the GEF Corazón de la Amazonía Project,

a publication is being produced for programme staff and partner organisations. The Programme will supplement this material in February 2024 with a training process on safety and first aid. Support will be provided to the EI to develop their Internal Work Regulations document, which will include, among other things: Industrial Health and Safety, Occupational Safety and Management, Health Risk Management Programme, Emergency Preparedness and Response Programme (rules, alarms).

With regard to the **Safeguards Information Summaries [RIS]**, during the November 2023 Monitoring Mission, it was agreed that the Ministry of Environment would submit RIS VI, corresponding to the period September 2020 to September 2021, for public consultation. Colombia has received international recognition for the timely submission of the first five RISs. However, there have been difficulties with this RIS, leading to a three-year delay. With the reactivation of the Ministry of Environment's CISSA, it is expected to be put out for public consultation and submitted to the UNFCCC info hub in the first half of 2024. With regard to the publication of RIS VII (September 2021-September 2022), the Programme has already prepared the input for this report. Once the structure of the document has been agreed upon by the CISSA, it is expected that the Ministry of Environment will move forward with its publication in the first half of the year.



As **special cases**, during this period, a relevant situation arose following the declaration of the expansion of the Huitorá and Coropoya Indigenous Resguardos, which resulted in families benefiting from the IFA being located within the expanded areas. Additionally, there was an impact on some of the Annual Felling Units [UCA] designated for the Nueva Ilusión Forest Management Plan [PMF]. In response to this scenario, certain response actions were proposed, and it became necessary to adjust the safeguard measures to prevent similar situations in the future. Following the issuance of the agreement by the National Land Agency [ANT], the Programme suspended activities and investments in the areas overlapping with the expanded Indigenous Resguardo. For the Orotuyo area, conservation agreements were not renewed, and a technical opinion was requested from Corpoamazonia regarding the realignment of the Nueva Ilusión Forest Management Unit [UMF Spanish acronym].




Similarly, there have been cases related to the presence of illegal armed groups in the territory. This represents a constant operational challenge, to which the Programme has been adapting its strategies. As of now, the National Government is conducting dialogue with the armed group known as the Central General Staff [EMC Spanish acronym], creating a dynamic territorial context that the Programme continues to monitor closely. Descriptions of the cases and the proposed measures can be found at the end of this document in Annex 5.


2.6 Progress on Logical Framework Indicators

With regard to the targets of the REM II Programme's Logical Framework, progress was made in the implementation of two of the four NDFyBs, and the remaining ones are in the design and development stage. Of the goal of 11 agreements with local and environmental authorities, four were signed: Corpoamazonía, Cormacarena, CDA and the Guaviare Governor's Office to strengthen forest resource governance. For the other indicators, the inputs required to make progress in their fulfilment are being prepared. This is understandable given that REM II is in the process of preparation, consultation with communities and the start of interventions.

Table 5 Progress of Logical Framework Indicators

Indicator	Target	Progress	% Progress	Description of Progress	Comments and opportunities for improvement
Result A: Forest development units					
Number of forest development units in operation	4	2	 50%	The NDFyB Los Puertos and Orotuyo are currently being implemented: they have PMFs and permits for sustainable forest use.	Adjust the Nueva Ilusión PMF to the new area and begin formulation of the Aguas Claras-Yarí and Agua Bonita PMFs. Support the strengthening of the associations created in the NDFyBs.
Number of forest development units in the process of FSC certification and that have already undergone a preliminary assessment or main audit	3	0	 10%	The process of preparing associations for FSC forest certification and identifying their status of compliance with FSC criteria has begun.	Initiate activities to advance compliance with FSC certification criteria.

Indicator	Target	Progress	% Progress	Description of Progress	Comments and opportunities for improvement
Result B: Indigenous peoples					
Number of indigenous peoples' families and communities supported	14,000	0	 10%	The fourth call for proposals under the PIVA will be issued once an MRA has been carried out to address the adjustment of the MOP to the specific conditions of indigenous peoples and other issues raised by indigenous communities. Terms of reference for indigenous consultants have been drawn up.	The programme will support the hiring of indigenous consultants for the proposal to adjust the MOP, and the MRA is expected to be carried out in the second half of 2023. The fourth call for proposals under the PIVA is expected to begin in the first half of 2024.
Area of indigenous territories supported by environmental governance projects (million ha)	10	0	 10%		
Result C: Institutional strengthening					
Number of policy adjustments and/or administrative measures approved at the national and regional levels to promote sustainable forest management in the Amazon region	8	4	 50%	Participated in meetings to establish the Fund for Life and structure projects with these funds. Minambiente approved the Decree on the Fund for Life, and two of the Fund's projects finance part of the IFA payment in the programme's NDFyB. The National Development Plan	Approval of development plans incorporating NDFyBs and deforestation control measures is expected.

Indicator	Target	Progress	% Progress	Description of Progress	Comments and opportunities for improvement
				[PND] containing the Deforestation Containment Plan has been approved.	
Number of agreements signed with local authorities and regional environmental authorities on the sustainable management of forest resources	11	4	 36%	Sub-agreements were signed with the three corporations to strengthen forest governance and implement the Amazon Forest Incentive. A sub-agreement was also signed with the Guaviare Departmental Government	Sub-agreements with provincial governments and municipalities are expected to be signed to support territorial management in controlling deforestation.

3 Budget Management of the Colombia II Visión Amazonía Programme

On December 14, 2022, KfW, Minambiente and Patrimonio Natural signed the Separate Agreement for REM II for an amount of up to €34.48 million. As of December 2023, two Investment Plans by Disbursement [PID] have been approved, totalling €28,478,057. On December 19, 2022, the Executive Committee approved PID1 for €24,328,057. Of this amount, €10 million corresponds to the first disbursement from Germany in accordance with the payment for the achievement of milestones in 2020, and €14,328,057.10 is the disbursement from Norway corresponding to the payment for the achievement of policy milestones in 2020 and 2021 within the framework of the DCI. This first disbursement was received on December 23, 2023 and its procurement plan was approved on March 10, 2023 (9 months in execution). The second PID was approved in November 2023, corresponding to the second disbursement from Germany, and its procurement plan is currently awaiting approval, which will allow interventions to begin in 2024.

Table 6 Investment Plans approved in REM II

PID	Approved	% Appropriated	% Paid	Approval of Investment Plan	Approval of the Procurement Plan	Months in execution
PIDs	28,478,057	21%	6%			
PID 1	24,328,057	25%	6%	Dec. 2022	Mar. 2023	9
PID 2	4,150,000	0%	0%	Nov. 2023	(pending approval)	-
PIRs	4,994,858	16%	0%			
PIR1	2,979,945	27%	0%	Feb. 2023	Mar. 2023	9
PIR2	2,014,913	0%	0%	-	-	
Total	33,472,915	21%	5%			

Additionally, the Programme generates returns through low-risk investments, which are executed through Returns-based Investment Plans [PIRs Spanish acronym]. The first PIR was established with the transfer of part of the returns generated in REM I that were not executed. In this regard, the Executive Committee meeting held on February 28, 2023 approved the transfer of COP 14,467,036,216 in returns from REM I to REM II and the corresponding PIR 1 of REM II for an amount of €2,979,945, in accordance with the planning rate defined by the Finance Committee. Additionally, within the framework of the KfW Monitoring Mission carried out in September 2023, the transfer of €2,014,913 from returns generated in REM I was approved in order to finance the strengthening of the UER.

With regard to budget management, as of December 31, 2023, 21% of the total programme resources had been appropriated through the signing of contracts, agreements and sub-agreements. Likewise, 5% of the approved budget was executed through payments made under these contracts.

Once the KfW's No Objection was received for both Disbursement-based Procurement Plan 1 [PAD Spanish acronym] and Returns-based Procurement Plans 1 [PAR for its acronym in Spanish], the pre-contractual processes for the different interventions of the pillars began, including the formulation of preliminary studies and ToRs, the tender documents, and the evaluation committees, processes that resulted in the appropriation of resources of close to €7 million.

3.1 Budget Execution of Investment Plans

In Investment Plans by Disbursement [PID], as of December 31, 2023, 21% of the resources had been appropriated through the signing of agreements and sub-agreements. Likewise, 6% of the resources had been executed through payments made under these contracts.

Table 8 Budget Execution of Investment Plans by Disbursement [PID] and Returns-based Investment Plans [PIR]

Pillars	Approved	Appropriated	Commitments	Executed	% Appropriated	% Executed
PIDs	28,478,057	6,093,610	2,319,994	1,577,905	21%	6%
PID 1	24,328,057	6,093,610	2,319,994	1,577,905	25%	6%
PID 2	4,150,000	0	0	0	0%	0%
PIRs	4,994,858	809,658	55,765	11,365	16%	0%
PIR 1	2,979,945	809,658	55,765	11,365	27%	0%
PIR 2	2,014,913	0	0	0	0%	0%
Total	33,472,915	6,903,268	2,375,760	1,589,270	21%	5%

Based on FPN Annual Financial Report; for further details, see Annex 6.

As for PAD 1, approved on March 10, 2023, in accordance with the guidelines of the Minister of the Environment, a significant part of its term was devoted to dialogue with local communities to promote concerted planning of actions in the territory, to be formalised in Social Agreements, within the framework of the implementation of the Deforestation Containment Plan. As for PID 2, its procurement plan is in the process of approval and interventions are projected to begin in the second quarter of 2024. Of PAR 1, 27% of the approved resources were allocated, although no payments were made; meanwhile, PIR and PAR 2 are still under formulation.

3.2 Budget Execution by Pillars

The Programme's actions are carried out under five pillars of intervention of Visión Amazonía, which aim to achieve effective results in reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable development in the region. The budget execution of the Programme by pillar is analysed below.

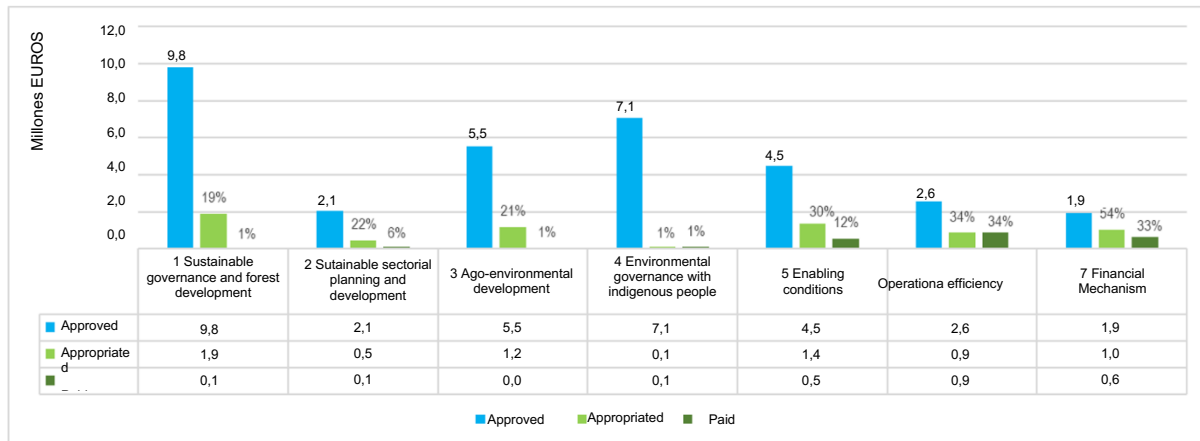


Figure 13 Budget Execution by Pillars

Pillar 1: Governance and Sustainable Forest Development allocated 19% of its budget, mainly through agreements signed with Uniamazonia to implement the Environmental Education Strategy *Escuela de Selva*, with the three regional autonomous corporations to strengthen forest governance, with Natupaz to promote community-based nature tourism, and with Community Action Boards [JAC] and associations of boards for the identification of new IFA beneficiaries. Pillar 2: Sustainable Sectorial Planning and Development allocated 22% of the approved resources, highlighting the signing of an agreement with the National Land Agency [ANT] to support land tenure security in the Programme’s intervention areas. Pillar 3: Agro-environmental Development allocated 21% of the budget, mainly through an agreement with the Agrarian Bank for the implementation of green credits, and with the Government of Guaviare. Pillar 4: Environmental Governance with Indigenous Peoples is awaiting the launch of the fourth PIVA call, expected in the first half of 2024, within the framework of agreements with the MRA. Pillar 5: Enabling Conditions allocated 30% of its budget, which includes the signing of an agreement with IDEAM for deforestation monitoring in the Programme’s intervention areas.

The Financial Mechanism has allocated 54% of the resources and executed 33%, in accordance with the Programme’s Operational Manual and the service provision contract between Minambiente and FPN.

The main contracts and agreements signed in 2023 were the following:

Table 9 Main Processes Appropriated in 2023 (€)

Pillars	Theme	Appropriated
BAC	Green loans	1,029,909
IDEAM	Deforestation monitoring	807,687

UNIAMAZONIA	Escuela de Selva	720,936
ANT	Legal security of land	341,930
CORPOAMAZONIA	Forest governance	324,924
CDA	Forest governance	310,332
GUAVIARE	Forest extension	104,000
GOVERNANCE		
NATUPAZ	Nature tourism	102,991
CORMACARENA	Forest governance	102,991
CALAMAR	Profiling of families	88,325
ASOJUNTAS		
CCHAIRA ASOJUNTAS	Profiling of families	64,575
LAS PISCINAS JAC	Profiling of families	55,821
NUEVA ESPERANZA		
JAC	Profiling of families	52,113
Total		4,106,534

Patrimonio Natural, for its part, signed contracts totalling €2,796,734, allocated to contracts under the pillars outlined in the procurement plans, UER staff, operational activities, and costs of the financial mechanism.

3.3 Budget Execution by Results

48% of the benefit distribution is allocated to Result 1: Integrated Intervention in Forest Development Units, which reached an appropriation level of 20%, based on the contracts and sub-agreements under Pillars 1, 2, and 3. These are mainly focused on sustainable forest management, nature tourism, support for legal land tenure, access to incentives, green credits and other financial instruments, rural extension services, technical, social, and business support, and capacity building for local communities and organizations.

Table 10 Budget Execution by Results (€)

Results	Approved	Appropriated	Executed	% Appropriated	% Executed	Participation
Profit distribution	31,552,156	5,861,776	952,373	19%	3%	94.26%
R1 Comprehensive Intervention in Forest based Development Units	15,203,254	3,113,922	75,786	20%	0%	48.18%

R2 Indigenous Environmental Governance	7,077,356	103,841	78,300	1%	1%	22.43%
R3 Institutional Strengthening	9,271,546	2,644,013	798,287	29%	9%	29.38%
Financial mechanism	1,920,759	1,041,492	636,897	54%	33%	5.74%
Total	33,472,915	6,903,268	1,589,270	21%	5%	100.00%

Based on FPN Annual Financial Report

Result 2, Indigenous Environmental Governance, accounts for 22%, in line with the programme's distribution of benefits, and recorded low appropriation and execution due to progress in agreements with the Amazon Regional Roundtable. The fourth call for proposals is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2024. Result 3 Institutional Strengthening has 29% of the budget and managed to appropriate 29% of its resources, which were directed towards supporting territorial entities (provincial governments and municipalities) and national and regional environmental authorities to strengthen forest management and governance and deforestation monitoring.

3.4 Financial Returns and Exchange Rate Differential

As of December 31, 2023, financial returns of COP 21,809 million were obtained; the exchange rate differential was COP 170 million.

3.5 Distribution of Benefits, Stock and Flow

12% of payments have been allocated to local investments, and 88% to the creation of enabling conditions and related policies, which is understandable given that the Programme is currently in its preparatory phase. Payments allocated to local investment primarily financed activities related to the free, prior, and informed consultation for the Visión Amazonía Programme, within the framework of agreements with the MRA, as well as the development of Forest Development Units.

Regarding the stock & flow distribution, 34% of local investment was allocated to actions that reduce deforestation (flow) through Pillar 1: Forest Governance and Pillar 3: Agro-environmental Development, while 66% was directed to activities that protect existing forests (stock) through Pillar 4: Indigenous Governance.

4 Changes in the Implementation Context

The first phase of the REM I Visión Amazonía Programme, from 2016 to 2023, was characterised as a pioneering programme for the entire Amazon region, providing lessons learned and innovative technical proposals to reduce deforestation, such as the IFA, IFVs, environmental education, the NDFyB strategy, the Amazon Regional Land Management Model [MOTRA for its acronym in Spanish], socio-environmental safeguard management, rural extension, PIVA and PAS, among others (see REM Lessons Learned Book⁴). This provided the basis for focusing management on 22 NDFyB prioritised as government policy through the Ministry of the Environment to promote the forest economy. With the Deforestation Containment Plan, international cooperation was invited to address all NDFyBs. The Ministry of Environment moved forward with the design and establishment of the Fund for Life with a budget of more than €120 million in 2023, aimed at addressing the priorities of the Amazon NDFyBs, as well as the restoration of deforested areas.

In this context, the second phase of REM COLOMBIA II no longer covers the entire Amazon region but focuses on six NDFyBs, while other projects such as USAID's Amazonía Viva and GCF Visión Amazonía [FAO] work with other NDFyBs. The Fund for Life hopes to finance SINCHI, the Humboldt Institute, CDA and Corpoamazonia to begin their work in the other NDFyBs in 2024. All of the above will be based on inputs from the REM Visión Amazonía Programme's intervention strategy.

In this new scenario, the REM COLOMBIA II Programme is expected to play an important role in supporting guidance from the Ministry of Environment to ensure coherence in the respective intervention strategies and consistency in conservation agreement criteria and other lessons learned from the REM Visión Amazonía Programme.

The focus on six Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units [NDFyB] across three integrated intervention areas, along with more detailed planning at the area level and territorially disaggregated budgets, also calls for a rethinking of the Programme's operational structure, combining a thematic approach with a more territorial approach.

On the other hand, the regional elections held in October 2023 and the election of new mayors, governors, and directors of the three Regional Autonomous Corporations (environmental authorities) [CARs] in December 2023 and January 2024 require significant engagement efforts with these new local authorities. The Programme seeks to offer its support in the formulation of Departmental and Municipal Development Plans, thereby facilitating the inclusion of the

⁴ <https://visionamazonia.minambiente.gov.co/content/uploads/2023/11/VISION-AMAZONIA-REM-I-1.pdf>

NDFyB in these planning instruments in alignment with the National Development Plan [PND] at the local level.

5 Challenges and Priorities for REM II

Security. With the progress achieved during the first year of the REM COLOMBIA II Programme's preparatory phase, supporting the Minister of Environment in establishing social agreements with community leaders in Caquetá and Guaviare, agreeing on programmes such as IFA and Escuela de Selva, engaging new regional stakeholders such as ASOJUNTAS, conducting strategic planning by the UER to align investments in each NDFyB, and coordinating with other international cooperation actors—the groundwork is being laid for a substantial increase in the implementation of integrated interventions in the NDFyB during the first half of 2024.

However, one of the most significant challenges for the implementation of REM COLOMBIA II is the increased conflict in the region during this phase of the peace negotiation process. The national government has recognized as political actors, certain groups that did not participate in the peace agreement with the FARC. Although it was agreed at the negotiation table that this actor would respect the will of grassroots organizations such as the Community Action Boards [JACs] and ASOJUNTAS, and that social investments benefiting the population could be carried out freely, in practice there has been pressure in the territories to prevent these organizations from working freely with the State.

Since mid-November 2023, illegal armed groups (Central General Staff – EMC) have issued a general order prohibiting the Programme and other actors from entering the municipalities of San Vicente del Caguán and Cartagena del Chairá, pending agreements with the government. From that point onward, the planned activities could not move forward in the Ciudad Yará and El Camuya NDFyB of San Vicente del Caguán, nor in Nueva Ilusión NDFyB in Cartagena del Chairá, thus slowing down Programme implementation. Progress has only been possible in the profiling of IFA beneficiaries in Cartagena del Chairá.

Given that the peace negotiation process is dynamic, the timely implementation of the REM COLOMBIA II Programme in the NDFyB areas depends heavily on security conditions, particularly in Caquetá. Therefore, it is recommended to continuously monitor the public order situation. If insecurity levels persist posing risks both to beneficiaries and Programme field personnel, Programme implementation may be compromised.

It is evident that the Programme will operate in a context of increasing conflict in the region. To ensure the long-term viability of REM COLOMBIA II, it is essential to take heightened precautions to protect personnel and maintain neutrality in relation to illegal armed groups.

IFA. When the Ministry of Environment (Minambiente) issued the directive to triple the monthly IFA amount to COP 900,000, the Programme was requested to proceed with the profiling and payment of 2,200 new families and the renewal of previous beneficiaries (2,571 families), for a total projected of 4,806 families. This was done under the commitment from Minambiente to assume the payment scheme for these 4,806 families starting approximately in October 2024. The challenge for 2024 will be **to** ensure the continuity of payments through the "Fondo para la Vida" (Fund for Life) and to align the requirements for these IFAs with those of the REM COLOMBIA II Programme. Therefore, it will be necessary to agree on a transitional scheme until Minambiente is able to operationalize the payments.

Prior Consultation for the Visión Amazonía Programme. This consultation is under the responsibility of Minambiente, which is also conducting a separate prior consultation with Indigenous Peoples on REDD+ in general, with some overlap between the two processes. The preparation of the consultation and the enabling conditions for contracting OPIAC as the agency responsible for the process are expected to facilitate its launch in the first half of 2024. Based on the agreements reached in the MRA meeting in December 2023, the fourth call for proposals was approved and is expected to begin in March 2024. However, any new calls for proposals will depend on the results of the prior consultation process, which may cause delays in implementation.

Achievements: The REM COLOMBIA II Programme has succeeded in positioning the intervention strategy developed in REM I around the Forest and Biodiversity based Development Units [NDFyB] as a strategic approach adopted by Minambiente. Based on this, Minambiente created the Fund for Life and Biodiversity to attract national funding for investments in the Amazonian NDFyB through the entities of the National Environmental System [SINA]. Another key achievement is the set of agreements with the MRA to enable the fourth call for Indigenous projects, with 50% of the resources earmarked for Women and Family initiatives.

6 Annexes

Annex 1 Definitions of Financial Concepts

In accordance with the Programme's financial reports, the main concepts used in this report are defined as follows:

Sub-agreement: Legal instrument signed between Fondo Patrimonio Natural and a private implementing entity for the technical and financial execution of the activities contemplated in the Annual Work Plan. In this modality, the implementing entity directly executes the resources transferred to it by FPN.

Agreement: Legal instrument signed between the Fondo Patrimonio Natural and an implementing entity of the Public or Private Order for the technical execution of the activities contemplated in the Annual Work Plan. In this modality the resources foreseen in the Agreement are executed directly by FPN.

Appropriated: Refers to the reservation of a specific volume of resources, resulting from the signing of all types of legal agreements such as: sub-agreements, partnership agreements, framework agreements, co-execution agreements and direct contracts, by FPN, which implies a reduction in the available budget.

Transferred: Refers to the amounts disbursed to implementing entities within the framework of the sub-agreements, to facilitate the payments established in the respective Procurement Plan.

Committed: Refers to the volume of contracts or commitments that have been signed with suppliers of goods and services, as follows: i) Contracts signed by the Implementing Entities for the execution of the Sub-agreements ii) Contracts signed by FPN, for the execution of the cooperation agreements signed with other implementing institutions, and iii) contracts signed directly by FPN for the execution of the Programme's Operational component (for example contractors and employees of the UER main advisory firm, Financial Mechanism services contract, etc.).

Executed/Paid: Refers to the amounts that have been effectively paid by the Implementing Entities and FPN to the suppliers of goods and services of the Programme in compliance with the clauses of the contracts, once the goods and services have been received to satisfaction, the invoice or equivalent document has been presented and the approval of the corresponding contract supervisor has been obtained.

Annex 2 Agreements of the 79th Session of the Amazon Regional Roundtable in December 2023

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
For the fourth call for proposals of the REM Visión Amazonía Programme, and within the framework of the right to self-determination and the constitutional autonomy of Indigenous Peoples, only the representative structures and institutions of the Amazonian Indigenous Peoples—or alliances among them—will be eligible as recipient and implementing entities of	The agreement of MRA 63 is reaffirmed with the following wording: "For the fourth call for proposals of the REM Visión Amazonía Programme, within the framework of the free self-determination of peoples and their constitutional autonomy, only the representative structures and institutions of the Amazonian indigenous peoples or

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
<p>PIVA resources. This is in accordance with the legal and constitutional capacity to contract, as established by Colombian law (Decree 1088 of 1993, Decree 1953 of 2014, Decree 632 of 2018, Decree 252 of 2020, and Law 2160 of 2021, among other regulations), and provided that such participation does not contravene the current legal framework.</p>	<p>alliances between them shall be recipients and executors of PIVA resources, in accordance with the capacity to contract granted by the constitution and the law (Decree 1088 of 1993, Decree 1953 of 2014, Decree 632 of 2018, Decree 252 of 2020 and Law 2160 of 2021). All of the above, provided that it does not contravene the legal system in force.</p>
<p>Indigenous Peoples may participate in all components of the Visión Amazonía Programme, in accordance with the procedures established in the PAS, the MRA, and other relevant forums. The Programme will disseminate information on opportunities available under the remaining components.</p>	<p>The MIAACC-MRA and the indigenous pillar will coordinate with the leaders of the other pillars of the Visión Amazonía Programme on the provision, dialogue, socialisation and coordination of calls for proposals, actions and other processes, with a view to the full, real and effective participation of the Amazonian indigenous peoples in the Visión Amazonía Programme.</p>
<p>In terms of fees, adequate and equitable redistribution with a differential indigenous focus will continue to be respected.</p>	<p>The allocation of fees for intercultural project staff shall be left to the autonomy of the indigenous peoples' own institutions. However, the programme guidelines shall be followed, whereby staff shall not exceed 30% of the total investment in each project. Exceptionally, the ceiling may be increased according to the needs and requirements of the project, in which case this shall be mentioned in the terms of reference of the call for proposals. In any case, the limits established by the MOP for UER professionals may not be exceeded.</p> <p>The MIAACC and the MRA shall submit supporting documentation of contracts entered into with other entities, indicating the</p>

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
	maximum amount of recognition for experts for adjustment in the MOP.
In the event of a fourth call for proposals, the technical secretary of the MIAACC will submit to the PAS a proposal to modify the formats for the presentation of projects.	Modifications and adjustments to the formats by the Visión Amazonía Programme are noted, showing the minimum components that a project must have for its formulation, simplifying the application and highlighting the planning methods within the narrative component. There is also a complete guide for the presentation of projects and an explanatory manual for completing the formats, which allows for simple and guided application in each part of the process.
Elimination of unnecessary paperwork and document requirements.	<p>In order to simplify procedures, for financial reports, if the entity does not generate any bank transactions or financial execution during the month, it is not necessary to submit a financial report. Instead, the bank statements for the month must be attached. These can be requested from the bank and sent by email. If the bank charges for this service, the costs can be included in the project budget as bank charges.</p> <p>In REM II, in order to request disbursements, the following requirements must be met, among others: Financial reports must be up to date and without pending corrections, and at least 70% of the resources delivered must be legalised. With regard to the submission of financial reports, a bimonthly frequency is approved, with the possibility of submitting monthly reports according to the capacities or preferences of the Implementing Entity, no later than the 10th day of the month.</p>

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
<p>Contracting processes must be adjusted (staff, goods, and services).</p>	<p>The Implementing Entities, within their autonomy, shall guarantee the hiring of intercultural technical teams within the framework of the execution of the Visión Amazonía Programme projects, in order to guarantee the participation of the indigenous peoples of the Colombian Amazon, in accordance with their autonomy and contributions based on their own knowledge.</p>
<p>Analyse the accreditation of experience by some indigenous communities and/or organisations.</p>	<p>At the time of contracting, the Visión Amazonía Programme will provide a detailed explanation of the available contracting modalities-Agreement, Co-execution Agreement, or Sub-agreement-so that Implementing Entities can align their administrative and financial needs and realities with the type of contract that best suits them. In cases where an Implementing Entity does not have the capacity to execute a sub-agreement, a reasonable period of time will be granted to allow the entity to seek strategic partnerships with another organization in order to establish a viable sub-agreement.</p>
<p>Consider the territorial and connectivity realities existing in the Amazon region</p>	<p>The Programme has a PQR (Petitions, Complaints, and Requests) mechanism to resolve issues related to territorial realities and connectivity. This mechanism allows for flexibility in the submission of reports, field activities, and other commitments that may be affected by such conditions.</p> <p>A dedicated email address has been enabled for PQRs: visionamazonia@minambiente.gov.co.</p>

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
	<p>To ensure the operability of the PQR mechanism, a minimum internet connection is required and must be included as an operational cost in the procurement plan of each project.</p>
<p>Regarding territorial realities</p>	<p>For lower value or small amount awards and direct awards, FPN will conduct market studies to identify potential bidders to invite and define the appropriate selection procedure. The market study will support each process. To conduct this study, the list of municipalities related to the " " (National Strategic Objectives) included in the proposal made by OPIAC will be taken into account.</p> <p>FPN may proceed with the market study in coordination with the MIAACC-MRA as a reference for contracting processes; however, direct contracting must give priority to the territorial context with the respective justifications.</p>
<p>Regarding administrative and accounting requirements.</p>	<p>* It is recommended to adjust Annex 22 – Administrative and Financial Guide regarding electronic invoicing by adding the following: When the entity or provider is not required to issue electronic invoices according to their RUT, they must submit a payment request (cuenta de cobro).</p> <p>* Regarding quotations, it is proposed to include the following addition to Annex 22 – Administrative and Financial Guide: Implementing entities may opt for direct awarding, provided they duly justify the</p>

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
	<p>impossibility of conducting the quotation process.</p> <p>*It is also requested to emphasize and provide support in the determination of operating costs during project formulation, with the aim of strengthening the operational capacity of Indigenous organizations.</p>
<p>In response to the following proposals presented by the indigenous delegation of the MRA: "Within the framework of the coordination that the Visión Amazonía Programme should have, OPIAC will be the consultant hired to provide comprehensive support in administrative and financial technical assistance to the implementing entities of the PIVA during the formulation, contracting, execution, monitoring and evaluation stages of the PIVA projects." The Visión Amazonía Programme and OPIAC will work on a roadmap for this purpose prior to the fourth call for proposals.</p>	<p>OPIAC will be the consulting organisation to provide technical assistance and support to the implementing entities within the framework of the fourth call for proposals of the Visión Amazonía Programme, following the steps outlined in the roadmap presented.</p> <p>In MRA 79, the roadmap is validated and formalised to comply with the agreement of MRA 63.</p>
<p>An adjustment to the MOP will be proposed to KFW to take into account the inclusion of unforeseen events.</p>	<p>For Implementing Entities - Pillar 4 - PIVA, 5% of unforeseen expenses may be incorporated as an investment line in the procurement plan.</p> <p>This percentage may be up to 5% in accordance with the risk study in the project formulation.</p>
<p>Regarding the hiring of management, administrative and technical staff for the UER.</p>	<p>For the fourth PIVA call, the Visión Amazonía Programme will hire an additional indigenous focal point for pillar 4 of the programme within the UER. However, based on the results of the roadmap developed for comprehensive support by OPIAC and the number of prioritised projects, two additional</p>

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
	focal points may be hired for this programme pillar once approved by KFW. Depending on the needs of the call, the hiring or selection modality will be determined.
Regarding the hiring of management, administrative and technical staff for the UER.	<p>In the event of a selection process for Pillar 4 - Indigenous Pillar and the focal points, the Evaluation Committee will be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆The Programme Coordinator or their delegate. ◆A technical professional formally delegated by the general coordinator. <p>A Human Resources Member or a procurement specialist from the Financial Mechanism, acting as support participant, who will draft the selection record (non-voting member).</p> <p>A delegate from the indigenous peoples of the Colombian Amazon.</p>
Compliance with response times for each process, procedure, or formality by FPN:	The Visión Amazonía Programme will establish an early warning protocol with short-, medium- and long-term actions, taking into account current control tools.
Restructure the procurement process with a view to speeding up the processes required by the implementing entities and the commitments to the communities.	In order to reduce procurement processing times, the Fondo Patrimonio will assign a procurement specialist and the three cross-cutting procurement professionals for the entire programme and will meet the needs for the Indigenous Pillar. Likewise, the UER will assign a procurement professional and an accountant to help reduce processing times.

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
<p>Review the conditions for participation and monitoring of indigenous peoples, according to the type of contract.</p>	<p>The procurement tables will be restructured to reflect timelines, workflows, and approval flows.</p>
<p>Specific requirements and demands for issuing the guarantee.</p>	<p>Regarding goods and services policies:</p> <p>No policies will be required for goods, services and supplies. In this case, the goods will be delivered with a delivery note, and the Implementing Entities must take custody of the goods during the execution of the project. For those goods that are insured, these policies will be included in the administrative expenses.</p> <p>Note: The guarantee policy requirement will apply in exceptional cases when the risks inherent in the acquisition so require.</p> <p>Regarding policies for the signing of agreements: Entities shall be exempt from policies when the insurer has refused to issue them, with due justification. When the entity does not have the resources to purchase the policy, upon justification, the cost of the policy shall be assumed by the Visión Amazonía Programme.</p>
<p>The PAS must fulfil the purpose for which it was created, within the framework of project support, monitoring and evaluation.</p>	<p>Bimonthly PAS meetings will be held to provide support, monitoring and evaluation of PIVA projects.</p> <p>In addition, it is proposed to amend item 8 of the PAS regulations, which states that the technical secretariat of the PAS will be jointly coordinated by one (1) delegate from</p>

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
	<p>the Indigenous Pillar of Visión Amazonía and the technical secretary of the MIAACC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The technical secretaries of the PAS will chair the meetings; they must submit the agenda for approval and will facilitate the consensus-building process during the committee's deliberations. •The joint Technical Secretariat will facilitate communication among PAS members and act on their behalf when deemed necessary. <p>Likewise, the technical, administrative and accounting team hired for OPIAC consultancy will support the PAS.</p> <p>A political advisor or indigenous expert will be hired on a per-session basis for the PAS.</p>
<p>Specific resources must be allocated to enable the teams to be trained in person, in advance and in the territory.</p>	<p>The OPIAC will be the consulting organisation responsible for providing technical assistance and support to the implementing entities within the framework of the fourth call for proposals of the Visión Amazonía programme, following the steps outlined in the roadmap presented.</p> <p>In MRA 79, the roadmap to comply with the MRA 63 agreement is validated and formalised.</p>
<p>The coordinator of the Visión Amazonía REM Programme shared with the MRA the possibility of additional resources for vision in a REM II programme. The MRA agrees with this new phase of the Visión Amazonía programme and that these resources, within the framework of the</p>	<p>The resources from the fourth call for proposals will be implemented in accordance with the guidelines and procedures of the PIVA, including the adjustments made to the</p>

Agreements of the 63 rd session of the MRA	Agreements of the 79 th session of the MRA
<p>pillar, be executed following the guidelines and procedures agreed upon in the PIVA.</p>	<p>programme's MOP recorded in MRA session 79.</p> <p>Safeguarding indigenous peoples:</p> <p>All future resources for the Visión Amazonía Programme will be subject to the guidelines and procedures resulting from the Programme's free and informed prior consultation.</p>

Annex 3 Links to news articles about Visión Amazonía published in the media Asobancaria Award

<https://www.semana.com/economia/capsulas/articulo/el-banco-agrario-firmo-el-segundo-convenio-de-creditos-verdes-con-vision-amazonia/202334/>

1. Amazon Sustainable Intermodal Transport Plan

<https://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/04-04-2023-colombia-debe-encaminarse-hacia-una-cultura-forestal-fedemaderas>

2. Fedemaderas event and the participation of the NDFyB

<https://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/04-04-2023-colombia-debe-encaminarse-hacia-una-cultura-forestal-fedemaderas>

3. Rural extension workers

<https://www.semana.com/economia/capsulas/articulo/el-banco-agrario-firmo-el-segundo-convenio-de-creditos-verdes-con-vision-amazonia/202334/>

4. Sacha Inchi plant

<https://www.elnuevosiglo.com.co/articulos/04-04-2023-colombia-debe-encaminarse-hacia-una-cultura-forestal-fedemaderas>

5. Order of the Cross of Chiribiquete:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1048429976207267>

6. News from COP 28

<https://www.lasillavacia.com/en-vivo/noruega-y-reino-unido-financiaran-al-pais-para-frenar-deforestacion/>

7. National Amazonian Fruit Board

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=732163218343915&extid=WA-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing&mibextid=zLoPMf

8. Signs agreement with the Agrarian Bank

<https://www.semana.com/economia/capsulas/articulo/el-banco-agrario-firmo-el-segundo-convenio-de-creditos-verdes-con-vision-amazonia/202334/>

Annex 4: Some Indicators of the Communications Strategy

Who sees us on Facebook:



Facebook: report as of December 31, 2023

On Facebook, we have a higher number of female followers, at 54.8%. In addition, our audience is mainly aged between 25 and 44.

Place Ciudades Países

Colombia	13.010
Estados Unidos	212
Perú	163
Ecuador	134
España	98
México	89
Venezuela	56
Bolivia	55
Brasil	51
Argentina	48

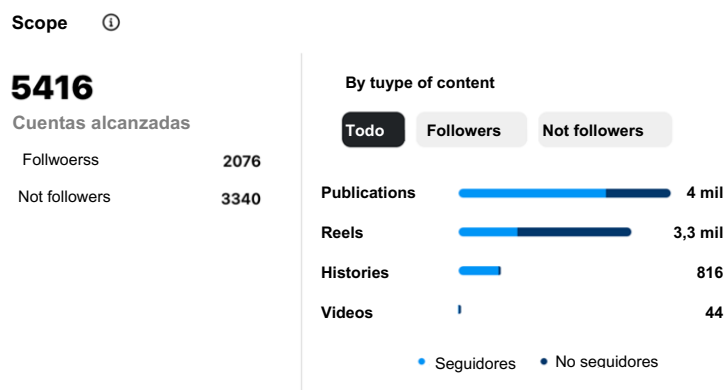
Facebook: report as of December 31, 2023

Among the countries that view us the most, after Colombia, which ranks first, we have the United States, Peru, Ecuador, Spain, and Mexico.

Place	
Bogotá, Colombia	2.061
Florencia, Colombia	1.894
San José del Guaviare, Colombia	1.036
Villavicencio, Meta, Colombia	507
Mocoa, Putumayo, Colombia	493
Leticia, Amazonas, Colombia	383
Inírida, Guainía, Colombia	360
San Vicente del Caguán, Colombia	220
Medellín, Colombia	189
Mitú, Colombia	174

Facebook: report as of December 31, 2023

And the cities in Colombia are Bogotá, Florencia, San José del Guaviare, Villavicencio, Mocoa and Leticia, ensuring that this network is definitely our greatest visibility in the territory.



Instagram: report for the last quarter of 2023

In the case of Instagram, we have some surprising statistics, as the mayor of our posts in the last three months is 5,416 people, representing an average of 20,000 people per year.

Annex 5 Representative Cases of Safeguards

INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT OF SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS OF THE REM PROGRAMME COLOMBIA–VISIÓN AMAZONÍA	
DOCUMENTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASES	23

Report date	January, 2023		
Implementing entity			
Pillar	1	Intervention/Project	Nueva Ilusión Forest Development Unit

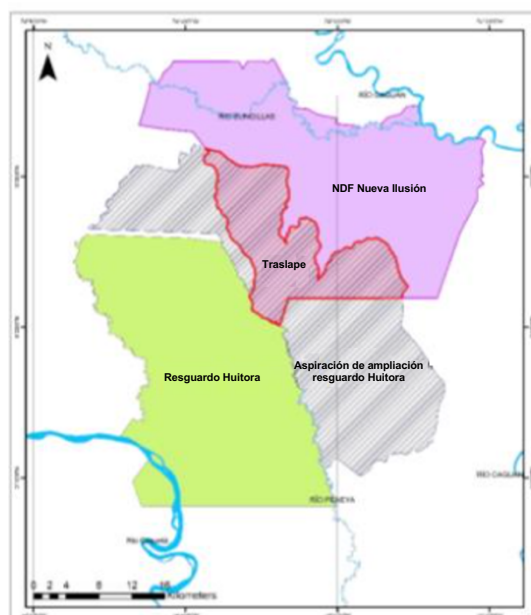
CASE
<p>Since 2018, the REM programme has been carrying out actions in the MEDIO Caguán area, prioritised as an active deforestation hub.</p> <p>The establishment of a Forest Development Unit was planned with local communities. In this process, the following actions have been developed in the area in coordination with Corpoamazonía:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory process to structure the Nueva Ilusión NDF proposal since 2018, with the rural community of Bajo Caguán. • Training of Community Forest Stewards certified by the University of the Amazon, who are now familiar with environmental regulations, the fundamentals of project structuring and the importance of environmental management in their territory. • Multiple workshops and village meetings were held to learn about the territory and its possibilities for sustainable forest management as a conservation strategy in the villages of Naranjales, Caño Sucio, Madalena, Libertad, and Loma Larga. From that moment on, the highest community administration body of the NDF was formed, which is the Assembly. From that moment on, the implementation of the Nueva Ilusión NDF began, where the starting point is the participatory building of consensus with peasant, indigenous and Afro-descendant organisations on economic and environmental

alternatives to halt deforestation and for the conversion of areas that have been degraded.

- Today, 130 NDF members receive the IFA (quarterly payments of \$130 million) with satisfactory results, as the community's commitment has reduced deforestation to a minimum, as demonstrated by the IDEAM Forest and Carbon Monitoring System.
- Participatory forest zoning has been carried out in an area of 72,000 hectares, defining more restrictive areas for conservation, areas for recovery, areas for the implementation of agroforestry systems and areas for exploitation.
- Technical, economic, financial and operational feasibility study for the Nueva Ilusión timber and non-timber product processing centre.
- Implementation of a Forest Management Plan covering 30,000 hectares with an investment of around COP 900 million (together with the previous point).

On August 21, 2020, the Programme published the call for tenders for the preparation of the Nueva Ilusión PMF, with the boundaries agreed with the local communities and Corpoamazonía.

On October 27, 2020, the Governor of the Reserve filed a request with the ANT to expand the

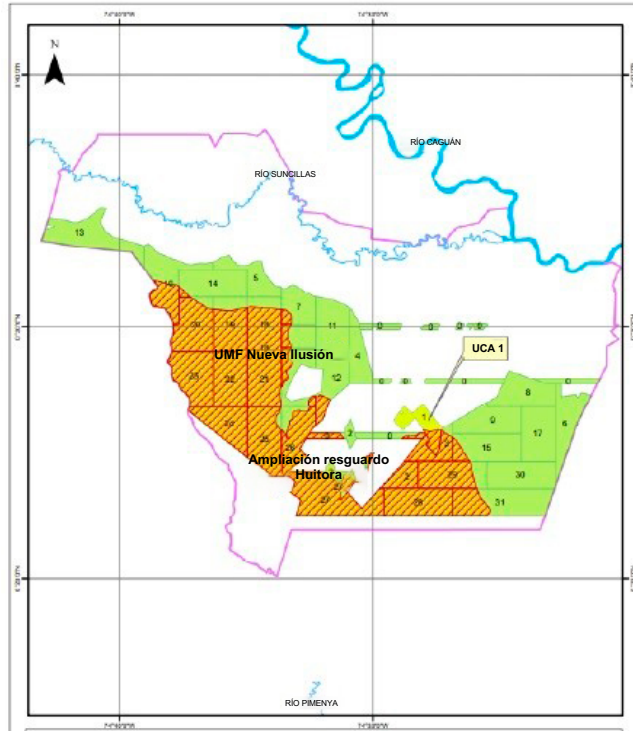


Huitorá Resguardo; this request partially overlaps with the Nueva Ilusión PMF area by 21,319.56 hectares:

On November 16, 2022, the ANT issued Agreement 240: *"Updating the boundaries established in Resolution No. 022 of February 3, 1981 issued by INCORA and extending for the first time the Huitorá indigenous reserve of the Murui Muina people (Uitoto) with one (1)*

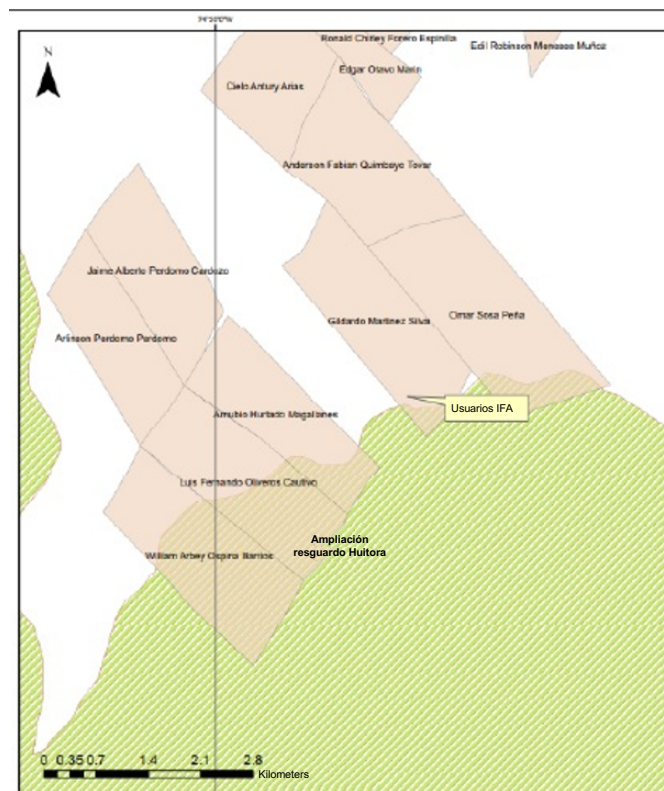
plot of ancestral land located in the municipalities of Solano and Cartagena del Chairá, department of Caquetá⁵.

The area determined in the expansion includes some of the logging units identified in the Forest Management Plan, including part of UCA 1:



It is also noted that there are properties belonging to five beneficiary families of the IFA partially located within the expansion area:

⁵ <https://www.ant.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/ACUERDO-240-ampliacion-resguardo-indigena-Huitora.pdf>



POTENTIAL RISKS

- Possible impact on the collective territorial rights of the PPII by the REM Programme, by allocating investments to farms and peasant families settled in the area of the recently declared extension of the Huitorá Indigenous Resguardo; by carrying out forest activities in the indigenous resguardo area.
- Possible impact on properties and rural families linked since 2018 to the consolidation process of the Nueva Ilusión NDF, if it is necessary to withdraw their benefits because they are settled in the area of the recently declared expansion of the Huitorá Indigenous Resguardo.
- Impact on the community process promoted by the REM Programme:
 - a. Change in the timing of interventions.
 - b. Need for new investments (realignment and new PMF).
- Possible conflicts between the different actors present in the area (Huitorá resguardo authorities, peasant leaders, communities, VA Programme, ACT).

SAFEGUARD MEASURES

In addition to the technical route, in order to resolve the issue of the PMF and the UCAS, it is considered necessary to design and implement a contingency action plan to address possible socio-environmental risks:

DETERMINE THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE CASE

1. Create a timeline of the case's milestones
2. Compare the shapes of the Huitorá resguardo expansion set out in Agreement 240 of November 16, 2022 with the area of the Nueva Ilusión PMF.
3. Identify whether there are properties and/or families benefiting from the IFA and other Programme interventions in the area of the newly declared reserve expansion area. Database.
3. Map national, regional and local actors (institutions, NGOs, indigenous authorities, peasant associations).

STEPS TO BE TAKEN

4. Design and agree on an action plan within the programme (UER, Laura Sáenz, advisors).
5. Request a concept from the Ministry of the Interior - Directorate of Indigenous Affairs
6. Hold a dialogue with THE Amazon Conservation Team [ACT] (possible actions)
7. Hold a dialogue with the peasant association (information, possible actions to be taken). Jointly design a specific care pathway for families who would have to withdraw from the IFA benefit and other programme interventions.
8. Reach out to authorities in the Huitorá reserve (dialogue and possible actions)
9. Create spaces for joint dialogue with the different actors present in the area (Huitorá Reserve authorities, ACT, peasant families, Corpoamazonía). Determine joint actions to be taken.

COMMITMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP

OBSERVATIONS/CASE DEVELOPMENTS

- A. On September 29, 2023, the event mentioned by the legal representative of the Huitorá community and the general coordinator of ASCAINCA (Association of Indigenous Councils of Alto Rio Caquetá) took place in Florencia, Caquetá: *Intercultural dialogue on land management between the authorities of the Uitoto Indigenous Resguardo of the Huitorá Community and leaders of the villages of the Nueva Ilusión Forest Development Unit.*

The Programme financed the participation of the leaders of the Nueva Ilusión Forest Development Unit and was represented by the leader of Pillar 1, the coordinator of the Forest Development Unit, the leader of the Indigenous Pillar and the socio-environmental safeguards management consultant. The NGOs ACT and TNC (The Nature Conservancy), which led the development of the methodology, were also present.

Representatives of both indigenous and peasant communities presented their views on land management. They agreed on the importance of conservation and sustainable management, and the following points were established as topics for dialogue:

1. Overlap of the resguardos expansion with Forest Management Plan

The leader of Pillar 1 clarified that the PMF is currently under review by the Corporation, which will issue a formal opinion. Alternatives are being explored for its realignment.

2. Families from the village of La Magdalena settled in the Resguardo Expansion Area.

Concerns were raised regarding the procedures followed by the National Land Agency [ANT] to determine the expansion polygon. According to a peasant leader, families who have been settled in the area for years were not considered, nor were other steps involved in the expansion process, such as the right to reply to public notices posted at the municipal mayor's office.

3. Relationship between organisations for the co-management of the territory.

The need to establish a dialogue process involving different territorial stakeholders was recognised, in order to reach intercultural agreements on the issues raised.

It was agreed to hold a new meeting with the presidents of the Community Action Boards [JACs] bordering the resguardos, supporting NGOs (ACT, TNC), the National Land Agency, Corpoamazonía, the resguardo authorities and the REM Programme on November 21, 2023 in Florencia.

B. On a date following the meeting, an internal discussion was held between ACT, TNC and the REM Programme with the aim of agreeing on objectives and methodologies for next steps. ACT offered to lead the methodological roadmap.

C. In November, TNC informed the Programme that representatives of the Uitorá Resguardo would meet with the peasant leaders of the Nueva Ilusión NDF, "autonomously", i.e. without the presence of institutions and NGOs. This meeting took place on November 21, 2023.

INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT OF SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS OF THE REM PROGRAMME COLOMBIA– VISIÓN AMAZONÍA

DOCUMENTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASES

24

Report date	March, 2023		
Implementing entity	ASSOCIATION OF THE REGIONAL INDIGENOUS COUNCIL OF GUAINIA - ASOCRIGUA 1		
Pillar	IV	Intervention /Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthening the food sovereignty and security of the Indigenous Peoples of the Department of Guainía by supporting family farms in 17 indigenous communities 2. Enhancing the management capacities of ASOCRIGUA and the communities of the Remanso Chorrobocón Resguardo around nature tourism as a strategy to increase governance and governability, ensure territorial control, recognise their role as guardians of ecosystems, generate economic opportunities for communities, strengthen women's participation and improve the infrastructure of the resguardo and surrounding communities.

CASE

Two projects from the organization ASOCRIGUA 1 were prioritized in the second PIVA call. The organization has experienced internal issues that have hindered project implementation according to the approved timelines. On one hand, there have been delays in carrying out activities, executing funds, and preparing and submitting financial and technical reports. On

the other hand, in 2021 and 2023, internal disagreements arose regarding the appointment of the organization’s legal representative, which also obstructed project activities.

In December 2022, a new legal representative was elected, and the supporting documentation was submitted to FPN. However, the opposing party questioned the legitimacy of the election and refused to hand over assets or conduct the necessary administrative transition for project continuity. The Programme facilitated a dialogue between the parties on March 1, 2023. During this meeting, the previous administration committed to handing over assets and responsibilities by March 20. However, the current legal representative disagreed with this date, arguing that—given the Programme’s closing timelines—there would not be enough time to complete project implementation.

POTENTIAL RISKS

Risk of non-completion of processes by the Organisation; limitation on the possibility of participating in future calls for proposals.

SAFETY MEASURES

The Programme has made the adjustments requested by the organisation in relation to implementation times.

The Tourism project has had four amendments, and the Food Sovereignty project has had **five**, based on the organization’s requests and following analysis and approval by the contract supervisor. Extensions to the implementation period have been granted, as well as modifications to the activity plans. The organization cites difficulties in procurement and contracting due to the specific characteristics of the region.

The Programme has held the respective monitoring committee meetings with the organisation, at which the difficulties and processes that are behind schedule have been identified and agreements have been reached between the parties to continue with the implementation of the projects.

The Programme has monitored the organisation in the process through the support and capacity-building mechanism developed by ACT, as well as through the facilitation of the focal point and FPN delegates.

OBSERVATIONS/CASE DEVELOPMENTS

To date, we are awaiting the delivery of the goods to the new administration of the organisation and the correction of the delayed reports for the execution of the remaining resources.

It is possible that, due to non-compliance with the terms of the agreements, the ASOCRIGUA 1 association will not be able to participate in the next call for proposals. In this case, the implementation of the projects and the benefits that would have reached the communities and families would be compromised by the current institutional instability of the Indigenous Organisation. This situation is beyond the scope of the Programme and is part of the organisation's own processes.

It could be considered within the PAS regulations for future calls, and also in relation to the benefit-sharing safeguard, that a maximum of one project per implementing entity be prioritized.

INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT OF SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS OF THE REM PROGRAMME COLOMBIA–VISIÓN AMAZONÍA

DOCUMENTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASES

25

Report date	November 2023		
Implementing entity	Community Action Boards of Piscinas and Nueva Esperanza		
Pilar	I	Intervention/Project	Amazon Forest Incentive [IFA] in the villages of Piscinas and Nueva Esperanza in San Vicente del Caguán

CASE

In November 2023, the Programme held a series of meetings to launch the family profiling phase for future beneficiaries of the IFA. The Community Action Boards were directly contracted to carry out this process.

During the outreach meeting held in the Yarí region, a group and a commander from the armed group known as Estado Mayor Central [EMC] were present. This group is composed of FARC dissidents and has been granted political status by the Colombian government for the purposes of a peace process. The dialogue table between the Colombian government and the EMC was

established on October 16, and a bilateral ceasefire was agreed upon from October 17 to January 15, 2024.

At the IFA outreach session in Yari, the EMC commander expressed that they were in agreement with the IFA mechanism, the amount set by the government (COP \$900,000), and the implementation methodology. However, they stated that in order to proceed with the process in the region, more municipalities and villages would need to be included. Otherwise, the EMC would oppose the process.

The Programme’s professional team explained during the meeting that the IFA framework and targeted areas were determined by the Ministry of Environment and the Deforestation Emergency Plan, and therefore, the dialogue would need to be escalated to other decision-making bodies.

POTENTIAL RISKS

Risks to the personal safety of leaders, the characterisation team, beneficiaries and programme staff.

SAFEGUARD MEASURES

The Programme decided to suspend family profiling activities in the villages of Piscinas and Nueva Esperanza, pending possible changes in the local context.

The information regarding the events and the EMC’s requests will be forwarded to the office of the Minister of Environment.

Meanwhile, profiling activities in other municipalities have continued as planned.

OBSERVATIONS/CASE DEVELOPMENTS

INTEGRAL MANAGEMENT OF SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND APPLICATION OF SAFEGUARDS OF THE REM PROGRAMME COLOMBIA–VISIÓN AMAZONÍA

DOCUMENTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CASES

26

Report date	November 2023		
Implementing entity	Programme		
Pillar	-	Intervention/ Project	Programme

CASE
<p>The armed group known as Estado Mayor Central [EMC] called a meeting of institutions and programmes with an impact in the Cuemaní area to inform them that it was necessary to suspend interventions in the area. To date, this group is seeking to establish new governance dynamics within the area, involving peasant leaders and existing social structures.</p> <p>Although the VA Programme does not currently have any pending agreements with associations in the area, a representative of the REM Visión Amazonía Programme was present at the meeting and conveyed the EMC's message to the Programme's coordination team.</p>
POTENTIAL RISKS
The Programme has no ongoing processes in the area.
SAFEGUARD MEASURES
Information on what happened and the EMC message was forwarded to the office of the Minister of the Environment.

Annex 6 Budget Execution by Pillars and Components (€)

Pillar and components	Approved	Appropriated	Executed	% Appropriated	% Implemented
1 Governance and sustainable forest development	9,828,826	1,896,695	57,569	19.3%	0.6%
1.1 Planning and sustainable use of forest resources	4,967,704	38,126	22,008	0.8%	0.4%

1.2 Strengthening Forest governance of environmental authorities	1,140,819	350,169	0	30.7%	0.0%
1.3 Promoting Participation in Forest Management	3,720,303	1,508,400	35,561	40.5%	1.0%
2 Sustainable sectoral planning and development	2,070,958	460,860	39,928	22.3%	1.9%
2.1 Land use planning	1,001,356	392,045	0	39.2%	0.0%
2.2 Support for territorial entities committed to controlling deforestation	270,394	34,489	14,666	12.2%	5.4%
2.3 Development of strategic and capacity building activities	799,208	34,326	25,262	4.3%	3.2%
3 Agro-environmental development	5,513,891	1,175,352	18,218	21.3%	0.3%
3.1 Implementation of agro-environmental projects with conservation agreements	2,409,904	31,160	15,647	1.3%	0.6%
3.2 Promotion of the rural extension service	1,282,870	104,000	0	8.1%	0.0%
3.3 Promotion and implementation of green financial instruments	1,821,118	1,040,191	2,571	57.1%	0.1%
4 Environmental governance with indigenous peoples	7,077,356	103,841	78,300	1.5%	1.1%
4.1 Implementation of indigenous projects through calls for proposals	6,192,384	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
4.2 Capacity building of Indigenous organisations	884,973	103,841	78,300	11.7%	8.8%
5 Enabling conditions	4,500,906	1,351,811	504,254	30.0%	11.2%
5.1 Regional and local level forest and carbon monitoring	904,834	834,884	28,532	92.3%	3.2%
5,200 UER staff	3,246,327	441,984	441,984	13.6%	13.6%
5.3 Implementation of Communications Strategy	349,745	74,942	33,738	21.4%	9.6%
6 Operability	2,560,218	873,218	254,105	34.1%	9.9%
6.1 Audits and evaluations	182,181	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
6.2 International Consulting	707,742	707,742	94,513	100.0%	13.4%

6.3 Travel and event logistics costs	259,596	127,261	127,261	49.0%	49.0%
6.4 Equipment, bank costs and contingencies	1,410,700	38,215	32,332	2.7%	2.3%
7 Financial Mechanism	1,920,759	1,041,492	636,897	54.2%	33.2%
7.1 Cost of Financial Mechanism	1,920,759	1,041,492	636,897	54.2%	33.2%
Total	33,472,915	6,903,268	1,589,270	20.6%	4.7%

REM Colombia II Visión Amazonía Programme



Financial Mechanism



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For further information, please visit: <http://visionamazonia.minambiente.gov.co>