



# Shaping our **FUTURE**

LATIN AMERICA IMPACT REPORT 2022



# Shaping our FUTURE



**Paula Caballero**  
Regional Managing  
Director for Latin  
America

As humanity stands at a crossroads, grappling with an urgent global environmental and social crisis, Latin America emerges as a beacon of hope, holding tremendous potential to contribute significantly to lasting solutions. The region boasts a quarter of the world's forests, a third of its freshwater, half of its species, and is the world's largest net exporter of food. Its impact extends far beyond its borders, presenting Latin America with a pivotal role in combating climate change, biodiversity loss, and promoting well-being for people worldwide.

Yet, amidst this promise, Latin America also confronts pressing challenges. Rapid deforestation, dwindling wildlife populations, melting glaciers, and the imminent loss of the Amazon rainforest—a vital sanctuary for the planet's ecological health and collective memory—loom large. The human-made systems driving these pressures are also exacerbating inequities throughout the region, and eroding the ancestral homes, cultures, and vital environmental stewardship of Indigenous communities.

Nevertheless, we firmly believe that change is both possible and imperative. We envision an alternative path forward for Latin America—one where nature is revered for its intrinsic worth, where Indigenous knowledge is honored, and where sustainable productivity lays the foundation for ecosystem healing and protection. This transformative vision heralds a new future, wherein Latin America sustains well-being not only for itself but for the entire world.

This transformational shift is within reach, and Latin America is ready to embrace it. For the past four decades, hand in hand with our donors and partners, TNC has supported innovative solutions to urgent environmental – and therefore social and economic—challenges in Latin America. We have collaborated closely with governments, corporations, and civil society, investing in and championing conservation efforts. Our wealth of experience, solid network of partners, numerous accomplishments, and deep knowledge of the region serve as a springboard for the profound transformations required to forge a healthier future.

Business as usual is deficient, prompting a shift in our strategy for Latin America, that transcends mere projects, pilots, and isolated efforts. Urgency drives us to pursue systemic change and innovation across regions, sectors, and markets. Our focus is on addressing the underlying causes rather than surface-level symptoms, thus encouraging lasting and sustainable transformation. Radical collaboration among diverse actors—leveraging their strengths, achievements, and learning from past failures—is crucial for success.

The pages that follow provide a glimpse of the actions we have proudly accomplished in the past year. From enhancing food security and sequestering carbon to safeguarding water resources and mitigating floods, TNC's work in Latin America unleashes the power of nature, harnesses the ingenuity of people, and leverages the strength of partnerships to pave the way towards a truly sustainable future.

On behalf of our TNC team in Latin America, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support during this critical moment. We are committed to exploring opportunities and supporting a drive for ever greater ambition and we can only achieve this together. Your involvement is vital as we embark on this extraordinary journey, and your contributions matter at every step we take. Together, we will forge a path towards a brighter future.

With deep appreciation,

**Paula Caballero**

Regional Managing Director, Latin America



*Mantiqueira, Brazil © Felipe Fittipaldi*

*Cover: Chapada dos Veadeiros, Brazil © Andre Dib*

# Latin America Nature's Powerhouse



Caiman and Butterflies, Peru  
© R. Grant Maslowski / TNC Photo Contest 2012



**16%**  
OF EARTH'S LAND  
SURFACE



**40%**  
OF ALL SPECIES



**16%**  
OF ALL FORESTS



**40%**  
FRESH WATER



**2<sup>ND</sup>**  
LARGEST REEF



- 1 Gulf of California
- 2 Maya Forest and Mesoamerican Reef
- 3 Mesoamerican Forest Bridge
- 4 Magdalena-Cauca
- 5 Orinoquia/Llanos
- 6 Amazon
- 7 Cerrado
- 8 Atlantic Forest
- 9 Humboldt Current
- 10 Gran Chaco
- 11 Chile Mediterranean
- 12 Patagonia

Protecting 12 Iconic Places, home to incredible natural, economic, and cultural resources and must-win ecosystems where our work is delivering triple benefits for biodiversity, people, and climate.

Latin America's extraordinary natural heritage offers a blueprint for a sustainable tomorrow—an embodiment of a nature-forward future that demands our collective stewardship.



Tolima, Colombia © Andres Montoya Arango/TNC Photo Contest 2022

From the majestic peaks of the Andes to the vast grasslands of Patagonia, from the intricate tapestry of the Amazon rainforest to the vibrant ecosystems of the Mesoamerican Reef, Latin America is home to irreplaceable natural treasures. The region holds 40% of the Earth's species, one quarter of all forests, and one-third of all fresh water.

Stewarding this natural legacy is essential to The Nature Conservancy's mission: to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Our tireless efforts in Latin America span across nine countries, uniting hundreds of partners from diverse sectors, including local communities, governments, companies, financial institutions, and academia. Through this collective endeavor, we have pioneered groundbreaking, practical solutions that have been field-proven to protect our oceans, lands, and waters, confront climate change head-on, and ensure sustainable and equitable access to food and water.

## Our 2030 Ambition

The Nature Conservancy is aligned with global commitments to put the world on a nature-positive trajectory and drastically reduce inequity by 2030. **Latin America is crucial to this effort.**

### TNC GLOBAL

#### Climate

**3 GT**  
CO<sub>2</sub>E/YR

**100 M**  
PEOPLE

#### Oceans

**4 B**  
HECTARES

#### Fresh Water

**1 M**  
KILOMETERS  
River Systems

**30 M**  
HECTARES  
Lakes and wetlands

#### Lands

**650 M**  
HECTARES

#### People

**45 M**  
PEOPLE

### TNC LATIN AMERICA

**1 GT**  
CO<sub>2</sub>E/YR

**15.24 M**  
PEOPLE

**583 M**  
HECTARES

**230 K**  
KILOMETERS

**3.5 M**  
HECTARES

**132 M**  
HECTARES

**5 M**  
PEOPLE

**33%** increased sequestration/ reduced emissions of greenhouse gas

**15%** at-risk of extreme weather benefiting from adaptation

**14%** important for biodiversity and carbon

**12%** important for biodiversity and carbon

**19%** important for biodiversity and carbon

**20%** important for biodiversity and carbon

**11%** benefitting from healthy oceans, fresh water, and lands

## Our Guiding Principles

We lead with our values—honoring Indigenous and local peoples' voices, choices, and actions. We ground our strategies in the places identified by our science—maximizing our ability to effect change **for nature and the people who rely on it.**

We strive for **multiple benefits** by pursuing solutions that benefit biodiversity, sequester carbon and reduce risk to people most vulnerable to the harm caused by climate change.

We leverage **policy, partnerships, and finance mechanisms** to advance conservation far beyond any one place.

# LAR Impact Report CONTENT

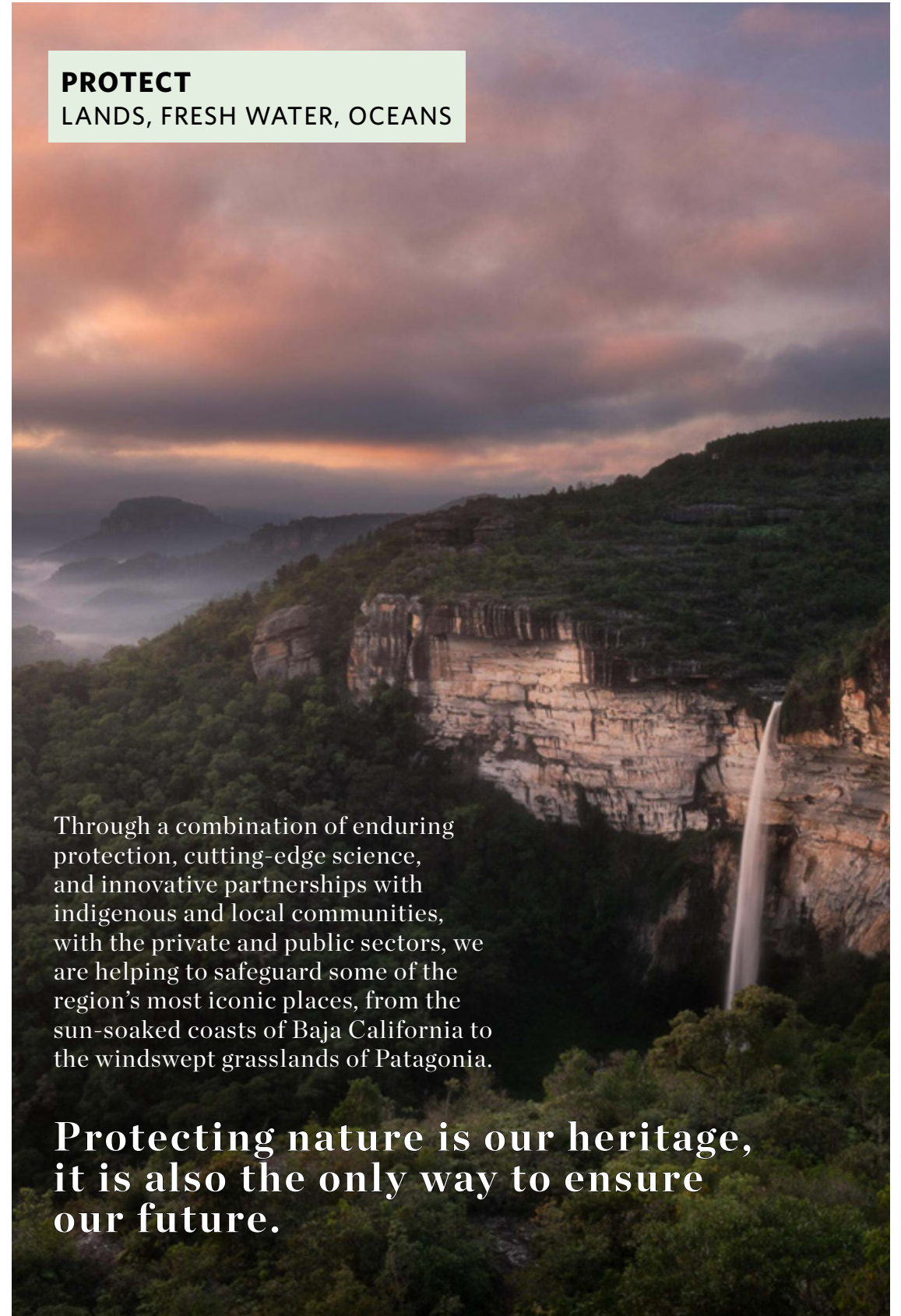


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## PROTECT LANDS, FRESH WATER, OCEANS

Through a combination of enduring protection, cutting-edge science, and innovative partnerships with indigenous and local communities, with the private and public sectors, we are helping to safeguard some of the region's most iconic places, from the sun-soaked coasts of Baja California to the windswept grasslands of Patagonia.

**Protecting nature is our heritage,  
it is also the only way to ensure  
our future.**



## A Milestone in Freshwater Protection



Río Curaray, Ecuador © Carlos Aldás

Ecuador is emerging as a global leader in championing water security through its groundbreaking Water Protected Areas (WPA) initiative. These remarkable areas that protect vital water sources also preserve Ecuador’s unparalleled biodiversity and rich cultural heritage and lay the foundation for sustainable development within local communities.

The genesis of these water protected areas can be traced back to the passionate efforts of the Indigenous A’i Cofán community of Sinangoe, in north-east Ecuador’s Amazonian rainforest. Faced with more than 50 mining concessions that threatened their primary water sources, they boldly appealed to the government for their revocation. Wider Guaramag, the A’i Cofán community president, explains the profound connection to their ancestral lands, stating, “Our fight to protect the waters comes straight from our hearts, as we know that we are protecting our very lives.”

In response to this urgent call, the Ecuadorian government joined forces with TNC, receiving support from Conservation International and the Andes Amazon Fund. Their collaboration resulted in the establishment of five protected areas between late 2022 and early 2023. Spanning

an impressive 2,300 kilometers (1,429 miles) of rivers and encompassing 2,800 hectares (6,918 acres) of wetlands, these new water protection areas safeguard essential water sources that cater to the needs of nearly 174,000 individuals. Looking ahead, Ecuador aims to more than double the size of its water protected area network by 2025.

The global significance of these WPAs cannot be overstated, particularly against the backdrop of alarming statistics. With nearly one-third of the world’s freshwater ecosystems already vanished, and a staggering 83% decline in freshwater species since 1970, Ecuador’s commitment to advancing water security through protected areas serves as a powerful inspiration to the world. It reinforces the critical role that collaboration and environmental stewardship play in safeguarding our most precious natural resources.

**“Rivers are sacred. They cannot be damaged, they cannot be destroyed, because our lives depend on them.”**

GILBERTO NEMQUIMO, PRESIDENT OF WAORANI INDIGENOUS NATION



Illustration © Laura Mayer

## Protecting an Epic Migration

In the Amazon River basin, the Dorado catfish undertakes the world’s longest freshwater migration, from spawning grounds in the Andes to the Amazon Delta. This awe-inspiring journey, however, comes with inherent risks as the development of hydropower in the basin poses a significant threat to the catfish, which relies on open, free-flowing rivers for its survival. By gaining insights into the migration routes and identifying critical habitats the catfish requires throughout its various life phases, we can make informed decisions about the strategic placement of hydropower development and minimize the negative impacts on this remarkable

species and maintain the delicate balance of nature in the Amazon. A new documentary by TNC follows the remarkable migration of the Dorado Catfish throughout the Amazon Basin, showcasing its profound relationship with the river, communities, the lush forests that lines its path. Through stunning cinematography and expert narration, the documentary captures the essence of this incredible journey and emphasizes the utmost importance of preserving free-flowing rivers and underscores the urgent need for increased freshwater conservation in the Amazon. Watch it [HERE](#).



Belize © Jennifer Adler

## Debt Burden Turned into Conservation Gains

Belize launched a five-year Marine Spatial Plan for all of Belize’s oceans as part of the 2021 [Blue Bond transaction](#) that released USD \$180 million for protecting 30% of the country’s marine systems by 2026. The plan—a conservation commitment milestone—was crafted in partnership with TNC and with participation of representatives from the nation’s commercial fishing and tourism industries. It comprises a public, inclusive and participatory process through which stakeholders will determine the optimal distribution of human activities across marine areas to achieve the country’s ecological, economic, and social objectives. The process received recognition for its innovative conservation approach from Environmental Finance, a reputable news source on sustainable investment and green finance.

“The Belize Blue Bond is a triple win for Belize! It resulted in the reduction of our public debt by 12 percent of GDP, the advancement of conservation and climate policy expansion and the creation of a long-term financing mechanism to support marine conservation and the wise use of our Blue Natural Capital... We are determined to employ a framework that results in a vibrant and robust blue economy contributing meaningfully to our national economy and the welfare of our citizens”

PRIME MINISTER JOHN BRICEÑO

## Nature-Based Tourism Meets Conservation



Torres del Paine, Chile © Lucas Húngaro/TNC Photo Contest 2019

TNC and Explora, a prestigious tourism company operating in remote areas of South America, have joined forces to safeguard the stunning Chilean Patagonia through their collaboration in a new private protected area: Torres del Paine Conservation Reserve. Covering 6,000 hectares (14,800 acres), the reserve is privately owned but open to the public. It will be legally protected under a Chilean law conservation agreement (Derecho Real de Conservación) granted to TNC, who will develop a conservation management plan for the area. Explora will oversee the project’s design, management, promotion, and financial sustainability. The ultimate goal is to positively impact the entire Torres del Paine biosphere reserve, which encompasses more than 700,000 hectares (1.7 million acres) of pristine Patagonian landscapes, including the world-famous Torres del Paine National Park. The unique alliance between TNC and Explora sets precedent for future collaborations between the private sector and conservation organizations to create long-term sustainable solutions for the preservation of our planet’s iconic landscapes. [LINK](#)



Torres Del Paine National Park, Chile © Robert McRae/TNC Photo Contest 2019

## PROVIDE FOOD AND WATER SUSTAINABLY

We are harnessing the regenerative power of nature to restore the health of our soils and oceans, bolstering productivity while building resilience to a changing climate.

**We can feed the planet's growing population without destroying the natural systems that support all life on Earth.**



Yucatan, Mexico © Erish Schlegel

Gran Chaco, Argentina © Alejandra Pinzón



## Regenerative and Resilient Food System

Already an agricultural powerhouse, Latin America is the world's top net food exporter, providing the lion's share of soybeans, beef, corn and coffee. And all eyes are set on Latin America to maintain global food security as the world's population rises to 10 billion in the coming decades.

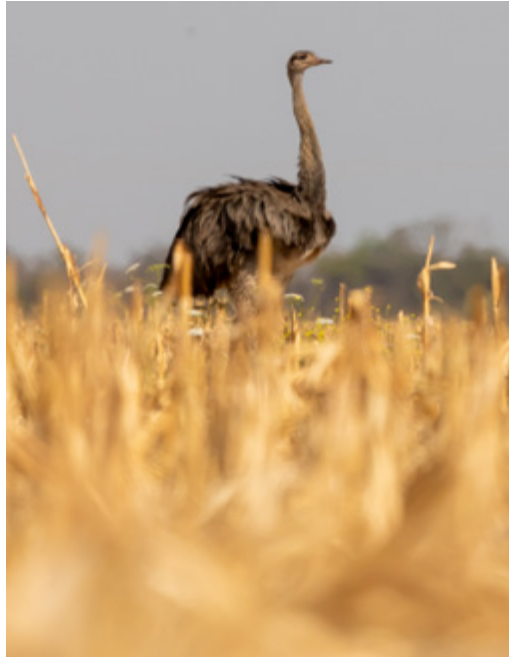
But the convert-and-deplete approach to food production has exacted a heavy toll on the region's wildlife and the world's climate. More than half of the forest loss in the world is happening in Latin America, where deforestation is three times the global rate. The region's agriculture sector has become a leading global emitter of greenhouse gases. Nearly half of Latin America's assessed fish stock is ranked from fully exploited to depleted.

Can the region strike a balance between expanding agriculture and preserving its biodiversity? Can it demonstrate a way to both nourish and save the planet?

Science, economics, and on-the-ground experience show that it is indeed feasible to increase food



A regenerative food system is designed to nourish both people and planet



Gran Chaco, Argentina © Alejandra Pinzón

production without sacrificing the environment. This is the premise behind TNC's Regenerative Ranching and Agriculture (R2A) strategy, a game-changing approach that is quickly gaining ground in the region by demonstrating that agricultural productivity prospers when managed hand in hand with preserving the delicate ecological balance essential to our planet's future.

The initiative has secured an important EUR 20M, six-year grant from the German International Climate Initiative (IKI) to scale these practices in highly biodiverse countries that also serve as agricultural hubs, such as Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru.

TNC is leading a collaborative effort with Nestlé, the United Nation's Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the Helmholtz Environmental Research Centre (UFZ), to promote regenerative ranching and agriculture. This multi-stakeholder approach will transition multiple value chains towards practices that enhance climate resilience, biodiversity and productivity for farmers and communities. Aligned with TNC's 2030 goals, the project will transform three million hectares (7.4 million acres) of agricultural land into regenerative landscapes, reduce GHG emissions by 25%, and positively impact the lives of 22,000 people. [LINK: \(Spanish, English\)](#)



Gran Chaco, Argentina © Alejandra Pinzón

## Sustainable and Prosperous Communities

The Nature Conservancy is leading a collaborative effort with partners to support smallholder producers in Southeastern Mexico in transitioning to a new paradigm that harnesses the power of nature to achieve economic and climate resilience. The five-year, USD \$30 million Sustainable Prosperous Communities initiative, funded through USAID, is strengthening the capacity of smallholders to transition to sustainable and profitable productive practices and access financial opportunities and markets. During its first year of implementation in 2022, the project impacted more than 5,000 smallholder producers involved in apiculture, coffee, cocoa, livestock, timber, and community ecotourism. More than 300 people received training on topics related to sustainable landscapes. Credit lines were granted to 22 farm and forest producer associations, co-benefiting nearly 4,800 people, and mobilizing more than USD \$9 million.



Yucatán, Mexico © Erich Schlegel

These achievements have led to an additional USD\$ 1 million award from USAID to launch an Investment Mechanism with seven Southeast Mexico state governments to promote strategic investments to accelerate flagship initiatives for the conservation and sustainable development of the region. [LINK \(in Spanish\)](#)

Crimson-mantled Woodpecker, Colombia © Pablo Ortega



“All living beings are connected. If I take care of my trees, they will protect my animals and then my soil. Other creatures that live there will also benefit and so will I because my production will have better quality.”

MERCEDES MURILLO

## A Song for Sustainability

With over 1,900 bird species—more than any other country in the world—Colombia is a bird watcher's paradise and one of the world's most biodiverse countries. Conventionally grazed pastures consume a third of Colombia's territory and are the leading cause of deforestation and soil degradation. A new study conducted by TNC and partners reveals the potential of regenerative ranching to turn this threat into an opportunity. By adopting these practices, ranchers can help increase bird species diversity by 1.4% to 8.8%. Regenerative ranching not only benefits the environment but also boost farmer's productivity and profitability. Integrating native trees and shrubs improves soil health, reduces erosion, and provides shade for livestock. To support Colombia's ranchers in this transition, various organizations, including TNC, collaborated to publish a comprehensive illustrated guidebook. [LINK \(Spanish only\)](#)

Cerrado, Brazil © Andre Dib



## Transforming Beef and Soy Production

To halt habitat loss while meeting growing food demands and limiting the impacts of climate change, it is imperative to transform the way beef and soy are produced. TNC is actively working to eliminate the decades-long trend of habitat loss from commodity production, starting in three of the world's most biodiverse biomes: the Amazon, Cerrado and Gran Chaco of South America.

- ▶ TNC and leading agricultural company Syngenta are entering the second phase of our innovative project to halt deforestation in the Brazilian Cerrado by using technology and better practices to enhance farm productivity and recover degraded lands. The Reverte Program is designed to improve soil health, resulting in increased profits for Brazilian farmers and higher yields of soy and cattle.
- ▶ In Pará State in the Brazilian Amazon, TNC is providing ranchers and corporations with tools to certify that their beef is deforestation-free. The Conecta Platform is a beef sourcing tool that integrates data on properties, deforestation, and animal transport to trace livestock from birth through the full production cycle. We are working with the government to expand this model to a Public-Private Livestock Chain Traceability System.
- ▶ In the Gran Chaco of Argentina, TNC and partners established a platform bringing together the different actors involved in the soybean value chain with the aim of enhancing supply chain transparency and rigor in reducing deforestation. The ViSeC (Sectoral Vision for the Argentina Gran Chaco) platform helps ensure legal compliance, and deforestation and conversion-free sourcing. It also facilitates industry-wide solutions and generates reports that shed light on the dynamics of soy production and land use change in the Chaco biome.

Cerrado, Brazil © Andre Dib



# Thriving Fisheries

Making sure oceans thrive through new and better managed protected areas, sustainable fishing, and positive policy changes to how the sea is governed.

Ninety percent of the world's fisheries lack the basic data needed for good management, putting them at risk from overfishing and affecting both livelihoods and biodiversity. To address this, TNC has introduced FishPath, an online decision-support tool that helps fisheries assess, monitor, and manage their resources, towards sustainability.

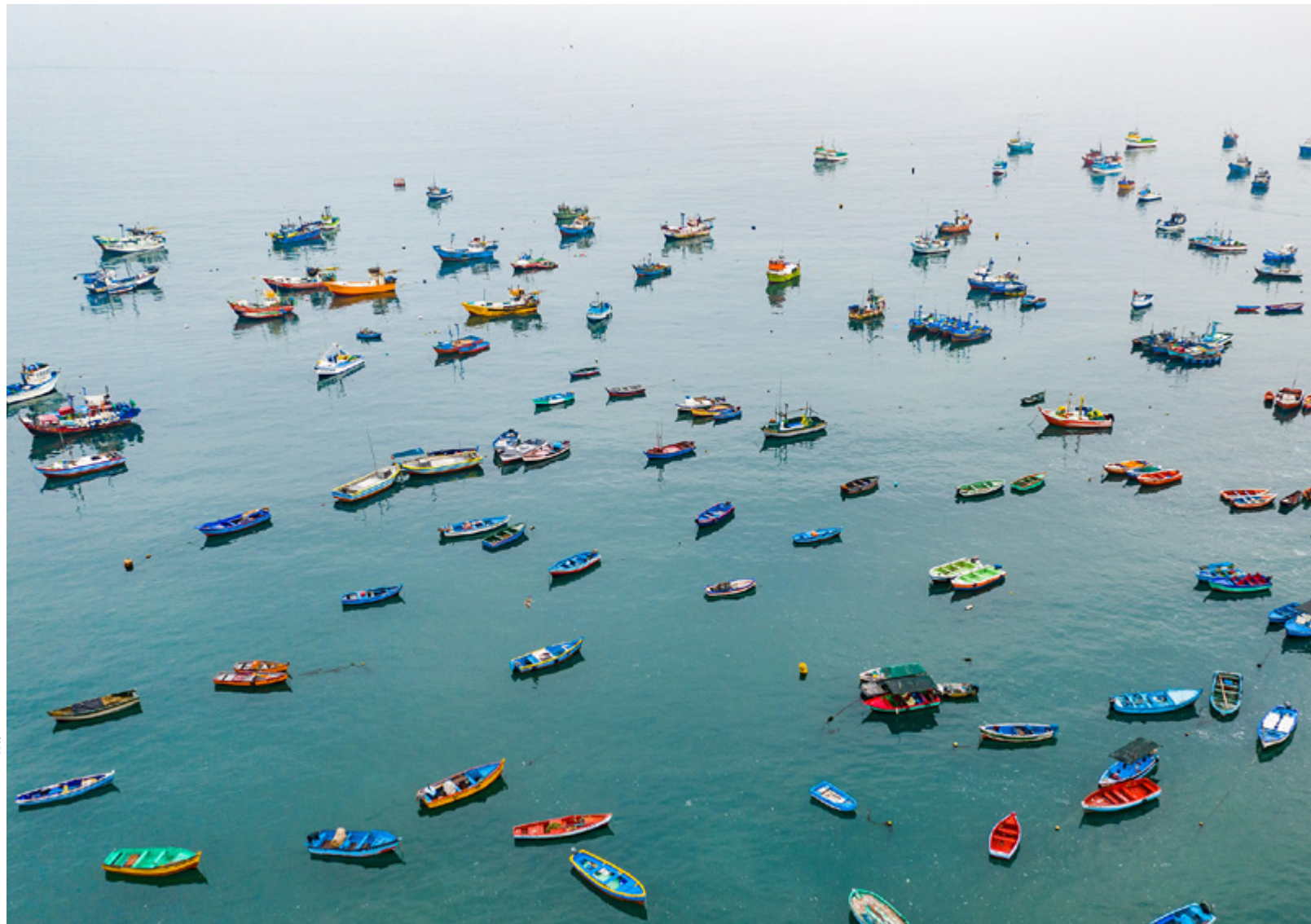


Vadiviva Coastal Reserve, Chile © Ian Shive

In Chile, we collaborate with government agencies, fishers, universities, local NGOs, and research centers, to apply FishPath for designing a sustainable framework for 14 species of coastal finfish or rockfish. These species hold ecological and economic significance but currently lack legal protection or regulation. FishPath is also being used to create a multi sectoral management plan for the razor clam fishery in Corral Bay, aiming to set an example for other management committees in the country.

In Peru, TNC and IMARPE (Peru's Ocean Institute) have implemented a nation-wide on-port monitoring program to improve and increase data collection on shark and ray fisheries. The collected data will support stock assessments and management recommendations, contributing to the conservation of these targeted species.

Additionally, TNC, in collaboration with a coalition of NGOs, launched the bi-national project "Por La Pesca" in Peru and Ecuador. This initiative aims to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fisheries by improving policies, supporting co-management schemes, enhancing capacities of fisheries agencies and organizations, improving data collection and transparency, strengthening the fisheries value chain and market connections, and promoting gender mainstreaming in the fishing sector.



Ancón, Peru © Jason Houston

“Let’s not only think about fishing today. Let’s also think about being able to fish tomorrow and about our children being able to fish in the future and sustain their livelihoods”

JULIO CESAR PAIVA, ARTISANAL FISHERMAN, ANCON, PERU

## Environmentally and Socially Responsible Fisheries

The Gulf of California is renowned as one of Earth's most abundant marine ecosystems. From succulent shrimp to prized tuna and sardines, this region accounts for a staggering 70% of Mexico's annual catch and supports the livelihoods of more than 88,000 people. Nestled at its southern edge lies Marismas Nacionales, Mexico's largest wetland on the Pacific coast, which plays a pivotal role in bolstering productivity and climate resiliency.



In collaboration with local partners, TNC has launched an ambitious Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) with a specific focus on enhancing the white shrimp in Marismas Nacionales. Our primary goal is to achieve positive environmental and social outcomes through this initiative. We are delighted to share that the FIP is now part of the Fishery Progress global platform connecting conscientious buyers with environmentally and socially responsible fisheries. The platform ensures transparency and facilitates monitoring of progress.

To ensure a comprehensive and socially responsible restoration of the mangrove forests in Marismas Nacionales, we have implemented a Biological Monitoring Program in conjunction with a Human Rights Guide. This synergistic approach tackles ecological recovery while also prioritizing the well-being of local communities. By fortifying the productivity and resilience of Marismas Nacionales, our efforts benefit those who rely on it for sustenance and livelihoods and also safeguard against the ravages of climate change.



## A Superfood for Coastal Resilience



Seaweed, known as a superfood, plays a crucial role in supporting ecosystems. As the “forests of the sea,” seaweed captures carbon, filters water, and provides essential nursery habitat for wildlife, including economically and ecologically significant ones like lobsters and crabs. Strategically located seaweed farms restore coastal ecosystems while simultaneously generating food and employment opportunities. Collaborating with fishing communities, TNC has established successful pilot farms that serve as models for expansion. This innovative approach has not only provided additional sources of income for fishers but also creates inclusive opportunities for women.

These collective efforts have been instrumental in the development of Belize's National Mariculture Policy. TNC, in collaboration with Belize's Fisheries and BELTRAIDE (Belize Trade and Investment Development Service), has actively contributed to shaping this policy, laying the foundation for the sustainable growth and development of Belize's mariculture industry. By integrating ecological and socio-economic benefits, the policy contributes to ongoing development of the legal framework supporting growth and development of Belize's mariculture sector, thereby reducing pressure on traditional fisheries. Seaweed farming emerges as a compelling solution, promoting the restoration of coastal ecosystems, empowerment of communities, and driving sustainable economic development.



## Saving Water by Saving Nature

Protecting and restoring nature's inherent capacity to provide clean water can play a pivotal role in reversing water shortages worldwide. First implemented in Latin America and now replicated around the world, Water Funds bring together public, private and community stakeholders to collectively invest in conserving crucial headwaters through nature-based solutions. This frequently entails conserving forests to protect water supplies, restoring wetlands to effectively filter pollutants and adopting improved farming practices to prevent pollution at its source. Nature can often deliver superior outcomes at a significantly lower cost.

Through the dedicated efforts of the [Latin America Water Fund Partnership \(LAWFP\)](#), and with a growing network of local partners, TNC has helped create 27 Water Funds in ten Latin American countries. These collective efforts have mobilized over 350 public and private partners to invest more than USD \$240 million to support conservation actions on more than 800,000 hectares (2 million acres) in priority areas, benefiting nearly 104,000 families.

Our latest addition was the Mendoza River Water Fund—Argentina's first—which will contribute to improving water security in the Mendoza River basin, the epicenter of Argentina's wine production now facing recurring droughts and daunting challenges.



Mendoza, Argentina © Manuel Romero

## The Economic Advantage of Investing in Nature for Drought Resilience



Sao Paulo, Brazil © Scott Warren

A new TNC study analyzing the potential advantages of nature-based solutions (NbS) versus current land use practices found that investing in nature can have a significant impact on drought-related expenses. The study assessed the economic repercussions of the 2014-2015 drought in Brazil's Sao Paulo state, specifically for industries and water supply. The findings revealed that implementing NbS could have reduced drought-related costs by 28%. Essentially, the benefits of avoiding losses far outweighed the costs of implementing NbS. This study underscores the wisdom of investing in NbS to combat the impacts of extreme climate events. [LINK](#)

## Reviving Ancestral Water Channels

TNC, [AquaFondo](#), AB InBev, and GIZ have partnered on a groundbreaking initiative aimed at revitalizing a network of traditional water channels known as 'Amunas' in Peru's upper Rímac river basin. These channels provide a staggering 65% of the water consumed in Lima, the world's third largest desert city. The project will establish a monitoring program to evaluate the effectiveness of this ancestral nature-based solution and guide decisions on managing the watershed, preserving freshwater ecosystems, and maintaining environmental services. This exciting collaborative effort has inspired other companies like PepsiCo and Coca-Cola to join forces in this important endeavor.



Amuna, Peru © Aldo Cárdenas

**CLIMATE**

We are focusing on innovative, science-based solutions that match the urgency of the crisis: galvanizing partnerships to meet ambitious reforestation targets; growing food in ways that better partner with nature and store carbon; launching creative schemes to restore reefs that shelter coastal communities from storms; and supporting the transition to a clean energy future.

**Our actions today determine the future of our planet.**



Maya Forest, Belize © Eva Lepiz



Pará, Brazil © Demys Costa

## An Economy Rooted in Biodiversity



What happens in the Amazon affects all of us. The carbon stored in the largest tropical forest on Earth helps ensure climate stability worldwide; its extensive network of rivers hold one-fifth of all the water on the planet, and its rich biodiversity is home to one in every ten species.

Regrettably, this vast tropical forest is rapidly disappearing, and if deforestation continues, it could reach a tipping point, turning it into a fire-prone savanna. This would have devastating consequences for biodiversity and the global climate.

The Brazilian state of Pará is emblematic of the Amazon's plight. Covering an area three times the size of California, it houses eight million people and 9% of the world's rainforests. However, it also holds the unfortunate distinction of having Brazil's fastest deforestation rate due to clearing for agricultural expansion and resource-based activities. Urgent action to halt forest loss in Pará is crucial to safeguarding the delicate web of life in the Amazon and to protecting our climate.

Addressing the interconnected crises of biodiversity loss and climate change requires transitioning to an economy that prioritizes thriving forests. Such a shift

presents an opportunity for a more inclusive and equitable development model that also acknowledges the invaluable knowledge of biodiversity held by Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities.

Pará has taken a leadership role in this endeavor. During COP27, it unveiled its State Bioeconomy Plan ([Planbio](#)) developed with support from TNC and in consultation with more than 40 organizations and 300 representatives from public and private sectors, universities, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, and quilombolas and other traditional communities. The bioeconomy strategy has the potential to double the state's GDP in two decades while effectively addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequity. By embracing sustainable practices and preserving its natural resources, Pará sets a compelling example for the entire world to follow.

“We are here, building, knowing that it is not something for me, but for all the people of Pará, for all Indigenous peoples, and for other generations to come, so we are building and leaving a legacy which will serve for other generations. It is a moment of contribution and learning.”

CHIEF KATIA SILENE AKRÁTİKATÉJÉ, INDIGENOUS LEADER



Pará, Brazil © DenysCosta

“In the last few years, Pará was the state that emitted the largest amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the Brazilian territory, and that challenged us to find a solution that would allow a transition and better use of the soil in a state with enormous territorial expanse. Planbio is part of the Amazon Now Plan, which has actions that solidify Pará's socio-economic and environmental transformation with monitoring, inspections, control, and land-use assessment.”

HELDER BARBALHO, PARÁ'S GOVERNOR

## Climate Adaptation



Mesoamerican Reef, Mexico © Jennifer Adler

Reefs protect coastal communities and infrastructure by dissipating storm surges caused by hurricanes. The Mesoamerican Reef provides coastal protection for nearly 2 million people and a 14-billion-dollar tourism industry in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

In 2022, TNC successfully expanded post-storm reef restoration capacity to cover 50% of the Mesoamerican Reef. Restoration coverage now includes Belize, Honduras and Guatemala, and additional Marine Protected Areas in Mexico. TNC has been instrumental in helping all four countries establish national programs, reef repair brigades, protocols, and insurance coverage, in close collaboration with our partner, MAR Fund.

We have also expanded the restoration approach to encompass sand dunes, another vital source of coastal protection. In 2022, TNC collaborated with six hotel corporations that invested in and restored sand dunes within their properties. These efforts triggered a strong demand for knowledge and capacity to restore dune vegetation. Subsequently, in 2023, TNC and partners trained over 300 personnel from local hotels, consultancies, and dune vegetation nurseries. [LINK](#)

This is the decade to save the planet—to restore, regenerate, repair and recover.



## Roots for Change

In Brazil's Mantiqueira Mountains, a vital region within the imperiled Atlantic Forest, a groundbreaking project is showcasing the remarkable benefits of forest restoration. Inspired by the successful Extrema Municipality project, where 2 million trees were planted, and payment for ecosystem services (PES) was pioneered, the Conservador da Mantiqueira initiative has set its sights on an ambitious goal. It aims to unite stakeholders from 425 municipalities surrounding Brazil's major markets in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais. Their collective mission is to scale up forest restoration and reforest a vast 1.5 million hectares by 2030.

At the heart of this endeavor lies a powerful collaboration between governments, universities, and civil society, facilitated by TNC. Thanks to their support, more than 100 municipalities in the Mantiqueira region have already joined the initiative, with 52 actively implementing essential environmental public policies.

The project's impact extends goes far beyond planting trees. Through extensive training programs, field-day events, and webinars, 1,300 individuals now hold the knowledge to drive sustainable change. Moreover, TNC's active participation in the Pact for Atlantic Forest Restoration and the Trinational Atlantic Forest Restoration Network has garnered well-deserved recognition from the United Nations for the endeavor, which was named one of ten [World Restoration Flagship Initiatives](#) in 2022.

The Mantiqueira restoration project is demonstrating that by safeguarding and restoring forests, we can enhance water security, invigorate rural economies, and contribute to combating climate change. [LINK](#)





## Clean Energy Transition

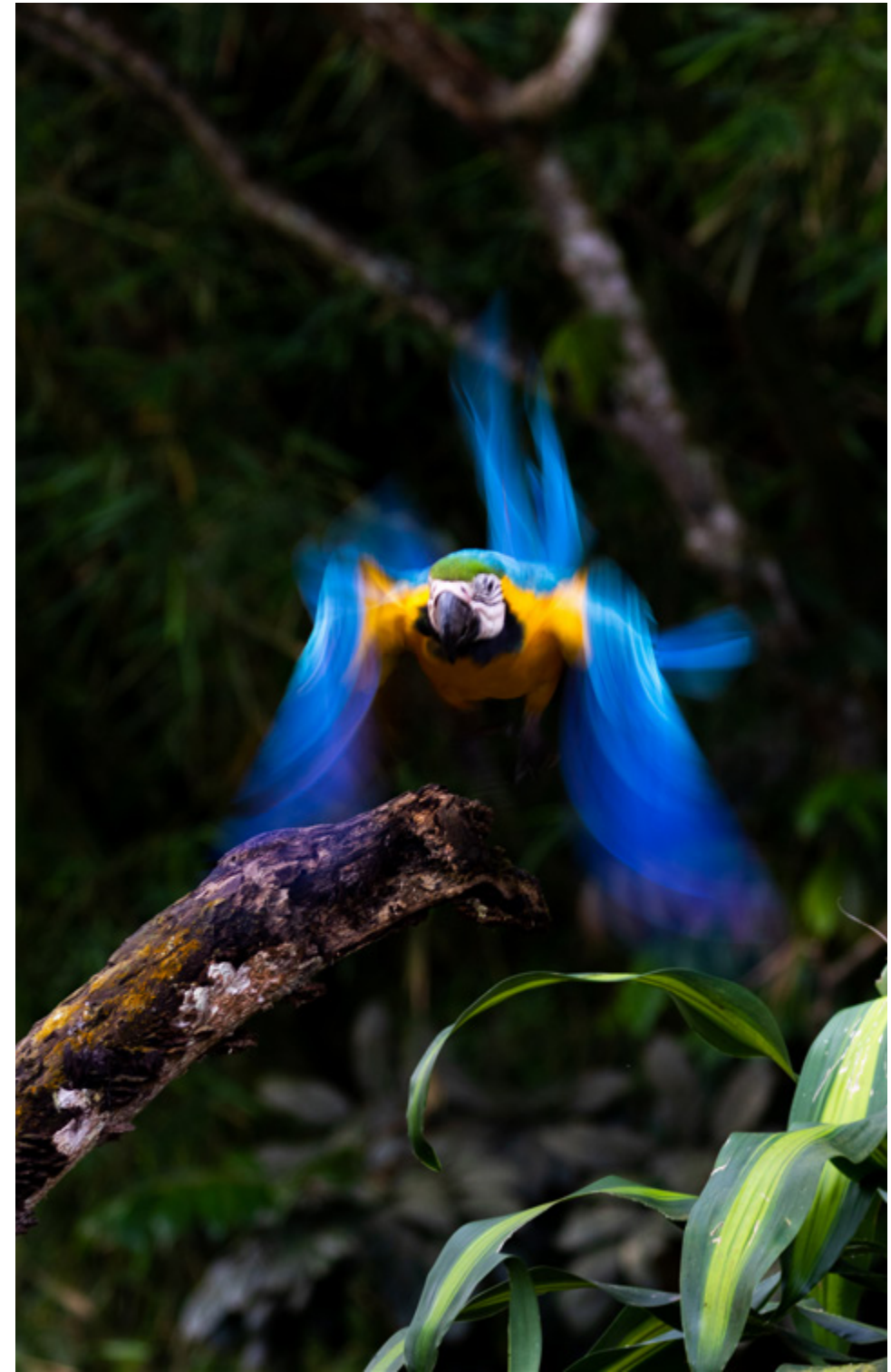


Yacapa, Peru © Jean-Louis Ecochard

A renewable energy transition is crucial in our fight against climate change. However, it is equally vital that we carefully plan and position new energy development to avoid adverse impacts on our environment, particularly concerning biodiversity and ecosystem protection. By factoring the needs of nature and people into energy infrastructure planning, we can pursue the complementary goals of addressing the climate crisis and conserving at least 30% of our lands, fresh water, and oceans by 2030.

TNC is collaborating with the Peruvian Ministry of Energy and Mines (MINEM) to implement a pioneering pilot project in the La Libertad region, specifically focusing on renewable energy zoning and

siting. This process facilitates informed decision-making by governments and developers to avoid harming nature in the process of developing clean energy sources. The success of the initial phase has paved the way for an expansion to other regions, refining methodologies for broader adoption in the energy sector. Additionally, TNC and MINEM have conducted a planning exercise in the Marañón river basin—nestled in the Andean Amazon—assessing various hydropower development scenarios to protect free-flowing rivers. This partnership is promoting sustainable energy practices that preserve crucial ecosystems and pave the way for a greener future.



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