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AMAZON
Sustainable
Landscapes Program

Annual Conference 2025

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Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
Conference Objectives.....	4
Participants.....	5
Field visit.....	6
Conference Opening.....	8
INSPIRING MESSAGE	11
TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS	12
ASL 10 YEARS	14
ASL timeline.....	14
Panel: 10 years of the ASL.....	15
Presentation: ASL 10-year review and group activity.....	16
ASL's transformational changes.....	18
NATIONAL PROJECTS FAIR	19
Bolivia – Sustainable Landscape Approach in the National System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of Bolivia.....	20
Brazil – Amazon Sustainable Landscapes	21
Colombia – Heart of the Colombian Amazon	22
Ecuador – Connectivity Corridors in Two Priority Landscapes in the Ecuadorian Amazon Regions.....	23
Guyana – Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana.....	24
Peru – Building Human Wellbeing and Resilience in Amazonian Forests	25
Peru – Sustainable Productive Landscapes in the Peruvian Amazon	26
Suriname – Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in Surinamese Amazon.....	27
ASL REGIONAL PROJECT	28
ASL Working Groups.....	29
Bioeconomy.....	29
Connectivity and corridors.....	30
Gender and Youth.....	31
Communications.....	32
CONFERENCE CLOSING	33
ANNEXES	34
Annex 1: Survey Results.....	34

Introduction

The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) is an initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that seeks to improve integrated landscape management and ecosystem conservation in priority areas of the Amazon in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname. The national-level environmental agencies of each country lead the implementation of the Program's national projects, and multiple public and private institutions co-execute the projects on the ground, along with civil society and community organizations. The World Bank is the lead agency for the Program and, together with the other GEF agencies - WWF, CAF, FAO, UNIDO, IFAD and UNDP -, provides supervision and technical assistance to national projects. The ASL also includes a regional project, executed by the World Bank, that promotes coordination and exchange of experiences. National projects under a new third phase of the program are in final stages towards the start of implementation and include one per each of the active countries plus Venezuela.

The ASL, particularly through its regional coordination project, works to establish and strengthen the network of people and institutions linked to the Program to share ideas, lessons learned, and best practices; accelerate learning towards improved management practices and policies; and generate, systematize, and socialize knowledge at various levels and for diverse audiences. The Annual Conference is the Program's largest gathering of the ASL community.

The Seventh ASL Conference was held from March 24-27, 2025, in Georgetown, Guyana. It was an exciting event considering it marked the 10-year anniversary of the ASL program.



Conference Objectives

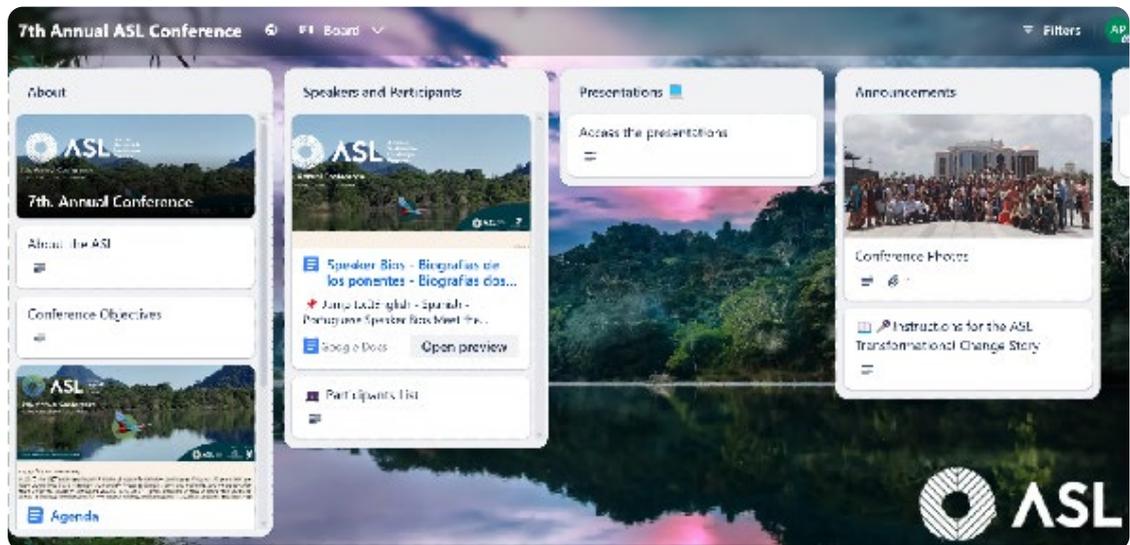
1. Reflect on the past: Take time to analyze past events, both positive and negative, to understand what worked well, what didn't, and what we can learn from them to move forward. 10 years of the ASL: Reflect, learn and celebrate.
2. Seize the present: Acknowledge and appreciate the current moment, including national project's current circumstances, relationships, and achievements. Promote the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and reflections among the current ASL project teams, identify synergies, common challenges, and what each other can learn from other countries.
3. Look into the future: Look ahead with intention, set goals, and plan for what we want to achieve in the coming months, or years, while drawing on insights from the past and actively engaging with the present. Identify future exchanges and collaborations through the regional project.
4. Nurture the community among all ASL members.



Participants

The detailed agenda of the event can be accessed at the following [link](#).

The organizing team created a [web page](#) for the conference to share information with the participants.



The conference was attended by a total of 106 people involved in the ASL, including high-level representatives from seven Amazonian countries - Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname -, technical representatives of public institutions as well as partner NGOs, GEF agencies (World Bank, WWF, UNDP, CAF, FAO, IFAD, UNIDO), and the ASL active project teams

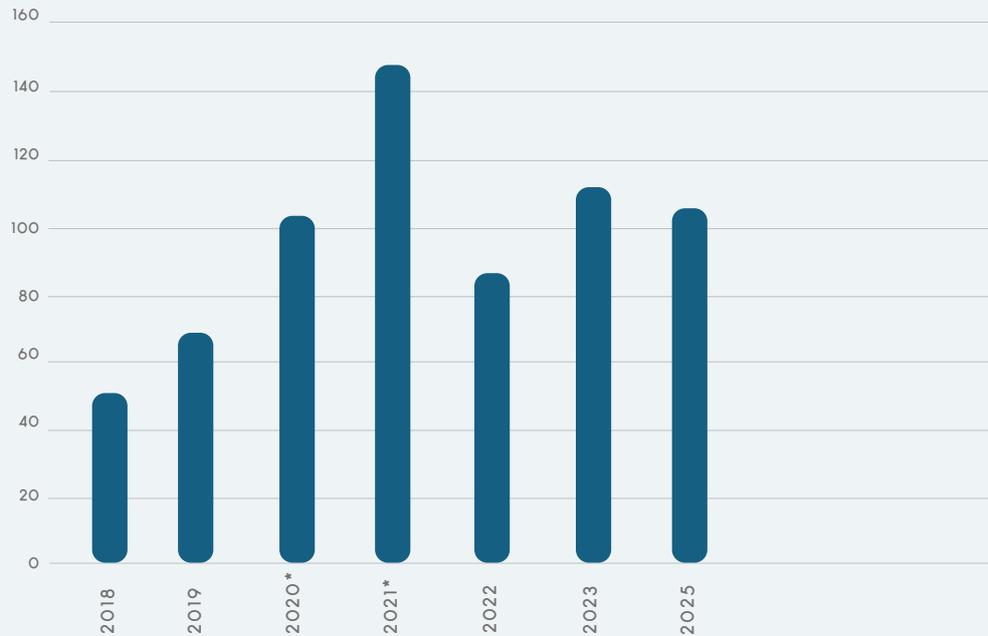
The list of participants is available [here](#).



Field visit

Figure 1. Number of participants for each year of the ASL Annual Conference over the last seven years. Years with a * were done virtually due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Annual Conference Participants

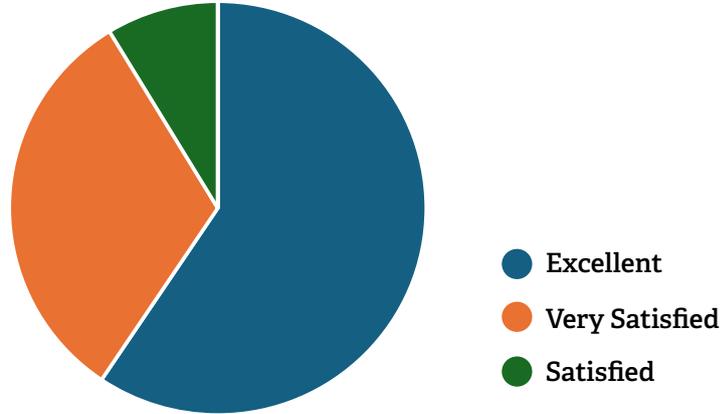


On Wednesday, March 26, participants went on a city tour around Georgetown to learn about the history, culture, and environment of the area. Stops included the Botanical Gardens, the Promenade Gardens, and the Sophia Exhibition Center. In addition, conference participants visited Guyana's National Toshias Council, where its executive core members provided an insightful look at the relevance of the country's Indigenous Peoples and facilitated an enriching knowledge exchange.



Satisfaction

Overall Rating of the Annual Conference



At the end of the three days of the meeting, the participants filled out a survey, according to which **100% were satisfied or very satisfied with the event**. Detailed responses and recommendations for future meetings are found in Annex 1 of this document.



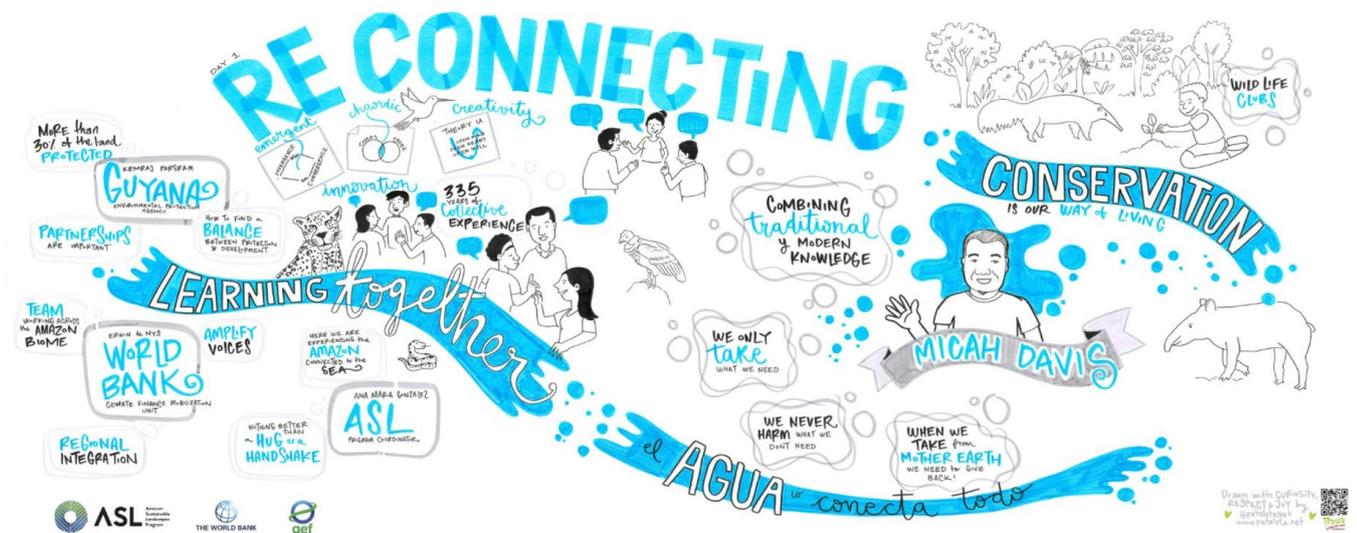
Conference Opening

The first day of the conference had a soft opening beginning with **Kemraj Parsram**, Executive Director of Guyana's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Guyanese Government. He reflected on Guyana being a proud nation – one which has maintained 85% of its forests with over 30% of its territory under protection already. Kemraj noted the successes of the first year of Guyana's ASL national project and the great partnership with both WWF and the World Bank, saying there are lessons to be shared already. He finished by highlighting the importance of partnership and working together to ensure that natural resources are protected and to find a balance, stating that the private sector, Indigenous Peoples, and the government need to agree on actions that benefit all parties.



Erwin de Nys, World Bank Environment Manager of the Latin America and Caribbean Region, welcomed everyone on behalf of the World Bank and thanked Guyana, the ASL, the GEF, and everyone present. He stated the approach for the next few days to listen and learn from all, and to identify the value proposition of the ASL towards respective entities. Erwin highlighted the importance of learning from this exchange to identify elements of transformational change, amplifying what has worked in other places of the region.

To wrap up the evening, **Ana María González Velosa**, ASL Coordinator, welcomed the group noting that there is nothing better than seeing each other in person. She reminded the participants that the last time they saw each other was in Tarapoto, Peru in 2023, and it was a very different environment as they were in the Amazon Rainforest. At this conference, they could see the ocean, and this serves as a reminder of how vast and diverse the Amazon region is. Ana Maria mentioned that the conference is the principal event for the ASL because it's a time to meet, learn, and listen so that all can row together for a better Amazon. She thanked the Government of Guyana for hosting, the World Bank Guyana office, the interpreters, the ASL coordination team, and all present.



On the second day of the conference, there was the official opening initiated by **Diletta Doretti**, World Bank's resident representative in Guyana and Suriname, who highlighted the importance of the Amazon. She expressed how moving it is to have seven countries represented, and that the ASL can leverage the experiences of these countries, their environmental agencies, and community leaders to protect the Amazon. Diletta emphasized how the ASL's capacity-building efforts are scaling up in other initiatives, welcomed the assistance to Guyana, and wished a happy anniversary to the Program. She called Guyana a leader in forest protection, and noted that the country's low carbon development strategy can serve as an incredible example for the region.



Pascal Martinez, Senior Climate Change Specialist and coordinator for the ASL at the Global Environment Fund, welcomed the participants and thanked Guyana for hosting the conference. He highlighted the historic moment: for the first time all eight sovereign countries of the Amazon will be working together. Pascal gave background information on the GEF's work in the Amazon, which began 20 years ago with ARPA followed by the ASL – which is the GEF's largest program today -, and stressed the importance of continuity. The ASL has accumulated vast experiences, data, and responsibility and is uniquely positioned to share lessons learned, enabling the GEF to continue creating impactful initiatives. The Amazon will remain a focus of the GEF in the new replenishment.



To wrap up, Guyana's Minister of Amerindian Affairs, **Pauline Rose Ann Campbell-Sukhai**, welcomed the participants to Guyana and emphasized the country's pride in being part of the ASL. She highlighted the importance of the Guiana shield for forests, biodiversity, and carbon; and recognized the critical role Indigenous Peoples play in conserving the Amazon. Honorable Minister Campbell-Sukhai finished by expressing appreciation for ASL's support.



Inspiring Message

On the first and second day of the event keynote speakers were invited to share their knowledge and inspire action towards the Amazon.

Micah Davis, Toshi leader of Toka¹, provided initial inspiring words highlighting that Indigenous Peoples have a deep connection and love for nature, and that nurturing the land has provided food, medicine, and cultural identity. He noted that they advocate for sustainable use of resources, using only what is needed and causing no harm to what is not needed. Micah detailed the rich biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wetland landscape, including the presence of significant wildlife such as birds, jaguar, capybaras, and anaconda, which are threatened due to hunting. He explained the protected areas model in Guyana, which uses a combination of local and traditional knowledge with modernization, and has properly zoned the territory to allocate areas for tourism, training, research, and others as preserved areas with minimal research to maintain the integrity of the land. Micah explained that Indigenous Peoples have used the forest for decades and it remains unchanged due to their management plans, which allow for sustainable development. He shared the importance of environmental education to protect wetlands, and gave an overview of the wildlife clubs in each community, in which kids 8-15 years old are instilled with a sense of conservation and leadership. *“This initiative provides an opportunity for caring for the environment and planting the seed of conservation in the minds of young people”*. The goal is to inspire them to become park rangers, conservationists, or leaders, and to climb the leadership ladder in the field of environmental conservation. Micah finished by emphasizing the importance of the



landscapes for their livelihoods and that they take only what is needed from the land, because if it is destroyed, they suffer the consequences.

1. Toka is an **indigenous village of Macushi Amerindians** in the Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo Region of Guyana. It is located in the North Rupununi Wetlands.

Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy

Pradeepa Bholanath, Senior Director of Climate and REDD+ for Guyana's Ministry of Natural Resources, presented the evolution of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS), beginning in 2009 when the country took stock of the challenges faced – not just for forest conversion, but also development. She noted that the threats to the region, mainly increasing forest fires and deforestation, result from the need for food and sustainable livelihoods, and that this connection was included in the country's strategy. Pradeepa mentioned the importance of being adaptive to changing environment, and that small impacts can have very large effects due to the connectivity among habitats. For this reason, she emphasized the need to link climate with biodiversity in a country analysis, noting that Guyana's position has always been that protecting forests will protect all ecosystem services. The adaptation side of climate challenge is of huge importance, and the country's LCDS puts both adaptation and biodiversity at the center.



Pradeepa discussed the challenge of balancing the need for conservation and the financial and development needs, when making the decision to give access to communities to mine in a forested area, and that Guyana balances protecting the environment, with climate security, energy security, and food security. Most of Guyana's territory is rainforest, so the country created a global model for jurisdictional-scale action to create the right incentives to save forests and use the payments received to invest in creating a low-carbon economy. The ASL national project in Guyana was featured in their SDG reporting, and Pradeepa stated that projects like this help implement the country's LCDS. The strategy has four interconnected objectives, including creating new incentives for a low carbon economy, protecting against climate change and biodiversity loss, stimulating future growth through clean energy and low carbon development, and aligning with global climate and biodiversity goals. LCDS was made through extensive national consultations, ensuring Indigenous Peoples will financially benefit from its implementation as per the sustainable investment plans established for the country's villages. Today the country can present its LCDS 2030, and demonstrate its global leadership on forests. See the presentation [here](#).



Challenges and Opportunities for Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Amazon

Carmen Josse, Executive Director of EcoCiencia Foundation, gave a keynote speech focusing on the challenges and opportunities for conservation and sustainable development in the Amazon. Her presentation illustrated the region’s forest change in the last several decades, as well as the impacts on ecological connectivity, demonstrating that protected areas and Indigenous Territories have served as barriers to deforestation during this time. Carmen highlighted the Science Panel for the Amazon’s strategies to avoid the tipping point, including restoration and maintenance of connectivity; development of multi-country projects; implementation of effective environmental policies such as enacting an immediate moratorium on deforestation, enforcing zero deforestation, degradation, and forest fires by 2030; and recognizing and strengthening the role of Indigenous Peoples’ leadership. The existence of multiple innovative and impactful alliances, numerous initiatives supporting conservation and sustainable development, more empowered and informed Indigenous organizations and local communities, relevant and available scientific information (some gathered by the Science Panel for the Amazon), improved access and better monitoring technology, the existence of regional policies, innovative finance mechanisms, and the strengthening of bioeconomy efforts are all positive achievements that should be scaled up. See the presentation [here](#).



See the biographies of the speakers [here](#).

Panel: ASL 10 Years

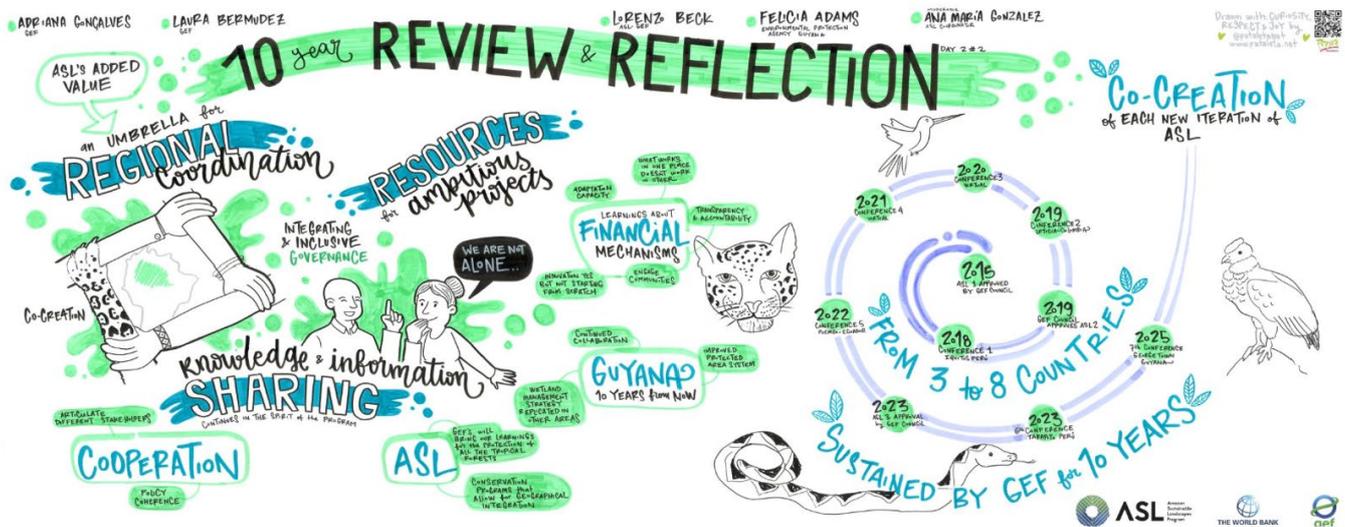
Given the 10-year anniversary of the program, the ASL coordination team wanted to reflect on the past by reviewing what worked and what didn't, drawing lessons from both successes and challenges over the 10 years of ASL to guide future efforts. This was done through a panel, with the participation of 4 guests that could reflect on the Program's history, impact, and experiences. Following the panel, there was a presentation by the ASL coordination team on the key results achieved over the last 10 years, which then led to a group activity to reflect and validate those results. The exercise culminated in a participatory session on transformational changes conducted by smaller groups to capture the impacts of the program.

ASL timeline

Adriana Moreira, Lead Partnerships Division for the GEF and former coordinator of the ASL, recounted the journey of the program from its inception in 2015 to the present. ASL1 began with Brazil, Colombia, and Peru as participant countries, and the program's first annual conference took place in 2018 in Iquitos, Peru with around 40 participants. At this Conference there were over 100 participants, and the program now includes 8 Amazon countries. In the last ten years, 10 key milestones have happened, including the approval of ASL2 and ASL3, Conferences in Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and virtually during COVID-19 times; as well as the important workshop that led to the preparation of the regional integrated watershed management project in the Putumayo-Ica River basin also financed by GEF. The session allowed the participants to place themselves in the moment in ASL's history when each of them arrived.



Panel: 10 years of the ASL



A panel was held with **Adriana Moreira**, **Laura Bermudez** – advisor for the Vice Minister of Environment in Colombia and involved with the ASL preparation and implementation, **Felicia Adams** – Head of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Policy, and Planning Department for Guyana’s EPA, and **Lorenzo Beck** – former coordinator of one of ASL1 Peru’s national projects. The panel had the objective of bringing different perspectives and reflections about the last 10 years of the ASL, to nurture reflections and learn from lessons to continue imagining and implementing the path towards a protected, shared Amazon. The panelists represented the diversity of the ASL, in terms of countries (4 countries represented), in terms of roles (GEF, government, and project coordinator) and in terms of time with the ASL (early stages and relatively recent arrival). **Ana María González Velosa** moderated the panel and asked the panelists to comment on the ASL’s added value as a program. Their responses highlighted the value of the regional project, “*We have big dreams sometimes, but we have a small budget, or we have the budget, but we don’t have the expertise. With ASL we are able to tap into relevant resources housed in the regional ASL team.*”



Individual questions highlighted key lessons and reflections. For instance, the importance of intentionally promoting dialogue with other sectors to create an integrated vision for the Amazon and follow up on the dialogue so it results in land use plans that incorporate the cross-sectoral vision for a sustainable Amazon. On the experience to secure

financial mechanisms for protected areas and other conservation areas (which has been an important outcome for the ASL), the panel highlighted the need to understand the local dynamics and adapt financial mechanisms to different protected areas, local, and political

contexts, while also ensuring community involvement and the establishment of transparent procedures to build trust with communities and other stakeholders. The panel emphasized the value of the ASL in terms of building relationships, fostering regional collaboration, and facilitating knowledge sharing that results in concrete improvements in natural resources management and legislation. Finally, the ASL was praised for influencing the design of other integrated programs and global strategies including for other tropical forests. .

Presentation: ASL 10-year review and group activity

Ana María González Velosa and **Vanessa Corlazzoli** from the ASL coordination team gave a [presentation](#) on the 10-year review conducted for the program, which looked at the collective impact of the ASL, its added value and contributions of the regional project, and opportunities for transformative change. To answer these questions, Vanessa reviewed documents and conducted interviews and is now in the process of validating the results, which will be shared later. The program's five key results include:

1. An integrated landscape approach funded by the GEF, with eight countries and direct interventions in over 158 million hectares (19% of the Amazon).
2. A robust regional strategy through ASL's Theory of Change, which empowers countries to prioritize and advance their own environmental initiatives.
3. The prioritization of the inclusion of women and Indigenous Peoples, including traditional knowledge and experience.
4. A participatory approach integrated into ASL's governance structure, leading to a high level of relevant activities.
5. Collegiality and peer-to-peer learning: the creation of a technical community dedicated to the Amazon.

The presentation included an overview of ASL's pillars and achievements within each pillar and the ASL regional project's added value, which includes having a structured mechanism to promote dialogue and learning between peers, offer technical and operational support, and establish alliances with partners. Results from group discussions after the presentation indicated the appreciation for the program's results in terms of number of people directly benefitted, amount of landscape under conservation, financial mechanisms supported, among other results. The discussions also indicated the interest that the Program develop further results in terms of strengthening local governance and inclusion, foster cross-border action, and interoperability between platforms and access to information. The discussion opened the opportunity for countries and project teams to share their own results in terms of restoration, conservation agreements, connectivity corridors, and community monitoring, and indicate the interest in setting up a strategy for the next 10 years.



A group session was organized dividing the participants along the three main pillars of the ASL – conservation, sustainable production, and governance -. They responded to four questions regarding the ASL pillars, starting with how their project contributed or will contribute towards the pillar's results. Responses included the creation and expansion of new protected areas, sustainable finance mechanisms, co-management with communities, regulations to incorporate other-effective conservation mechanisms (OECMs), regulations to formally recognize corridors; management of non-timber forest products (NTFP), restoration; consultations and community monitoring. The second question focused on lessons learned, and participants said the need for flexibility, political will, engagement with NGOs, existence of regulations, coordinated action; the importance of building resiliency to political changes by working at the state/subnational level, the need to strengthen governance processes; and integrating governance structure at different levels. The third question centered on enabling factors, which included willingness and trust; using existing legislation, building on what exists, involving local communities in landscape management, the creation of networks; and aligning priorities among different actors. The last question asked about hindering factors, and participants responded with armed conflict and organized crime, COVID-19, challenge of working with economic sector, emergencies linked to climate change, lack of political will to create protected areas, change in priorities with change in governments, difficulties accessing remote areas, lack of land rights recognition; disconnect between project design and implementation timelines, coordination across borders; lack of project continuity and lack of direct access to donor funds faced by local communities.

ASL's transformational changes

Vanessa Corlazolli gave a [presentation](#) on transformational changes defined as a deep, systemic, and sustainable change with large-scale impact in an area of global environment. She explained why there is a need to emphasize transformational changes given global challenges related to the decrease in funding for environmental initiatives, the increase in climate change impacts, growing deforestation, and the need to move beyond sustainability strategies that often do not lead to ownership or long-term impact. All of those challenges are interconnected and require fundamental changes in the way societies operate and interact, particularly with the environment. In addition, there is recognition that change is not linear, and there is a need for more systemic approaches, demonstrating the failure of previous approaches. Transformational changes could generate much needed economic benefits, including a nature-positive economy; crises, such as COVID-19, demonstrate that events can accelerate change, both positive and negative. Vision and leadership, cultural change, disruptive thinking, technology and data, and resilience and adaptation are key elements of what drives transformational changes, and there are examples for each of those in the ASL, including the creation of protected areas and corridors, the development of sustainable finance mechanisms, multisectoral dialogue resulting in fishing agreements in Brazil, and the change in attitudes and behaviors at the community level.

Participants broke out into smaller groups, divided by five types of transformational change, to reflect on the type of transformational change that their project has accomplished or will be accomplished by the end of the project. To do so, they practiced story telling techniques and discussed both the enabling as well as hindering factors to such changes. Examples given by the participants included making people outside of the forest feel connected to it (social/behavioral change); the Herencia Colombia Project Finance for Permanence model (leveraging finance); the development of spaces for dialogue among diverse actors (multisectoral dialogue); decision-making that involves the local, subnational, and national levels (governance); and turning data into decision-making information to help reduce deforestation (structural change).



National Projects Fair

The fair allowed for the interaction, exchange of information and ideas among the eight national projects from the seven participant countries (two from Peru). Prior to the conference, posters for each of the ASL national projects were prepared to serve as a reference and communication piece for conference participants to learn the projects' basic information. During the conference, the national projects presented three key achievements from 2024, three lessons/challenges from 2024, and plans for 2025. Participants asked questions and left notes for teams to read. The session was set up as a fair, with two to three projects presenting simultaneously at their own stand. Participants could move from one stand to the next at their own leisure.



Interactive visits to project stands took place where teams from each of the 8 national teams from the 7 Amazon countries (two from Peru) presented a poster detailing aspects of the project and brought publications, materials, videos, and other items to showcase their projects. Visitors to each stand asked questions and were encouraged to comment on what impressed them most about the project, what was learned that was relevant to their own projects, and what experience could be shared to inform the project. Participants asked questions and identified best practices during the marketplace in order to determine one priority country for an in-person exchange.

In addition, there was a “twinning” planning exercise to enable ASL countries to have transformational peer-to-peer learning experiences through a travel grant sponsored by the ASL regional project that allows ASL stakeholders to visit another country to promote deeper understanding on defined topics.

Bolivia – Sustainable Landscape Approach in the National System of Protected Areas and Strategic Ecosystems of Bolivia

The Bolivia project aims to strengthen management effectiveness and financial sustainability of the National System of Protected Areas of the Bolivian Amazon, based on social participation and the sustainable management of natural resources. The project has not started yet but plans for 2025 include training in sustainable resource management, the implementation of agroecological practices, and the consolidation of community monitoring systems for Indigenous Territories; strengthening the management committee and providing training in environmental monitoring for the Río Blanco Ramsar Site; the participatory development of the management plan, the collection of socio-environmental information, and the promotion of conservation agreements with local communities in the Río Yata Ramsar Site; and updating the management plan, implementing surveillance strategies, and providing training in sustainable management for the Bruno Racua Wildlife Reserve. Visitors to Bolivia's stand were interested in understanding the governance processes and how to manage the biosphere areas as well as having an exchange on managing RAMSAR sites and cacao productive systems.



Here is the [Bolivia poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

Brazil – Amazon Sustainable Landscapes

The Brazil project aims to expand the area under legal protection and improve management of protected areas, and to increase the area under restoration and sustainable management in the Brazilian Amazon. The team shared key achievements from the project in 2024, including, the creation of two new extractive reserves; the restoration of 134.28 hectares; and the promotion of integrated management and protection initiatives, resulting in the protection of 984,000 baby turtles and training 60 women in traditional basket weaving. The Brazil team shared challenges from the project in 2024 highlighting the historic drought, which impacted rivers, limiting field activities, making it difficult to monitor actions and compromising food security, income, and access to supported communities. Another challenge is the shortage of local suppliers, communication difficulties and logistical complexity, which all result in project delays. Finally, restoration requires continuous monitoring which needs proper planning and budget. In 2025, the team plans to complete activities financed by ASL1, strengthen implementation of ASL2 activities and begin ASL3 project; continue to work towards restoration; and prepare for COP30. Visitors to the Brazil stand were impressed with the large geographic scope for the project and number of stakeholders involved. They wanted to understand how the project supports women's network, what the governance of the project is like, specifically how it's implemented on the ground, and how the environmental cadaster works.



Here is the Brazil [poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

Colombia – Heart of the Colombian Amazon

Representatives of Colombia project team gave an overview of the project, which aims to improve governance and promote sustainable land use activities to reduce deforestation and conserve biodiversity. Several accomplishments from 2024 include: the consolidation of a territorial governance model for project implementation that integrates the National Environmental System (SINA) and community actors, prioritizing ecological and climatic connectivity becoming an example for intersectoral coordination for conservation and sustainable development; and incorporating traditional indigenous practices and knowledge into the management of protected areas. The team noted the challenge of the increased deforestation at the end of 2024 in the region. Another challenge is establishing complementarity and continuity between similar projects guaranteeing synergies and scalability of initiatives, acknowledging the adjustments with changes of government. Finally, the lack of technological connectivity limits environmental monitoring. The project teams plan for 2025 include: strengthening territorial governance through signing additional 320 conservation agreements and restoring 1,700 hectares; prioritizing biodiversity monitoring, establishment and maintenance of ecological corridors, in nine national protected areas, two regional protected areas, and two Ramsar sites; strengthening community organizations; and maintaining intersectoral coordination as well as deforestation and carbon monitoring. Participants who visited the project's stand were interested in learning about the process of participatory involvement at farm level within the landscape approach.



Here is the Colombia [poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

Ecuador – Connectivity Corridors in Two Priority Landscapes in the Ecuadorian Amazon Region

The Ecuador project's objective is to improve the ecological connectivity in priority landscapes of the Ecuadorian Amazon by establishing two connectivity corridors and associated management mechanisms to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and surrounding ecosystems over the long-term. Key accomplishments from 2024 include: the establishment of groups in each corridor, with the participation of 541 people, to discuss and facilitate the applications to Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) for recognition of the corridors, with important progress in finalizing the application for the recognition of the Palora-Pastaza Corridor. A challenging but important outcome was reaching consensus among the multiple stakeholders, recognizing and valuing each community, family and Councils autonomy to manage the territories. It was a big effort for the project to create awareness around the importance of the connectivity corridor and the sustainable development practices to be implemented. The project team plans for 2025 include: build and manage a "Governance Model" after each corridor is recognized, with the participation of all stakeholders without duplicating existing mechanisms in each territory; design and implement policies, mechanisms, and activities that guarantee connectivity, sustainable management, and conservation of biological and cultural diversity in each connectivity corridor; and manage and execute funds for the implementation of specific actions/activities for each connectivity corridor. Visitors to the stand were interested in understanding the process to develop the connectivity corridors.



Here is the Ecuador [poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

Guyana – Securing a Living Amazon through Landscape Connectivity in Southern Guyana

The Guyana project's objective is to strengthen landscape connectivity through improved management of protected areas and priority wetlands in southern Guyana, focusing on the North Rupununi Wetlands and Kanuku Mountains Protected Area. Project successes from 2024 include the establishment of the project management unit and project steering committee; completion of community consultations with the participation of 981 people; capacity building for rangers and protected area staff; development of a grievance redress mechanism; and a desk review and gap assessment of research areas. Some of the challenges in the project are accessing remote communities, participation fatigue from the communities due to the number of activities, lack of capacity among national institutions, and the lengthy and difficult process involved in data/information requests. The team reported lessons learned including the importance of scheduling activities at the right time; the need to build trust and connection with community leaders and organizations; and finally, the value of sharing information in a format that is easy to understand to encourage participation. Visitors to the Guyana were interested in learning about consultations and free prior informed consent procedures, as well as tourism in protected areas.



Here is the Guyana [poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

Peru – Building Human Wellbeing and Resilience in Amazonian Forests

Representatives from the Peru project team gave an overview of the project, which aims to advance in the conservation of healthy and functional forests and wetlands resistant to climate change, maintaining carbon reserves, avoiding GHG emissions and generating sustainable and resilient local livelihoods for the local inhabitants of the Peruvian Amazon. Achievements from 2024 include: the strengthening of two land use planning instruments, elaboration of the Life Plan for the Eco-ashaninka Organization, and strengthening of three value chains for non-timber forest products (NTFP). The team noted several challenges such as the fact that highly participatory processes require a considerable budget and lengthy coordination processes, difficulty finding professionals and companies with the experience and capacity to implement, and getting the consent of all the Indigenous organizations to implement the activities. In 2025, the team plans to strengthen the municipal environmental commissions of three provinces, develop a management plan and a subsequent roadmap for the Pastaza Ramsar Site, update the Regional Biodiversity Strategy for Loreto, develop and investment plan for the three NTFP value chains, and strengthen the National Environmental Information System (SINIA) platform, among others. Visitors to the stand asked about the coordination between communities and local governments and whether subnational governments recognize territorial plans and consultation processes. There was also interest on learning about the processes to design life plans with women's direct involvement.



Here is the Peru [poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

Peru – Sustainable Productive Landscapes in the Peruvian Amazon

The project's objective is to generate multiple global environmental benefits by applying an integrated approach to the management of Amazonian landscapes. Achievements from 2024 include: the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation has included in its Strategic Plan an initiative to increase the sustainability of agricultural production systems, which will help promote agricultural activity through responsible resource management; technical assistance provided has resulted in 4,325 new producers with increased levels of productivity and competitiveness in their environmentally friendly natural resource use practices; and strengthening the environmental sustainability criteria to be implemented by Agroperú Fund, one of the main sources of financing for the agricultural sector that benefits small-scale producers. During 2024 the main challenges centered around ensuring the sustainability and scalability of the project's actions. In 2025 the team plans to promote knowledge management with a communication strategy for the various stakeholders; disseminate financial programs and products to facilitate producers' access to incentives and services that promote good environmental practices; and support public entities to establish a conservation area and formulate the 2030 National Livestock Development Plan, with a sustainability focus. Visitors to the stand were interested in learning how control and surveillance were done as well as how small farmers can be deterred from deforesting.



Here is the Peru [poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

Suriname – Strengthening Management of Protected and Productive Landscapes in Surinamese Amazon

Representatives from the Suriname project team explained the project, which focuses on securing equitable management of protected and productive landscapes through integrated approaches that deliver mutually supportive conservation and sustainable livelihood benefits. Project successes from 2024 include: assessments to measure management effectiveness (with the METT tool) for three protected areas, the deployment of tablets to enhance monitoring, organization of the World Jaguar Day celebration, and a grant given to validate free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for Indigenous communities. Some of the challenges were adverse weather conditions; extended timelines for FPIC approvals, and the increased project costs and overlapping subject areas across multiple initiatives. In 2025, the team has numerous plans, including finalizing community life plans, developing trainings on different topics, rehabilitating old mining areas, conducting gender awareness sessions, and implementing the Jaguar Conservation Plan. Visitors to the Suriname stand were interested in understanding co-management across frontiers and how Suriname was doing it.



Here is the Suriname [poster](#) and [factsheet](#).

ASL Regional Project

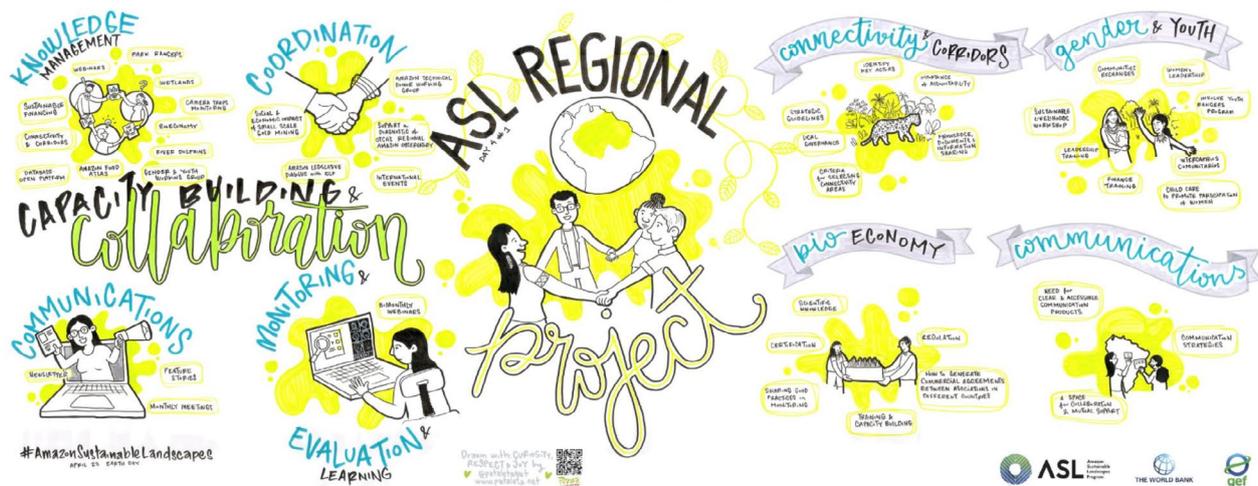
Ana María González Velosa, regional project's coordinator, gave an overview of the ASL project explaining the activities and progress in its different components (coordination, knowledge management, communication, monitoring and evaluation). She presented each one of the activities, providing details on the rationale for such activities contributing to the ASL pillars, accomplishments, and future plans. The presentation illustrated the ways by which the ASL national projects and other partners can benefit from the project, via its different components to strengthen conservation and sustainable development interventions at regional scale, namely through the various working groups. See the presentation [here](#).



Suggestions for further activities included, joint collaboration and presence at the coming COP30, the opportunity to translate country-generated documents of regional interest so to disseminate with other project teams and country representatives that don't speak the published language. Participants highlighted the need to continue and strengthen the dialogue along topics of regional interest (both thematic and operational) such as illegal gold mining, reporting to the GEF and global conventions, and systematizing and disseminating impacts of the projects.

ASL Working Groups

After the presentation, participants broke out into four different groups – bioeconomy, connectivity, gender and youth, and communications – depending on their interests and work with the ASL. Members of the ASL coordination team facilitated the breakout groups, by conducting a deep-dive on the objective of the working group, the broader context, the regional activities within that group, and identifying future activities. Group discussions contributed to a brainstorm on potential activities and ways to deliver on such working groups.



Bioeconomy

The objective of the bioeconomy working group is to identify opportunities for regional knowledge exchange activities; share challenges and lessons learned from the national projects; and build capacity among national project teams, stakeholders, and small-scale community producers that are involved in the project. The ASL regional coordination team gave a short [presentation](#) on the broader context of bioeconomy as well as opportunities in the Amazon region and activities completed to date through the ASL regional project, namely the mapping of NTFP initiatives supported by the ASL1 national projects. This was followed by a discussion among the participants that highlighted the importance of strengthening community governance, incorporating in the projects support to producers, so their products follow proper regulations and incorporate scientific knowledge. An idea was shared to have a certification or seal for the Amazon for NTFP products that meet certain criteria. In terms of cross-country exchange, the group highlighted an opportunity to have common monitoring

protocols across countries for NTFP resources, sharing information about legislation that could be helpful for other countries, sharing best practices for the management of NTFP resources with particular attention to building entrepreneurship skills. The main results from the working group were presented in the plenary by **Amy Juelsgaard**, member of the ASL coordination team.



Photo: Ericsson Santiago (Brazil)

Connectivity and corridors

The purpose of the working group is to build a common understanding of the notion of socio-bio-cultural connected landscapes or corridors and identify opportunities for coordinated actions and governance in adjoining areas on each side of a common border for improving landscape connectivity and management. After a short presentation about the working group's progress and plans to date, the participants were divided into three sub-groups, each of whom were asked to discuss and reflect on a question: (1) What are the important guidelines for composing a **strategy** for coordinating integrated efforts, from local to international, in a multinational corridor initiative? (2) What are the important instruments to support structured **governance**, from local to international, of multinational corridors? (3) What are the main mechanisms for engaging Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities in the **co-management** of multinational corridors? The sub-group on Strategy confirmed their agreement to collaborate and work together on the topic of corridors, highlighted the importance of defining common criteria (considering forests, water, Indigenous Territories and more) that can be adapted to each context, and of ensuring the engagement of stakeholders at all levels (national and subnational, government and non-government actors), as well as ensuring that corridors are not limited to connecting protected areas only. The sub-group on Governance identified who to be involved in governance mechanisms, with the identification of actors and, in the case of transboundary issues, the involvement/context of regional treaties and institutions such as Amazon Conservation Treaty Organization (ACTO); *how* to involve them, through a multi-stakeholder approach and by mapping stakeholders, roles, interests, responsibilities, as well as the importance of developing a legal mechanism that identifies responsibilities; and accountability, with clear systems of participation, decision, reporting and communications, all of them considering adaptive management. The sub-group on Co-management identified that some countries are more advanced than others about co-management and specific themes that require more debate, including Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact, the need to ensure benefit sharing to engage local stakeholders, and the importance of engaging different types of stakeholders. The main results from each sub-group were presented in the plenary by **Caê Marinelli** from Brazil's national project and leader of the working group.



Gender and Youth

The session aimed to introduce the Gender and Youth Working Group and gather concrete ideas and priority needs that the national projects wish to address in 2025 and 2026. The regional team surveyed perceptions about the role of women and youth in the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon. The most frequently cited terms were “leadership,” “care,” and “knowledge,” which served as a guiding thread for the rest of the discussion. Two guests, **Michael Wilson**, a young Indigenous leader and member of the Toshao in Guyana, and **Lilia Java**, an Indigenous Cocama leader from Colombia, participated in the discussion. **Michael** emphasized the urgency of involving Indigenous youth not only as beneficiaries but also as agents of change; he proposed the creation of mentoring networks and small grants to fund community projects and facilitate youth’s transition to the Park Ranger Program. **Lilia** recounted how fishing and protecting the pink dolphin led her to lead river conservation efforts. She highlighted the need to empower female park rangers and dismantle sociocultural barriers through awareness-raising. Participants shared challenges in their national projects to incorporate gender and youth: overload for women to take care of family and household activities limiting their participation, rigid gender norms, community fatigue, lack of disaggregated data, gender-based violence, and alcohol consumption.

During the session, participants were divided into two groups, one for youth and one for women. Each group was asked to consider the needs of national projects and brainstorm specific ideas for activities that the regional project could support. The youth group prioritized two main activities: 1) organizing an in-person workshop on sustainable livelihoods (including business brainstorming and mentoring); 2) involving young people as park rangers through a “train-the-trainers” approach, potentially in partnership with the existing ASL park rangers working group. The Women’s group proposed three activities: organizing a knowledge exchange on effective strategies to ensure women’s participation in project activities, holding a leadership workshop for women in forest management and/or conservation, and building cross-country and cross-project alliances to jointly share

experiences and address common challenges. Both groups jointly proposed an initiative focused on sustainable job creation, which would combine leadership and basic finance training with seed funding to support collective local venture, and connect micro-projects across the region. The main results from the working group were [presented](#) in the plenary by **Kory Barras Tapia**, member of the ASL coordination team.



Communications

The session began with an overall [presentation](#) from the ASL coordination team on the ASL's regional communications strategy, acknowledging the critical role of communications in raising awareness, showcasing results, and sharing lessons learned. It outlined key communication elements and demonstrated how various tools are used to share information and report project progress.

Fabiana Mauro, Integrated Communications Coordinator for the ASL2 Brazil national project, shared insights from her team's experience streamlining communications across all of the teams involved in the project. She highlighted how integration fosters collaboration, ensures strategic alignment, and enhances overall impact. Her presentation also informed a group discussion focused on assertive communication and how to effectively develop a lead (identify and frame compelling stories or angles to guide communication efforts.) This was especially relevant as the session included many participants who do not specialize in communications.

The discussion highlighted the importance of clear, accessible, and culturally adapted messaging for more accurate communication. It was clear that the use of images and visual formats can be an effective tool for engaging local communities, respecting their particularities. As a concrete result from the meeting, a WhatsApp support group was created among the participants, who will be able to exchange information, clarify doubts about the communication strategies for their projects, and share leads for contributions from the participating journalists. The group will also facilitate simultaneous dissemination of aligned campaigns between the countries, expanding the reach of the actions and strengthening engagement. The exchange of experiences between the countries reinforced the need for integrated strategies that are sensitive to local contexts ensuring that communications contribute to the effectiveness of the actions and the consolidation of the ASL objectives. These results from the breakout group were shared during the plenary by **Maria Fernanda Larrea**, coordinator for the working group.



Conference Closing

The conference ended with the participants in a circle and the facilitator, **Charo Lanao**, reminded everyone of the journey taken over the last four days. It began by reflecting on the past, reviewing what worked and what didn't, drawing lessons from both successes and challenges over the 10 years of the ASL to guide future efforts. Then, there was a celebration of the present by recognizing current achievements, valuing partnerships, and promoting the exchange of experiences among national teams to identify common challenges and learning opportunities. Finally, the participants looked to the future by setting clear goals, planning upcoming activities, becoming "twins" for learning, and encouraging continued collaboration through the regional project, building on past insights and current progress. Throughout the conference, there was an emphasis on strengthening the ASL community by deepening connections, fostering a shared vision, and promoting regional integration. As its stands, *Connecting people and institutions to Connect Landscapes*.

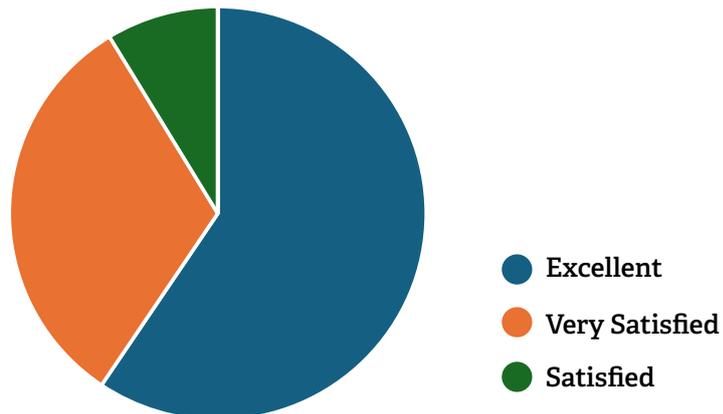


Participants thanked **Ana María** for her leadership and dedication to the ASL program over all these years. On behalf of the ASL team, she thanked the participants for their active participation during the conference. Thanks to the interpreters from the Ecuadorian **SGI Eventos company**, who were great as always, and **Zulma Patarroyo** from Pataleta, for her wonderful graphic designs. The input and rich discussions from the conference will turn into concrete proposals for future knowledge exchange events and the conference was closed with the hope that collaboration and relationships were strengthened.

Annex 1: Survey Results

At the end of the event, a survey was shared with the participants of the Annual Conference, 74 participants completed it. Below is a summary of the key findings of this survey.

Overall Rating of the Annual Conference



The participants also shared comments on the event, including the following:

- I was very satisfied with the meeting, which not only left us with more knowledge but also more friends and positive experiences. Congratulations to everyone for the excellent organization. (translated from Spanish)
- Excellent preparation and facilitation allowing strong engagement by the participants and effectiveness
- The event was good because of the information, processes, and projects that are essential for the management we carry out in our country. (translated from Spanish)
- As in other conferences, the event's proposal and methodology used allowed for an excellent exchange of information between countries. (translated from Portuguese)
- Excellent team participation and spirit of collaboration (translated from Spanish)
- The marketplace was an excellent methodology, but it was too crowded and caused a certain amount of confusion. It would be a good idea to consider a rotation that divided the groups into sessions. (translated from Portuguese)
- The sessions were informative and very clear and time management was good
- It was good to have more concentrated activities but I missed more scientific and research expositions.
- Well-structured event and exceptional programming (translated from Portuguese).

What recommendations do you have for future events?

- Continue visiting different countries to learn about different national realities in the region. (translated from Spanish)
- A little more time for conversations and group work. (translated from Spanish)
- One day for field activity (translated from Portuguese)
- Training workshop on key topics (translated from Spanish)
- More scientific presentations, better understanding of the difference of national projects and the regional one, especially for newcomers. Invite other sectors beyond environment.
- Greater Indigenous and public sector participation. Ultimately, we must empower them... greater participation by the public sector and local organizations, reducing the number of participants from the executing and implementing agencies. (translated from Spanish)

What are your suggestions on methods to promote knowledge sharing between the ASL project and other projects shared at the conference?

- Seek out other partners or projects in countries which can help enhance ASL country projects
- For working groups, improve decision-making mechanisms on programming. (translated from Spanish)
- Thematic workshops, short courses on topics of interest with ASL speakers, and mid-term internships (translated from Spanish)
- One subject per quarter per pillar and country level presentations on their status.
- The projects to present results in terms of data and indicators (translated from Portuguese)
- An interregional platform with updates and information on the various projects



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