# “PRIORITIZING NATURE” IN COLOMBIA

## INCEPTION WORKSHOP REPORT

February 29, 2024

Ambiente

COLOMBIA POTENCIA DE LA VIDA

INSTITUTO HUMBOLDT COLOMBIA

UN environment programme

WCMC

UNDP

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# ACRONYMS

| | |
|---|---|
| AMEM | The Macarena Special Management Area |
| ANLA | National Environmental Licensing Authority |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CO | Country Office |
| COP | Community of practice |
| ELSA | Essential Life Support Areas |
| GBF | Global Biodiversity Framework |
| IDEAM | Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies |
| NBSAP | National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans |
| OECM | Other effective area-based conservation measures |
| PA | Protected Area |
| PNN | Colombian National Natural Parks System |
| SCP | Systematic Conservation Planning |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SINCHI | Amazonian Institute of Scientific Research |
| UNBL | UN Biodiversity Lab |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNEP-WCMC | UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On February 29, 2024, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the UNDP Country Office (CO) in Colombia, and the UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development, with the support of the Bezos Earth Foundation, convened more than 50 experts for the inception workshop of the project "Prioritizing Nature in Colombia". The project was introduced during this workshop, and its vision was explained. The workshop also offered an opportunity to understand the science used in the project. The core of the workshop focused on interactive discussions with the participants to obtain feedback on the data and scientific context of the project, its structure, and the work plan for 2024-2025.

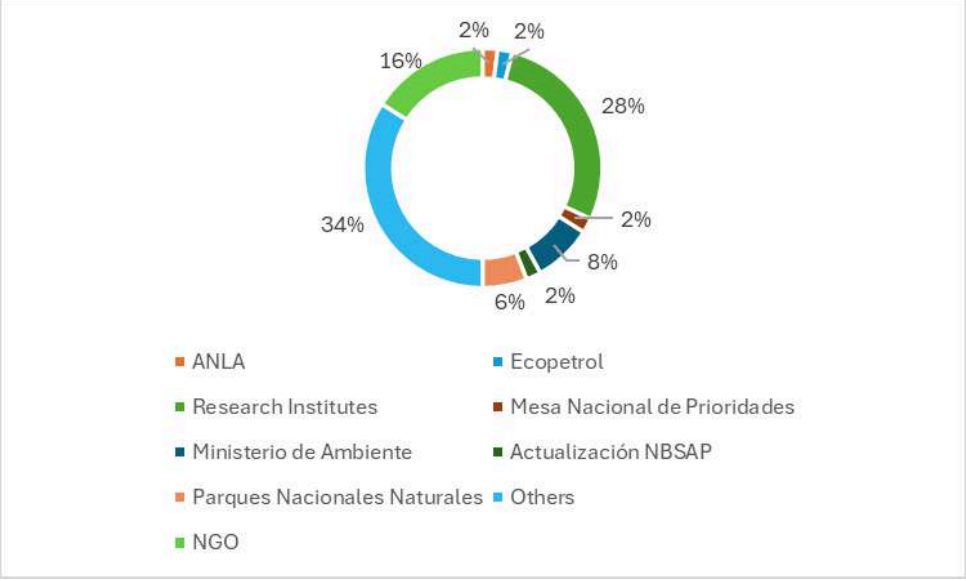
# PURPOSE OF THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP

- Introduction of the project “Prioritizing Nature” in Colombia.
- Understand how this project will support Colombia’s efforts in achieving Target 3 of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
- Understand the project's science, focusing on Systematic Conservation Planning (SCP).
- Provide initial feedback on the context around GBF Target 3 in Colombia, including protected areas, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM), and other areas and qualitative elements of conservation in Colombia.
- Identify key stakeholders that should be involved throughout the project.
- Confirm the structure of the project’s implementation and work plan for 2024 & 2025.

# PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS IN THE WORKSHOP

The inception workshop convened over 50 experts, comprising representatives not only from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, but also from important research institutions, such as the Humboldt Institute and the Amazon Scientific Research Institute (SINCHI), alongside consultants working on the NBSAP Update. Additionally, representatives from entities like ECOPETROL and the National Authority of Environmental Licenses (ANLA) also took part in the workshop. These participants brought diverse knowledge and perspectives to the workshop discussions, contributing significantly to the feedback received.

The workshop was also attended by government officials actively engaged in shaping policy and driving the implementation of conservation efforts across Colombia's protected areas. Notable attendees included representatives from National Natural Parks (Parques Nacionales Naturales-PNN), the National Priorities Roundtable (Mesa Nacional de Prioridades), and the expanded working group on OECMs. Furthermore, it is noteworthy to highlight the valuable contributions of non-governmental organizations, such as Conservation International, Re:Wild, and Fundación Natura, and participants from DISES Project whose participation further enriched the dialogue and outcomes of the workshop.



# SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT “PRIORITIZING NATURE” IN COLOMBIA

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Liliana Corzo, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist and National Consultant from the UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development, co-facilitated the workshop with Carolina Sofrony, from UNDP CO Colombia. The workshop's first session opened with welcoming remarks for the consultation, delivered by Jose Manuel Ochoa from Humboldt Institute, and Carolina Sofrony from UNDP CO Colombia.

## Opening remarks - Jose Manuel Ochoa, Humboldt Institute

Jose Manuel Ochoa welcomed the participants to the Humboldt Institute, where the in-person section of the workshop took place. He highlighted that this initiative fosters collaboration across different actors and interests towards consolidating a community of practice that will allow the country to define the priority areas to advance global commitments and national targets in terms of biodiversity conservation.

This initiative also aligns with Humboldt Institute's mission of facilitating dialogue opportunities and serving as a bridge between the people in the territories and the different institutions working in biodiversity conservation.

He indicated that 2024 is a year of challenges and opportunities, given important events that will take place in Colombia, such as the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) in Cali in October, where the country will show its progress towards the global commitments in terms of biodiversity conservation. The country is

working on updating its National Biodiversity Strategy, which is also a priority this year. He highlighted that this project is an opportunity for information and knowledge exchange and science-based approaches, which will allow the country to showcase its efforts and advancements toward global commitments in events such as COP16.

Additionally, having global and national perspectives within this project is an opportunity to work at the national level and potentially scale up the results, capacities, and knowledge produced to other regions or countries interested in these processes.

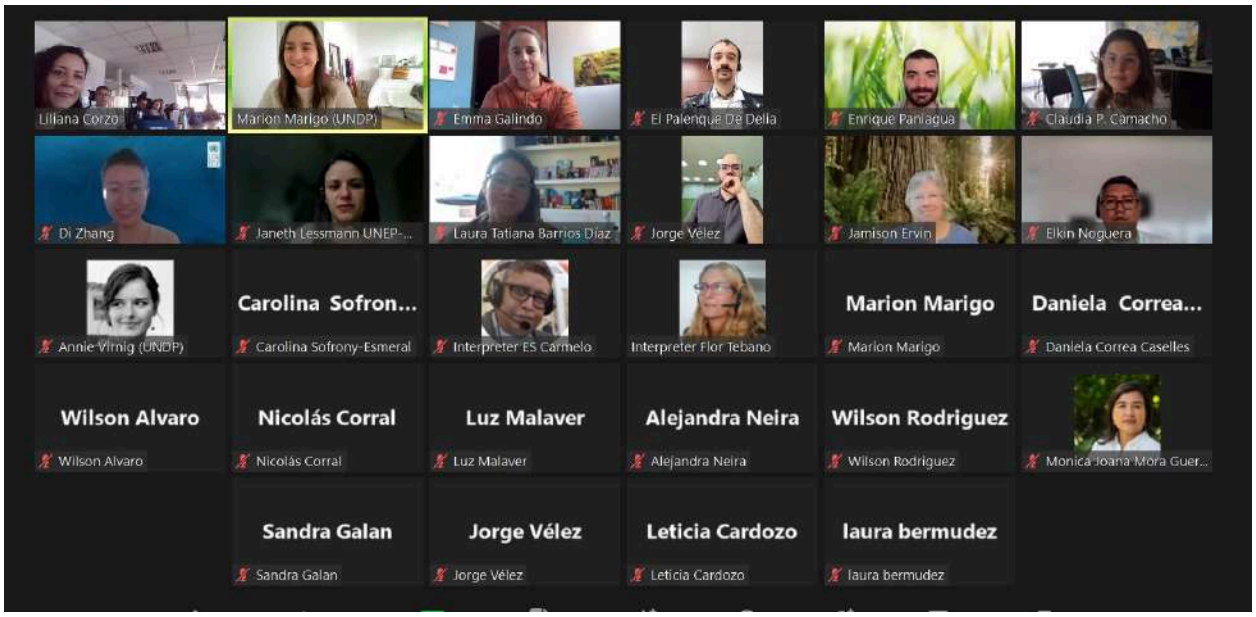
He finished by emphasizing that this meeting is a first step toward a community of practice that will facilitate knowledge exchange and allow the country to be more efficient in identifying priority areas for biodiversity conservation and collaborating with the people in the territories to make it viable. He indicated that it is important to translate the exercises and maps developed within a national context to the implementation of actions on the ground.

Finally, he thanked the participants and indicated that it is important to involve diverse stakeholders to generate more ideas for strategies for implementing the prioritization actions on the territories.

## Opening remarks - Carolina Sofrony, UNDP CO Colombia

Carolina thanked the participants for their attendance and highlighted the importance of these exercises that use SCP as a tool for decision-making, supporting Colombia in achieving GBF Target 3. She indicated that these initiatives should prioritize key stakeholders' participation and compile the different exercises done by various institutions at the national, regional and local levels. She motivated the participants to contribute with their knowledge and experiences, enrich the process and make it a valuable tool for decision-making.

Figure 1. Grupal photo




# SESSION 2: 30X30 IN COLOMBIA

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- Presentation of the project “Prioritizing Nature” Marion Marigo, Capacity Building and Biodiversity Senior Officer, UNDP

*Context*

Marion Marigo discussed the significance of nature in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and addressing climate change, highlighting the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adoption at COP15 in December 2022. Marion highlighted that spatial data is essential for the implementation of Targets 1, 2, and 3 of the GBF, and can additionally support efforts around other targets, such as target 6 on invasive alien species, target 10 on sustainable

agriculture/aquaculture/fisheries/forestry, and of target 21 on sharing available data, information, and knowledge for decision making. Target 21, in particular, also deals with how countries must implement actions to be able to implement this framework in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

She then emphasized Target 3, indicating it has caught the attention of many actors and is precisely the focus of this project. This target aims to conserve 30% of Land, Waters and Seas by 2030. The target also has qualitative elements, such as the “ecological representative, well-connected and equitably governed” systems, and it mentions Protected Areas as well as other effective area-based conservation measures, the “OECM” or “OMEC” in Spanish. This target also mentions the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities that must be recognized and respected. Marion indicated that, for this target, using geospatial data is extremely relevant as a key tool, allowing countries to accurately assess the status of their ecosystems and the services they provide. Furthermore, new conservation planning methodologies can enable countries to discover cross-cutting solutions to planning problems, convene stakeholders, and integrate their priorities into a single data-driven framework.

UNDP has worked for almost a decade to support countries using national and global spatial data, with tools such as the UN Biodiversity Lab - or UNBL - a platform that provides access to global datasets and analytic tools that support governments in decision-making, monitoring, and reporting activities.

UNDP has refined its support to countries through the project “Mapping Hope”, also known as ELSA (which stands for “Essential Life Support Areas”). Colombia was one of the five initial pilot countries for this project, with the implementation of the project effectively done between 2020 and 2021. Marion explained that this project consisted of following national priorities and using “Systematic Conservation Planning (SCP)” to map countries’ ELSAs - areas where actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore nature, can best contribute to achieving diverse national priority policy targets for biodiversity, climate change, and human well-being.

The value of using SCP to run the ELSA analysis is two-fold: it enables capitalization on synergies to determine where actions can most effectively achieve the greatest impact across all policy targets; it also enables diverse stakeholder groups to weight the relative importance of the various planning features associated with the priority policy targets, view trade-offs that result from conflicting priorities, and foster dialogue around cross-sectoral collaboration and implementation.

Marion explained that UNDP has worked extensively with the Colombian government to identify the national priorities in terms of biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development, and has collected key national datasets, and obtained feedback from national experts to create Colombia's first ELSA map, finalized in 2021. This map can support decision-making, or can serve as a tool for further analysis and diverse applications, depending on the needs and choices of the country. The ELSA analysis provided Colombia with an outcome-orientated map (Figure 2) to implement nature-based solutions that will contribute to the achievement of the 10 priority policy targets and support the country in achieving adaptive, sustainable management of natural ecosystems.

In Colombia, there was not only a national-level analysis conducted, but also a second analysis specifically targeting water security in the Central Region RAP-E (refer to Figure 3).

Figure 2. Colombia ELSA map

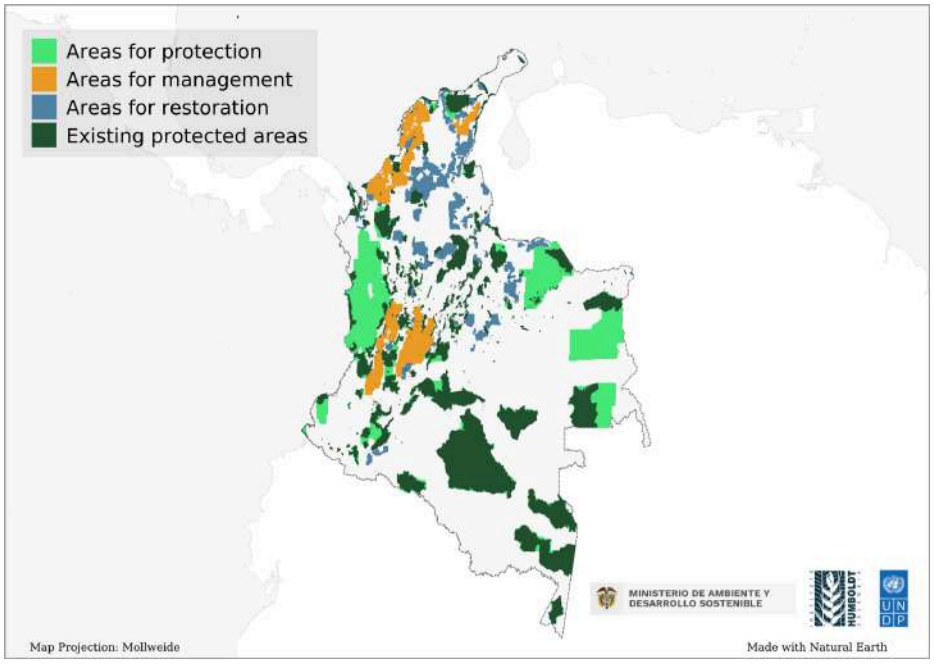
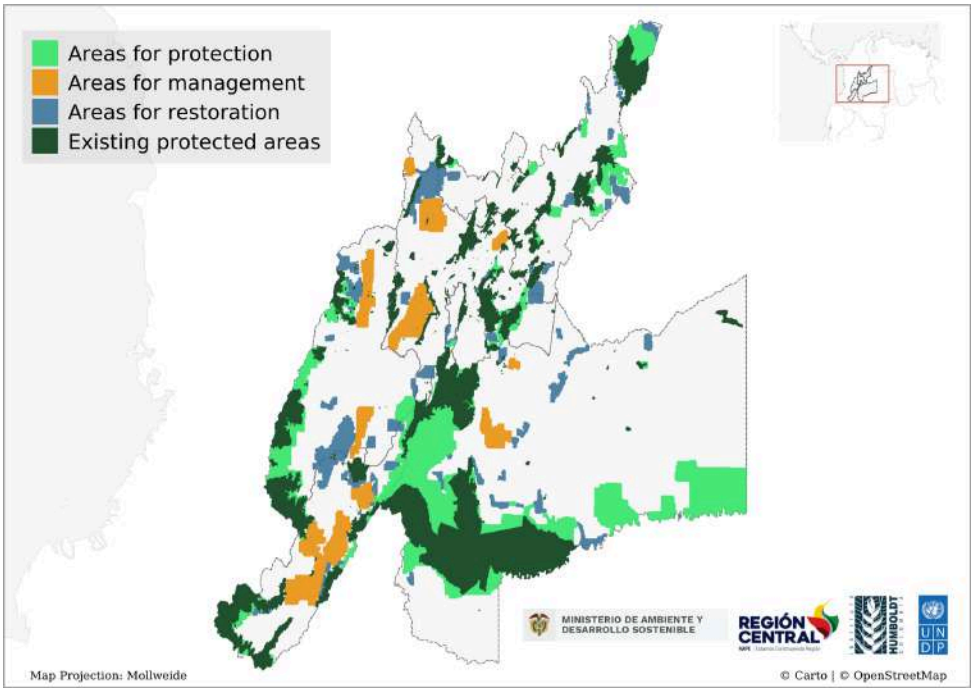



Figure 3. Colombia ELSA map for water security. Central Region.




Marion then insisted on the potential positive broad impact of GBF Target 3. Under this project, the Bezos Earth Foundation has provided grants to key national and international players working on Target 3. The grants aim to support countries' ongoing work around the new framework, with the specific purpose of developing a roadmap to achieve Target 3.

As foundational aspects of the project, Marion notes that it is funded by Besos Fund and involves several implementing partners such as UNEP-WCMC, UNDP, and local NGOs. Presently, the project is underway in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Commencing in early 2023, it is anticipated to conclude in the first quarter of 2025.

*Objectives and expected products*

The overall project has 5 main objectives, one of which is led by UNDP, corresponding to overall objective 2: "Support government-led multi-stakeholders spatial planning processes to identify priorities and national targets for new protected and conserved areas".

She encouraged participants to highlight potential synergies with other ongoing projects focusing on Target 3, considering the large number of actors working on the topic and the need to avoid the duplication of efforts. She indicated that the activities led by UNDP with the three countries (Peru, Colombia and Ecuador) will also support the activities led by UNEP-WCMC on

piloting and enhancing the monitoring of the effectiveness of protected and conserved areas and identifying ecological corridors.

Marion then presented the project's overview: there is a strong emphasis on Protected Areas, as well as ecological corridors and OECM. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development will lead efforts in a robust multistakeholder process with the support of UNDP to understand how planning for protected and conserved areas can have important co-benefits for additional priorities around climate change and sustainable development. This project is directly building on the ELSA analysis. The project will help identify and propose new protected areas and/or OECM, which are areas of high importance for both protection and conservation; it will help assess the effectiveness of the current OECM and PAs in the country; it will also leverage existing global and national datasets; identify actions to enhance Protected Areas connectivity; identify key national stakeholders and engage with them; develop effective recommendations to achieve the GBF Target 3; and lastly, support the development and implementation of relevant national policies – with a particular focus on NBSAP. Once the analysis is done, capacity-building activities will be offered to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and other key actors, ensuring full ownership of the project data, tools, and results.

At the end of the project, several documents will be available, including an updated scientific analysis to identify new Protected Areas and/or OECM at the national level; an online webtool available, enabling the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to iterate further analyses in the country; two consultation reports; training materials on the scientific approach, data processing, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring & reporting; and a brief on the methodology, results and policy recommendations customized for Colombia.

Lastly, there is a proposal to foster discussion spaces around the Community of Practice on Systemic Conservation Planning in Colombia, led by the Humboldt Institute in conjunction with the DISES project.

*Timeline of the project*

The inception workshop objective was to present the project and its vision, understand how this project can support Colombia's priorities, and understand the science behind the project, as well as to agree on the work plan, and key stakeholders.

Following the inception workshop, the project will be implemented through the work of smaller working groups, one focusing on policy and the other on science, between March and August 2024. These meetings will also be the occasion to focus on data, look at data updates and identify new data, and collect input into the development of the scientific analysis.

Pending approval from the national stakeholders, a second stakeholder consultation is expected to take place in June 2024. It will focus on reviewing Colombia's different zones and targets, presenting in detail the national datasets used in the analysis, collecting feedback from national experts, and finalizing the analysis. Moreover, it will contextualize these efforts within the community of practice. These steps aim to ensure a more robust outcome for presentation at the COP.

Finally, capacity-building activities will focus on the science, data, stakeholder engagement, UN Biodiversity Lab, and will be hosted late in 2024 – early 2025.

Marion concluded her presentation by emphasizing that the NBSAP-related processes, including revision, implementation, and monitoring, will be key in 2024 and 2025; it will be important to ensure that the great work undertaken in this project is reflected in the new version of the NBSAP and that the technical outcomes are used for decision-making.

## How does this project contribute to achieving the GBF Target 3 in Colombia? - Elkin Noguera, Humboldt Institute: “Generating knowledge for transformative knowledge”

Elkin Noguera started his presentation by highlighting a fundamental aspect for the Humboldt Institute: ensuring that knowledge fosters transformative change. He emphasized Colombia's status as a highly biodiverse country, not only in terms of species richness, but also in socioecosystem diversity. It is therefore crucial to consider how we envision biodiversity, advocating for tangible, viable, and sustainable diversity - an alignment echoed by the project's vision. However, it is essential to recognize Colombia's dynamic nature, marked by significant transformations and human footprint changes over time. Elkin underscored the necessity for new strategies to conserve and harness existing biodiversity.

At this juncture, the Community of practice emerges as a pivotal platform, bridging science, policy, and society. This inclusive community welcomes the participation from all interested parties, regardless of expertise in specific domains. Elkin explained the concept of a community

of practice as a group of individuals who share a common interest, a passion for a specific topic, or a set of problems they encounter in their work. He emphasized that participation is voluntary, grounded in individual stakeholders' commitment.

The genesis of this community stems from the inquiry into how priority maps can translate into practical impact. Thus, it adopts a socioecosystemic perspective, traversing multiscalar, prospective, and governance dimensions, while deliberating and incorporating various contributions within the community. Ultimately, this process should culminate in concrete strategies that can transform these maps into planning instruments, planning mechanisms, and negotiation tools - an issue that requires resolution within the community's framework. The ultimate objective is to materialize sustainable territorial models, whereby these maps evolve into sustainable territorial frameworks.

Regarding the 30x30 target and Colombia's stance, Elkin noted the global commitment to this goal. Colombia is dedicated to this objective, although there is ongoing debate regarding its feasibility and the requisite extent of conserved areas. Among the challenges highlighted by Elkin are the need to promote concrete actions and coordination to achieve the target, as well as addressing the financing gap and leveraging challenges into opportunities. Elkin also underscored the significance of Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs) in contributing to conservation efforts.

## The science behind the project Prioritizing Nature in Colombia - Dr. Oscar Venter, UNDP

Dr. Oscar Venter began with an overview of Phase 1 of the ELSA process in Colombia, which worked to identify Essential Life Support Areas, which, if protected, managed, or restored, will support nature-based commitments to biodiversity, climate change, and human well-being. The starting place for Phase 1 of ELSA was a thorough policy review and a policy hackathon in 2020, which identified the ten most important nature-based commitments in the country. The project then identified and gathered relevant national data to map these targets and brought it into a single repository. The science team used Systematic Conservation Planning to produce a custom spatial prioritization analysis to identify the most important areas for Colombia to protect, manage, and restore to contribute to achieving the 10 priority national targets.

The ELSA approach is unique from the science perspective and, as far as the project team knows, hasn't been conducted anywhere else in the world. The final workshop report and science brief from ELSA Phase 1 provide more information on this initial process and can be found on the Learning for Nature website:

https://www.learningfornature.org/en/mapeo-de-la-naturaleza-para-las-personas-y-el-planeta-colombia-taller-de-inicio/

Phase 2 of the project Prioritizing Nature will build on the work undertaken in 2020-2021 to support Colombia to plan and deliver on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated national targets in Colombia. The project can provide scenario analysis for planning for Targets 2 and 3 to demonstrate where restoration and protection should be undertaken to support the achievement of Colombia's other national GBF targets. Target 3 in particular presents new challenges and new opportunities to understand how Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) can be implemented in a way that contributes to the other GBF targets. This project will work to support Colombia to do this. In addition, it will support efforts to understand current management effectiveness and land use patterns within existing Protected Areas in Colombia, a direct request from the country coming out of Phase 1 of the ELSA project. The project will also provide the opportunity to update the input data used during Phase 1 of the ELSA project. Finally, Phase 2 will provide targeted training and capacity building for the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and other key stakeholders around the scientific analyses used in the project.

Dr. Venter explored several key areas where input from national experts will be critical to shape the development of the scientific analysis. First, he outlined the need to identify and recognize existing Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) within the scientific analysis, building on national definitions for OECMs in Colombia. To best reflect Colombia's context, the science team needs input from national stakeholders to understand whether OECMs in Colombia are places that already exist and need to be recognized and validated, or whether the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development would like to identify new potential OECMs. He emphasized that Systematic Conservation Planning can support this process in either case.

Likewise, the science team needs to understand how the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development approaches protected areas in Colombia. The IUCN approach to

classifying protected areas includes a range of protection, from people-free protection of wilderness areas to locations that are managed and used by local people for subsistence needs. In Colombia, the science team would like to understand what activities are permitted and what type of management actions are possible within protected areas. Once they have this information, the ELSA analysis can help to identify areas within protected areas that could benefit from enhanced management or restoration. For this purpose, we expect to have the most updated data available.

Finally, Dr. Venter provided a demonstration of the webtool, showcasing the user interface designed for systematic conservation planning. This demonstration aimed to provide attendees with an understanding of the interface's functionality and how it could facilitate the processing of various contributions.

## Input into the science behind the project Prioritizing Nature in Colombia - Group discussion

To begin to provide information to inform the development of the science for ELSA Phase 2, national experts participating in the workshop provided comments in response to several key questions via a Jamboard. The questions and responses are summarized below.

*What should we consider when developing the ELSA methodology in the context of the GBF and the emergent national policy?*

- Analysis that allows viewing regional elements in provision, dependencies and losses. At the national level there is a lot of information on impact but not on dependencies.
- Conservation current portfolios to avoid repetition.
- Integration with CONPES 4050 of 2021 for the goals of Increasing the Natural and Cultural Heritage represented in the SINAP.
- Integration with the national priority table and with the information that the country already has.
- Strengthen the community of practice so that it is multi-sectoral.

- Consider that OECMare not effective conservation strategies in all cases, for example the La Macarena Special Management Area (AMEM) case.
- Within the planning process, consultation must be made with decision makers and it must be from a sectoral perspective.
- Consultation tools for communities in the territory that do not have access to the internet.
- Complementarity with the priority table by incorporating areas with multiple uses.
- Measurement of uncertainty in scenarios.
- Have coverage information on a more detailed scale (join efforts between entities).
- Actions within the framework of working with companies.
- Webtools, take into account the guidelines so that actors at the local level can also make use of these tools, which include analysis at the territorial level.
- Taking into account the Biodiversity Action Plan (PAB's, in spanish) commitments, ELSA does not only aim at Target 3 but also at other goals such as restoration, planning, sustainable use.
- Review the actions carried out within the framework of compliance with point 1.1.10, the formulation of an Environmental Zoning Plan of the Peace agreement.
- National priority table - revitalization of coverage and DB. Incorporate uncertainty in decision making in areas where there is not much representation.
- Include other criteria such as armed conflict, land ownership, territorial planning as elements of analysis in the definition of conservation priorities.
- Considering that some model variables are dynamic (e.g. restoration), updating should be considered. Have information on a more detailed scale.
- In the evaluation of the water resource, carry out analysis not only quantifying the supply but also its quality, since the degree of contamination limits its use.
- Consider the officiality of the information for these analyzes.
- Integration with the Restoring Hope Project results.
- Take into account the instruments of the National Priorities Table so that it is articulated with the CoP.
- Target 3 is of fractal representativeness. It depends on the region and should be read that way.

*Are there protected areas in Colombia where land conversion and industrial-scale resource extraction are permitted?*

- No, however, high-impact activities could be developed outside of those areas that could affect ecological connectivity.
- It would be very relevant to review the Guide to Marine Protected Areas instrument to determine the SINAP PAs' protection level because not all of them have the same level.
- Conpes 4050 (AP policy) included reviewing the sufficiency of the AP categories, which is currently being discussed.
- Discussions are taking place around OECM: identification, criteria, monitoring, how effectiveness is measured, governance.
- Local communities and indigenous territories that are not in the OECM but retain a large biodiversity.
- The analysis should focus on those areas of environmental importance.
- What areas will be included to comply with table 3?
- Include Integrated management districts (DMI).
- SINAP Soil Conservation Districts and Recreation Areas.

*What kind of management activities are undertaken within protected areas in Colombia to protect habitat?*

- It is difficult to list them but: governance with ethnic and local communities (formal agreements and actions), prevention-surveillance-control, exercise of environmental authority. In addition, environmental education for prevention, incentives for conservation in areas of influence, articulation with more area-based conservation measures.
- Although there are effective exercises, SINAP has a huge financial gap; all the actions we identify need support to achieve the effectiveness of Target 3.
- Take into account management plans.
- Actions aimed at preservation, restoration and sustainable use in accordance with the management plans of each protected area.

*What restoration activities are undertaken within protected areas in Colombia to enhance habitat?*

- Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia-PNNC has important passive and active restoration processes within the framework of the restoration program with social participation. We can go deeper into the topic.

- PNNC has approx. 385,000 hectares degraded, and has a goal of 100,000 by 2026; With this we can achieve more than 20% of the goal of 30% restoration in SPNN by 2026.
- Furthermore, if there are efforts to restore more than 100,000 hectares of Parks by 2030, we could make further progress with the restoration target..

*What are potential OECMs in Colombia?*

- Colombia has excellent exercises where Potential OECMs have been identified.
- There is an exercise of OECMopportunities from the regional and territorial level.
- There are exercises to identify potential OECMs (e.g. IC).
- Many initiatives in the country support the nomination of OECMs. These exercises start with the recognition of the governing processes.
- The country is reviewing some of the reported OECMs.

*Are these all places that already exist, or are these places that spatial planning can help identify?*

- OECMprinciple is to recognize areas with primary or secondary conservation objectives that meet the 4 established criteria.
- It is relevant to remember that OECMis a bottom-up exercise to recognize the conservation efforts of various actors.
- Avoid top-down exercises that have already happened: they registered UNESCO Biosphere Reserves that do not meet the minimum MAB-UNESCO criteria. Check those registered!
- Community monitoring process must be included.
- OECMs are not created, they are recognized.
- The registered OECMS that did not fully comply with the procedure in 2022 must be reviewed to achieve the goal. The country must come clean.

*If they already exist but are not yet recognized, how can spatial planning help demonstrate their biodiversity and other values?*

- The land-use planning must incorporate the values that allow biodiversity conservation, maintain Ecosystem Services and improve the living conditions of the communities.

*What new or updated data are available for Colombia?*

- 8700 BioModels of present species and climate change scenarios.
- Spatial proxies that account for governance processes - IDEAM
- National cost layer.
- DNP - has an analysis of territorial capabilities.
- PNN - indicators for CONPES 4050 and portfolio of conservation areas.
- Socio-ecological resilience tool.

*Who are the key focal points to help us identify and access these data after the workshop?*

- Ministry of the Environment, Parks (Priorities Table), IDEAM, Research Institutes.
- RED TICCA Colombia.
- RESNATUR.
- ANLA.
- ANDI.
- Mesa Ampliada OMEC.

# SESSION 3: WORK PLAN, STAKEHOLDERS, AND NEXT STEPS IN 2024

## Suggested activities and proposed work plan for 2024 - Group discussion

Following the extensive feedback on the science, data, zones, and definition around OECM, PA, and Target 3, Marion Marigo led an interactive discussion on the project's objectives and overall structure. She detailed the proposed structure for the project as follows:

She also presented the activities and work plans for 2024 - Q1 2025, which reflect lengthy discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development during 2023. The proposed activities are:

| ACTIVITY | TIMELINE |
|---|---|
| **Stakeholder engagement and participation of key actors** | |
| Stakeholder engagement and outreach across the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Protected Areas Agency, national research institutions, civil society, UNDP country office, and other key organizations. | *November 2023 - February 2024* |
| Establish a Community of Practice (CoP): Stakeholder engagement and scoping in relevant national agencies related to spatial planning, ensuring it is responsive to the country's conservation priorities. | *November 2023 - February 2024* |
| **Science and data** | |
| Analyze the scope of different partners and organizations working in each country around systematic conservation planning, OECMs and protected areas to ensure that project activities are complementary and supportive of ongoing activities, including planned work implemented by UNEP-WCMC and national partners. | *January 2024 – April 2024* |
| Defining the scale, scope of participation and new data requirements | *February 2024 – April 2024* |
| Consider CONPES 4050 + SPARCLE, the DISES project and other national projects. | *February 2024 – April 2024* |
| Stakeholder consultations to provide input on proposed improvements to the ELSA analysis, guide scientific development and iterate the ELSA map to identify priorities for 30x30 implementation in the country. | *February 2024 & April 2024* |
| CORE ANALYSIS: Build on the initial scientific analysis and spatial prioritization planning tool created through the ELSA project in each country to include: (1) measures of biodiversity importance other than species richness; (2) social data that are a priority for inclusion to reflect the text of Target 3; (3) new KBA data; (4) management effectiveness and recommended actions within existing protected areas; (5) identification of new protected areas and OECMS, taking into account existing territorial governance and tenure regimes. If UNEP-WCMC has data identifying conditions/pressures within protected areas, we should use it. Focus on the issue of climate and vulnerability to climate change. | *Q2 – Q3 2024* |
| Support nationally led ELSA analyses to inform national (and sub-national if appropriate) processes on the identification of new protected areas, OECMs and ecological corridors, prioritizing the recognition of existing governance and tenure regimes, and including the identification of potential transboundary protected areas and support to review NBSAPs. | *Q2 - Q4 2024* |

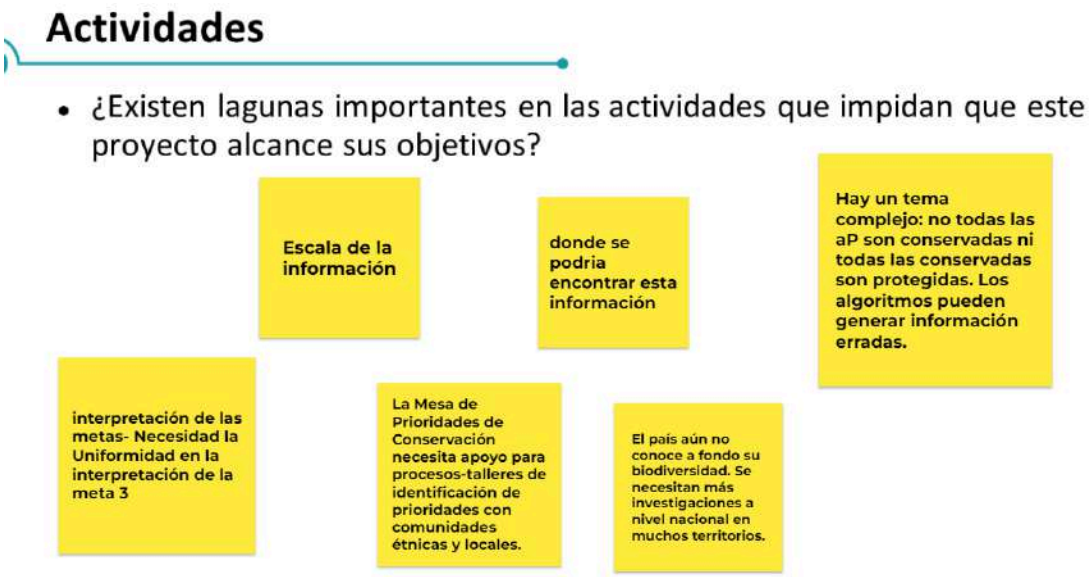
| ACTIVITY | TIMELINE |
|---|---|
| **Transfer of tools** | |
| Transfer the ELSA tool to a stable location for long-term ownership by the national team (national servers, UNBL workspace, UNICC servers). Costs would be borne by the selection. | *Q4 2024 – Q1 2025* |
| Refinement and further development of existing UNBL workspaces for each country to support 30x30 work. | *Q3 & Q4 2024* |
| **Capacity strengthening** | |
| Training for the country team and partner agencies to develop and execute stakeholder consultations using the ELSA tool to iterate and produce updated prioritization maps based on changing national priorities. | *Q4 2024 – Q1 2025* |
| Training for the national team and partners to process data layers for input into the ELSA tool to allow the national team to update all data as new data layers become available. Training for the national team and partners to administer the ELSA tool (either on national servers or at UNBL) and drive updates to technology and data layers. | *Q3 2024 – Q1 2025* |
| Training for the national team on the UNBL | *Q4 2024 – Q1 2025* |
| Define the interoperability requirements between UNBL and BioTablero, and estimate the cost of its implementation. | *Q4 2024 – Q1 2025* |
| Training on Systematic Conservation Planning | *Q4 2024 – Q1 2025* |

Following her presentation, Marion went back to the Jamboard to capture the feedback from the different stakeholders on several aspects of the project:

About the commitment of the interested parties:

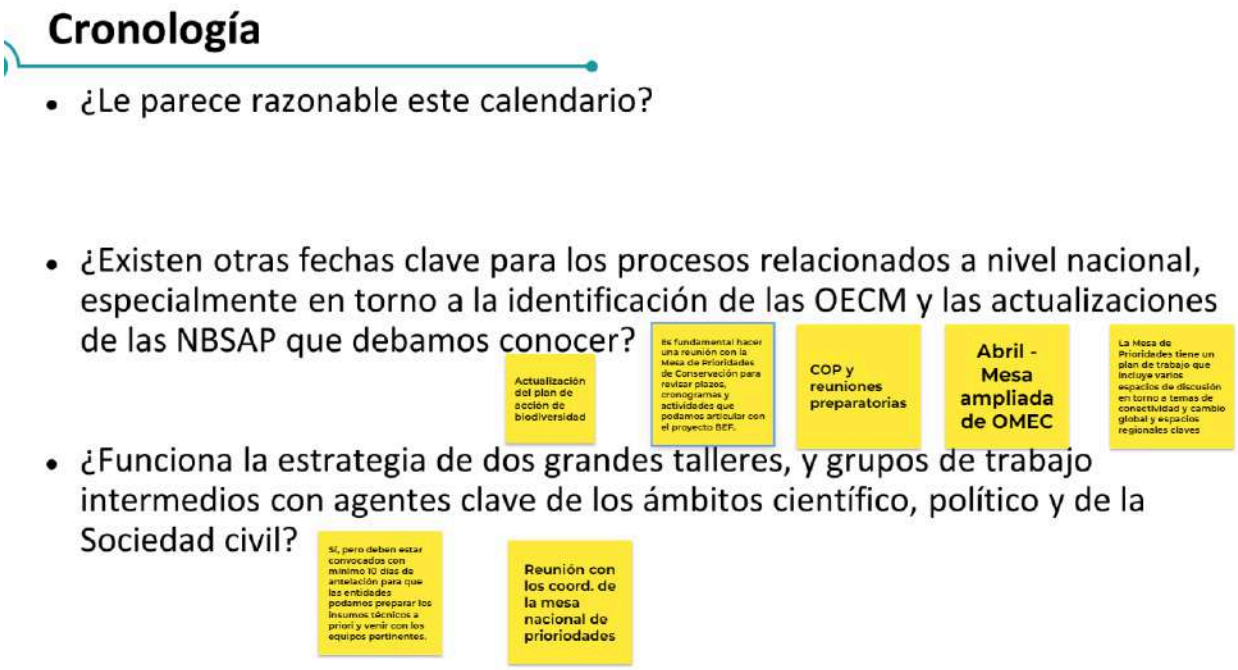
- ONGs (WWF, TNC, IC, otras), BIOFIN, DANE, UPRA, Minagricultura y MINMInas, UNAP
- Fundación Marviva is key in the Pacifico Oriental Tropical
- Environmental authorities
- INVEMAR
- Elementos culturales-ICAN, min Cultura
- Research institutes

About the activities:



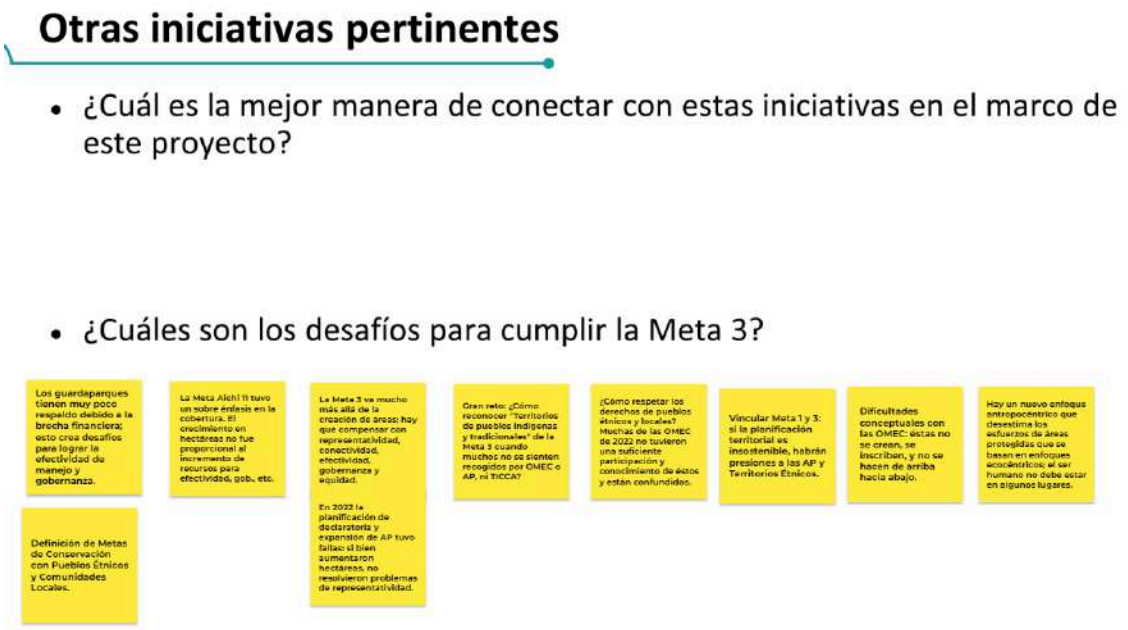

- Information scale.
- There is a complex issue: not all protected areas are conserved nor all conserved ones are protected. Algorithms can generate wrong information.
- Interpretation of goals. Need for uniformity in the interpretation of Target 3.
- The Conservation Priorities Table needs support for priority identification processes-workshops with ethnic and local communities.
- The country still does not know its biodiversity in depth. More research is needed at the national level in many territories.

About the timeline:




- Other key dates:
    - Biodiversity action plan update.
    - It is essential to hold a meeting with the Conservation Priorities Table to review deadlines, schedules and activities that we can integrate with the project Prioritizing Nature.
    - COP and preparatory meetings.
    - April: expanded OECMs table.
    - The Priorities Table has a work plan that includes several discussion spaces around issues of connectivity and global change and key regional spaces.
- About the strategy of two workshops and intermediate working groups with key stakeholders:
    - Yes, but they must be called at least 10 days in advance so that the entities can prepare the technical inputs a priori and come with the relevant equipment.
    - Meeting with the coordinators. of the national priority table.

About the best option to look for synergies with other initiatives:




- Challenges to achieve Target 3:
    - Park rangers have very little support due to the financial gap; This creates challenges for achieving management and governance effectiveness.
    - Definition of Conservation Goals with Ethnic Peoples and Local Communities.
    - The Aichi 11 Target had an overemphasis on coverage. The growth in hectares was not proportional to the increase in resources for effectiveness, government, etc.
    - Target 3 goes far beyond the creation of areas; We must compensate with representativeness, connectivity, effectiveness, governance and equity.
    - In 2022, the declaration and expansion planning of AP had flaws: although hectares increased, they did not resolve representativeness problems.
    - Great challenge: How to recognize "Territories of indigenous and traditional peoples" of Target 3 when many do not feel covered by OECM or PA, or ICCA?
    - How to respect the rights of ethnic and local peoples? Many of the 2022 OECMs did not have sufficient participation and knowledge of these and are confused.
    - Link Target 1 and 3: if territorial planning is unsustainable, there will be pressure on PAs and Ethnic Territories.

    - Conceptual difficulties with OECMs: they are not created, they are registered, and they are not done from the top down.
    - There is a new anthropocentric approach that dismisses protected area efforts that are based on ecocentric approaches; Human beings should not be in some places.

The team then discussed the importance of including existing indicators in the analysis and linking the web tool and indicators to the update of NBSAP.

Marion concluded the presentation by highlighting the next immediate steps for the project. The annual work plan, reflecting activities for 2024 and 2025, would be finalized and approved by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. While the inception workshop's report was being finalized, UNDP Global Programme on Nature for Development will work with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and UNDP CO Colombia to identify the right stakeholders to participate in the working groups on policy and on science, and start establishing sessions to implement the project. Work will prioritize obtaining all relevant information on Target 3 in Colombia, including potentially identified OECM and relevant definitions, as well as updated geospatial datasets that would be relevant for the analysis.

# CONCLUSION OF THE WORKSHOP & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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A combination of efforts allowed us to successfully host this inception workshop for the project Prioritizing Nature in Colombia. The UNDP Nature for Development team extends its deep appreciation to those mentioned below and the many others who joined in this inception workshop.

- To the UNDP Country Office in Colombia - it could not have been done this without its leadership. A big thank you, in particular, to Jimena Puyana, who has provided valuable guidance and insight into developing and implementing this project in Colombia; to Carolina Sofrony, who followed all the details of the workshop's organization and

provided technical feedback; and to the highest level at UNDP CO, and we thank Sara Ferrer Olivella, Resident Representative in Colombia.

- To the Humboldt Institute, which provided valuable guidance and insight into developing and implementing this project in Colombia and daily support to make this consultation happen. Special thanks to José Manuel Ochoa, Susana Rodriguez and Elkin Noguera.
- To the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, especially Natalia Rodriguez and David Perez, for the welcoming remarks and all their help during the project.
- To other initiatives that were part of this workshop, many thanks to Amy Fraizer from UC Santa Barbara and Karolina Fierro from Humboldt Institute.
- To our technical partners at UNEP-WCMC.
- To Jamison Ervin, from UNDP, for creating this vision and inspiring us to explore how it could serve Colombia, together with Marion Marigo and Annie Virnig.
- To Liliana Corzo, Partnership Specialist and National Consultant for Colombia at UNDP, who facilitated the session with Carolina Sofrony from UNDP CO Colombia.
- To Oscar Venter and to our spatial experts Scott Atkinson, Di Zhang, and Leticia Cardozo, who will support this work going forward.
- To Carmelo Vasquez and Flor Tebano, the interpreters.
- Last but not least, to the participants and national experts for sharing their time and knowledge to shape the project to meet Colombia's needs.