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Amazonia Connect

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING PLAN

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Implementing Partners: Solidaridad (Lead partner), Earth Innovation Institute (EII), National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW)

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

- Activity name: Amazonia Connect
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- Budget: \$16,367,835
- Sub-awardees:
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 - National Wildlife Federation (NWF)
 - University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW)
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACOR	Alternate Contracting Officer Representative
AD	Alternative Development
ADS	Automated Directive System
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
AREP	Amazon Regional Environment Program
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CFT	Cool Farm Tool
CLA	Collaborating, Learning and Adapting
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
CRA	Climate Risk Assessment
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
DDL	Development Data Library
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse
DFP	Deforestation-Free Production
DIS	Development Information Solution
DO	Development Objective
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EII	Earth Innovation Institute
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
ETL	Extract, Transform and Load
EU	European Union
G2G	Government to Government
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

GHGs	Greenhouse Gasses
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GTA	Cattle Transit Records
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IP	Implementing Partner
LCA	Low-Carbon Agriculture
LED-R	Low Emission Rural Development Strategies
LQ	Learning Question
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MI2	Measuring Impact II
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NWF	National Wildlife Federation
PCAB	Partnership for the Conservation of the Amazon Biodiversity
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PoC	Point of Contact
PPR	Performance Plan and Report
TBD	To Be Determined
TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
ToC	Theory of Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USG	United States Government
UW	University of Wisconsin-Madison
ZDA	Zero Deforestation Agreement

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 MEL PLAN OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan is to support and facilitate tracking the progress, achievements, and learnings of Amazonia Connect, providing relevant information for adaptive management thus ensuring the achievement of the project's results.

Specific objectives of the plan are the following:

- Detail the pathways, timelines, processes, and indicators through which the project aims to understand its progress towards the objective of the activity.
- Determine the processes and responsibilities to monitor and evaluate achievements that provide elements for adaptive management decisions.
- Define guiding questions and spaces to reflect and document learnings, based on evidence and contributing to the generation of knowledge.
- Establish processes and guidelines to ensure data quality and security.
- Determine roles and responsibilities in monitoring, evaluation, and learning to allow a smooth implementation and solid evidence for evaluation and scaling.

1.2 MEL PLAN USERS

The main users of this plan are divided into four groups. First, USAID users including technical, MEL, country and regional teams who will be able to identify and follow key information for the implementation of the grant and contributions from the activity to Agency-wide targets such as under the Climate Strategy. Second, implementation partners of Amazonia Connect, including Solidaridad, Nature Wildlife Foundation (NWF), University of Wisconsin (UW) and Earth Innovation Institute (EII). Third, local and international allies, such as private and public actors, working towards deforestation-free value chains, low carbon agriculture, climate change mitigation, and biodiversity conservation. Finally, local communities and project participants who will gain a better understanding of processes and impacts on their territories.

1.3 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The MEL plan was constructed through a collaborative effort between USAID and implementing partners. Initial workshops were held with all actors to understand tools and develop the results chain. USAID official guidelines and examples of previous processes were also used as reference. Support of AOR and MEL PoC from USAID was received throughout the process. Relevant USAID documents were considered for alignment, such as the [USAID supported Partnership for the Conservation of the Amazon Biodiversity](#) in Brazil, the Country Development Cooperation Strategies for Colombia and Peru, and the Amazon Regional Environment Program (AREP) . Support from Measuring Impact II (MI2) was also relevant for the development of this document. The MEL plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed, based on the results

documented for annual reports and the pause and reflect sessions. Any changes to this document will be discussed internally and submitted to the Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) for approval.

2. LOGIC MODEL AND ITS ASSOCIATED THEORY OF CHANGE

2.1 ACTIVITY THEORY OF CHANGE

Amazonia Connect is a five-year activity to be implemented by Solidaridad, in partnership with National Wildlife Federation (NWF), University of Wisconsin–Madison (UW) and Earth Innovation Institute (EII) between 2022 and 2027. The activity will be implemented in the Amazon biome in Brazil (Mato Grosso and Pará), Colombia (Caquetá and Meta), and Peru (San Martin and Ucayali) with a budget of \$16,367,835. The aim of the project is to reduce commodity-driven deforestation and associated GHG emissions, and improve biodiversity conservation in key Amazon jurisdictions. The main strategy will be to implement actions that support transformation of value chains, which is also a requirement for new regulation such as the European Union (EU) Due Diligence for Deforestation-Free imports.

The activity's logic model was built in a participatory manner with implementing partner (IP) participants of all countries in the project with the support of USAID's Measuring Impact (MI2). Regional synergies were identified in the process to optimize similar issues and solutions to be scaled. A second version of the logic model was developed by the Chief of Party (COP) and MEL POC and validated again with the team to finalize it. The project has a simple logic model as well as a detailed results chain.

The strategy represented here serves as a guide for implementing teams. It will be reviewed and updated annually for adaptive management. Key results, assumptions, indicators and learning questions were developed jointly to assure coherence.

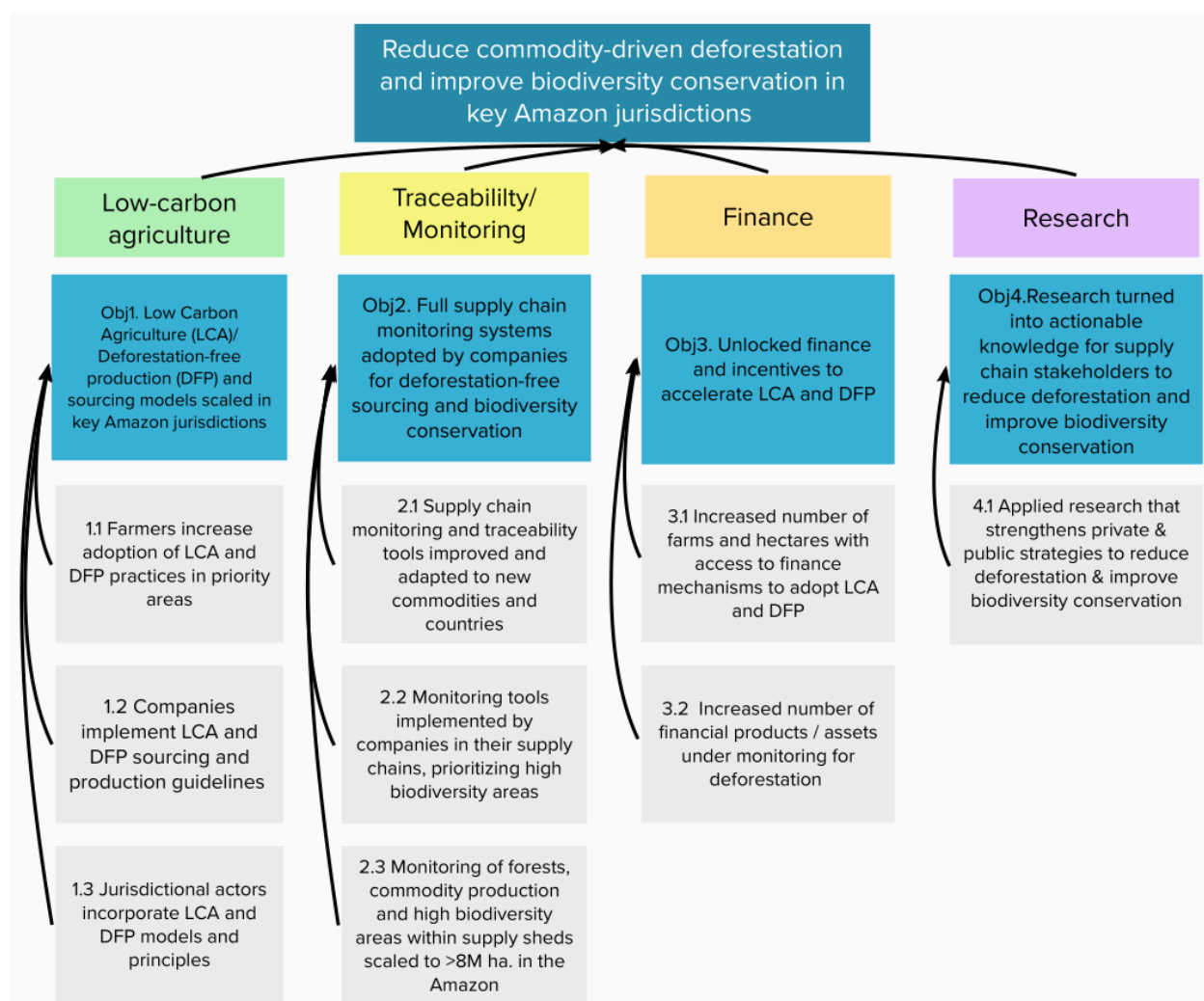
At high level, Amazonia Connect states the following:

- IF producers receive technical assistance to adopt Low-Carbon Agriculture (LCA) and Deforestation-Free Production (DFP) practices, companies implement LCA and DFP sourcing and production guidelines, and jurisdictional actors incorporate LCA and DFP models and principles;
- IF supply chain monitoring and traceability tools are improved and adapted to new commodities and countries, companies implement the tools in their supply chains and if monitoring for deforestation, sustainable commodity production and biodiversity conservation is scaled in the Amazon;
- IF farms have increased access to finance to adopt LCA and DFP and more financial products are monitored for deforestation;
- IF research strengthens private and public strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation;
- THEN commodity-driven deforestation will be reduced, GHG emissions will be mitigated and biodiversity conservation will be improved in key Amazon jurisdictions.

Refer to Annex 7 for a detailed explanation of the activity.

2.2 ACTIVITY LOGIC MODEL

Figure 1: Activity logic model



2.3 LINKAGE WITH USAID'S RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The Amazonia Connect activity will advance results set forth in [AREP](#) and the [USAID/Peru Country Development Cooperation Strategy \(CDCS\)](#), [USAID/ Colombia CDCS](#), and the [USAID supported Partnership for the Conservation of the Amazon Biodiversity \(PCAB\)](#).¹

By addressing key drivers of deforestation and developing innovations to reduce GHG emissions, as well as by applying research and enhanced information sharing, Amazonia Connect will support the following AREP strategic approaches:

1. Address Priority Drivers and Threats to the Amazon Biome by Developing Strategic Approaches to Conserve Amazon Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity and Reduce Land-Based Greenhouse Gas Emissions;

¹ There is currently no USAID CDCS for Brazil.

2. Use Science to Monitor, Improve Decision Making, and Address the Effects of Global Climate Change on Amazon Forests and Waters;
3. Promote Information Sharing and Communications among Internal and External Audiences to Build Regional Knowledge and Awareness about the importance of Amazon Forests and Water and to Inform Strategic Approaches for its Conservation and Sustainability.

In Peru, the project will contribute to the CDCS, including USAID Peru's focus of the Alternative Development (AD Office). USAID Peru's Development Objective (DO) 1 supports a successful integrated AD approach by supporting rural Peruvians in priority areas with sustainable, licit low-carbon production alternatives related to sustainably produced and deforestation-free coffee and palm oil that facilitates a permanent transition away from illicit coca cultivation. Amazonia Connect's farmer focused and market-led approach, with a strong link to the private sector, is well positioned to inform and link to the AD Office's approach. The project is further aligned with the CDCS DO 3 by supporting more effective governance of and financing, including bridging public and private sector actions, to advance sustainable financing and counter over-exploitation of natural resources in the Amazon.

In Colombia, the project will contribute to the CDCS, in particular DO 3: promoting equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth. It will further support Intermediate Result (IR) 3.1 as it will expand licit livelihood opportunities that include low-carbon agriculture and the transition towards zero deforestation coffee and livestock value chains. Gender equality and social inclusion, including the engagement of women, youth, individuals with disabilities, among others, will be cross-cutting throughout all activities during project implementation, and is further in line with the CDCS's strategy to target vulnerable geographies and populations. Amazonia Connect will further catalyze private sector support and deforestation-free commitments in the Colombian Amazon, leveraging additional finance for climate action and low-emission and climate-resilient sustainable development.

In Brazil, USAID supports [PCAB](#), which aims to conserve the biodiversity of the Brazilian Amazon while improving well-being and socioeconomic status of rural communities. Specifically, it aims to *"ensure the integrity and conservation of the Brazilian Amazon ecosystem over the next 20 years."* Amazonia Connect is aligned with PCAB as it generates important biodiversity benefits through reducing commodity-driven deforestation and pressure on high biodiversity areas within the Amazon and strengthens biodiversity monitoring. It is specifically linked with the third results area where private sector engagement actively fosters sustainable-livelihoods towards a sustainable economic model for Amazon communities. The project uses science, technology and innovation to scale up LCA and DFP that reduce commodity-driven deforestation, improve traceability and monitoring, and scale up sustainable livelihood activities in the Brazilian Amazon.

The Amazonia Connect activity will support multiple Agency policies, including:

1. The Agency's [Biodiversity Policy](#), as it reduces pressure on high biodiversity areas including protected zones, and reduces priority drivers and threats to biodiversity. The project works in the following regions, where commodity-based deforestation has adversely impacted biodiversity:
 - o Brazil (Pará and Mato Grosso States): The States of Pará and Mato Grosso were responsible for 45% of forest cover loss in Brazil during the period from 2001 to 2021. An estimated 80% of deforestation in Brazil is attributed to cattle.

- Within the period from 2001 to 2021, Mato Grosso experienced the second highest forest loss in Brazil, losing 12.6 million ha.² Mato Grosso is one of the top three cattle producing states, and one of the top two cattle exporters. Despite being an agriculture and livestock hub, Mato Grosso comprises priority biodiversity areas, encompassing the Parque Indígena do Aripuanã indigenous territory and Cristalino State Park.
 - Pará state is the Amazon's largest state economy and second-largest state by area (1.2 million km²). During the period from 2001 to 2021, Pará had the most tree cover loss in Brazil, losing 15.5 million ha.³ Currently nearly half of the annual deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon occurs in Pará State.
 - Colombia (Caquetá and Meta): During the period from 2001-2021, Caquetá and Meta were responsible for 27% of deforestation in Colombia, with the highest tree cover loss of all departments.⁴
 - In 2010, Caquetá had 7.90 million ha of natural forest, extending over 88% of its land area. From 2013 to 2020, 100% of tree cover loss in Caquetá occurred within the natural forest. Almost half of the converted land has been associated with the establishment of pastures.⁵
 - From 2001 to 2020, Meta lost 563,000 ha of tree cover, equivalent to a 13% decrease in tree cover since 2000.⁶ The Picachos–Tinigua–Macarena–Chiribiquete mega biodiversity corridor is located between the northern part of Caquetá and the southern part of Meta. This strategic Andes–Amazon bridge includes protected and unprotected land managed by farmers, and local communities who should be active participants in sustainable land management outside the national parks (Macarena, Tinigua, Picachos, Chiribiquete).
 - Peru (San Martín and Ucayali): Together Ucayali and San Martín were responsible for 32% of Peru's tree cover loss recorded during the period from 2001-2021.⁷
 - San Martín had the third highest tree cover loss in Peru during the period from 2001-2021, where it lost 648,000 ha. Much of the coffee production San Martín is in the area around the Alto Mayo Protected Forest, an area of high biodiversity value.
 - Ucayali experienced a tree cover loss of 687,000 ha during the period from 2001-2021, placing it as the region with 2nd highest tree loss in Peru.⁸ In 2020, Ucayali experienced the highest loss of tree cover in all of Peru, losing 47,267 ha.⁹ Ucayali is also the second-largest palm oil-producing region by volume, representing 39% of national production (per Junpalma 2020 estimate). This represents a potential risk to forest and biodiversity conservation, if oil palm production expands without planning and technical guidance

² Global Forest Watch, no date (n.d.)

³ Global Forest Watch, n.d.

⁴ Global Forest Watch, n.d.

⁵ Global Forest Watch n.d.

⁶ Global Forest Watch, n.d.

⁷ Global Forest Watch, n.d.

⁸ Global Forest Watch, n.d.

⁹ Geobosques n.d.

The project supports the implementation of LCA and DFP, which generates positive biodiversity impacts by reducing pressure from commodity-driven deforestation on natural ecosystems and protected areas. Specifically linked with the USAID biodiversity policy, the project is particularly aligned with the following objectives:

- **Support enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation:** The adoption of LCA and DFP at scale requires a set of enabling conditions at the jurisdictional level. The project will advance the development of zero-deforestation supply chains in alignment with low-emission rural development strategies (LED-R) in Peru and Colombia. It will further strengthen financing mechanisms at the jurisdictional level in Brazil to enable scaling and provide additional incentives to local communities and smallholders implementing LCA and DFP. Together, these efforts strengthen the monitoring of deforestation in jurisdictions, and strengthen an enabling environment that reduces deforestation and enhances biodiversity conservation.
 - **Reduce priority drivers and threats to biodiversity:** The project promotes LCA/DFP on non-forested areas, improving the sustainable use of agro-ecosystems in the project area. In addition, the project reduces the pressure of commodity-based deforestation on forests, including protected areas in the Amazon biome. The project supports this through activities under all objectives by providing technical assistance to support implementation of sustainable practices, engaging with companies to implement sustainable sourcing guidelines and utilize tools for improving monitoring of deforestation and traceability within their supply chains, working with governments and key stakeholders through jurisdictional platforms to create an enabling environment for LCA and DFP, supporting smallholders to access finance to scale LCA/ DFP and receive additional benefits for the provision of vital ecosystem services (e.g. carbon sequestration through agroforestry).
 - **Build partnerships to mobilize resources in support of biodiversity conservation:** The project builds on multi-stakeholder platforms (e.g. the Coalition for Sustainable Production, Commodity-specific zero deforestation agreements) and jurisdictional approaches to strengthen capacities and join forces to reduce deforestation and ultimately strengthen biodiversity conservation.
 - **Apply science, technology and learning to enhance biodiversity conservation practice:** Research conducted by UW will include assessments of i) the links between cattle production and protected areas in Brazil, ii) impacts of zero deforestation agreements on biodiversity, an assessment of drivers of biodiversity loss (with a focus on Colombia), iii) habitat connectivity on private properties and supply chains (highlighting the impact of deforestation on farms for biodiversity), and iv) how to represent complex data on biodiversity and habitat to companies and producers for high biodiversity value private lands and related supply chains.
2. The [Private Sector Engagement Policy](#), through multiple partnerships to build transparency with national and global commodity producers in their commitments to reduce or eliminate deforestation from their supply chains;
 3. [New Partnerships Initiative](#), as Amazonia connect applies an innovative approach implemented by a first time USAID-grantee with a local presence in the target countries in collaboration with partners with diverse and complementary expertise that foster mutual

accountability and local impact. It further facilitates close cooperation and collaboration with private sector actors, leveraging non-U.S. government funding to scale up deforestation-free value chains and LCA.

4. Agency's [Policy on Promoting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), where the project will engage indigenous stakeholders through its interventions linked with promoting and strengthening jurisdictional approaches. While majority of interventions at the farm level will be implemented with non-indigenous beneficiaries, the project will ensure meaningful consultation with indigenous peoples, representatives and organizations in the project area as appropriate, and commits to safeguard indigenous peoples' rights and wellbeing.
5. The [Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Policy](#) directs USAID to support gender equality and women's empowerment. The project aims to include and empower women as key project beneficiaries, considering their multiple roles across commodity value chains, and key opportunities to strengthen gender equality, women's empowerment and social inclusion through the project's activities. Commodity-specific gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) assessments for livestock in Colombia and palm oil in Peru, and a project-level GESI analysis and action plan will be conducted in Year 1 of the project to ensure full coherence with the policy, the implementation of targeted measures across project activities to strengthen GESI, and ensure gender-responsive monitoring, evaluation and learning throughout the project lifetime .
6. [The Climate Strategy 2022-2030](#) outlines six ambitious high-level targets related to mitigation, natural and managed ecosystems, climate change adaptation, finance, country support and critical populations. The project will contribute to each of these target areas:¹⁰
 - Mitigation: The project will enhance carbon sequestration and reduce deforestation through more efficient commodity production and improved transparency and accountability on deforestation monitoring. Specifically, the project will result in 53,800,000 tCO₂e of greenhouse gas emissions that are reduced, sequestered or avoided through sustainable landscape activities supported by USG (see Chapter 4.4 of the Year 1 Work Plan for more information on project's contribution to global climate change);
 - Natural and Managed Ecosystems: The project will support the sustainable management of agro- and forest-ecosystems through implementing LCA and supporting a transition towards deforestation-free value chains. Specific targets are included in the MEL.
 - Adaptation: The project supports low-carbon and deforestation-free production systems, which have both mitigation and adaptation benefits. In terms of adaptation, project interventions will raise awareness of climate change and related risks, as well as production practices within their value chain that can strengthen the resilience of local producers and agro-ecosystems to climate change. This includes implementing agroforestry activities that have positive benefits on soil nutrition and moisture, reduced wind and water erosion, maintain or enhance ecosystem protective services (e.g. reduce pressure on natural forests), and can provide micro-climate buffering, among other benefits.¹¹ At the

¹⁰ A tracking document with common questions is available at this [link](#).

¹¹ The IEE identified that climate change-related natural hazards could have an adverse impact on project activities (e.g. flooding, fires, drought), and risk avoidance, mitigation and management measures will be integrated into the EMMP accordingly.

same time, reducing deforestation itself will have a positive adaptation impact, as it will maintain and even strengthen the provision of vital habitats and ecosystem services (e.g. water and nutrient cycling, evapotranspiration and global climate regulation).¹²

- Finance: The project will closely collaborate with the private sector, and leverage private commitments and finance to transition towards low-carbon agriculture and deforestation-free value chains, contributing to enhanced carbon sequestration through LCA and reduced emissions from deforestation. Specific indicators are included in the MEL plan that will track the amount of investment mobilized to adopt low-carbon agriculture and/or zero-deforestation production.
 - Country Support: The project is closely aligned with the the [Nationally Determined Contributions](#) (NDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in each country, as well as their national climate policies and strategies (e.g. Colombia's National Climate Change Policy, Peru's National Climate Change Strategy, Brazil's National Climate Change Policy).
 - Critical populations: Amazonia Connect will ensure a gender-equitable and socially inclusive and responsive approach is applied, ensuring the engagement of local communities, women, youth, and marginalized and under-represented communities. A project-level GESI Action Plan will be informed by a detailed analysis and elaborated in Year 1 of the project (see Chapter 4.1 of the work plan for more detailed information), which will identify specific measures and indicators to ensure mainstreaming of GESI throughout the project, and to ensure GESI-responsive MEL.
7. Agency's [Acquisition and Assistance Strategy](#) through, for example, private sector engagement; and partnerships and engagement with local governments and new and underutilized partners, building their capacity to attract and work with stronger Environmental, Social, and Governance policies and criteria and catalyze public and private investments in deforestation-free value chains that contribute to broader sustainable development outcomes. Amazonia Connect's collaboration with private sector actors will advance high impact private-sector led approaches, and facilitate the upscaling of tools and guidance to further catalyze private sector investments, market-based approaches and enterprise-driven solutions in each of the target countries, and in the Amazon region in general.

¹² Deforestation in the Amazon combined with global climate change is generating negative climate feedback loops, and together are leading to a potential tipping point in the Amazon that could lead to a drastic transition to savannah-like ecosystems, especially in the Eastern and Southern Amazon regions. For more information see [Marengo and Souza 2018](#) and [Lovejoy and Nobre 2019](#).

3. MONITORING PLAN

3.1 MONITORING APPROACHES

Amazonia Connect will combine several monitoring approaches to track the expected results. The indicators selected provide key information of the change achieved in several levels in terms of depth and reach. Following USAID recommendations, the activity defined a limited number of key indicators to assure a lean and meaningful monitoring process.

Performance will be monitored using several data sources. The most relevant are the following:

- Reports from activities. Quantitative reports of reach from producers and area covered. Tools used for data collection include:
 - Extension Solution, managed by Solidaridad Digital Unit.
 - Visipecc, managed by NWF.
 - Visiprast, managed by NWF.

The tools will be managed by each entity. The reports linked to the indicators will be consolidated by the MEL focal point from each partner and submitted to the MEL POC for reporting purposes. See tools used for each indicator in Chapter 6 and Annex 3 for a description of the tools.

- Qualitative reports. Reports of qualitative progress with regards to processes with companies and public actors.
- Surveys with producers. Surveys will ask about profile and production practices of a sample of producers. They will be carefully designed by the MEL team following human centered design principles. This will assure that all necessary information is gathered, and that no unnecessary workload is placed on field staff or the participants. Surveys will be collected using digital tools, which will be analyzed using data visualization tools, such as dashboards developed using PowerBI, Tableau or similar programs.
- Farm polygons. Farm polygons will be used to understand land use and land use change within the farm. This will be analyzed using satellite images, via remote sensing, (see below) which will provide reports on deforestation rates and tree coverage.
- Farm data. Farm data will be validated to calculate carbon emissions and capture. Additional data such as tree inventories will be gathered from a sample of producers when necessary following tool protocols. The tools used to calculate carbon are:
 - Cool Farm Tool
 - Family Farming Calculator

Additional carbon tools may be used if needed according to the results of the baseline for livestock and palm oil.

Data will be collected with different frequencies depending on the need and the frequency of change. Certain biophysical variables such as deforestation or carbon require time to change and entail a high cost, hence will be analyzed within a longer time span. Medium-term processes, such as policy influencing with public or private actors, will be analyzed annually. Other variables such as producer practices may be analyzed more frequently to understand uptake. This will be

automatically updated when digital tools are used in the field. Quality and consistency of data will be checked during the whole life of the project and Data Quality Assessments will be conducted once a year following USAID policies. Checklists of good practices for data collection will be shared in the beginning of the project and reviewed every year.

Disaggregation of data will be used to understand impacts on different segments of the population, particularly women and youth following USAID age disaggregation. This data will be complemented by qualitative analysis to be conducted using gender-sensitive methodologies.

Monitoring will be conducted to understand the effects of the intervention. Tools, indicators, and variables will be revised periodically to maintain lean yet effective monitoring that provides insights for adaptive management, aiming for all data to be useful and relevant.

3.2 INDICATORS

Amazonia Connect monitors twelve key indicators distributed in the following manner:

- Eleven performance indicators, of which nine are standard and two are custom. Four capture qualitative data and seven capture quantitative information. The units of analysis are hectares (3), individuals (2), companies (1), public institutions (1) and others such as carbon emissions or USD (4). Eight indicators are of outcomes and three are of outputs.
- A context indicator selected to keep track of the conditions that may directly or indirectly affect the implementation of the activity.

Information for the baseline will be gathered in a separate study as detailed in Chapter 6.

Table 1: Activity indicators

INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
Purpose: Reduce commodity-driven deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation in key Amazon jurisdictions					
EG.10.2-1	Number of hectares of biologically significant areas showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance	Yes, EG.10.2-1	Number of hectares of biologically significant areas showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance. Biophysical conditions we aim to improve are reduced rate of deforestation or forest degradation and increased native tree or vegetation coverage.	TBD, Baseline will be determined by February 2023. Data source: GIS studies to analyze land use within a sample of polygons. Reports of reforestation from project staff using agroforestry activities within the farms.	105,000
Obj 1: Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA)/ Deforestation-free production (DFP) and sourcing models scaled in key Amazon jurisdictions					
EG.13-8	Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance	Yes, EG.13-8	Low-carbon agricultural practices are selected based on evidence to reduce carbon emissions and increase productivity per commodity. The implementation of these practices includes protecting the forest inside the farm in which deforestation is reduced, restoring non-forest area with agroforestry systems (in commodities that apply) and improving management of non-forest area. Improving management on non-forest areas will be considered based on the implementation of a set of LCA practices and a minimum of conditions of implementation. The former will be defined on the baseline study for each	TBD, Baseline will be determined by February 2023. Data Source: Surveys using digital tools indicating practice adoption.	148,000

INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
			commodity. When a producer fulfills the criteria, the entire farm will be accounted for in this indicator.		
EG.13-6	EG.13-6 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through sustainable landscapes activities supported by USG assistance	Yes, EG.13-6	This indicator reports the estimated quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in metric tons of CO2-equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided that is supported in full or in part by USG assistance, as compared to a baseline level of GHG emissions. The baseline is the “business-as-usual” reference for GHG emissions that would have occurred during the reporting period if there had been no USG intervention. This indicator applies to estimated GHG emissions reductions from carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O) and other global warming pollutants.	TBD, baseline will be determined by February 2023. Data Source: Practices and biophysical data will be collected on a sample of producers, using digital tools. Carbon calculators will be selected according to each commodity and country. Cool Farm Tool will be used for coffee in Colombia and Peru. The usage protocol can be found here . Family Farming calculator will be used in Brazil. The usage protocol can be found here . Calculators for livestock in Colombia and Palm in Peru will be defined for the baseline study. AFOLU calculator was considered as an alternative but other calculators were chosen as they have specific emission factors for the crop and region.	53,800,000.00
1.1 Farmers increase adoption of LCA practices in priority areas					

INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
GNDR 2	Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources	Yes, GNDR 2	Percentage of female participants in the program to promote LCA in priority regions in the Amazon. LCA programs aim to increase productivity and income from agriculture. An individual is considered to be participating in an LCA program when they receive tailored technical assistance from field staff or producer leaders. This includes training. The percentage will be calculated using: Numerator = Number of female program participants Denominator = Total number of male, female and other participants in the program	Zero. Baseline is zero as LCA programs supported by Amazonia connect have not started. Data source: Reports from field staff.	TBD
EG.10.2-4	Number of people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	Yes, EG.10.2-4	Field staff from Solidaridad will conduct a survey designed by the MEL team among a sample of beneficiaries. The survey will analyze information on volume of production per year and price per unit. This will determine the gross annual income from LCA per year. Additional payments associated with LCA practices (such as payment for environmental services) will also be considered in the survey. Values of economic benefits will be compared against baseline and past years when applicable. Beneficiaries who show an	TBD, will be determined by February 2023. Data source: surveys to a statistically significant sample of producers applied by field staff.	2,700

INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
			increase in gross annual income and additional payments associated with LCA will be counted as one. The rate of beneficiaries who increase their economic benefits against the baseline will be extrapolated to the total number of beneficiaries.		
1.2 Companies implement LCA and DFP sourcing and production guidelines					
PSE-2	Number of private sector enterprises that engaged with the USG to support U.S. Foreign Assistance objectives	Yes, PSE - 2	<p>The focus of this indicator will be major commodity buyers. A private sector enterprise will be counted when implementing at least one of the following LCA measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase sourcing of LCA production. These volumes should be recognized as LCA (through traceability, improved prices, premiums or conditions, improved producer support to transform production, etc.). - Improved capacities for supply chain mapping, monitoring, and/or traceability <p>Specific objectives and measures of progress will be defined with each company and monitored with the performance tool. Even if private firms continue improving their performance, they will only be counted once. Qualitative information on the progress will be collected annually.</p>	Baseline is zero. No companies have been supported by Amazonia Connect. Data source: reports from implementing partners.	10

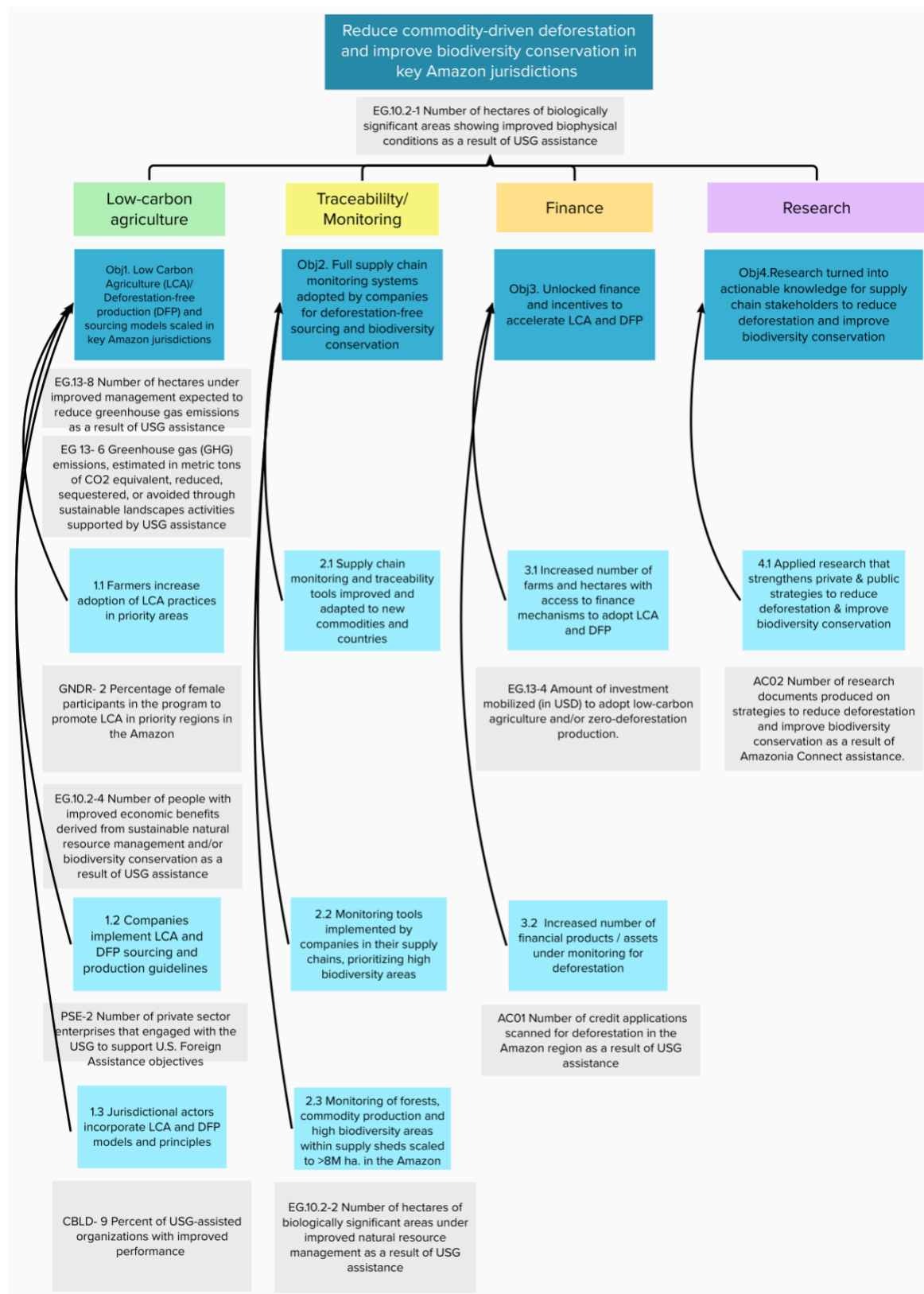
INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
1.3 Jurisdictional actors incorporate LCA and DFP models and principles					
CBLD-9	Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance	Yes, CBLD - 9	Public institutions include local and national-level environmental, technical, finance and land management agencies. LCA/DFP contributes to increased sustainable agricultural production and related environmental objectives of jurisdictional strategies for rural low emissions development. Contribution may be defined as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •There is an allocation of financial resources for implementation •There is staff with functions of implementation •There are official agreements to state commitments •There has been repeated participation on implementation issues •There are policies, regulations, and programs developed and implemented that support LCA/DFP uptake 	Zero. There have not been any stakeholders engaged as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance. Data source: reports from partners	TBD
2.3 Monitoring of forest, commodity production and high biodiversity areas within supply sheds scaled to >8M ha. in Amazon					
EG 10.2-2	Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance	Yes, EG 10.2-2	An area is considered under this indicator when one or more of the following improved management activities occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Monitoring and evaluation is established or improved with the services of VISIPEC or VISIPRAST or 	TBD. Will be determined by February 2023. Data Source: GIS analysis.	8,900,000

INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
			ii) Monitoring and evaluation is improved using high resolution images. An area will be counted only once, even if its management is improved under both strategies.		
Obj 3. Unlocked finance and incentives to accelerate LCA and DFP					
3.1 Greater investment mobilized through finance mechanisms and incentives for LCA					
EG. 13-4	Amount of investment mobilized to adopt low-carbon agriculture and/or zero-deforestation production.	Yes, EG. 13-4 Amount of investment mobilized for sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance	Amount of investment mobilized to adopt low-carbon agriculture and/or zero-deforestation production. Finance may be mobilized from the public sector (e.g. other governments or public multilateral entities), private sector (e.g. corporate investments) and/or blended finance. Investments are likely to be the following financial interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loans • Equity or investment shares • Political, regulatory 	Baseline study to be completed by February 2023 will include the amount of finance mobilized in the past fiscal year. Data source: reports from implementing partners.	8,000,000 USD
3.2 Increased number of financial products/assets under the monitoring of deforestation					
AC01	Number of credit applications scanned for deforestation in the Amazon region as a result of USG assistance	No	Credit applications are formal requests from potential borrowers to get approval for credit from lenders. Credit applications included will be those submitted for investment in the agriculture and livestock sector in the	Zero. There has not been any work on this front as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance.	TBD

INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
			Amazon region. An application is identified based on a potential borrower and an associated area. One potential borrower may have multiple applications. One credit application will correspond to one individual form/ request made. The scanning process is an analysis of deforestation incidence in a period of time using satellite imagery.		
Obj 4. Research turned into actionable knowledge for supply chain stakeholders to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation					
4.1 Applied research that strengthens private & public strategies to reduce deforestation & improve biodiversity conservation					
AC02	Number of research documents produced on strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance.	No	Number of research documents produced on strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation. Research documents include scientific papers, policy briefs and reports gathering data and relevant information from primary and/or secondary data. Research documents will be counted here when submitted to the target audience or made publicly available. Research documents will use data from project implementation as well as from tools as Visipec and Visiprast for publication as fit. Research will be complemented with additional data and secondary	Zero. There have not been any research documents developed as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance. Data source: reports from UW and EII.	10

INDICATOR SUMMARY					
CODE	INDICATOR	ALIGNMENT TO USAID	DEFINITION	BASELINE AND SOURCE	TARGET (Life of Project)
			sources to provide robustness and context.		
Context indicator					
Purpose: Reduce commodity-driven deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation in key Amazon jurisdictions					
AC03	Deforestation rate due to commodity production in priority landscapes in the Amazon	No	<p>Deforestation will be considered as land-use change from forests to another land cover. The unit of analysis will be the landscape. The specific unit of landscape will be defined during the baseline to select a comparable and relevant area considering the biomes and the commodity production. In practice, this context indicator will be compared to on-farm deforestation rates.</p> <p>The GIS analysis will be conducted over the area. GIS staff from UW and Solidaridad will assess land-use change using public satellite images for the baseline year, plus 5 previous years if available, and then compare this rate every year. The association with commodity production will be done based on available studies and trends in the area.</p>	Baseline study to be completed by February 2023. Data source: GIS analysis and secondary sources on deforestation trends.	Not applicable

Figure 2: Logic model with indicators



4. EVALUATION PLAN

4.1 EVALUATIONS

Table 2: Activity's evaluation plan

N ^o	Evaluation	Type	Purpose and expected use	Possible evaluation questions	Planned start and end dates
INTERNAL EVALUATIONS					
1	Baseline study	Baseline	Understand the initial situation to be able to determine future impact of the activity and attribution of results.	What is the starting point of selected biomes and commodities regarding sustainability and deforestation? Can companies identify their supply that is linked to, or free of, deforestation?	Sep/22 - Feb/23
2	Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) assessment	GESI assessment	Identify how gender is being considered in different aspects of the intervention	Which are the main gender gaps in relation to the implementation of the activity? How can they be addressed? What new opportunities for women and young people should be considered?	Jul/23
3	Initial Environmental Examination (IEE, associated Climate Risk Assessment (CRA), and Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP)	IEE and EMMP	Revise if the activities to be implemented are expected to have any significant negative effect on the environment?	What are potential adverse effects on the environment of the implementation of the activity? Under which conditions could these adverse effects arise? What are potential risks to project outcomes due to climate change? What are measures that can mitigate these risks, and strengthen climate resilience?	Jun/22 (IEE/CRA) Nov/22 (EMMP) /
4	Mid-term assessment	Mid-term performance assessment	Conduct an assessment to identify results, check assumptions and inform implementation	- What has been the progress towards agreed targets? What is the progress in terms of ed and unintended results of the activity? - Are there any differences at the country level?	March/25- August 25

N o	Evaluation	Type	Purpose and expected use	Possible evaluation questions	Planned start and end dates
5	End-line study	Results assessment	Understand the results of the intervention assessing the variables identified in the baseline to determine impact and attribution of results.	What is the end point of selected biomes and commodities regarding sustainability and deforestation? What are the key results and how can they be attributable to the project?	2026, TBD
EXTERNAL EVALUATIONS					
No external evaluations are planned so far.					

4.2 COLLABORATING WITH EXTERNAL EVALUATORS

Amazonia Connect will collaborate with an external evaluation if USAID decides to contract one. The support of Amazonia Connect will include assisting with the development of terms of reference, objectives and guiding questions to help ensure the effectiveness of the evaluation. In addition, the activity team (particularly the MEL staff) will review preliminary assessment findings, aiming to ensure adequate contextual information. The team will also provide the necessary support arranging meetings with stakeholders, contributing to the evaluation and providing logistics support as needed.

5. LEARNING PLAN

Amazonia Connect will apply the USAID Collaborate, Learn and Adapt (CLA) framework to promote continual learning and improvements throughout the life of the Activity. This section describes Amazonia Connect's learning approach for measuring expected objectives and generating knowledge about proven strategies to reduce commodity-driven deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation. As part of efforts to enhance collaboration and knowledge dissemination between stakeholders and countries, the team will organize various activities. The most important ones are the annual Pause and Reflect Sessions, Collaboration, Learning and Adapting meetings, joint baseline analysis, mid-term assessment, end-line assessment and studies to address key learning questions that will feed project implementation.

For the Amazonia Connect consortium, the CLA framework is fundamental, since it is the joint work of four institutions that will enable this project to successfully contribute to reduced commodity-driven deforestation and improved biodiversity conservation in key Amazon jurisdictions. This work will also identify and leverage the efforts of other donors, companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders that are working towards the same end. Key lessons and data will be discussed and shared during various activities to assure that we learn from our own operations, as well as from others. Furthermore, we will maintain fluid communication between partners, especially the University of Wisconsin, who will lead research to inform advocacy with producers, companies and public agencies.

5.1 KNOWLEDGE GAPS AND LEARNING QUESTIONS

The consortium conducted a thorough revision of the theory of change to identify the knowledge gaps that are important for implementing and scaling the model. Knowledge gaps were identified for each objective and linked to learning questions. The key assumptions from the ToC are identified below for each objective.

i) Objective 1 "Scale low-carbon agriculture":

The fundamental assumption is that if producers receive training, technical assistance and financial support, they will change their practices and invest in LCA. Previous interventions have proven that technical assistance and financial support have increased the adoption of LCA practices in certain cases and conditions. However, changing farm practices is a high-risk endeavor as it can jeopardize an important source of income. The impacts (whether positive or negative) may only be seen after the harvest or even later, depending on the type of crop. Considering the high impact and high risk of LCA, the willingness of producers to accept this risk is considered a fundamental assumption for achieving the activity objective.

ii) Objective 2 "Scale traceability and monitoring tools":

Considering pressure from investors, consumers, media, supervisory boards and other stakeholders, the activity assumes that companies are sufficiently motivated to make and implement commitments to reduce deforestation in their supply chains. As these commitments are different from the business-as-usual operation of the companies, the assumption is that the main bottleneck is the lack of the tools, knowledge and mechanisms to implement them. The activity will test if this is indeed the main bottleneck and if relieving it is sufficient for companies to invest in the transformation of their supply chains.

iii) Objective 3 "Align finance mechanisms":

Lack of access to finance has been documented as one of the key bottlenecks to LCA adoption for producers, especially smallholders. The key assumption is that if producers are provided with tailored finance mechanisms to transform their production to LCA, they will take the opportunity despite the risk this may pose to their economic viability.

iv) Objective 4 “Apply research”:

The main assumption on this pathway is that companies lack sufficient understanding of how their value chains relate to deforestation. We will provide companies with a better understanding of the problems and test if it is an important driver for change. Then, through the learning question on this matter, we will assess if the information products to improve understanding were successful in not only changing business behavior, including leakage of risk.¹³ This is key to avoiding greenwashing.

5.2 BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK

Amazonia Connect will establish effective mechanisms and tools to gather feedback from beneficiaries and respond to them.¹⁴ Feedback will consist of perceptions regarding the support received, including its quality, impact and its sustainability beyond the life of the activity. This process includes gathering and responding to general feedback. Responding to feedback includes providing an update on the activities and results of Amazonia Connect and the actions taken based on beneficiary feedback.

The processes of gathering feedback includes:

Satisfaction surveys. A sample of beneficiaries will receive surveys on their perception of the technical assistance provided. This survey may be in paper or digital form. At least a portion of the surveys should be anonymous to assure a safe space for feedback to be provided. Also, companies and public agencies that are working to improve their performance will also receive short satisfaction surveys. The surveys will be brief and the results of the surveys will be evaluated and presented in annual joint sessions. Potential actions for improvement will be discussed. Results of the activity until that point will be also presented to jointly analyze the efficiency and efficacy of the intervention.

Interviews. MEL and communication staff will hold semi-structured interviews with key beneficiaries of the project in different stages of the intervention. This may inform the implementation and results of the activity, as well be used for communication purposes.

¹³ To safeguard the project against leakage risks, mitigation measures are outlined within the Project’s Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP). Examples of mitigation measures included are: deforestation monitoring conducted throughout the project (including conducting baseline assessments, and collecting spatial points and/ or polygons to track forest trends around participating farms), support of jurisdictional measures that promote a strengthened enabling environment and improved monitoring at the jurisdictional level, developing clear training plans to highlight how farmers will be trained (including on best practices for LCA). For more detailed information, please refer to the EMMP.

¹⁴ Solidaridad is in discussion with UW to ensure adequate mechanisms to inform participants and receive their consent are developed. So far UW has shared examples of compliance approaches (including verbal approaches, which may be more relevant in areas with lower levels of literacy), which Solidaridad is revising. In addition, UW is following up with their Institutional Review Board to ensure our approach is in compliance with University Standards. Once the consent approach is designed, Solidaridad will share this information with USAID.

Informal feedback. Informal conversation, in which feedback is discussed, can be held in the field or during events. This can be conducted by field staff, commodity managers, or MEL staff. All consortium staff will be encouraged to actively listen to feedback and channel it to the area in charge or evaluating, following up if needed to help ensure that feedback is addressed.

In annual reports, the consortium will provide a summary of the feedback activities, including how many were contacted, by which means, potential actions to be addressed and responses to the feedback.

5.3 CLA ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTS

The main learning activities and products are in Table 3.

Table 3: Learning activities and products

Focus topics	Learning activity	Learning product
Effectiveness of strategies to reduce commodity-driven deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation in key Amazon jurisdictions. Specific learning questions were identified per objective (See Table 4)	Pause and reflect sessions, CLA meetings	Revised and updated theory of change (TOC). Following year's work plan with adjusted and refined strategies based on the reviews. Annual reports. Final learning document.
Analysis of findings per objective and adaptation of context operations based on results.	Joint analysis of baseline, mid-term assessment and end-line reports.	Baseline, mid-term assessment and end-line documents. Action points from meetings.
Insufficient information for mapping and identification of critical areas for biodiversity near forest frontier. Identification of farm and supply chain leverage points and evaluation of previous and current actions to reduce commodity-driven deforestation	Additional studies/research. Due to the scope of this line, it will be included under objective 4 of the project. Specific activities and deliverables will be agreed and reviewed in the annual work plan.	Scientific papers, policy briefs, slide decks and reports.

The learning plan matrix is in the following Table 4.

Table 4: Learning plan matrix

Knowledge gap	Learning question	Description	Timing	User	Intended use	Learning Activity	Learning Product
Test the assumption “If producers receive training, technical assistance and financial support, they will change their practices and invest in LCA.	1. Which incentives are most strongly correlated with increased uptake of LCA? When are these incentives delivered (pre- or post sales)? How are these delivered (non-financial or financial)?	Data from LCA practice adoption will be correlated with availability of incentives per group/region and the participation and engagement activities of producers. Discussions with managers and potentially producers will be held to identify the motivators of change in relation to the practices.	Once per year	Implementing staff in the field	Inform field activities and implementation	To be discussed in pause and reflect sessions.	Initial conclusions will be included in annual reports. The results will be included in a learning document at the end of the project
Test the assumption: “Companies have enough motivation to develop new and meet existing commitments to reduce deforestation in their supply chains.”	2. What factors motivate or pressure companies to make commitments to reduce deforestation and to implement their existing commitments?	Changes or absence of changes will be discussed in relation to the identified motivators such as public commitments or investment pressure.	Once per year	Staff working with companies in traceability or other sustainability mechanisms	Inform activity implementation	To be discussed in pause and reflect sessions	Initial conclusions will be included in annual reports. The results will be included in a learning document at the end of the project
Test the assumption: “Producers are willing to take the risk of investing in transition to LCA, when provided with financial mechanisms to do so.”	3. Do producers who gain access to financial mechanisms invest in the transition to LCA?	Identify motivators to take or not take financial mechanisms designed to support transition to LCA	Once per year	Staff working with financial mechanisms and producers	Inform activity implementation	To be discussed in pause and reflect sessions	Initial conclusions will be included in annual reports. The results will be included in a learning document at the end of the project
Test the assumption: “Clarifying the problem will inspire companies to identify and implement solutions.”	4. What relevant/ actionable research products will best influence companies?	Identify connections between research/ information provided with companies actions (or lack of action)	Once per year	Staff working with research and companies	Inform activity implementation	To be discussed in pause and reflect sessions	Initial conclusions will be included in annual reports. The results will be included in a learning document at the end of the project

6. DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

The MEL Coordinator, with support from technical staff, country/partner and MEL staff, will design data collection tools based on indicators and needs of the project. These data collection tools will also be populated by technical staff and subsequently compiled by the MEL coordinator. Technical leads will be responsible for cleaning data initially and assuring that data is securely stored. The MEL coordinator will evaluate consistency and reliability of the results and revert to the teams when necessary. Finally, reports will be compiled using validated data.

6.1 DATA COLLECTION

We will collect data from primary and secondary sources. Primary data comes directly from the implementation of the activity with project stakeholders. It includes information taken from individuals, communities, institutions, or field staff/beneficiaries. Secondary data can come from desk research, reports from official data sources, sector companies, or studies carried out by other organizations.

The majority of performance data will be collected, consolidated at the local level, and reported by technical staff or partners. The MEL coordinator will provide necessary training, including rationale, definitions, methodologies for collection and calculation, disaggregation, required backup documentation, data quality control, and uploading of data, when applicable. The MEL team will use the monitoring data to identify trends, patterns, and lessons, and promote adaptive management.

The data collection instruments will be carefully designed to capture relevant data in a lean and robust manner.

BASELINE STUDIES

The baseline study will be conducted for some indicators that require analysis prior to the activity intervention to determine impact. In some cases, the baseline estimation is not considered applicable because it refers to products derived from the project's activities. The baseline analysis will be conducted for most indicators using representative samples and extrapolated using inferential statistics. A summary of the considerations for each indicator are established below and elaborated in the PIRS.

Table 5: Baseline process for activity indicators

Indicator	Baseline process
EG.10.2-1 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance	Identify deforestation rates for the last 5 years in a sample of farm polygons analyzed with GIS software (disaggregated by country).
EG.13-8 Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance	Conduct a survey to identify management practices on a representative sample of hectares in order to determine what percentage of the farms are already implementing LCA/DFP practices and which farms specifically.

Indicator	Baseline process
EG.13-6 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through sustainable landscapes activities supported by USG assistance	Conduct a study in a representative sample of farms following carbon calculator methodologies. Carbon analysis at farm level will use the following tools: Cool Farm Tool for coffee in Colombia and Peru. Family Farming Calculator in Brazil. Calculators for livestock in Colombia and Palm in Peru will be defined for the baseline study.
GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources	This indicator will not have a baseline because it will directly result from the activity intervention
EG.10.2-4 Number of people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	Conduct a survey of economic variables with a representative sample of targeted producers in each country and commodity using digital tools for data consolidation
PSE-2 Number of private sector enterprises that engaged with the USG to support U.S. Foreign Assistance objectives	This indicator will not have a baseline because it will directly result from the activity intervention. As new companies are engaged, the matrix to understand abilities and gaps will be applied as baseline and monitoring tool.
CBLD-9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]	Conduct initial assessment of institutions that are ready to begin in the first year following the CBLD 9 matrix considering needs assessment, priority identification and performance gaps. This indicator refers to public institutions' support for the uptake ¹⁵ of LCA and DFP policies as defined in the PIRS (See page 83).
EG.10.2-2 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance	Extension Solution or similar tool which collects farm and producer data, as well as reports from Visipecc and Visiprast
EG. 13-4 Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) to adopt low-carbon agriculture and/or zero-deforestation production.	Analysis on the amount of financing mobilized in the past fiscal year considering the target beneficiary, area and potential mechanisms.
AC 01 Number of financial mechanisms (products/credit) with an analysis on deforestation	This indicator will not have a baseline because it will directly result from the activity intervention
AC 02 Number of research documents produced on strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance.	This indicator will not have a baseline because it will directly result from the activity intervention

TOOLS FOR DATA COLLECTION

A suite of tools will be used for data collection. The processes of data quality, security and storage mentioned in this section apply to all tools. These processes involve staff at different levels: field,

¹⁵ The activity will focus on governmental agencies at national and/or sub-national levels. Support in the uptake of LCA/ DFP implies that a governmental agency improves its performance regarding the implementation of LCA/DFP jurisdictional strategies related to one or more of the following areas:

- Allocation of financial or human resources for the implementation of LCA/DFP policies
- New or improved official agreements to state commitments regarding LCA/DFP
- Repeated participation in implementation issues of LCA/DFP policies
- Development and implementation of policies, regulations and programs that support LCA/DFP uptake.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Performance Indicator Reference Sheet (PIRS) in Annex 3 (page 83).

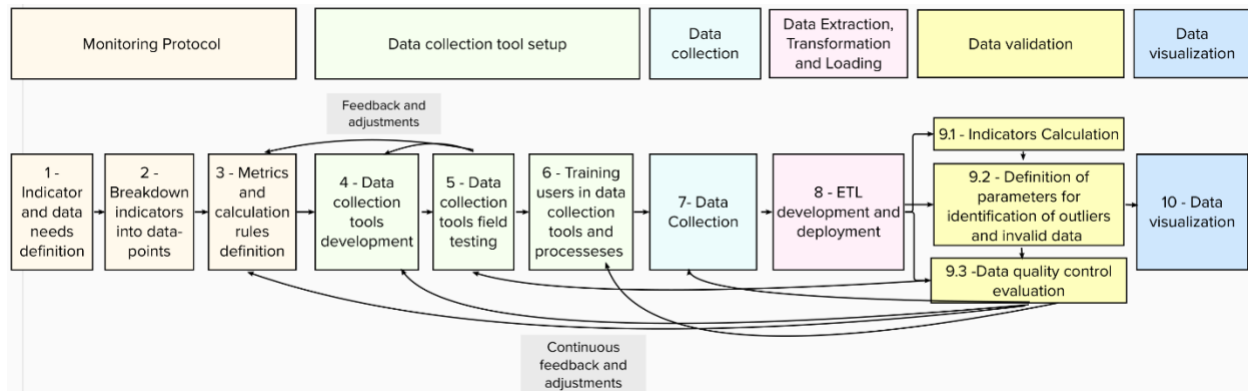
local offices and regional coordination. The suite of tools presented here aim to improve data quality in a lean and effective way, while providing robust evidence of the results achieved.

Table 6: Data collection tool for each indicator

Indicator	Data collection tool
EG.10.2-1 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance	Visipec, Visiprast and Extension Solution or similar digital tool
EG.13-8 Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance	Extension Solution digital tool or similar tool which collects farm and producer data
EG.13-6 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through sustainable landscapes activities supported by USG assistance	Cool Farm Tool for coffee in Colombia and Peru. Family Farming Calculator in Brazil. Calculators for livestock in Colombia and Palm in Peru will be defined for the baseline study.
GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources	Project staff reports
EG.10.2-4 Number of people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance	Extension Solution or similar digital tool to collect farm and producer data
PSE-2 Number of private sector enterprises that engaged with the USG to support U.S. Foreign Assistance objectives	Project staff reports
CBLD-9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]	Project staff reports using CBLD 9 Matrix for reporting
EG 10.2-2 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance	Visipec, Visiprast and Extension Solution or similar digital tool
EG. 13-4 Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) to adopt low-carbon agriculture and/or zero-deforestation production.	Project staff and company reports
AC 01 Number of financial mechanisms (products/credit) with an analysis on deforestation and/or biodiversity risks	Project staff and company reports
AC 02 Number of research documents produced on strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance.	Project staff reports

6.2 DATA QUALITY

Figure 3: Data quality processes



The structure of data management aims to ensure the availability of timely and accurate data, integrating high-quality data collection in the program structure and embedding data usage in the management. The data quality control process is conducted in 10 steps to collect, review and report performance data to USAID (Figure 3). Data quality measures unique to each performance management indicator are outlined in the respective PIRS. This data quality process responds mainly to the primary data collected, such as information from producers and farms. Secondary data from the project, such as processed data from Visipec, Visiprast, or other GIS will apply steps 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10.

1- INDICATOR AND DATA NEEDS DEFINITION

The first step is to define indicators for the project and define the conditions required to comply with it. This will be duly linked to the project theory of change and USAID requirements and protocols of standard indicators. This process is led by the MEL POC with the focal points that comprise the MEL team (See Annex 1: Glossary and team description for more information on roles and responsibilities).

2- BREAKDOWN INDICATORS INTO DATA-POINTS

Following the indicator definition, each country and commodity should contextualize indicators and practices that apply to each indicator. Equivalences between countries in the same commodity will also be established. The result of this stage is a questionnaire including desirable answers for each indicator to be included in the digital tools. For the case of Visipec and Visiprast, the process will define the expected functionalities of monitoring to be improved for each commodity and country. This process is led by the MEL team.

3 - METRICS AND CALCULATION RULES DEFINITION

Define the metrics and calculation principles of each indicator. This includes which variables are considered and how they are calculated with others. This process is led by the MEL team.

4 - DATA COLLECTION TOOLS DEVELOPMENT

The data collection tools with the best fit will be selected, considering the needs and data collection possibilities. The input from which data needs to be collected, by whom and at what pace will be crucial for the development of tailored tools, if applicable. A cost/benefit analysis of the available tools will be conducted and documented prior to the selection of the tool. This process will be coordinated by the MEL team with support of the digital services provider(s).

5 - DATA COLLECTION TOOLS FIELD TESTING

To increase data quality and efficiency, testing tools in the field is of critical importance. No matter how simple a tool may be, both survey questions and tools should be tested to verify if the data collected is in the required format for indicator calculations and project needs. This process will be led by the digital services unit. This process is coordinated by the MEL team, with support from field staff.

6 - TRAINING USERS IN DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND PROCESSES

Once the data collection tool is tested, adjusted and approved, it is necessary to carry out training with the users of the tool to increase the level of data quality when it is entered in the system. Periodic training updates with users are recommended. This process is coordinated by the MEL team with support of the digital services provider(s).

7- DATA COLLECTION

Data collection should only start once previous steps have been defined. Protocols for data input should be reviewed and implemented in this stage. This process is coordinated by the MEL team with support from the digital services provider(s) and local teams.

8 - ETL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT

The next step after data collection is the structuring of the database for the calculation of indicators. At this stage, rules defined in step three are applied on the raw data collected for calculation. At this point, different data sources can be integrated, since the ETL (extract, transform and load) defines where and how each data must be stored for the correct calculation of the indicator. This process is coordinated by the MEL team with support of the digital services provider(s).

9 -DATA VALIDATION

This stage is divided into three sub-steps:

- I. The first calculation of the indicators will provide the initial results
- II. With the first calculations, parameters to identify outliers and invalid data must be created;
- III. A first analysis must be performed after evaluating outliers and invalid data to validate the results. The evaluation of data quality also serves as input for the whole process.

This process is coordinated by the MEL team with the support of the digital services provider(s).

10 - DATA VISUALIZATION

Once the data is validated, data visualization can be designed. Visualization can be static (manually written qualitative and quantitative reports) or dynamic, updated at defined intervals according to database updates. Data visualization will be held in dashboards with graphs and correlations developed as needed for data analysis and usage. Dashboards will be developed using PowerBI, Tableau or similar software. This process is coordinated by the MEL team with support of the digital services provider(s).

6.3 DATA STORAGE

Amazonia Connect will gather data from several sources and partners. Each tool has conditions for data storage and security, which are supervised by the MEL team. Data will be stored as follows:

Table 7: Data storage per type of data

Data type	Origin	File type	Storage plan
Quantitative data	Digital data collection tools	Online information database file (.csv or .xlsx)	Digital tool data storage system (data warehouse for Extension Solution and independent Excel files for other tools like Visipec and Visiprast)
Qualitative data	Interviews and partner report documents	Reports will be stored in .doc or .pdf format	Recorded in Solidaridad Google Drive
Aggregated indicator annual information	Data collection tools and reports	Downloadable in .csv or .xlsx	Recorded in Solidaridad's Salesforce system, "Plaza"
Hard copy data	Paper copies of financial records (when not recorded digitally) or other records will be stored in Solidaridad office	Paper copies will be scanned to .pdf	Recorded in Solidaridad Google Drive and hard copies will be kept in Solidaridad offices

6.4 DATA SUBMISSION

Data submission will follow USAID procedures of upload to the Development Data Library (DDL), Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC), and Development Information Solution (DIS) as indicated by USAID MEL Lead. The format of submissions, including any dataset created or obtained in performance of the award and datasets produced by a sub awardee or a contractor at any tier, will be in a machine-readable, non-proprietary format. The submission will include supporting documentation describing the dataset, such as code books, data dictionaries, data gathering tools, notes on data quality, and explanations of redactions as needed.

The activity will present datasets on the following:

- i) Survey of producers on Low-Carbon Agriculture practice adoption, including a row per beneficiary (anonymized) and a column per practice and related variables (such as productivity, economic benefits and carbon emissions).
- ii) Results of GIS analysis for each producer including incidence of deforestation from Visipec, Visiprast or other GIS tools.

6.5 DATA SECURITY

Security guidelines will be developed according to each type of data source. The activity will implement a strict set of data security protocols regarding the protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Any Personally Identifiable Information (PII) found in datasets will not be shared with partners or USAID until the PII has been removed. Any datasets shared with partners or USAID will be copies that will be placed into a folder created specifically for sharing so that the end user (partner or USAID) has no access to the original.

6.6 USAID DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION SOLUTION

Relevant project management information will be uploaded into DIS, particularly information regarding indicators and evidence. The MEL team will report agreed indicator results in DIS, and upload supporting evidence and complementary information as well. Data will be presented following the disaggregation stated in the PIRS.

7. COMMUNICATION PLAN

Table 8: Communications Plan

ACTOR	INFORMATION USE	ROLE IN MEL	INFORMATION NEED	REPORTING FREQUENCY	FORMAT	RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION
Who	Why		What	When	How	Who
Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor the implementation based on activities carried out, results achieved, and budget execution - Provide guidelines and regulations for implementing and managing the project - Disseminate project outcomes and lessons learned in the implementation - Maintain political relationship with supported partners - Maintain up to date information with USAID MEL 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generate information on project progress - Request information generated by the technical and operations teams - Lead reflection sessions - Participate in learning spaces where the activity is involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress of project activities - Limitations and opportunities for activities implementation - Budget execution - Progress of project indicators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly - Semi Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral (weekly meeting) - Digital (Excel spreadsheet and narrative reports) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing partners' technical teams - MEL POC - AOR
Implementation partners' technical teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan the activities and strategies for the implementation of the project. - Create synergies with public-private organizations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide information requested by MEL team, COP and DCOP - Request information generated by the MEL team. - Monitor the progress of project execution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress of project activities - Narrative reports - Budget execution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semi annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral (meeting) and digital (Excel spreadsheet and narrative reports) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Companies - Beneficiaries - MEL team
Regional Gender Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) guidelines for project implementation. - Disseminate project outcomes and lessons learned regarding gender issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide information requested by MEL team, COP and DCOP - Request information generated by the implementing partners' technical teams - Coordinate and Participate in GESI-related activities sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress on GESI-related project activities. - Progress of gender indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semi Annual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral (meeting) and digital (Excel spreadsheet and narrative reports) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementing partners' technical teams - Beneficiaries - MEL Specialist

ACTOR	INFORMATION USE	ROLE IN MEL	INFORMATION NEED	REPORTING FREQUENCY	FORMAT	RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION
Communications Team	- Communicate the progress and results of the project to key stakeholders.	- Generate information on project progress, key findings/ results and lessons learned	- Narrative reports. - Progress of project indicators	Semi - annual	Digital (report in word) Other communication products (defined in the Communications Plan)	- Implementing partners' technical and communication teams - Companies in the Communications Plan - Country MEL Specialist
Finance Team	- Monitor the implementation based on budget execution.	- Review the execution of expenses with COP	- Budget Report and Plans	Semi- annual	--Oral (meeting) and digital (Excel spreadsheet and narrative reports)	-COP
Sector Stakeholders	- Identify models and lessons learned from the implementation of project activities (e.g. LCA, DFP)	- Participate in learning spaces linked with project activities (e.g. Coalition for Sustainable Production meetings, webinars, project meetings) - Provide comments on the studies, tools and other communications materials developed by the Activity.	-Progress of project activities -Studies, tools, relevant for the implementation	-Annual	-Trainings, Workshops, Meetings.	- Implementing partners' technical teams
Public Organizations	- Promote sector agreements on deforestation-free production, and other efforts to scale LCA and DFP.	- Participate in learning spaces linked with project activities (e.g. jurisdictional events, meetings, trainings webinars) -Provide comments on the studies and solutions developed by the project activities (e.g. under 1.3).	-Studies, tools, relevant for the implementation	-Annual	-Meetings -Digital studies	- Implementing partners' technical teams

8. MEL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Table 9: Roles, Responsibilities, and Schedule

MEL ACTIVITIES		RESPONSIBLE	FREQUENCY	BUDGET	YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION																				
					Prep stage	FY1				FY 2				FY 3				FY 4				FY 5			
					Q3-Q4	Q 1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1	Submit draft indicator table and final MEL Plan for USAID approval	MEL POC, Partner Managers	Once in the beginning of the project	\$7,000																					
2	Elaborate and Submit Baseline	MEL POC and local MEL	Once in the beginning of the project	\$25,000																					
3	Define Annual Work Plan	Programme Coordinator, Partner Managers	Annual	\$40,000																					
4	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) analysis	Regional Gender Lead	Annual	\$10,000																					
5	EMMP	DCOP	Once in the beginning of the project	\$7,500																					
6	Set up M&E system and train staff/partners and grantees	MEL POC , Local MEL	Once in the beginning of the project	\$7,200																					
7	Implement monitoring system, including data	MEL POC	Permanent	\$35,000																					

MEL ACTIVITIES		RESPONSIBLE	FREQUENCY	BUDGET	YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION																				
					Prep stage	FY1				FY 2				FY 3				FY 4				FY 5			
					Q3-Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	collection in the field																								
8	Elaborate and submit Semi-annual Report for USAID	MEL POC, Partner Managers	Biannual	\$43,000																					
9	Hold annual review and pause-and-reflect sessions	MEL POC, USAID support (MI2)	Annual	TBD- Led by MI2																					
10	Revise MEL Plan as needed	MEL POC	Annual	TBD																					
11	Conduct quality control and assurance	MEL POC	Annual	\$18,000																					
12	Conduct internal DQA (Data Quality Assessment)	MEL POC, Local MEL	Annual	\$18,000																					
13	Conduct USAID DQA	USAID	TBD	TBD																					
14	Hold CLA adaptive management meetings	MEL POC	Annual	\$10,000																					
15	Elaborate and submit Endline	MEL POC, Technical Staff,	Annual	\$25,000																					
16	Elaborate and submit Final Agreement Completion Report	Local Mel , MEL POC, Partner Managers	Annual	\$10,000																					

MEL ACTIVITIES		RESPONSIBLE	FREQUENCY	BUDGET	YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION																				
					Prep stage	FY1				FY 2				FY 3				FY 4				FY 5			
#	Activity				Q3-Q4	Q 1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1 7	USAID evaluation	USAID	TBD	TBD																					

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: GLOSSARY AND TEAM DESCRIPTION

GLOSSARY

Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA)/Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)

Solidaridad uses the term Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA) interchangeably with Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). Solidaridad follows the [Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\) definition](#) of Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA)/Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA): LCA/CSA is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate. LCA/CSA aims to tackle three main objectives: sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes; adapting and building resilience to climate change, and reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., from agriculture and land use change/ deforestation, and enhancing soil carbon sequestration). LCA/CSA is therefore inclusive of, but not limited to deforestation-free production. It further generates additional benefits including, among others: improving soil health through good practices, enhancing soil carbon, and strengthening the resilience of agro-ecosystems to climate change.

Deforestation-free production (DFP)

Refers to the production of commodities on farms that are no longer contributing to deforestation after an agreed cut-off date.¹⁶

EU Regulation on Deforestation

A legislative proposal to install a due diligence process to assure deforestation-free imports of selected commodities to the European Union (including beef, palm oil and coffee). The new process aims to request geospatial information of production plots to verify deforestation-free production and ensure alignment with relevant local legislation. The requirements will depend on the EU's risk classification of the country. In addition, annual risk assessments will be required. The legislative proposal was published in November 2021 and is expected to be voted on by the European Commission in September 2022, with enforcement beginning in 2024.

Traceability and monitoring of commodity production

This process includes identifying the geographical location of production and tracking selected features of production such as deforestation, compliance with labor regulations or carbon balance.

Carbon balance

¹⁶ A cutoff date is the date after which deforestation is considered non-compliant. After an agreed cutoff date, the production of commodities on farms should no longer contribute to deforestation. Those that continue to contribute to deforestation on their farm after the cutoff date lose eligibility under DFP schemes. Note: Cutoff dates vary depending on the market (e.g. European Union), country (e.g. in Brazil the [Indirect Suppliers Working Group for Brazilian Ranching \(GTFI\) Boas Practicas](#) has a cutoff date of August 1, 2019), private sector company sourcing policy, commodity/ sector (e.g. Zero Deforestation Agreements (ZDAs) in Colombia for beef, milk, palm oil, and cocoa).

Carbon balance is the difference between the emission (release into the atmosphere) and sequestration (removal from the atmosphere) of greenhouse gasses (GHGs). A process with a positive balance emits more GHGs than it sequesters. A process with a negative balance sequesters more GHGs than it emits. A neutral balance indicates that emissions and sequestration are equal.

TEAM DESCRIPTION

Field staff

Solidaridad and partners staff whose activities are mainly based in the assistance and service provision in the field, directly with producers.

Digital service providers

Refers to the teams responsible of the development and support of the technical implementation of digital tools. (See Annex 6: tool descriptions).

MEL Team Description

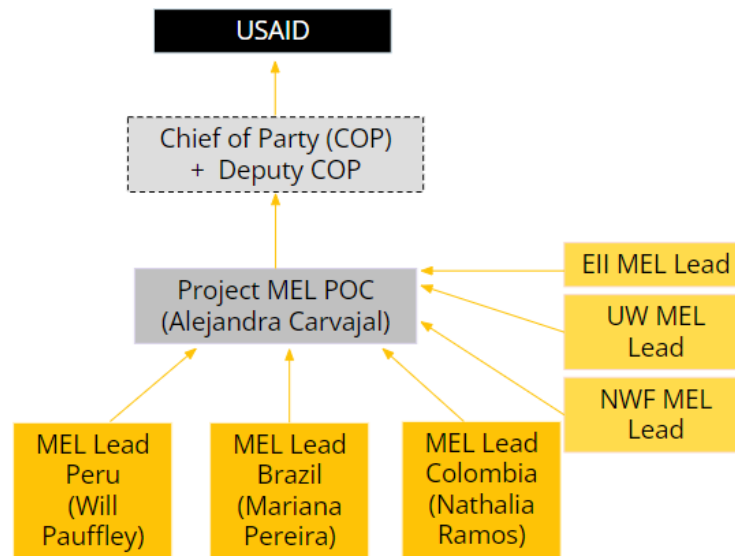
Monitoring, Learning and Evaluation Point of Contact (MEL POC)/ MEL Lead

Leader of the coordination of the MEL strategy. The Project MEL lead will carry out the necessary coordination and follow ups with the Solidaridad country MEL leads and the partners' MEL Leads/representatives to keep track of MEL and prepare the project's reports. She will guide MEL for the project.

MEL team

Every Solidaridad country team will have a designated MEL lead who will be responsible for coordinating within their countries and providing MEL reports to the Project MEL lead, as per agreed upon timelines and indicators. Every partner's representative/MEL Lead will also provide MEL reports to the Project MEL lead, as per agreed upon timelines and indicators.

Figure 4: MEL Team structure



ANNEX 2: INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE

Can be found on this [excel](#) file.

ANNEX 3: PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REFERENCE SHEETS (PIRS)

TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR ANNEX 3:

Name of Indicator: EG. 13-4 Amount of investment mobilized for adoption of low-carbon agriculture and/or zero-deforestation production.

Name of Indicator: EG.13-6 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through sustainable landscapes activities supported by USG assistance

Name of Indicator: EG.13-8 Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance

Name of Indicator: EG.10.2-1 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance

Name of Indicator: EG.10.2-2 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance

Name of Indicator: EG.10.2-4 Number of people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance

Name of Indicator: PSE- 2 Number of private sector enterprises that engaged with the USG to support U.S. Foreign Assistance objectives

Name of Indicator: GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources

Name of Indicator: CBLD- 9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]

Name of Indicator: AC01 Number of credit applications scanned for deforestation in the Amazon region as a result of USG assistance

Name of Indicator: AC02 Number of research documents produced on strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance.

Name of Context Indicator: AC03 Deforestation rate due to commodity production in priority landscapes in the Amazon

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet

NAME OF INDICATOR: EG. 13-4 AMOUNT OF INVESTMENT MOBILIZED FOR ADOPTION OF LOW-CARBON AGRICULTURE AND/OR ZERO-DEFORESTATION PRODUCTION.

Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 3.1 Increased number of farms and hectares with access to finance mechanisms to adopt LCA and DFP

Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No ___ Yes ___X_
for Reporting Year(s) _____

If yes, link to foreign assistance framework:

EG. 13-4 Amount of investment mobilized for sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

This indicator includes finance mobilized (or leveraged), enabled by USG assistance, for actions, activities, projects or programs that avoid, reduce, or sequester GHGs from sustainable landscapes activities.

Finance may be mobilized from the public sector (e.g. other governments or public multilateral entities) or private sector (e.g. corporate investments) and should help to advance the objectives established by the USG-supported program. USG funding should not be counted under this indicator.

Mobilized finance reported under this indicator should be disaggregated as domestic or international. Domestic finance is investment that originated within the country in which it is implemented (e.g. national government funds to support implementation of a project within that country) and international finance is cross-border finance (e.g. a private company based in one country contributing funds for a project in a different country).

Finance can be mobilized through a variety of instruments and vehicles, including common funding instruments, parallel investments, or in-kind support. Examples of the types of U.S. assistance that could mobilize finance include:

Investments made possible by finance interventions, such as:

- Grants (or in-kind support) for technical assistance
- Loans

- Equity or investment shares
- Support for development and structuring of other financial instruments such as Green Bonds or Real Estate Investment Trusts
- Political, regulatory, or credit risk insurance and guarantees

Investments made possible by policy interventions and technical assistance interventions, such as:

- Market assessments, financier credit product development, project incubation and preparation;
- Technical support for increasing the sustainability of supply chains;
- Regulatory policy support for the creation or implementation of land-use planning;
- Fiscal policy support to develop preferential tax treatment for climate-friendly technologies and environmentally related taxes; and
- Information or data-based interventions such as setting up technology centers of excellence, labeling schemes, wind speed or solar radiation mapping

Examples of what mobilized funds may support include: creating an enabling environment for mitigation actions; enhancing processing and transportation infrastructure for sustainably-produced goods, infrastructure for protected areas, etc.; funding the costs of climate change activities advanced by the program or monitoring climate change progress or outcomes; sensitizing stakeholders to climate risks; and land use issues and opportunities addressed through the program.

For Amazonia Connect:

Amount of investment mobilized to adopt low-carbon agriculture and/or zero-deforestation production. Finance may be mobilized from the public sector (e.g. other governments or public multilateral entities), private sector (e.g. corporate investments) and/or blended finance.

Investments are likely to be the following financial interventions:

- Loans
- Equity or investment shares
- Political, regulatory, or credit risk insurance and guarantees
- Incentive schemes

Unit of measurement:

U.S. dollars (USD)

Data type:

Numeric

Disaggregated by:

- Public, domestic
- Public, international

- Private, domestic
- Private, international
- Type of investment (credit, incentive, other)

Rationale for Indicator (optional):

Finance should be unlocked to support transition and accelerate the uptake of LCA and DFP compliance. This line aims to enable investment in the transition towards LCA and DFP.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:

Reports from implementing partners.

Method of data collection and construction:

Reports from implementing partners.

Reporting frequency:

Annually.

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:

MEL PoC will consolidate data from implementing partners.

TARGETS AND BASELINE

Baseline timeframe:

2022

Baseline rationale:

Baseline study will include the amount of finance mobilized in the past fiscal year.¹⁷

¹⁷ Note: The US federal government's fiscal year runs from October 1 of one calendar year through September 30 of the next.

Targets:

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	8.000.00 0	To be confirmed in the baseline study.

Rationale for targets (optional):**DATA QUALITY ISSUES****Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer:** NA**Date of future data quality assessments (optional):** NA**Known data limitations:**

NA

CHANGES TO INDICATOR**Changes to the Indicator:** NA**Other notes (optional):****THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/2022**

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet

NAME OF INDICATOR: EG.13-6 GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG) EMISSIONS, ESTIMATED IN METRIC TONS OF CO2 EQUIVALENT, REDUCED, SEQUESTERED, OR AVOIDED THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY USG ASSISTANCE

Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): Objective 1: Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA)/ Deforestation-free production (DFP) and sourcing models scaled in key Amazon jurisdictions

Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No ___ Yes X
for Reporting Year(s) _____

If yes, link to foreign assistance framework:

EG.13-6 Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided through sustainable landscapes activities supported by USG assistance

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

This indicator reports the estimated quantity of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in metric tons of CO2-equivalent, reduced, sequestered, or avoided that was supported in full or in part by USG assistance, as compared to a baseline level of GHG emissions. The baseline is the “business-as-usual” reference for GHG emissions that would have occurred during the reporting period if there had been no USG intervention. This indicator applies to estimated GHG emissions reductions from carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O) and other global warming pollutants.

This indicator applies to estimated emissions reduced, sequestered or avoided for the specified reporting period. This can include both emissions reductions from activities implemented during the reporting period as well as activities which were implemented during a previous reporting period, but are still achieving ongoing reductions in GHG emissions. Implementers are encouraged to include these continuing results by estimating tons of CO2e avoided during the current reporting period. Regarding land use-related emissions reductions or increased sequestration, if a U.S. government supported project continues to conserve the same hectares of land as in a previous reporting period, those hectares should be included in the calculations for the current reporting period to determine the emissions reductions of the project.

For Amazonia Connect:

The activity will consider the emissions on farm land. To assess GHG emissions of this area, field staff will conduct a carbon analysis using a carbon calculator on a sample of the area, which will be extrapolated to the universe using inferential statistics. The sample will be stratified according to the criteria agreed with the local team, aiming to represent the universe, covering characteristics such as geographical location, or others when applicable. The criteria of stratification will be detailed in the baseline methodology study. Within the stratum, the area for sampling will be selected randomly. The same areas will be analyzed throughout the life of

the project. If a sampled beneficiary drops out of the activity or the analysis, s/he will be replaced by one that follows the characteristics of the sample, as to maintain representativeness. For each geographic area selected for the sample, practices and biophysical data will be collected to input the selected carbon calculator. Emissions avoided, reduced and sequestered are obtained as an output of the calculator. Based on the results of the sample, the emissions of the universe will be calculated.

The calculators to be used are the following:

Cool Farm Tool for coffee in Colombia and Peru. The protocol of usage can be found [here](#).

Family Farming Calculator in Brazil. The protocol of usage can be found [here](#).

Calculators for livestock in Colombia and Palm in Peru will be defined for the baseline study.

Unit of measurement:

Metric tons of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e)

Data type:

Numeric

Disaggregated by:

Commodity

Country

Tons of carbon equivalent from avoided GHG emissions

Tons of carbon equivalent sequestered

Rationale for Indicator (optional):

Reducing, sequestering or avoiding GHG emissions will slow the rate of climate change and reduce climate change impacts. Reducing GHG emissions can also have strong ancillary benefits for air and water pollution, energy security, health, and gender issues. GHG emissions from agricultural production are expected to be avoided with the implementation of LCA practices and through avoided deforestation. Carbon sequestration is also expected to increase through the implementation of agroforestry systems.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:

Practices and biophysical data will be collected on a sample of producers using digital tools.

Method of data collection and construction:

Field staff from Solidaridad collect practices and biophysical data required to estimate carbon emissions. Data will be processed using the most suitable calculator for each context. The calculators to be used are the following:

Cool Farm Tool for coffee in Colombia and Peru.

Family Farming Calculator in Brazil.

Calculators for livestock in Colombia and Palm in Peru will be defined for the baseline study.

Reporting frequency:

Baseline, year three and year five.

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:

MEL PoC will oversee the design and application of the survey of practices and biophysical data and consolidate results. Local MEL staff will support the implementation process and calculation. Commodity managers will coordinate the data collection in the field.

TARGETS AND BASELINE

Baseline timeframe:

Baseline will be determined in the first year of the project.

Baseline rationale:

Baseline data should be collected to assess the initial GHG emissions from commodity production.

Targets:

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	53,800,000	This value is estimated and will be reviewed with the baseline study.

Rationale for targets (optional):

TBD after baseline studies.

DATA QUALITY ISSUES

Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA

Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA

Known data limitations:

The margin of error and confidence margin will be defined by the size of the sample, which will be determined using criteria of efficiency, relevance and capacity, while aiming for less than 10% margin of error. GHG calculators have been developed following different approaches, with different targets and objectives. These are also suitable for a defined geographic coverage. All these calculators provide results in tons of CO2 equivalent (teqCO2) but they have some differences concerning methodologies and scope, which impacts results¹⁸.

CHANGES TO INDICATOR

Changes to the Indicator: NA

Other notes (optional):

THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/2022

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet

¹⁸ For a more detailed discussion about carbon calculators, see Colomb et al., 2012.

NAME OF INDICATOR: EG.13-8 NUMBER OF HECTARES UNDER IMPROVED MANAGEMENT EXPECTED TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AS A RESULT OF USG ASSISTANCE

Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): Obj1. Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA)/ Deforestation-free production (DFP) and sourcing models scaled in key Amazon jurisdictions

Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No ___ Yes X___
for Reporting Year(s) _____

If yes, link to foreign assistance framework:

EG.13-8 Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs), such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄), can be reduced, avoided, or sequestered as a result of improved management practices, including: protection, restoration and management. For hectares counted under this indicator, the improved management approaches applied must be reasonably expected to result in emission reductions.

'Improved management' includes protection, restoration and management activities that reduce emissions while promoting enhanced management of natural resources for one or more objectives, such as mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, strengthening sustainable use of natural resources and/or promoting community participation. An area is considered to be under improved management practices when, at least partially as a result of USG support, additional areas have been conserved or restored, or additional emissions reductions are expected be achieved due to changes in management planning, implementation of management plans or policies, or application of data to management decisions and enforcement actions.

For Amazonia Connect:

'Improved management' includes the implementation of a set of restoration and management activities associated with agriculture or livestock production. Improved management is the result of three activities:

- Protection, forests: Protecting the forest inside the farm. When a producer protects the forest inside the farm, all the forest area will be accounted for in this indicator.
- Restoration, non-forests: Restoring non-forest area with agroforestry systems in applicable commodities. When a producer implements an agroforestry system, the area of the system will be considered in this indicator.
- Management, Non-forests: Improving management on non-forest areas will be considered based on the implementation of a set of LCA practices and a minimum of conditions of implementation. The practices and criteria for compliance per commodity will be defined based on evidence to reduce carbon emissions and increase productivity. The specific definition of practices per country and commodity will be

<p>established in the baseline study. When a producer fulfills the criteria, the productive area of the farm will be counted for this indicator.</p> <p>The total result of this indicator is the sum of the three conditions above.</p> <p>The occurrence of the mentioned activities will be assessed with a survey. The survey will be applied to a representative sample at baseline and then asked again to the same sample of beneficiaries following the reporting frequency determined below. If the same beneficiary is unreachable, s/he will be replaced by one that has similar characteristics to maintain representativeness. The sample will be stratified according to the criteria agreed upon with the local team, aiming to represent crucial aspects, such as geographical location, gender and other characteristics (e.g., membership in a cooperative or company, when applicable). The criteria for stratification will be detailed in the baseline methodology study. Within the stratum, the sample will be randomly selected. The rate of beneficiaries who apply improved management practices against the baseline will be extrapolated.</p>
<p>Unit of measurement: Number of hectares</p>
<p>Data type: Numeric</p>
<p>Disaggregated by: Commodity Country Protection, Forests Restoration, Non-forests Management, Non-forests</p>
<p>Rationale for Indicator (optional): Low-carbon agricultural practices are selected based on evidence to reduce carbon emissions and increase productivity, aiming to mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity, maintain ecosystem services and strengthen sustainable use of natural resources.</p>
<p>PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION</p>
<p>Data source: Surveys indicating practice adoption.</p>
<p>Method of data collection and construction: Field staff from Solidaridad will conduct a survey regarding the improved management practices expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The survey will be applied to a representative sample and the results will be extrapolated using inferential statistics.</p>
<p>Reporting frequency: Baseline, year 3 and year 5</p>
<p>Individual(s) responsible for data collection: MEL PoC will coordinate the application of the survey and consolidate results. Local MEL staff will support the implementation process. Commodity managers will coordinate the data collection in the field.</p>
<p>TARGETS AND BASELINE</p>

Baseline timeframe: Baseline will be determined in the first year of the project.		
Baseline rationale: Baseline data should consider the implementation of improved management practices with a sample of beneficiaries.		
Targets:		
Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	148,000	Targets are estimated and will be confirmed with the baseline
Rationale for targets (optional): Farm area including productive area and forests for all commodities and countries.		
DATA QUALITY ISSUES		
Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA		
Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA		
Known data limitations: The margin of error and confidence margin will be defined by the size of the sample, which will be determined using criteria of efficiency, relevance and capacity, while aiming for less than 10% margin of error.		
CHANGES TO INDICATOR		
Changes to the Indicator: NA		
Other notes (optional):		
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08//2022		

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF INDICATOR: EG.10.2-1 NUMBER OF HECTARES OF BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS SHOWING IMPROVED BIOPHYSICAL CONDITIONS AS A RESULT OF USG ASSISTANCE
Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): Purpose: Reduce commodity-driven deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation in key Amazon jurisdictions

Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No ___ Yes X
for Reporting Year(s) _____

If yes, link to foreign assistance framework:

EG.10.2-1 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Number of hectares of biologically significant areas showing improved biophysical conditions as a result of USG assistance. Biophysical conditions we aim to improve are reduced rate of deforestation or forest degradation and increased native tree or vegetation coverage.

Biologically significant areas are areas that (a) have been identified as important for biodiversity through national, regional, or global priority-setting processes, or (b) areas where sustainable natural resource management interventions have the intent to positively impact biodiversity in areas described in “(a)”.

Improved biophysical conditions are demonstrated where there is biophysical monitoring data showing improvement, stability (if previously declining), measurable degradation avoided, or a slower rate of decline in one or more one or more ecosystem or species attributes, as described below.

If an area reported as under improved management (indicator EG.10.2-2) also shows improved biophysical conditions, then the corresponding hectares can be reported under both EG.10.2-1 and EG.10. 2.

If a biologically significant area showing improved biophysical conditions is also expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (indicator EG.13.8), then the corresponding hectares can be reported under each applicable indicator in the same year.

Hectares reported should include sustained improvements in previously reported hectares and new, additional hectares.

For Amazonia Connect:

The unit of analysis will be the farm. The GIS analysis will be conducted over a sample of farm polygons collected by Solidaridad field staff. Farms for the sample will be selected following a representative sample approach. The area of the same beneficiary will be analyzed during the life of the project. If the same beneficiary drops out of the project or the analysis, s/he will be replaced by one that follows the characteristics of the sample to maintain representativeness. The sample will be stratified according to the criteria agreed with the local team, aiming to represent crucial aspects, such as geographical location, gender or other characteristics (Such as membership from a cooperative or company, when applicable).

The criteria of stratification will be detailed in the baseline methodology study. Within the stratum, the sample will be a random selection.

On each polygon, GIS staff from UW and Solidaridad will assess deforestation rate and increase in vegetation cover per farm for the baseline year, plus 5 previous years if available, and then compare this rate considering the frequency of measurement. Both aspects are defined as follows:

- i. Reduced rate of deforestation or forest degradation. Analysis based on forest area and changes of deforestation rate at two points in time.
- ii. Increased native tree or vegetation coverage. Area in which agroforestry activities associated with LCA occurred based on project reports.

If any of the conditions mentioned above happened on the farm, the full farm area will be counted for the indicator. The rate of area in which biophysical conditions improved from the total of the sample will be extrapolated to the universe of hectares the project is working with. The universe refers to the project target population following the geographical description and characteristics defined in the proposal and ToC (Annex 10: Strategy summary of this document).

Unit of measurement:

Number of hectares

Data type:

Numeric

Disaggregated by:

Ecosystem category (terrestrial-forests/terrestrial-non forests/coastal-marine)

Conservation Law Compliance category (wildlife trafficking/illegal logging and associated trade/illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing)

Disaggregate Definitions:

Ecosystem:

- Terrestrial-forest: Hectares in terrestrial forests, including mangroves, showing improved biophysical conditions; forest can be defined broadly for the purpose of this disaggregate, and OUs may choose to refer to the definition of forests used by the local government or partner organizations (e.g., FAO).
- Terrestrial-non-forest: Hectares in non-forest terrestrial ecosystems, including freshwater, showing improved biophysical conditions
- Coastal-Marine: Hectares in coastal or marine ecosystems showing improved biophysical conditions

Rationale for Indicator (optional):

The project aims to improve biophysical conditions using two mechanisms. First, reducing the deforestation rate in the LCA project areas, which are biologically significant. This considers the forest area within the farms. Second, increasing tree or vegetation coverage by implementing agroforestry systems.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:

GIS studies to analyze land use within a sample of polygons. Public satellite images.

Method of data collection and construction:

Inferential statistics based on a representative stratified sample. GIS analysis and project reports will be conducted to evaluate changes in biophysical conditions.

Reporting frequency:

Given the time required to generate significant biophysical change, data for this indicator will not be available until year three. New changes will only be detectable until year five.

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:

MEL PoC will coordinate the application of the survey and consolidate results. Commodity managers will coordinate the data collection in the field with MEL and field staff. GIS analysis will be conducted by UW, with support from GIS teams at the country level.

TARGETS AND BASELINE

Baseline timeframe:

Baseline will be determined in the first year of the project.

Baseline rationale:

Baseline data should be collected to assess the initial forest area and deforestation rate, considering the last five years if available.

Targets:

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	105,000	Targets are estimated and will be confirmed with the baseline

Rationale for targets (optional):

TBD after baseline studies.

DATA QUALITY ISSUES

Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA
Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA
Known data limitations: The spatial resolution of available satellite data products will limit our ability to see very small areas of forest loss or gain. There is a lag of at least one year (and often longer) before land-use change/deforestation is visible in satellite-based map products.
CHANGES TO INDICATOR
Changes to the Indicator: NA
Other notes (optional):
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/09/2022

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF INDICATOR: EG.10.2-2 NUMBER OF HECTARES OF BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT AREAS UNDER IMPROVED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AS A RESULT OF USG ASSISTANCE
Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 2.3 Monitoring of forests, commodity production and high biodiversity areas within supply sheds scaled to >8M ha. in the Amazon
Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> for Reporting Year(s) _____ If yes, link to foreign assistance framework: EG.10.2-2 Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance
DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Improved natural resource management includes activities that promote enhanced management of natural resources for one or more objectives, such as conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystems services, strengthening sustainable use of natural resources, mitigating climate change, and/or promoting community participation in NRM.

Management should be guided by a stakeholder-endorsed process following principles of sustainable NRM and biodiversity conservation, improved human and institutional capacity for sustainable NRM and biodiversity conservation, access to better information for decision-making, and/or adoption of sustainable NRM and biodiversity conservation practices.

An area is considered under "improved management" when any one of the following occurs: management planning and actions are informed by local site assessments, stakeholder participation and other best management practices occur; human and institutional capacity is developed; management plan actions are implemented; monitoring and evaluation is established or improved; adaptive management is demonstrated; or on-the-ground management impacts are demonstrated (e.g. illegal roads closed, snares removed, no-fishing zones demarcated).

For Amazonia Connect:

An area is considered under this indicator when one or more of the following improved management activities occur:

- Monitoring and evaluation is established or improved.
 - Monitoring using Visipec and Visiprast will be improved by adding functionalities that contribute best to reduce commodity-driven deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation. The specific functionalities to be improved for each commodity and country, considering the needs and stage of progress of the area, will be determined in the baseline study. An area will be considered under "improved monitoring" when it is monitored with the defined set of functionalities. This applies to areas already analyzed by Visipec and Visiprast as well as new areas to be added. Information on areas under improved monitoring will be obtained from reports of Visipec and Visiprast.
 - Monitoring using national images will be improved, which considers including new area monitored, higher quality or resolution monitoring or other additional functionalities.

An area will be counted only once, even if monitoring is improved more than once.

Unit of measurement:

Number of hectares

Data type:

Numeric

Disaggregated by:

Country

Rationale for Indicator (optional):

Aims to track the scaling up of monitoring tools in priority landscapes in the Amazon and the area covered by LCA programs.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION**Data source:**

Visipeec, Visiprast, Extension Solution and similar field tool reports.

Method of data collection and construction:

Reports from partners based on reports from tools and systems including Visipeec, Visiprast and field tools like Extension Solution.

Reporting frequency:

Annually.

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:

MEL PoC will coordinate data from implementing partners.

TARGETS AND BASELINE**Baseline timeframe:**

2022

Baseline rationale:

Zero. Support for improved natural resource management from USG hasn't started yet.

Targets:

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	8.900.000	To be confirmed in the baseline study.

Rationale for targets (optional):**DATA QUALITY ISSUES**

Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA
Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA
Known data limitations: Some known data limitations when using this standard indicator: (a) Validity, integrity and reliability of data are high but regular data quality analysis is necessary. (b) Precision is low: “improved management” is a relative term, and a narrative is required to explain the quality of management improvements. Equal weight is given to unequal improvements along a continuum: e.g., creating, adopting and implementing management plans may each be an improvement over a baseline. Likewise, a small management improvement across a large area may be as important as a large improvement across a small area.
CHANGES TO INDICATOR
Changes to the Indicator: NA
Other notes (optional):
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/2022

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF INDICATOR: EG.10.2-4 NUMBER OF PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED ECONOMIC BENEFITS DERIVED FROM SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND/OR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AS A RESULT OF USG ASSISTANCE
Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 1.1 Farmers increase adoption of LCA practices in priority areas
Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No ___ Yes <u>X</u> for Reporting Year(s) _____ If yes, link to foreign assistance framework: EG.10.2-4 Number of people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation as a result of USG assistance
DESCRIPTION
Precise definition:

Number of people may be a direct count, or it may be estimated by multiplying the number of households with improved economic benefits by the average number of people per household.

Improved economic benefits are positive changes in economic earnings or consumption due to sustainable management or conservation of natural resources; which can include wages, communal revenues, non-cash benefits, economic benefits from ecosystem services and reductions in the rate of loss of an economic benefit under threat.

Sustainable natural resources management is defined as managing natural resources in ways that maintain their long-term viability and preserve their potential to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Biodiversity conservation refers to direct and indirect actions (including sustainable natural resources management) with the goal of conserving biodiversity in ways that maintain their long-term viability and preserve their potential to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Number is specific to each year, not cumulative.

For Amazonia Connect:

The activity will consider producers who receive one or more services as beneficiaries:

- Tailored technical assistance from field staff or producer leaders. This includes training.
- Access to finance mechanisms

Field staff from Solidaridad will conduct a survey designed by the MEL team to a sample of activity beneficiaries. The survey will be applied to a representative sample at a baseline and then again to the same sample of beneficiaries following the reporting frequency determined below. If the same beneficiary is unreachable, s/he will be replaced by one that has similar characteristics as the sample, to maintain representativeness. The sample will be stratified according to the criteria agreed upon with the local team, aiming to represent crucial aspects, such as geographical location, gender and other characteristics (e.g., membership to a cooperative or company, when applicable). The criteria of stratification will be detailed in the baseline methodology study. Within the stratum, the sample will be randomly selected.

The survey will analyze information on volume of production per year and price per unit. This will determine the gross annual income from LCA per year. Additional payments associated with LCA practices (such as payment for environmental services) will also be considered in the survey. Values of economic benefits will be compared against baseline and past years when applicable. Beneficiaries who show an increase in gross annual income and additional payments associated with LCA will be counted as one. The rate of beneficiaries who increase their economic benefits against the baseline will be extrapolated to the universe.

Unit of measurement:

Number of individuals
Data type: Numeric- Integer
Disaggregated by: Sex (Male/Female, Other) * Age (Early Adolescence (10-14 years), Adolescence (15-19 years), Emerging Adulthood (20-24 years), Transition into Adulthood (25-29 years), Adulthood (30+); * Individuals with disabilities (Yes, No, Prefers not to answer) * Ethnicity (Afro-Colombian, Indigenous, Other); * Geographic location (municipalities)
Rationale for Indicator (optional): Improving economic benefits is one of the principles of the LCA model. The on-farm practices promoted with producers are analyzed by technical staff based on their potential for increasing productivity and quality. Increased income may come via an increase in productivity or via better pricing due to improved quality of the product. Income may also increase with additional payments for environmental services associated with LCA implementation.
PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION
Data source: Surveys to a statistically significant stratified sample of producers, which will be conducted by field staff. The results of the sample will be extrapolated to the universe of beneficiaries based on inferential statistics.
Method of data collection and construction: Inferential statistics using a stratified representative sample conducted by field staff. Values of economic benefits will be compared against baseline and past years when applicable. Beneficiaries who show an increase in gross annual income and additional payments associated with LCA will be counted as one. The rate of beneficiaries who increase their economic benefits against the baseline will be extrapolated to the universe.
Reporting frequency: Baseline, year 3 and year 5
Individual(s) responsible for data collection: MEL PoC will coordinate the application of the survey and consolidate results. Local MEL staff will support the implementation process. Commodity managers will coordinate the data collection in the field.
TARGETS AND BASELINE
Baseline timeframe: Baseline income will be determined in the first year of the project.
Baseline rationale: Baseline data should be collected to assess the initial income and measure the increase over time.

Targets:		
Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	2,700	Targets are estimated and will be confirmed with the baseline
Rationale for targets (optional): TBD in second version		
DATA QUALITY ISSUES		
Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA		
Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA		
Known data limitations: Commodity prices are volatile. Price of commodities may or may not favor producer income. Productivity is also affected by other factors such as weather, plagues and other agronomic phenomena.		
CHANGES TO INDICATOR		
Changes to the Indicator: NA		
Other notes (optional):		
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/2022		

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF INDICATOR: PSE- 2 NUMBER OF PRIVATE SECTOR ENTERPRISES THAT ENGAGED WITH THE USG TO SUPPORT U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES
Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 1.2 Companies implement LCA and DFP sourcing and production guidelines
Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> for Reporting Year(s) _____ If yes, link to foreign assistance framework:
DESCRIPTION
Precise definition: This indicator sums the total number of private sector enterprises that the USG worked with in the reporting year. A private sector enterprise is defined as “for-profit commercial entities and their affiliated foundations, financial institutions, investors and intermediaries, business associations and cooperatives” following USAID’s Private Sector Engagement Policy . Private sector institutions can vary in size and origin.

An engagement is defined as a tangible (e.g., financial assistance, materials, provision of goods and services) or informational (e.g., convenings, facilitation and strategy development) exchange between a private sector enterprise and the USG or USG implementer. An engagement counts towards this indicator if the interactions between the USG and the private sector result in a documented exchange (tangible or informational) that affects the approach or programmatic strategy or objective in achieving the desired U.S. foreign assistance objective.

An engagement can be one convening of private sector enterprises or a series of interactions with the private sector enterprise(s). An informational meeting with a business that does not yield documented changes to either the business or the USG's strategic or programmatic approaches would not count. A Memorandum of Understanding that does not yield changes in the behavior of either the USG or the private sector institution in their approach to the MOU's stated objective does not count as an engagement.

U.S. foreign assistance objective refers to strategic, development, and humanitarian assistance objectives as identified in the Department of State-USAID Joint Strategic Plan and USAID Country Development and Cooperation Strategies.

For Amazonia Connect:

The focus of this indicator will be major commodity buyers. A private sector enterprise will be counted when implementing at least one of the following LCA measures:

- Increased sourcing of LCA production. These volumes should be recognized as LCA (through traceability, improved prices, premiums or conditions, improved producer support to transform production, etc).
- Improved capacities for supply chain mapping, monitoring and/or traceability

Specific objectives and measures of progress will be defined with each company and monitored with the performance tool. Even if private firms continue improving their performance, they will only be counted once. Qualitative information on the progress will be collected annually.

Unit of measurement:

Number of companies

Data type:

Numeric

Disaggregated by:

U.S. Foreign Assistance Objective(s) Addressed:

Peace and Security

Democracy and Governance

Health

Education

Economic Growth

Climate Change

<p>Environment Food Security, Nutrition, Resilience Water, Hygiene, and Sanitation Other</p> <p><u>Type of Private Sector Enterprise:</u> For-profit commercial entities (excluding financial institutions and social enterprises) Private financial institutions (excluding social enterprises) Private social enterprises Corporate foundations and corporate philanthropic entities Private grant-making foundations Business, Trade and Industry Associations (including Chambers of Commerce) Private Cooperatives Other</p> <p><u>Origin of Private Sector Enterprise:</u> US-Based Host Country-Based Third-Country-Based</p> <p><u>Size of Private Sector Enterprise:</u> Large (100+ employees) Medium (50-100 employees) Small (10-50 employees)</p>
<p>Rationale for Indicator (optional): Companies are increasingly held accountable for their responsibility with the conditions of the production they source. Many have commitments they report in different settings such as sector platforms or public declarations. This indicator aims to trace the demand increase of LCA production, aiming that it becomes a common denominator.</p>
<p>PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION</p>
<p>Data source: Reports from implementing partners.</p>
<p>Method of data collection and construction: Reports from implementing partners on activities for company engagement and policy adoption, including the description of the progress.</p>
<p>Reporting frequency: Annually.</p>
<p>Individual(s) responsible for data collection: MEL PoC will consolidate data from implementing partners.</p>
<p>TARGETS AND BASELINE</p>
<p>Baseline timeframe: 2022</p>
<p>Baseline rationale: Baseline is zero. No companies have been engaged by Amazonia Connect.</p>

Targets:		
Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	10	To be confirmed with baseline study
Rationale for targets (optional):		
DATA QUALITY ISSUES		
Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA		
Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA		
Known data limitations: NA		
CHANGES TO INDICATOR		
Changes to the Indicator: NA		
Other notes (optional):		
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/2022		

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF INDICATOR: GNDR-2 PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE PARTICIPANTS IN USG-ASSISTED PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO INCREASE ACCESS TO PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC RESOURCES
Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 1.1 Farmers increase adoption of LCA practices in priority areas
Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No ___ Yes <u>X</u> for Reporting Year(s) _____
If yes, link to foreign assistance framework: GNDR-2 Percentage of female participants in USG-assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income or employment)
DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:

Productive economic resources include: assets (land, housing, businesses, livestock or financial assets such as savings); credit; wage or self-employment; and income.

Programs include:

- micro, small, and medium enterprise programs;
- workforce development programs that have job placement activities;
- programs that build assets such as land redistribution or titling; housing titling; agricultural programs that provide assets such as livestock; or programs designed to help adolescent females and young women set up savings accounts.

This indicator does NOT track access to services, such as business development services or stand-alone employment training (e.g., employment training that does not also include job placement following the training).

The unit of measure will be a percentage expressed as a whole number.

Numerator = Number of female program participants

Denominator = Total number of male and female participants in the program

The resulting percentage should be expressed as a whole number. For example, if the number of females in the program (the numerator) divided by the total number of participants in the program (the denominator) yields a value of .16, the number 16 should be the reported result for this indicator. Values for this indicator can range from 0 to 100.

For Amazonia Connect:

Percentage of female participants in the program to promote LCA in priority regions in the Amazon. LCA programs aim to increase productivity and income from agriculture.

The activity will consider producers who receive technical assistance through Solidaridad or a supported partner, including training.

The percentage will be calculated using:

- Numerator = Number of female program participants
- Denominator = Total number of participants in the program (male, female, other)

Unit of measurement:

Percentage

Data type:

Numeric - inter

Disaggregated by:

Numerator

Denominator

Commodity

Country

Rationale for Indicator (optional):

Low-carbon agricultural practices are selected based on evidence of these practices decreasing carbon emissions and increasing productivity; aiming to mitigating climate change, conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services and strengthening sustainable use of natural resources. The lack of access to productive economic resources is frequently stated as a major impediment to gender equality, and is a particularly important factor in making women vulnerable to poverty. Ending extreme poverty, a goal outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals and USAID's Vision to Ending Extreme Poverty, will only be achievable if women are economically empowered.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:
Reports from field staff.

Method of data collection and construction:
Field staff from Solidaridad will report the total of participants disaggregated by sex. The calculations will be conducted by MEL staff.

Reporting frequency:
Semi-annually

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:
Commodity managers will coordinate the data collection in the field. Local MEL staff will support the implementation process. MEL PoC will coordinate the application of the survey and consolidate results.

TARGETS AND BASELINE

Baseline timeframe:
2022

Baseline rationale:
Baseline is zero as LCA programs supported by Amazonia connect have not started.

Targets:
TBD in second draft

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	35%	The target is estimated and will be confirmed after baseline study

Rationale for targets (optional):
5-15% higher than usual female assistance (average varies per country and commodity).

DATA QUALITY ISSUES

Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA

Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA

Known data limitations:
NA

CHANGES TO INDICATOR

Changes to the Indicator: NA
Other notes (optional):
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/2022

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF INDICATOR: CBLD- 9 PERCENT OF USG-ASSISTED ORGANIZATIONS WITH IMPROVED PERFORMANCE [IM-LEVEL]
Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 1.3 Jurisdictional actors incorporate LCA and DFP models and principles
Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> for Reporting Year(s) _____
If yes, link to foreign assistance framework: CBLD- 9 Percent of USG-assisted organizations with improved performance [IM-level]
DESCRIPTION
<p>Precise definition: This indicator measures whether USG-funded capacity development efforts have led to improved organizational performance in organizations receiving organizational capacity development support.</p> <p>Key concepts: Capacity is the ability of people, organizations and society as a whole to manage their affairs successfully. Capacity development is the process of unleashing, strengthening and maintaining such capacity. Capacity is a form of potential; it is not visible until it is used. Therefore, performance is the key consideration in determining whether capacity has changed. Organizations with improved performance will have undergone a deliberate process undertaken to improve execution of organizational mandates to deliver results for the stakeholders it seeks to serve.</p> <p>Indicator Formula: This indicator should only be used when conditions (a) and (b), as described below, are met. Targets should be set, and results should be reported using this formula for the overall indicator and each of the disaggregates: Numerator = number of organizations with improved performance Denominator = number of USG-assisted organizations receiving organizational capacity development support</p> <p>Targets for both the numerator and denominator should be set for the aggregate; they do not need to be set for the disaggregates. Results should be reported for both numerator and denominator for the aggregate and disaggregate types.</p>

Denominator calculations for the process of organizational capacity development: Organizations should only be counted in the denominator if they have undergone an intentional and demand-driven performance improvement process detailed in points (a) and (b) below.

(a) The activity theory of change, award documents, work plan, or other relevant documentation reflects that resources (human, financial, and/or other) were allocated for organizational capacity development.

(b) An organization demonstrates that it has undergone and documented a process of performance improvement, including the following four steps:

- (i.) Obtaining input from the supported organization and/or any other relevant stakeholders to define desired performance improvement priorities,
- (ii.) Analyzing and assessing performance gaps (the difference between desired performance and actual performance),
- (iii.) Selecting and implementing performance improvement solutions (or development interventions), and
- (iv.) Using a performance improvement metric for which the organization will monitor and measure changes in performance.

Numerator calculations for organizational performance improvement: Organizations should only be counted in the numerator if they are eligible to be counted in the denominator and have additionally demonstrated measurable improved performance.

In addition to meeting conditions (a) and (b) above, organizations must meet the following condition: (c) An organization demonstrates that its performance on a key performance metric has improved.

For Amazonia Connect:

The activity will focus on governmental agencies at national and/or sub-national levels. A governmental agency will be counted when it improves its performance regarding the implementation of LCA/DFP jurisdictional strategies in one or more of the following areas:

- Allocation of financial or human resources for the implementation of LCA/DFP policies
- New or improved official agreements to state commitments regarding LCA/DFP
- Repeated participation in implementation issues of LCA/DFP policies
- Development and implementation of policies, regulations and programs that support LCA/DFP uptake

Specific objectives and measures of progress will be defined with each government agency and monitored with the performance tool. Even if agencies continue improving their performance, they will only be counted once. Qualitative information on the progress will be collected annually.

Unit of measurement:

Percent

Data type:

Percentage

Disaggregated by:

Country

Overall

Type of organization

Overall

Total number of organizations with improved performance (Numerator). Total number of organizations receiving organizational capacity development support (Denominator).

Type of Organization

Educational Institutions (i.e., higher education, secondary and primary)

Number of educational institutions (higher education, secondary and primary) with improved performance: Numerator

Number of educational institutions (higher education, secondary, primary) receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Research institutions (i.e., non-degree granting):

Number of research institutions (non-degree granting) with improved performance: Numerator

Number of Research institutions (non-degree granting) receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Cooperative (formal and registered private sector firm)

Number of cooperatives (formal and registered private sector firm) with improved performance: Numerator

Number of cooperatives (formal and registered private sector firm) receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Producer group (informal, unregistered):

Number of producer groups (informal, unregistered) with improved performance: Numerator

Number of producer groups (informal, unregistered) receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Faith based organizations

Number of faith-based organizations with improved performance: Numerator

Number of faith-based organizations receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Governmental agencies (national or sub-national levels):

Number of governmental agencies (national or sub-national levels) with improved performance: Numerator

Number of governmental agencies (national or sub-national levels) receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Health organizations (including service delivery, advocacy, professional associations, etc.)

Numerator: Number of health organizations (including service delivery, advocacy, professional associations, etc.) with improved performance
 Denominator: Number of health organizations (including service delivery, advocacy, professional associations, etc.) receiving organizational capacity development support

Private sector firms (excluding cooperatives):
 Number of private sector firms (excluding cooperatives) with improved performance: Numerator
 Number of private sector firms (excluding cooperatives) receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Non-governmental and not-for profit organizations:
 Number of non-governmental and not-for profit organizations with improved performance: Numerator
 Number non-governmental and not-for profit organizations receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Other:
 Number of other organizations with improved performance: Numerator
 Number of other organizations receiving organizational capacity development support: Denominator

Rationale for Indicator (optional):
 Endorsement of public institutions is key to advance on LCA/DFP models and scale it sintervention at jurisdiction level.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:
 Reports from implementing partners.

Method of data collection and construction:
 Reports from implementing partners.

Reporting frequency:
 Annually

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:
 MEL PoC will consolidate data from implementing partners.

TARGETS AND BASELINE

Baseline timeframe:
 2022

Baseline rationale:
 Baseline is zero. No organizations have previously been supported by Amazonia Connect.

Targets:

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	60%	The values are estimated and will be revised in the baseline study

Rationale for targets (optional):
DATA QUALITY ISSUES
Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA
Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA
Known data limitations: NA
CHANGES TO INDICATOR
Changes to the Indicator: NA
Other notes (optional):
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/2022

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF INDICATOR: AC01 NUMBER OF CREDIT APPLICATIONS SCANNED FOR DEFORESTATION IN THE AMAZON REGION AS A RESULT OF USG ASSISTANCE
Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 3.2 Increased number of financial products/assets under the monitoring of deforestation
Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> for Reporting Year(s) _____ If yes, link to foreign assistance framework:
DESCRIPTION
Precise definition: Credit applications are formal requests from potential borrowers to get approval for credit from lenders. Credit applications included will be those submitted for investment in the agriculture and livestock sector in the Amazon region of Colombia. An application is identified based on a potential borrower and an associated area. One potential borrower may have multiple applications. One credit application will correspond to one individual form/ request made. The

scanning process is an analysis of deforestation incidence in a period of time using satellite imagery.

Unit of measurement:

Number of credit applications

Data type:

Numeric- integer

Disaggregated by:

Country

Department/State

Rationale for Indicator (optional):

The financial system has a responsibility to avoid funding, and therefore fueling, deforestation activities or activities that can put forests and biodiversity at risk, following at least a “do no harm” premise.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:

Reports from implementing partners.

Method of data collection and construction:

Reports from financial institutions will be consolidated by the finance team. MEL POC will consolidate information.

Reporting frequency:

Annually.

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:

Finance component team will gather information from financial institutions. MEL PoC will consolidate data from implementing partners.

TARGETS AND BASELINE

Baseline timeframe:

2022

Baseline rationale:

There has not been any work on this front as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance.

Targets:

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	TBD	To be defined in baseline study

Rationale for targets (optional):**DATA QUALITY ISSUES**

Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA

Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA

Known data limitations:

NA

CHANGES TO INDICATOR

Changes to the Indicator: NA

Other notes (optional):

THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/09/2022

USAID Performance Indicator Reference Sheet

NAME OF INDICATOR: AC02 NUMBER OF RESEARCH DOCUMENTS PRODUCED ON STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AS A RESULT OF AMAZONIA CONNECT ASSISTANCE.

Name of Result Measured (DO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Outcome, Project Output, etc.): 4.1 Applied research that strengthens private & public strategies to reduce deforestation & improve biodiversity conservation

Is this an indicator to report in the USAID Performance Plan Report? No Yes
 for Reporting Year(s) _____

If yes, link to foreign assistance framework:

DESCRIPTION

Precise definition:
 Number of research documents produced on strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation. Research documents include scientific papers, policy briefs and reports gathering data and relevant information from primary and/or secondary data. Research documents will be counted here when submitted to the target audience. Research documents will use data derived from project implementation activities, as well as from tools such as Visipecc and Visiprast, as fit. External data and research will also be used to help provide robustness and context to the research documents produced through this project.

Unit of measurement:
 Number of research documents

Data type:
 Numeric

Disaggregated by:
 Main target audience

Rationale for Indicator (optional):
 Aims to track the main pieces of research produced.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:
 Reports from UW and EII.

Method of data collection and construction:
 Reports from UW and EII.

Reporting frequency:
 Annually.

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:
 MEL PoC will coordinate data from implementing partners.

TARGETS AND BASELINE

Baseline timeframe:
 2022

Baseline rationale:
 There have not yet been any research documents developed as a result of Amazonia Connect assistance.

Targets:

Year	Value	Comment
Cumulative target	10	To be confirmed in the baseline study once all research questions are confirmed.

Rationale for targets (optional):
DATA QUALITY ISSUES
Dates of previous data quality assessments and name of reviewer: NA
Date of future data quality assessments (optional): NA
Known data limitations: NA
CHANGES TO INDICATOR
Changes to the Indicator: NA
Other notes (optional):
THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 05/26/2022

ANNEX 4: CONTEXT INDICATOR REFERENCE SHEET

SAMPLE USAID Context Indicator Reference Sheet
NAME OF CONTEXT INDICATOR: AC03 DEFORESTATION RATE DUE TO COMMODITY PRODUCTION IN PRIORITY LANDSCAPES IN THE AMAZON
Name of Relevant Result(s) (Goal, DPurO, IR, sub-IR, Project Purpose, Project Output, etc.): Purpose: Reduce commodity-driven deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation in key Amazon jurisdictions
DESCRIPTION
Precise Definition(s): Deforestation will be considered as land-use change from forests to another land cover. The unit of analysis will be the landscape. The specific unit of landscape will be defined during the baseline to select a comparable and relevant area, considering the biomes and the commodity production. The GIS analysis will be conducted over the area. GIS staff from UW and Solidaridad will assess land-use change using public satellite images for the baseline year, plus 5 previous years if available, and then compare this rate every year. The association with commodity production will be done based on available studies and trends in the area.

Numerator: Number of hectares deforested associated with commodity production in the defined landscape
Denominator: Number of total forest hectares in the defined landscape

Unit of Measure:
Percentage

Data Type:
Percentage

Disaggregated by:
Landscape

Rationale for the Context Indicator (how it will be used by the Mission):
Identify deforestation trends in the landscape to better understand the regional land-use dynamics, impacts of the project and limitations on attribution.

PLAN FOR DATA COLLECTION

Data source:
GIS analysis and secondary sources on deforestation trends.

Method of data collection and construction:
GIS analysis based on satellite images and studies on deforestation trends. Information on landscape deforestation will be compared with the deforestation rate in the activity area from indicator 13.2.4.

Reporting frequency:
Annually.

Individual(s) responsible for data collection:
UW will conduct GIS analysis.

TRIGGER AND BASELINE

Baseline Timeframe:
2022

Trigger:
Divergent deforestation rates between activity intervention area and landscape area.

Rationale for Trigger:

The trigger may operate in two cases:

1. Deforestation rates are divergent, with the local activity intervention area rate decreasing and the rate in the landscape area increasing. This case may indicate that the activity implementation is effective in controlling deforestation. Also, it would be important to understand attribution and understand which additional drivers for deforestation are operating in the landscape.

2. Deforestation rates are divergent, with the activity intervention area rate increasing and the rate in the landscape area decreasing. This case may indicate that activity implementation is ineffective in controlling deforestation. It would be important to identify which assumptions of the ToC didn't hold and adjust the project's implementation strategy accordingly. Also, it would be key to analyze which incentives are operating in the landscape and why they are not reaching the activity area.

Degree of variation can occur within the same trend. This may contribute to understanding the extent to which the intervention is more or less effective, while still considering that comparison is not fully controlled as they could be influenced by external factors (acting at the local and/or landscape level) that are beyond the control of the project.

DATA QUALITY**Known Data Limitations:**

The spatial resolution of available satellite data products will limit our ability to identify very small amounts of forest loss or gain. There is a lag of at least 1 year (and often longer) before land-use change/deforestation is visible in satellite-based map products. Links to commodity production should be plausible, but are not fully attributable as deforestation may respond to multiple drivers.

CHANGES TO CONTEXT INDICATOR

Changes to Indicator: NA

Other Notes: NA

THIS SHEET LAST UPDATED ON: 09/08/22

ANNEX 4: DATA FLOW

To be completed with more clarity on data generated and data needs.

ANNEX 5: REPORTING FORMATS

See links to the [semi-annual](#) reporting template and [annual report](#) template.

ANNEX 6: MEL PLAN CHANGE LOG

Date	Description of the change	Justification	Responsible of the change

ANNEX 6: TOOL DESCRIPTIONS

Amazonia Connect interventions will involve the use of various complementary digital tools and platforms. Please find a detailed description of each tool/platform below.

- Extension Solution:** Through the use of the digital application Extension Solution, developed by Solidaridad, producers and field technicians will be able to identify the main impacts and improvement areas related to the adoption of LCA and DFP at farm level (micro level). Group benchmarks allow farmers association (meso level), processing mills and value chain partners to identify challenges per group of producers and to compare their performance with their peers in the project area and at sector (macro) level. Through the mapping of compliance data, the sector at large will gather substantial acumen and insights on transversal crucial production matters. This enables adaptive management and continuous learning, allowing for lessons learned and best practices to be continually reflected upon and integrated into extension support.

The tool, developed and implemented with the field technicians and producers, will work offline in order to allow data collection in areas with insufficient mobile phone and internet coverage. With data collected in the field via mobile devices, the Extension Solution mobile app connects to the internet and synchronizes the information collected on the device to Solidaridad’s cloud services. Collected data may be shared through appropriate application programming interfaces (APIs), with other applications that allow requests to web servers to download available data. Other forms of information exchange may be applied, depending on the agreements developed at technical level by the partners. Extension Solution will be used by Solidaridad in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.

- Kobo Toolbox:** comprises a suite of tools for field data collection and analysis for use in challenging environments. It is a user-friendly application to conduct surveys with farmers, and other stakeholders. Data collected by this tool can feed into other tools and platforms, such as ACORN. The Toolbox will be used by the Implementing Partners in all three countries, supporting processes that require surveys or collecting feedback (e.g. baseline assessments).
- ACORN Platform:** ACORN is a trading platform that connects small farmers to corporations to match supply and demand of sequestered CO2. By planting trees on their

land, farmers can offer the CO₂ sequestered by their trees to large corporations on a platform developed by Rabobank in cooperation with Microsoft. International companies can purchase the sequestered CO₂ to offset their own emissions. The goal is to create a global and transparent platform that empowers smallholder farmers, while building a scalable climate change solution. ACORN creates the option to offer carbon credits to individual farmers (not associations), while providing a viable carbon price for farmers. This trading platform will be used to register coffee producers in Peru and Colombia, evaluate them, and define the payment they will receive for the sequestered CO₂ in their agroforestry systems.

- **[Geobosques](#)**: is a platform managed by the Peruvian Ministry of Environment (MINAM) in Peru for monitoring changes in forest cover, where information on changes occurring in forests is disseminated to diverse stakeholders. Specifically, the platform provides information on deforestation (forests and forest loss), early warning, forest degradation, land use and land use change, and forest reference levels from synchronization of historical data.
- **[Cool Farm Tool](#)**: To define the on-farm carbon sequestration potential, Solidaridad often applies the Cool Farm Tool (CFT). CFT is an online tool that enables the tracking of on farm environmental impacts and improvements, specifically related to GHGs, biodiversity and water. It is unique in that it is useful at both ends of the supply chain. On the one hand it allows farmers to use it to develop action plans and to understand how their decisions influence the sequestration of carbon and/or reduce GHG emissions. On the other hand it also enables companies to manage supply chain emissions to encourage, motivate, track and reward continuous improvement. CFT is a scientifically robust tool in the complex arena of carbon accounting.
- **[Agrolearning](#)**: Agrolearning is a platform that connects the knowledge and educational content of existing public and private partners, with the pre-identified training needs of the producers and field technicians, offering more tailored training and education. Agrolearning provides educational tools in virtual, face-to-face and mixed modalities, which makes it possible to reach more producers, in particular women and youth, and efficiently monitor their training process. Although Agrolearning runs as an independent education platform, it is able to offer users personalized learning journeys through an adaptive learning model, as a result of the integration of Agrolearning with Extension Solution through a Data Lake. This integration also allows monitoring of the impact of training initiatives on the farm's agronomic and sustainability performance and the effectiveness of the support materials provided after the completion of training activities.
- **[Hola Prestamo](#)**: Hola Prestamo is an integrated, cost-effective financial technology (fintech) tool that allows financial institutions, off-takers and farmers to manage credit provided for on-farm investments. Hola Prestamo serves as a credit scoring tool that integrates the data of agronomic and sustainability assessments of farms using Solidaridad's digital tools such as Extension Solution, information on collaterals, and the calculations of household-level cashflow repayment capacity. Hola Prestamo helps to minimize the risk to financial participants by ensuring that the input finance provided to producers is used to complete the stated project's milestones/activities. The bots of this fintech tool take control of the loan amount and manage the disbursement by making direct payments for goods (e.g. seed and equipment) to the commercial establishments without transferring the loan amount to the farmer. An additional benefit is to reduce the cash circulation and associated risk in rural areas of emerging countries by holding the

monetary value (through electronic wallets or prepaid cards) in the ecosystem as well as transferring the value to other electronic wallets from existing financial institutions. Participants can easily and safely perform cash in / cash out operations with commercial establishments and stores that participate. This [lending platform](#) has already been successfully piloted in Colombia to provide input finance to producers.

- **[VISIPEC](#)**: VISIPEC is an add-on traceability tool that works alongside the existing monitoring systems used by Brazilian meatpackers to provide the cattle sector with enhanced supply chain visibility and more effective deforestation monitoring. VISIPEC helps close a critical gap in the supply chain traceability and monitoring of indirect suppliers, helping strengthen deforestation-free assurances for beef and leather products. The tool integrates information from public data sets, which were once siloed and disconnected into a seamless tool that works alongside the monitoring systems currently used by meatpackers in the Brameatpackers in the Brazilian Amazon. It links direct and indirect cattle suppliers together at scale, significantly improving the daily decision-making process for cattle purchases.

The database developed by UW to leverage the GTA data for property- and supply-chain/company- level analyses utilizes cutting edge approaches for entity matching based on text strings to resolve multiple records into datasets related to unique properties. The innovations they have made in this area are also valuable for other applications of GTA analysis and integration with other datasets (such as property cadasters). For instance, these innovations could be applied in other scenarios where records are made repeatedly by the same individual or for the same property, but are not standardized within or across agencies, leading to “messy” data. Thus, the application of Visipec in could be applied to support the extension of supply chain monitoring to indirect suppliers of other commodities (where records of commercial transactions are kept).

- **[VISIPRAST \(Visibility to Suppliers, Environmental and Social Risks and Traceability\)](#)**: is a tool developed by NWF, UW and [Proyección Eco-Social](#) for companies to map suppliers (i.e. "the first step in traceability"), and evaluate environmental and social risks in supply chains. It works across commodities to integrate a variety of environmental datasets, including [Global Forest Watch](#), the Colombian Institute of Hydrology Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM's) [Forest and Carbon Monitoring System \(SMBYC\)](#) to monitor the agricultural frontier, conservation areas, and paramo boundaries (in Colombia). It also supports mapping and monitoring of existing suppliers' properties, evaluating the deforestation risk of new suppliers, surveying providers, and tracking products along the supply chain. A company can upload GPS coordinates/ points (and buffer them), upload polygons and draw polygons directly in the visiprasttool using satellite background imagery to geolocate suppliers, and generate land use analysis at the supplier level or for groups of suppliers. For the existing tool in Colombia, the environmental and social risk analysis element uses available spatial data, with a cut off date defined in ZDAs, so suppliers can be identified that comply or do not comply with the ZDA past deforestation cut off dates (2010-2017), receive alerts for recent deforestation, identify properties located in paramo areas (Colombia) or protected areas. VISIPRAST is currently applied in Colombia within dairy, beef and oil palm supply chains.

Amazonia Connect will expanding the use of Visiprast on livestock ranches in Colombia and extend coverage to oil palm supply chains in Peru, covering in total over four million hectares of forests (of which 3.4 million ha are located within high biodiversity areas):

- Colombia: For cattle (beef), there is a module where you manage your cattle inventory (or suppliers' cattle inventory) and transaction in the tool and enter in the guia (~GTA) which begins to fill out the traceability piece of the supplier chain. For

dairy, we have started to map out the indirect suppliers of milk (and not just intermediaries who deliver); this is work we would continue under this grant, with Nestle.

- Peru: For oil palm, the implementing partners will work with the mills to input their grower information.

The tool will be modified, as suitable, to ensure it is tailored to the Peru and sector-specific context. Amazonia Connect will also coordinate with other monitoring and traceability tools and approaches in the countries through active participation in the MGS-Col, and other ZDA working groups in both countries. VISIPRAST mobile and web platforms are adaptable, which permits the consortium team to work with a variety of data formats, make adjustments to criteria, build on synergies and align with other tools and approaches, incorporate relevant datasets and/or develop direct interfaces with other software and platforms' APIs (as suitable).

- **Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Tool:** Solidaridad and TFA implemented the project “Enabling conditions to catalyze investments Towards Sustainable Cattle Farming in Colombia”, which was financed by USDA and ran until March 2022. The project aimed to link loan approval mechanisms for livestock-related activities to a system to monitor and trace the indicators of a Colombian National Framework for Sustainable Cattle Landscapes with actors in the beef and dairy supply chains, via pilot projects in the Meta-Orinoquía and Caquetá-Amazonia jurisdictions. To support the project a MRV tool was developed that comprises a compliance monitoring approach to remove critical barriers related to a lack of transparency, and access to finance for sustainable production that presently hinders the effective implementation of zero-deforestation commitments. The project was piloted in Meta-Orinoquía and Caquetá-Amazonia Jurisdictions and validated with key stakeholders (producers, marketers, banks, government), under a continuous improvement logic. Financial sector partners benefited from better analytical tools to reduce the risk of lending money to farmers or companies with non-compliance land-use and deforestation norms. It was also designed to enable linkages to the National Traceability system in Colombia (for livestock sector), which currently focuses solely on sanitary issues. The tool is currently tested in partnership with Bancolombia among 15 producers who supply private key partners in Meta (such as Alkosto, Grupo Exito and/or Cialta), and in Caquetá (Nestlé). Under Amazonia Connect, the project aims to roll this tool out to more producers during the project’s 5 year lifespan.

ANNEX 7: STRATEGY SUMMARY

OBJECTIVE 1: LOW CARBON AGRICULTURE (LCA)/ DEFORESTATION-FREE PRODUCTION (DFP) AND SOURCING MODELS SCALED IN KEY AMAZON JURISDICTIONS

Pathway 1.1: Farmers increase adoption of LCA practices in priority areas

The project’s LCA models are based on FAO’s frameworks, and have been developed and tested for each country/commodity combination. LCA models also include the use of digital tools such as [Extension Solution](#) for field staff and leader producers to monitor the adoption of practices by producers.

To reduce commodity-driven deforestation and GHG emissions, and improve biodiversity conservation, it is important to expand the scale at which producers adopt LCA for commodity production. For this, producers need to be provided training and extension support on implementing LCA and DFP practices. Project pathway 1.1 will focus on building the capacities of producers to adopt LCA and DFP practices in the three project countries and respective commodity value chains as follows:

- (i) Brazil: Pará (Livestock - Beef)
- (ii) Peru: San Martin (Coffee) and Ucayali (Oil Palm)
- (iii) Colombia: Caquetá (Livestock - Beef and Dairy; Coffee)

Amazonia Connect will also build capacities of technicians who will be providing inclusive and effective technical assistance to farmers to adopt LCA and DFP. These will include technicians of the producer organizations that farmers are part of (e.g. producer associations, cooperatives etc.), of the companies, in whose supply sheds the farmers operate, or technicians part of Solidaridad's technical team.

In terms of non-financial incentives to adopt LCA while operating in the company supply sheds, producers typically receive training and ongoing technical assistance to adopt LCA practices. They may also get access to inputs at reduced prices, although this depends on the specific arrangements that are defined by the company. Financial incentives to adopt LCA practices in a company supply shed would typically include payments for performance, i.e. where farmers demonstrate they have effectively adopted LCA practices (compared to a baseline). Financial incentives to be developed/ leveraged as part of Amazonia Connect are explained under Pathway 3.1.

Pathway 1.2: Companies implement LCA and DFP sourcing and production guidelines

For LCA adoption by producers to increase, companies also need to increase the sourcing of LCA and DFP commodities. While we will demonstrate the benefits of LCA and DFP sourcing to companies, we will also co-develop sourcing guidelines with companies, so they have the necessary structures to source the required volumes of commodities produced under LCA and DFP.

While the companies Solidaridad works with will already have sourcing guidelines, during the first year the Solidaridad will examine the extent to which they incorporate aspects of LCA and DFP sourcing in them. Accordingly, the implementing partners will support the companies to co-develop and/or co-implement those guidelines.

This activity is expected to take place with Alicorp, Volcafe, Nestle, and Nespresso. This will not be conducted with JBS since Amazonia Connect will be complementing the ongoing RestaurAmazônia project, which is supported by the JBS Foundation's Fund for the Amazon. Developing sourcing guidelines is not part of the RestaurAmazônia deliverables, the present focus is on supporting producers to adopt the LCA model for livestock intensification.

Pathway 1. 3: Jurisdictional actors incorporate LCA and DFP models and principles

The adoption of LCA at scale also requires a set of enabling conditions at the jurisdictional level. Amazonia Connect will advance the development of zero-deforestation supply chains in alignment with the Low Emissions Rural Development (LED-R) strategies of the project regions in Peru and Colombia, focused on reducing commodity-driven deforestation.

Amazonia Connect implementing partner Earth Innovation Institute (EII) has worked closely with Regional Governments in the Peruvian and Colombian Amazon to develop rural Low Emission Development (LED-R) strategies and finance plans to promote subnational transitions to sustainable development models aimed at reducing deforestation and forest degradation, while conserving the region's unique biodiversity.

OBJECTIVE 2: FULL SUPPLY CHAIN MONITORING SYSTEMS ADOPTED BY COMPANIES FOR DEFORESTATION-FREE SOURCING AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Pathway 2.1 Supply chain monitoring tools improved and adapted to new commodities and countries

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) and University of Madison, Wisconsin (UW) have developed advanced data science approaches to link cattle transit records (GTA), property boundaries records (CAR) and other traceability datasets to create *Visipec*,¹⁹ the first ever traceability tool for indirect cattle suppliers in Brazil. As part of Amazonia Connect's year one activities, the tool will be continuously improved through the addition of the latest data and importantly, biodiversity datasets (a new addition to the tool), since Amazonia Connect will focus on monitoring biodiversity in the company supply sheds.

UW has also been piloting a tool named *Visiprast* to monitor Colombia's National Zero Deforestation commitments related to dairy, beef, and oil palm, in the supply chains of national companies. The tool will be continuously updated with the latest datasets in Colombia, and adapted for deforestation monitoring in Peru's oil palm supply chain. The addition of biodiversity datasets will be a new element in the tool, which will be integrated for both countries. The Colombian NGO Foundation Projection Eco-Social (Ecosocial), NWF's sub-awardee, will support corporate engagement, improvement and implementation of the *Visiprast* tool in both Colombia and Peru.

Pathway 2.2 Monitoring tools used by companies in their supply chains, prioritizing high biodiversity areas

Under this pathway, Amazonia Connect will engage with companies to promote the adoption of the digital tools in their supply chains, and support them to implement deforestation-free sourcing and biodiversity monitoring.

Pathway 2.3 Monitoring of forests, commodity production, and high biodiversity areas within supply sheds scaled to over 8 million hectares in the Amazon

Amazonia Connect, through its partners, will continue to present the tools and their results in different forums, to encourage more companies to take up these tools and transition towards deforestation-free supply chains. Further, the project will continuously improve the functionalities of the aforementioned tools in order to expand their application in high biodiversity areas and respond to the monitoring needs of companies. Together these activities will enable the project to expand its scope of deforestation monitoring in more supply sheds.

¹⁹ Note that *Visipec* is only designed for the livestock supply chain in Brazil.

OBJECTIVE 3: FINANCE AND INCENTIVES UNLOCKED TO ACCELERATE LCA AND DEFORESTATION-FREE PRODUCTION

Pathway 3.1 Increased investments mobilized through financial mechanisms and incentives for LCA

[Studies](#) indicate that Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA) farms are viable, profitable, and reduce pressure on forests and biodiversity. To scale these production models across different supply sheds and jurisdictions, producers need access to finance to implement these models. However, banks usually perceive investments in (smallholder) agriculture as high risk, high cost, and with low returns. This prevents producers in supply sheds from adopting LCA methods in Amazon jurisdictions. The key issue with finance is not the lack of availability of funds, but the ability to deploy existing financial mechanisms to support LCA. A combination of (blended) finance, incentives, and alternative financial products are crucial. Amazonia Connect will focus on leveraging and expanding existing financial mechanisms (through financial institutions), including more recent incentive-oriented solutions such as the Acorn platform, and also jurisdictional incentive mechanisms such as the J-REDD program in Brazil.

Finance

In Colombia, the project will evaluate existing financial models for conventional, LCA and/or DFP production in Colombia. It will also analyze the financial need of livestock and coffee producers in Caquetá and development of prototype investment plans for producers in the project's supply sheds. The project aims to identify at least two existing credit lines and examine the potential and activities needed to make them more accessible to coffee and livestock producers. As credit lines will be identified through year one of the project and producers will receive training to implement LCA/DFP practices, the project will set the ground for producers to receive credit from year two of the project onwards. Financial training of producers who are seen as eligible to receive and manage credit will also commence around July 2023. In Peru, Amazonia Connect will focus on improving the operational aspects of jurisdictional funding/credit lines such as Amazon Regional Development Funds, and making them more accessible to producers.

Incentives

During year one in Brazil, Amazonia Connect will focus on several preparatory activities to operationalize Mato Grosso's jurisdictional REDD system to sell carbon credits to companies and create a revenue stream for rewarding farmers who conserve forests. In Para, the project will assess the current state of J-REDD in the state and define what elements need most support to achieve an operational state-level forest carbon market. In Colombia, the project will initiate preparatory work to develop a blended finance mechanism which can advance credit/incentives to livestock producers and connect producers to payment for environmental services mechanisms such as ACORN and BanCO2. Activities in Peru will also focus on increasing the number of producers who are linked to the ACORN platform and establishing more efficient pathways to transfer the incentives to producers.

Pathway 3.2 Increased number of financial products/assets monitored for deforestation and biodiversity risks

This pathway aims to scale up a measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) tool developed and piloted by Solidaridad and the Tropical Forest Alliance with support of USDA:

- Solidaridad and the Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) implemented the project "Enabling conditions to catalyze investments Towards Sustainable Cattle Farming in Colombia", supported by USDA. It aims to link loan approval mechanisms for livestock-related activities to a system to monitor and trace the indicators of the Colombian National Framework for Sustainable Cattle Landscapes with actors in the beef and dairy supply

chains, via pilot projects in the Meta-Orinoquía and Caquetá-Amazonia jurisdictions. The USDA project was piloted in Meta-Orinoquía and Caquetá-Amazonia Jurisdictions, and validated with key stakeholders (producers, marketers, banks, government), under a continuous improvement logic. The MRV tool developed by the USDA project serves as a compliance monitoring approach that removes critical barriers related to a lack of transparency and access to finance for sustainable production, which hinders the effective implementation of zero-deforestation commitments. Financial sector partners benefit from better analytical tools to reduce the risk of lending money to farmers or companies with non-compliance with land-use and deforestation norms. It is also designed to enable linkages to the National Traceability system in Colombia (for livestock sector), which currently focuses solely on sanitary issues. The tool is being currently tested in partnership with Bancolombia among 15 producers who supply private key partners in Meta (such as Alkosto, Grupo Exito and/or Cialta), and in Caquetá (Nestlé).

Through Amazonia Connect, this tool will be rolled out to cover more producers during the five years of project implementation. In year one, the project will focus on implementing the tool in one credit line to screen credit applications for deforestation risks. Amazonia Connect will also conduct outreach to public and private sector organizations to promote monitoring of financial assets for deforestation risks in Colombia. Engagement with international investors in the sustainable oil palm sector, regarding opportunities for investing in Peruvian LCA/DFP supply chain actors, will also be an activity in year one.

OBJECTIVE 4: RESEARCH TURNED INTO ACTIONABLE KNOWLEDGE FOR SUPPLY CHAIN STAKEHOLDERS TO REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Pathway 4.1: Applied research that strengthens private & public strategies to reduce deforestation & improve biodiversity conservation

Through the Gibbs Land Use and Environment Lab at UW and EII, Amazonia Connect will conduct research to monitor and assess the potential reach of supply chain and jurisdictional approaches to help avoid deforestation and forest degradation, contribute to climate change mitigation, and promote biodiversity conservation.

Broadly, the research will fall into two categories:

A. Develop applied research that strengthens private sector strategies to reduce deforestation and improve biodiversity conservation.

The following themes have been initially identified by UW as research topics for Amazonia Connect:

1. Analysis tracking cattle production in the Brazilian Amazon's protected areas and linking this to companies.
2. Quantification of high biodiversity value land on private properties and potential for Zero-Deforestation Agreements (ZDAs) to influence critical regions in Brazil and Colombia.
3. Mapping of forest patches and connectivity on farms and company supply chains and apply biodiversity metrics in Colombia and Brazil.
4. Assessment of property and supply chain characteristics that have the largest impact on biodiversity in Colombia.
5. Evaluation of the role of high-volume fattening farms and potential for strategic monitoring in Mato Grosso, Brazil.
6. Quantification of risks of complex property ownership for ZDAs in Brazil.

7. Quantification of supplier fidelity and slaughterhouse competition impacts on ZDAs in Brazil.
8. Evaluation of observed and potential social and community impacts of expanded ZDA implementation in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.
9. Assessment of social learning and impacts on biodiversity conservation and participation in ZDAs in the Brazilian Amazon through network analysis.
10. Quantification of producer and meatpacker opportunity costs in Brazil.
11. Evaluation of pathways for effective implementation of ZDAs in Peru's palm sector.
12. Assessment of changes in company impacts on biodiversity in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru towards the end of the project

The exact research topics and questions, as well as and the format of outputs (e.g. scientific papers, policy briefs, slide decks, reports and/or other relevant material) will be refined based on the project's baseline and Research and Learning Objectives. Research outputs will be based on the research questions, the issue they are supposed to address, and the approach agreed upon by the Consortium.

B) Identify synergies between farm, supply chain and jurisdictional approaches to scale deforestation-free production and biodiversity conservation.

EII will take the lead on developing a synthesis report(s) that describes the main opportunities for harmonizing jurisdictional and supply chain strategies in each target region, and for the project as a whole spanning the three implementation countries. UW will contribute, with data and insights as appropriate to the synthesis report(s) led by EII identifying synergies between farm, supply chain and jurisdictional approaches towards the end-of-project outcomes.