



Santa Rosa community, Inírida river source. © Simón de Man/WWF

Summary of the Strategic Plan for the
Implementation of the Convention on
Biological Diversity's Program of Work on
Protected Areas in the Amazon Biome

led by Redparques



IAPA: Integration
of Amazon
Protected Areas

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Acronyms

- PoWPA: Program of Work on Protected Areas
 - CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity
 - IAPA: Integration of Amazon Biome Protected Areas
 - PA: Protected Area
 - NSPA: National System of Protected Areas
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Table of contents



Cazumbá-Iracema, Brasil.

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01

Background Pag. 2

Where does this Strategic Plan fit in?
What is REDPARQUES and how does it contribute to the PoWPA's development in the Amazon biome?
Why a Strategic Plan?
How was the Strategic Plan developed?

02 Pag. 6

Strategic plan

What is the plan's goal?
Mission
Vision
Conceptual model and intervention strategy
How will it be carried out?
Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development

03 Pag. 12

Financing strategic

How will the financing and sustainability strategy be implemented?

04 Pag. 15

Monitoring and evaluation

What is the monitoring and evaluation strategy?

01 Background

Where does this Strategic Plan fit in?



Tarapoto Lagoons Wetland Complex

©Fernando Trujillo/Omachá Foundation

In order to integrate several interests and consolidate a long-term sustainability vision for the Amazon biome, a strategic planning process was carried out to establish the means and priorities for the implementation, in the Amazon biome, of the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) Program of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). Three main processes guide the PoWPA's implementation: (A) the improvement and prioritization of the 2010–2020 Action Plan's strategic activities for their implementation in the Amazon region, as well as the identification of new activities that are deemed necessary for systems of protected areas; (B) the integration of cost analyses to develop a proposal for the investment and financing plan; and (C) the integration of a system for monitoring and evaluation.

What is REDPARQUES and how does it contribute to the PoWPA's development in the Amazon biome?

REDPARQUES, created in 1983, is a technical mechanism constituted by specialists and public and private institutions from member countries in the region (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana) that work with protected areas, flora, and fauna. REDPARQUES's Amazon Vision seeks to support PoWPA's implementation in the Amazon biome and was developed by Amazonian countries based on the prioritization of a work agenda. Through the implementation of the Amazon Vision's Action Plan, REDPARQUES and its partners have developed and carried out initiatives at the regional level to promote the consolidation of a technical network for regional cooperation and contribute towards conservation by strengthening existing systems of protected areas.

As part of these initiatives for the implementation of Amazon Vision's Action Plan, program partners designed and successfully carried out two projects: Protected Areas, Natural Solutions to Climate Change (NASCC), funded by Germany's Ministry of Environment (BMUB) and carried out by WWF, and Integration of Amazon Biome Protected Areas (IAPA), funded by the European Union and implemented by the FAO, IUCN, the United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment), and WWF. This report results from the IAPA project.



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Why a Strategic Plan?

The Amazon biome is one of the regions that gets the most attention at a global level, for its size and its representativeness in global biodiversity. However, its complexity is also a challenge that demands coordination among member countries in the region and the governmental, non-governmental, productive, and social sectors in order to achieve joint goals. That is why it is necessary to develop a strategic plan that allows for the integration and involvement of different sectors in the generation of actions that lead to change in the Amazon basin (Ruiz and Camacho, 2010).

Appropriate strategic planning is necessary to exploit opportunities, maximize positive results, adequately manage costs (financial, social, and environmental), and define the PoWPA's long-term scope of action. This Strategic Plan interrelates different levels of action and serves as a user-friendly tool for all actors involved.

How was the Strategic Plan developed?

Thematic workgroups defined milestones and challenges in the implementation of the PoWPA's actions and produced the second report on the implementation of the PoWPA in the Amazon biome, 2011–2015. Based on this revision and analysis, project members defined achievements and challenges and developed a new scheme with three thematic workgroups associated to the innovative approaches of the Promise of Sydney, a guiding instrument for protected areas throughout the following decade:

- 1- Improving the representativeness and effective management of spaces for conservation.
- 2- Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development.
- 3- Stronger governance in protected areas, integrating traditional cultures and knowledge.

This process was led by technicians and executives from the region's systems of protected areas and included narrative descriptions of each of the three selected thematic groups and their strategic lines of intervention. The following diagram shows the Strategic Plan's development process. From bottom to top: the two projects developed by a group of countries from REDPARQUES, four prioritized elements of the PoWPA for the Amazon, and the thematic reassessment carried out for the creation of the strategic plan.

Formulation process for the PoWPA's Strategic Plan for the Amazon Biome

After assessing in 2016 the PoWPA's performance, Amazon Vision's participating countries regrouped the program's thematic lines of action to make their management more effective.

The PoWPA-SP establishes 3 thematic action groups

- 1- Improving the representativeness and effective management of spaces for conservation
- 2- Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development
- 3- Stronger governance in PAs, integrating traditional cultures and knowledge

CBD's PoWPA establishes 4 lines of work

- 1- Carry out actions to plan, select, create, strengthen, and manage systems and sites for PAs
- 2- Governance, participation, equity, and shared benefits
- 3- Favorable activities
- 4- Norms, evaluation, and supervision

Development of work carried out by a group of countries from REDPARQUES

- 1- Development of a shared vision (Amazon Vision)
- 2- Creation of an Action Plan for the execution of the PoWPA in the Amazon Biome

Members established priorities based on the Plan's strategies and their activities; they then defined and developed a costing tool for the plan's actions; lastly, members defined a monitoring and evaluation system for the Strategic Plan.



02 Strategic plan

What is the plan's goal?

Main objective

To guide the effective implementation of the PoWPA within the framework of REDPARQUES's Amazon Vision, in line with its priorities and strategic decisions.



Amazonas, Colombia. © Sergio Garrido

Specific objectives

- By 2022, to increase effectiveness in the management of protected areas in the Amazon biome, increasing its representativeness through the incorporation of identified conservation opportunities and vulnerable areas.
- By 2022, reduce the financial gap for the implementation of the PoWPA-SP.
- By 2022, protected areas in the Amazon biome have participative and equitable governance systems that involve interest groups and stakeholders.



Chiribiquete Mountain Range, Colombia.

© Julia Miranda

Vision

To consolidate a shared vision for biological and cultural conservation in the Amazon biome under an ecosystem-based approach that contributes towards the effective administration and management of national systems of protected areas, as well as the maintenance of the biome's ecosystem goods and services and its integrity, functionality, and resilience to the effects of natural and anthropogenic pressures in the context of global change.

Mission

To promote, in an integral and articulated manner, actions for the management of natural resources in the Amazon biome's protected areas and their interconnected zones in order to achieve forms of management that are sustainable, environmentally friendly, economically balanced, and socially just.



La Paya NNP, Colombia. © Sergio Garrido

Specific objectives are related to the plan's main themes, which seek to achieve concrete achievements regarding the representativeness of National Systems of Protected Areas (NSPA) and the increase of Amazon biome protected areas' financial sustainability through financial mechanisms that enable the exploitation of natural capital for the region's sustainable development and good governance (Borrini-Feyerabend, 2014). The three thematic groups, shown below, form part of the Strategic Plan's main objective, which, in turn, leads to the accomplishment of REDPARQUES's mission (support from REDPARQUES is vital for the accomplishment of goals set throughout the plan).

Conceptual model and intervention strategy

Support for and strengthening of NSPAs through REDPARQUES/Amazon Vision.

MISSION OF REDPARQUES'S AMAZON VISION

To promote, in an integral and articulated manner, actions for the management of natural resources in the Amazon biome's protected areas and their interconnected zones in order to achieve forms of management that are sustainable, environmentally friendly, economically balanced, and socially just.

MAIN OBJECTIVE OF PoWPA'S STRATEGIC PLAN

To guide, in line with its priorities and strategic decisions, the effective implementation of the PoWPA within the framework of REDPARQUES'S Amazon Vision.

1- Improving the representativeness and effective management of spaces for conservation.

2- Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development.

3- Stronger governance in PAs, integrating traditional cultures and knowledge.

How will it be carried out?

Improving the representativeness and effective management of spaces for conservation

This main theme seeks greater ecological representativeness in systems of protected areas and their effective management. Additionally, it emphasizes the promotion of climate change adaptation strategies, focusing on adaptation based on ecosystems and communities. Other important elements are the strengthening of effectiveness analyses and their adjustment and incorporation in the management of each country's protected areas, as well as the establishment of systems that address the main threats of protected areas in the Amazon biome and facilitate their mitigation. These are the four strategies for their effective implementation:



Inirida River. © Simón de Man/WWF



Macaws in the Araracuara Canyon. © César David Martínez

1- Achieve ecological representativeness taking into account a conservation opportunities portfolio: related to the integration of landscapes, planning mechanisms based on common conservation elements, and strategies for joint approaches.

2- Contribute to the effective management of each country's protected areas and interconnection areas: through regional analyses, the incorporation of results in the management cycle, and the creation of management standards.

3- Mitigate threats at a systemic level to carry out regional state and pressure analyses: including planning and management, promotion of mitigation and adaptation mechanisms, and inclusion of vulnerability analyses for the management of protected areas.

4- Develop climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies for protected areas: ecosystem-based adaptation and socio-ecosystemic resilience.



Grandfather Marceliano in Araracuara.

© César David Martínez



Black waters River, Colombian Amazon region.

© César David Martínez

Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development

This main theme focuses on financial and sustainable development aspects that promote significant progress not only in financing and management for protected areas, but also in the development of novel mechanisms that allow for the valuation of protected areas based on the goods and services they provide. For this particular issue, there is an increasing need for financial resources that are sufficient, stable, diversified, and timely in order to consolidate the conservation activities of each system. It is also fundamental to support initiatives for the sustainable use and management of goods and services derived from ecosystems (ethnotourism, ecotourism, etc.), particularly those led by indigenous and local communities in protected areas. The strategies of this main theme are:

1- Value protected areas emphasizing sustainability, financial aspects, national accounts, and economic contributions: evidence of the benefits of protected areas, development of adequate financial

mechanisms, and exchange of information on methodologies for the sustainable use and management of natural resources.

2 -Promote the development of productive activities that contribute to sustainability in protected areas, emphasizing planning aspects: including the compilation of experiences and existing mechanisms, relations with funders, and regional policymaking.

3- Position the role of protected areas for the development of the Amazon biome, including the promotion of sustainable economic activities for natural products, analysis of sharing, access and/or benefit mechanisms from financial sustainability instruments, compensations, and other tools related to the services provided by protected areas.

4- Promote the social and economic relevance of protected areas to contribute towards financial sustainability: through the collection of lessons learned and capacity building.

Enhanced governance in protected areas, integrating traditional cultures and knowledge

This main theme focuses on the development of highly participative systems that achieve social integration in the management of protected areas in the Amazon biome and in their policies and development proposals. The aim of this theme is to strengthen governance and governability by encouraging participation from stakeholders with shared responsibilities and capabilities on the management of protected areas. Additionally, it seeks to create a space for dialogue among the sectors with incidence in the Amazon biome to ensure the conservation, restoration, protection, defense, and sustainable use of biological diversity in protected areas and their interconnection areas.

1- Strengthen governance structures to support the monitoring and implementation of the PoWPA in the Amazon biome through the integration of access and benefit-sharing dispositions, the exchange of experiences on participative governance, and the development of cohesive models for all interest groups.

2- Strengthen REDPARQUES and its Amazon Vision as an institutional structure responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this Strategic Plan and its management capacity.

3- Strengthen the capacities of government institutions and key stakeholders like Indigenous Peoples, Afro-American and local communities, young people, and women, promoting participation, diversity, innovative governance mechanisms, and the development of communal and institutional capabilities.

4- Generate, systematize, and transfer knowledge on relevant aspects for governance and the effective management of protected areas by carrying out assessments that include results on management effectiveness using variables for governance and the promotion of research and monitoring programs.

5- Strengthen spaces for participation and outreach for stakeholders and key sectors.



RPF Cuyabeno, Ecuador. © Sergio Garrido

03 Financing Strategy

How will the financing and sustainability strategy be implemented?

Activities in the Strategic Plan were valued taking into account two types of costs: historical and estimated. Historical costs were obtained from the information supplied by different partners of REDPARQUES's Amazon Vision. Estimated costs, on the other hand, were obtained through financial projection exercises.

Financing proposals for the Strategic Plan seek to increase the availability of financial mechanisms that generate internal resources as well as resources for public and private investments in conservation within and outside protected areas. It is therefore fundamental to constantly improve financial management for conservation and to recover and support initiatives in favor of biological diversity through planning and developing actions aimed at mobilizing resources and reducing existing financing gaps between proceeds and expenditures.

For the successful achievement of the financing strategy, four steps were emphasized:

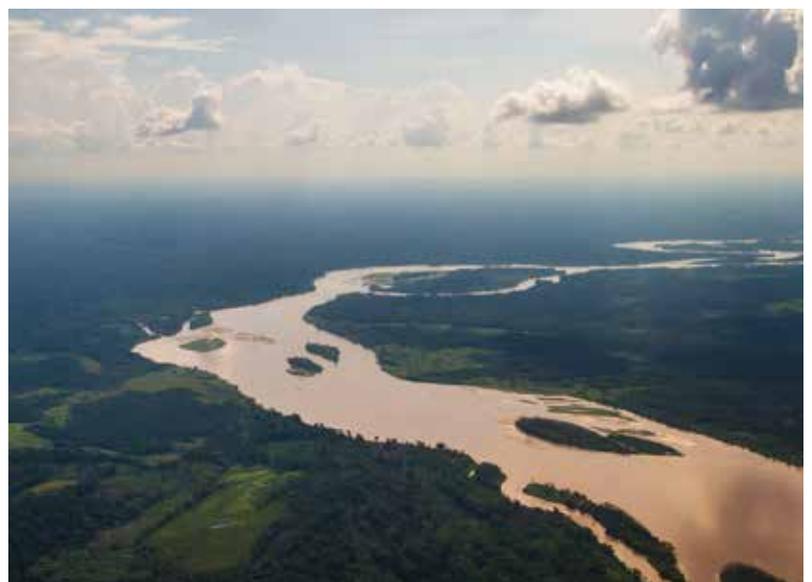
1- Continue strengthening national budget allocations and international cooperation as traditional income sources to finance activities for the conservation and management of protected areas.

2- Increase fundraising efforts for income derived from the self-management of systems of protected areas to increase resource pools and finance basic operations and management activities.

3- Begin actions to determine the feasibility of building a Conservation Trust Fund and a Project Finance for Permanence (PFP), both at the biome level. This could guarantee a better use of the advantages that these two mechanisms offer in terms of flexibility and coverage of fundable activities,

which can contribute to the financial sustainability of systems of protected areas in the biome and the implementation of Amazon Vision's PoWPA-SP.

4- Integrate this strategy with the costing and investment needs determined for each of the main activities of the main themes in order to raise funds, build a financing and investment plan for Amazon Vision, and structure a project portfolio for the biome.



La Paya NNP, Colombia. © Sergio Garrido





Pink Dolphin (Inia Geoffrensis) in the Tarapoto Lagoons Wetland Complex. © Fernando Trujillo/Fundación Omacha

This Strategic Plan is a guiding instrument that will be used by a fundraising committee as part of the financing strategy. This committee will also use profile portfolios that develop six priority topics:

- 1- Conservation opportunities for climate change adaptation
- 2- Strengthening of governance and sustainability in subregional landscapes in the Amazon biome
- 3- Integration of biodiversity conservation in productive landscapes
- 4- Amazonian protected areas: key for the protection of biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities
- 5- Governance and effective management of the biome's protected areas
- 6- Promotion and inclusion of Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) that complement conservation efforts

04 Monitoring and de evaluation

What is the monitoring and evaluation strategy?

The monitoring and evaluation system is based on a series of indicators for the three thematic groups at the strategic level. Their function is to identify progress and possible obstacles in the plan's implementation in order to identify necessary adjustment measures to achieve adaptive management. REDPARQUES will lead and participate in the governance structure that will periodically evaluate the PoWPA's Strategic Plan. Additionally, this inter-institutional structure will promote and verify the implementation of specific activities needed to realize the Strategic Plan's proposals.



Manuripi Reserve, Bolivia. © Juan Camilo Gómez

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Funding



Partners



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations