Building a Sustainable Colombia in Peace
The Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation, APC-Colombia, is leading the coordination efforts within the Colombian Government and with the international community to consolidate the Sustainable Colombia Initiative.
“Colombia Sostenible” is a country-wide initiative that takes a systemic approach to addressing climate change, social inequality and post conflict challenges—built on the sustainable development goals.
The Challenge

58% of all deforestation took place in municipalities with the highest conflict levels.

88% of municipalities with the highest levels of conflict are rural areas.

48% of municipalities with high levels of conflict and development gaps have natural protected areas.

Climate change could mean a 7.4% reduction in agricultural yields due to changed hydrological conditions and an increase in the average temperature (2-4°C).
The Solution

Colombia and the IDB have designed an initiative that will focus on rural development, environmental sustainability, and climate change in areas characterized by armed conflict. This sustainable initiative will have four pillars that will enable its success:

**HOLISTIC APPROACH**
Tackling economic, social and environmental challenges through the design of multisectorial solutions that involve the coordination of several ministries towards a unique goal.

**RESOURCE LEVERAGING**
Fundraising will target public, private and philanthropic donors, including grants, loans and other types of funds, using a matching mechanism to co-finance projects.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**
The monitoring system of the initiative will rely on the strengthening of key national entities, the standardization of data collection, processing and verification, aligned with existing public policies and international commitments.

**STRONG PARTNERSHIPS**
Building partnerships with the private sector, civil society and international experts will allow an effective planning and benefit the initiative with valuable input.
Thematic guidelines

Mitigation and adaptation to climate change

Comprehensive care for vulnerable populations

Alternative development to replace illegal crops

Physical and social infrastructure for rural productivity

Environmental and social land use planning

Payment for environmental services

Recovery of areas degraded by mining and illicit crops

Alternative development of forests areas

Strengthening of local institutional capacities

Strengthening of National Parks and Protected Areas

Promoting silvopastoral and agroforestry systems

Results-based payment

Thematic guidelines
The Colombian Government recently approved a public policy document (CONPES) to frame this initiative as an integral part of Colombia’s International Cooperation Post-conflict Strategy, Colombia en Paz.

Colombia Sostenible’s stated objective is to maximize the environmental, social and economic benefits of peace in Colombia, promoting sustainable rural development, the conservation of the biodiversity and the fight against climate change.

By following the thematic guidelines for project investments and mapping multiple criteria for the selection of priority intervention areas:

- Deforestation areas
- Fiscal performance
- Impact of armed conflict
- Hectares of illicit crops
- Protected areas
- Rural reality
- Territorial development gaps
- Vulnerability to weather events
Planned on a 15-year horizon with three tranches, Colombia Sostenible’s first tranche has a $600 million dollar objective in new international resources. This amount is a component of Colombia’s $1.9 billion dollar 5-year goal* in investments related to the initiative’s thematic guidelines.

The Colombian Government has created the Colombia en Paz account in its 2016 Budget Law, which will function as a holding account and a matching mechanism to co-finance projects, assuring harmony between governmental and international resources. The Colombian Government intends to use this account to signal donors of its commitment to this initiative.

*According to the recently approved public policy document Colombia en Paz, Colombia’s 5-year goal for international cooperation received is US$3.3 billion.
In order to measure attained achievements and provide national entities and donors with key information and reports, the initiative will have a solid monitoring and evaluation system to track project progress and make adjustments over time.

The monitoring and evaluation component will be supported by agencies with a proven national track record: IDEAM* and DNP*. These agencies will collect data on key indicators –social, economic and environmental– and will have their institutional capacities strengthened.

Following international benchmarks, the monitoring system will be designed to ensure transparency and standardization of data collection, processing and verification.

The initiative’s social and environmental indicators will be in line with existing public policies and international commitments, such as the National Development Plan, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

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*Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies
*National Planning Department
Private sector
To scale up investments and enhance impact at the implementation level, the private sector will be a critical partner. The initiative will help leverage institutional investors and create new business opportunities, particularly for SMEs that are key to providing sustainable goods and services across supply-chains.

Governance
The governance of the initiative will include the involvement of key donors, civil society and private sector representatives for an inclusive post-conflict agenda.

High Level Advisory Group
The initiative counts on inputs from its High-level Advisory Group, which will provide non-binding strategic advice. The experience of the Advisory Group’s members will be crucial to ensure that innovative and dynamic perspectives get incorporated. Their insight on cutting edge projects will contribute to the fundraising for the initiative and enhance the scope of the work envisioned for Colombia.
An overarching initiative

Colombia Sostenible is designed to cover a number of programs that operate in Colombia and receive international funding, all of which are aligned with its thematic focus. It gathers information from these programs in an effort to coordinate throughout Colombia’s different levels of government and portray a unified message to donors and international partners.

Through the creation of intra-governmental coordination mechanisms, this enhanced arrangement will allow the Colombian government to avoid duplicity during implementation and provide a platform for Colombian entities to talk to one another at the national and subnational level.

The Amazon has gathered the interests of several partners and will benefit from the umbrella of Colombia Sostenible to boost the impact of their work. As a result, the initiative is teaming up with programs such as Visión Amazonía and Biocarbono Fund, as well as the new cooperation agreement between Colombia, Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.