



Wetlands
INTERNATIONAL

**WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL
LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN REGIONAL STRATEGY**

2020 - 2025



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REGIONAL CONTEXT



The freshwater marshes of the Paraná Delta are widely used for cattle grazing.

Latin America and the Caribbean are home to almost 60% of the terrestrial life on the planet, together with a diverse marine and freshwater flora and fauna (UNEP, 2016). The region is characterized by a wide range of ecosystems, ranging from dense tropical forest and grasslands to estuaries and wetlands. The complex tapestry of political, social and natural contrasts made evident in the spectrum of the sizes of countries and economies; in the diversity of geographical and ecological features; and in the manners in which cultures continue to interact with the natural environment.

The region goes through an intense urbanization process with currently 648 million people inhabiting urban centres (equivalent to 81% of total population). Until 2050 it is estimated a population increase of 6,6%. By then, almost 90% of the population will be living at urban areas.

LAC economies share a persistent, heavy reliance on primary products and natural resources, which account for approximately 50 per cent of all good exports. On the mainland, there has been an increase in the reliance on exports largely driven by extra regional demands for commodities such as agricultural products (including soybean, coffee and meat) and mineral resources (ores and metals).

While Global wetlands decrease reached 35% between 1970 and 2015, at LAC surface decline reached 59 percent of its surface (mostly at coastal zones). Moreover, loss of natural freshwater inland wetlands is hugely underestimated since assessments include human-made wetlands such as dams, aquaculture and others.

Most wetlands in LAC have a pronounced seasonality, so any protection strategy must include their delimitation based on the areas flooded during the highest water level and, for the tropical region, it must include the highest water level of La Niña years. Hydrological and land cover data therefore needs to be monitored in order to increase ecosystem-based adaptation capacity to climate change. Governmental development plans may include wetlands as strategic ecosystems. Legal enforcement of existing environmental laws is also needed at different spatial scales, taking into consideration that five of the major wetland complexes in the world are in South America: Amazon, Orinoco, La Plata and Cauca-Magdalena systems.

While climate mitigation must be a key component of strategies to combat climate change in LAC, the urgency of strengthening adaptation measures to increase resilience and lower the region's vulnerability cannot be ignored. The scenarios analysis indicates that LAC is likely to continue to be the region with lowest carbon content of any regional energy

mix through to 2050. However, current data are showing that the region's systems are already under pressure from changes in global climate, and these trends are expected to worsen and is increasingly affecting the economy. Andean glaciers, which provide vital water resources for millions of people, are shrinking. Recent extreme drought and atypical heat waves are provoking massive fires outbreaks at the wetlands of the Plate River Basin Corridor, ranging from the Pantanal in Brazil to the Delta in Argentina in an unprecedented situation. In the Caribbean Basin, climate change contributes an additional USD 1.4 billion to Average Annual Loss based on wind damage alone. In addition, climate change exacerbates many other driving forces and therefore amplifies environmental and related socio-economic impacts.

The future of the region's economies, as well as the ability of LAC countries to alleviate poverty and reverse inequality, depends heavily on

the region's natural capital and the capacity of governments to effectively manage it.

As Wetlands International Latin America and the Caribbean, we are fully identified with our global organizational strategy. Our work will be focused on conserving and restoring habitats and functions in 16 different inland wetland landscapes within the region, including the Paraguay-Parana river system. We want to improve the management of around 4,000,000 ha of inland and coastal wetland ecosystems, including mangroves areas, securing their goods and services, promoting better production practices, preserving local livelihoods and developing more resilient cities and communities. Our efforts are also focused on promoting the conservation of wetlands as carbon sinks and integrated nature-based solutions to the development of infrastructure that reduce the risks caused by impending climate change.



Fires on the banks of the Cuiabá River, in the RPPN Sesc Pantanal Territory



Esteros del Iberá

The array of complex challenges which WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL has to face in the region include political aspects such as the limited consideration of wetlands in national and global policies and the difficulties to implement global environmental conventions; the relevant bulk of scientific and technical information available for the region and the need to build linkages with policies or use them in support of decision making, the rapidly growing economies pressuring for overexploitation of natural resources, increase of poverty and social inequality, the impacts of climate change such as ocean acidification accelerating the loss of life in coral reefs, and the economic recession that reduces the availability of funds for biodiversity from traditional donor countries.

Moreover, current reality of global emergency due to the pandemic caused by SARS-CoV2 (sensitive throughout the region but even more so in some countries due to its high vulnerability and precarious socio-economic, health and environmental conditions) represent a challenge due to the tendency to aggravate poverty and social exclusion, as well as environmental degradation. Efforts

for relaxation of environmental safeguards, reduction of human and environmental rights will most likely reflect the mainstream projects to respond to economic crises. At the same time, the search for longer term and more effective solutions to social and environmental crises increases attention to nature base solutions and is providing further relevance to approaches towards green restorative economies. Such shifting scenarios represent an opportunity for Wetlands International to contribute to the Latin American and Caribbean region with concrete actions from the vision and strategic mission.

The attempt to respond to the events that critically impact wetlands requires new global approaches that integrate the different regional visions into a common effort.

WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL will be confronted to a complex scenario in the coming years and should envision new and build on existing longer-term initiatives to make the difference with its interventions, using existing capacities and programmes, exploring big ideas and creating new spaces for action and opening new channels of interaction with key sectors.

REGIONAL FOCUS

Where: Geography - where we focus most of our interventions

Concerning the geographical focus, the following priorities were defined:

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	COUNTRIES
La Plata Basin and particularly the Paraguay-Parana wetland system	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay
High Andes Ecoregion	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela
Patagonia Ecoregion	Argentina, Chile
Cuyo region	Argentina
Zona da Mata region	Brazil
Marine coastal zone of Central America and the south of México, the Caribbean and South America	Argentina, North East and South Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, México (Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System) & Pacific coast from the south of México to Panamá; Panama, Peru, Grenada, Jamaica and other territories in the Caribbean

Aphriza virgata flying birds in Argentina

What and How: Summary of focus in region and priority actions



Under this chapter we structured our actions into two main Streams: "Deltas and Coasts" and "Rivers and Lakes", contributing to all global outcomes, with exception to "reduce society conflicts and displacements from wetlands" since greater emphasis is given to a comprehensive approach under "water and food secured for wetlands communities".

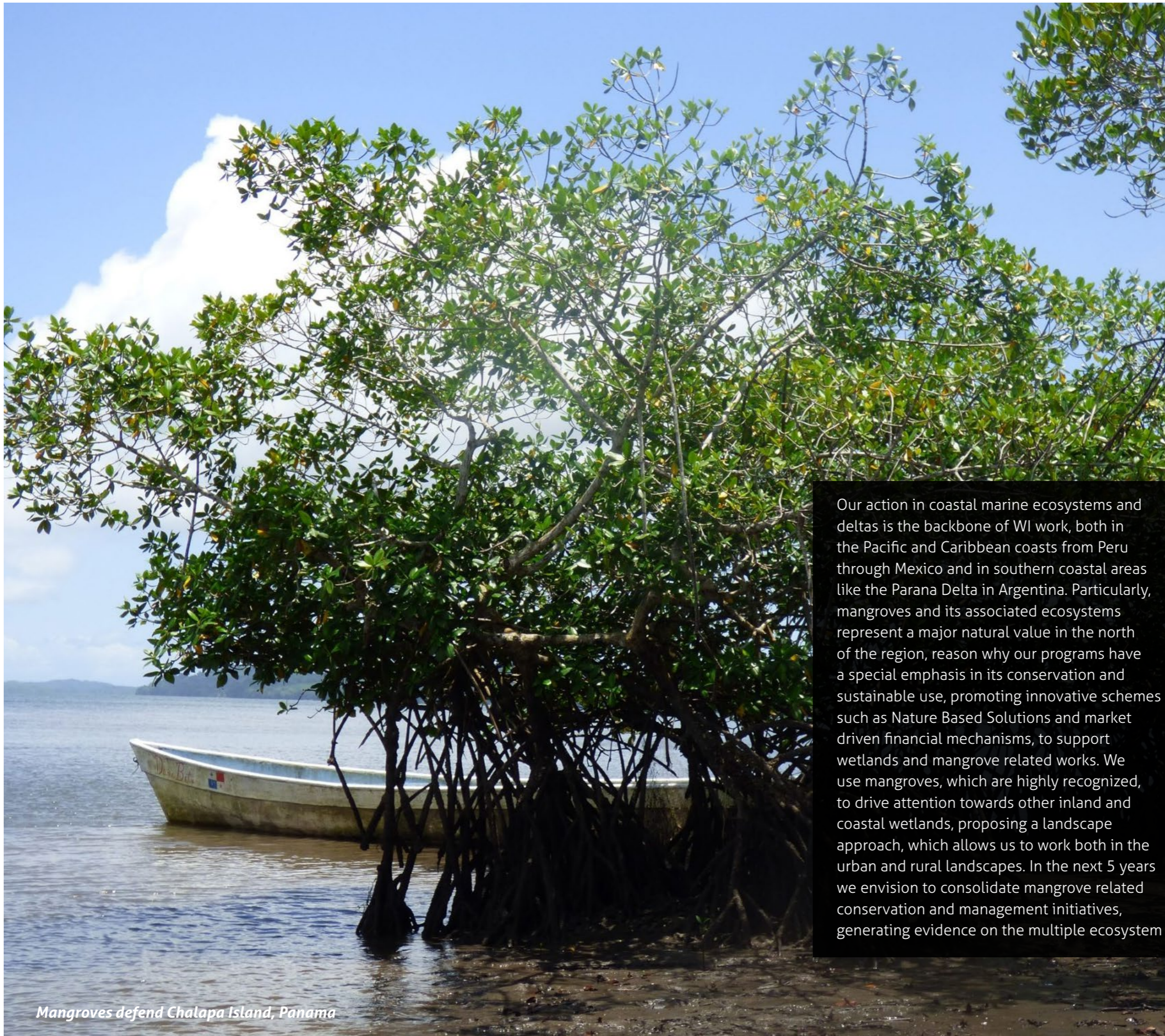
For each Impact Area there is a description on how we envision to Inspire, Mobilise and Upscale actions through the Global Outcomes. There are three Big Ideas presented under the LAC strategy. Two of which are already under implementation with funds secured: the "Corredor Azul Programme: Connecting People, Nature and Economies along the Paraná-Paraguay River System" and the "Saving High Andean Wetlands", a third Big

Idea is ambitious for Coastal Wetlands and Mangroves with a focus on restorative approaches. Outcomes on Reducing Climate Risk, including wetlands' carbon, mitigation and adaptation actions are taken transversally, introjected into the actions. Additionally, as seen under the tables below, there are several elements which relates to the "Peatland Stream" made visible under the Corridor Azul and the High Andes.

Besides the initiatives which have a larger geographic scope (Big Ideas), there are more local based initiatives located in other regions of LAC (see the map presented in item 2.1), at different implementation or ambitious stages; see Annex 1 for more details. Such efforts can lead to future upscaling or even to the design of new big ideas to be framed in the coming future.

DELTA AND COASTS





Mangroves defend Chalapa Island, Panama

LAC coastal zone

Creating 5 climate resilient rural and urban coastal landscapes in 5 countries.

Our action in coastal marine ecosystems and deltas is the backbone of WI work, both in the Pacific and Caribbean coasts from Peru through Mexico and in southern coastal areas like the Parana Delta in Argentina. Particularly, mangroves and its associated ecosystems represent a major natural value in the north of the region, reason why our programs have a special emphasis in its conservation and sustainable use, promoting innovative schemes such as Nature Based Solutions and market driven financial mechanisms, to support wetlands and mangrove related works. We use mangroves, which are highly recognized, to drive attention towards other inland and coastal wetlands, proposing a landscape approach, which allows us to work both in the urban and rural landscapes. In the next 5 years we envision to consolidate mangrove related conservation and management initiatives, generating evidence on the multiple ecosystem

services provided by mangroves, deltas and coastal wetlands. In this context we will design and implement national and regional initiatives on nature-based mitigation, ecosystem-based adaptation, wetlands carbon (including "blue carbon"), risk reduction, urban wetlands and offsetting mechanisms, among others.

By supporting corporate and public-private partnerships we conduct restoration programmes, focusing in mangrove ecosystems and deltas, supporting private sector compliance with environmental requirements. We promote enhancement of regulatory frameworks by mainstreaming biodiversity and climate considerations into compensation and offset schemes. Partnering with government entities, private sector and knowledge institutions we raise awareness and generate evidence on the benefits that wetlands provide to the environment, economy and society.

IMPACT AREA	GLOBAL OUTCOME	INSPIRE	MOBILIZE	UPSCALE
Healthy wetlands	Wetland habitats and functions safeguarded and restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-stakeholders platforms promoting green economies adapted to wetlands' function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support national wetland inventory programs and wetland inventory data and key information on wetland ecosystem services Reactivate Ramsar Sites related work Strengthening capacities for wetlands wise use and management, including best practices and incentives for livestock and forestry sectors. Key investment plans revised to consider wetlands' health & safeguards Wetlands based environmental and Socio-economic scenarios Handbook for EIAs in wetland landscapes Inventory and key information on large investments affecting wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships to promote ecosystem-based adaptation and inclusion of wetland in sectorial policies Synergy with regional programmes led by partners, such as Mesoamerican Reef System and PACA New programs to generate evidence on the wetlands-climate-SDGs nexus and influence climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction negotiation processes.
	Wetland species recovered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote biological corridors as key habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the implementation of migratory bird conservation plans Participation in annual bird counts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Join initiatives for conservation of key wetland sites for migratory waterbirds
Resilient communities	Water and food secured for wetland communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community wetland management and restoration for climate-resilient communities. Assessing green value chains opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity development of indigenous and traditional community leaders Enabling sustainable small-scale production systems artisanal fisheries, ecotourism and community-based initiatives for secure water and food. Promote green value chains of goods & services associated to wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration in coastal marine management projects Urban wetlands restoration as part of sustainable cities programme Partnership with human and land rights platforms and institutions
Reduced climate risks	Wetland carbon stores secured and enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness on mangroves and tropical peat lands as major carbon pools Wetlands as cost-efficient opportunity for compensation and offset schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot projects for wetland banking schemes Promote and strengthen public-private partnerships for coastal marine ecosystems restoration Promote Blue Carbon Projects and integrated management approaches (EMR/CCA/DRR). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland's carbon integrated in NDCs, National Climate Change Plans and Green COVID19 Recovery Plans Integrating mangroves in climate and development policies Promote regional blue carbon initiatives for green value chains in coastal wetlands
	Wetland nature-based solutions integrated into infrastructure developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building with Nature: Urban wetlands and nature-based solutions as cost effective schemes for resilient cities and human settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot projects focused on Nature-based Solutions (especially Building with Nature), to avoid coastal erosion. Biological corridors implemented both in urban and rural landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration of marine-coastal urban & suburban wetlands as part of land use and management plans Partnerships with coastal urban & suburban resilience platforms, including replication of the Water Dialogues scheme with local authorities Regional proposals presented on climate change and green infrastructure in LAC cities

RIVERS AND LAKES





Territory of the RPPN Sesc Pantanal, Cuiabá River

Corredor Azul Programme

More than 2 million hectares of key wetland areas are effectively managed by 2050 conserving biodiversity and supporting local productions along the Parana-Paraguay wetland system.

We will work with governments, knowledge institutions, NGOs, private sector partners and investors to safeguard the health and connectivity of the Paraguay-Paraná fluvial corridor and its iconic wetlands for the benefit of people and nature. The programme interventions will result in growing adoption of better production practices, policies and investments towards a more socially and environmentally inclusive development of the region.

IMPACT AREA	GLOBAL OUTCOME	INSPIRE	MOBILIZE	UPSCALE
Healthy wetlands	Wetland habitats and functions safeguarded and restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland inventory data and key information on wetland ecosystem services • Environmental and Socio-economic scenarios • Handbook for EIAs in wetland landscapes • Inventory and key information on large investments affecting wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans for Ramsar Sites and other key wetlands along the corridor • Better production practices and incentives for sustainable productions (livestock and forestry sectors). • Capacity development of wetlands managers and sectors • Key investment plans revised to consider wetlands' health & safeguards • Multi stakeholders' platforms promoting green economies adapted to wetlands' function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating wetland in regional development policies, investments, and platforms (20x20 Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, etc) • Consolidate PIECAS Biodiversity Corridor Strategy and plan for the Paraná Delta • Landscape-level wetland restoration programme (Pantanal, Parana Delta) • Programme on payments for wetland ecosystem services adopted in Pantanal of Mato Grosso do Sul State
	Wetland species recovered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on waterbird distribution and abundances along the corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of key wetland sites for migratory waterbirds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americas Mid continental flyway initiative
Resilient communities	Water and food secured for wetland communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management guidelines and tools for artisanal fisheries and other local productions • Assessment of opportunities regarding green value chains for community livelihoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development of indigenous and traditional community leaders • Enabling sustainable small-scale production systems (artisanal fisheries, ecotourism) • Enabling community base initiatives on ecosystems' restoration • Partnership with human and land rights platforms and institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TICCA implementation consolidated
Reduced climate risks	Wetland carbon stores secured and enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence on extent of carbon in key areas along the corridor <p>Real-time tracking tools for wetlands conservation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models for sustainable production systems linked with carbon-rich wetlands (including their restoration and conservation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands carbon integrated in NDC and National Climate Change Plans
	Wetland nature-based solutions integrated into infrastructure developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence regarding the role of wetlands as natural infrastructure in the Parana Delta and Luján river basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development of wetlands managers and sectors • Partnerships with suburban resilience platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of suburban wetlands as part of land use and management plans



Laguna de los Pozuelos, Argentina

High Andean Wetlands Programme

Sustain a network of iconic High Andean wetlands in 4 countries which support biodiversity conservation, water security and climate change adaptation.

We will work with governments, knowledge institutions, NGOs and private sector partners to improve the conservation status of five threatened High Andes wetland sites of great importance for biodiversity and local communities in Argentina and Peru, through testing approaches and tools to upscale and replicate improved wetland management and restoration. This programme aims to develop the basis for a regional initiative.

IMPACT AREA	GLOBAL OUTCOME	INSPIRE	MOBILIZE	UPSCALE
Healthy wetlands	Wetland habitats and functions safeguarded and restored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge base on hydrological and ecological values of High Andean Wetlands • Remote sensing system for monitoring peatbog exploitation • Quick assessment about the impacts of lithium mining on wetlands and water resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plans for Ramsar Sites and other key wetland sites in the Puna region • Capacity development of wetlands managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating wetland in regional development policies and platforms (20x20 Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, etc.) • Regional High Andean Wetlands initiative
	Wetland species recovered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on Andean flamingos and other waterbirds distribution and habitat threats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation actions of endangered and endemic waterbird species • Partnership with High Andean Flamingo Conservation Group • Synergies with National Shorebird Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flyways initiatives in the Americas / CMS
Resilient communities	Water and food secured for wetland communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for sustainable livestock grazing and wetland management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity development of community leaders and shepherds • Community-based livestock grazing and wetland management pilot demonstration projects • TICCA consolidated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration in basin management programmes
Reduced climate risks	Wetland carbon stores secured and enhanced	<p>Evidence on extent of carbon in High Andean peatbogs</p> <p>Assessment on innovative financial mechanisms (carbon credits) for High Andes wetlands</p>	<p>Models for sustainable production systems linked with carbon-rich wetlands (including restoration and conservation)</p>	<p>Wetlands carbon integrated in NDC and National Climate Change Plans</p>
	Wetland nature-based solutions integrated into infrastructure developments	<p>Evidence regarding the role of High Andean wetlands as natural infrastructure</p>	<p>Partnerships with regional resilience platforms</p>	<p>Integrating wetlands in the land use planning and regional master plans</p>

Enabling context and resource development opportunities



Construction work Rio Chico



Construction of nursery space and community garden Kadiwéu

Consolidation of current initiatives and new project development will be based in the following premises and opportunities:

- Consolidate a regional program based on the knowledge, tools and experiences sharing on wetlands across the region strengthening the cooperation between the WI LAC regional offices in Panama and Argentina and country offices in Guatemala and Brazil, and with the global WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL network.
- Consolidate the membership of the LAC countries to WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL
- Act synergistically with the major global agendas, especially Ramsar Convention and CREHO Center, UNFCCC, CBD, UNDRR (SENDAI), HABITAT, CMS, UNHCR, Migration entities, development & humanitarian response entities and important local, regional and global partners, with a focus from the global to the local and vice versa.
- Build on the partnerships developed and the work done until present within the region to promote ecosystem-based climate change adaptation as well as the inclusion of wetland ecosystems in public and sectorial policies related to climate change and disaster risk reduction.
- Promote collaborative and synergistic work, creating a regional Nature based Solutions (Building with Nature) programs with pilot projects in different ecoregions and ecosystems with the aim of upscaling and replication throughout the region and feed into policies and planning in urban and rural areas with different stakeholders as: Governmental and non-governmental organizations, International Financial Institutions, Civil society organizations, communities and others.
- Promote and stimulate incorporation of wetlands safeguards under specific guidelines to investments and developments for the region by Export Credit Agencies, Multi-National Entrepreneur, International Financial Institutions (such as IADB, CAF, World Bank and others)
- Build on our experience and capacities to become a key player and contributor to the Ramsar regional initiatives in the LAC region, including the Regional Initiatives for the Conservation and Wise Use of: High Andean Wetlands, the La Plata Basin and Mangroves and Coral Reefs.
- Synergy in the execution of regional initiatives (programs and projects) in the Mesoamerican Reef System and PACA (Great Marine Ecosystem of the Central American Pacific Coast initiative) with partners such as MAR Fund, MAR2R (SICA-CCAD), UNDP, WWF and government entities such as Ministries of the Environment and educational authorities in each country.
- Use the existing capacities in WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL and the partnerships developed to strengthen our work and activities related to freshwater fish conservation and fisheries management in La Plata basin and in other basins in the LAC region.
- Use lessons learned and the results of projects and partnerships developed by WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL to promote Patagonian peatlands conservation and restoration in Argentina and Chile.
- Use the experience of Wings over Wetlands (WoW) project as the baseline for contribute to flyways initiatives in the Americas and to develop a Critical Sites Network Tool for the region (CNNT), working with key partners like Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, WHSRN, Birdlife International and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
- Actively look for the development of collaborative new programs and initiatives implementing the integrated approach to sustainable development derived from the SDGs framework and international negotiation processes on climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction.
- Identify opportunities to serve as Executing Entity for regional or national projects (GEF, GCF, other).
- Mainstream wetlands actions in climate instruments at the national and regional level (NDCs and Green Resilient COVID19 Recovery Plans).
- Promote knowledge management of the benefits, services and values of wetlands.
- Consolidate our leadership on wetland restoration into the 20x20 LAC Ecosystem Restoration Initiative.
- Develop carbon projects at landscape level establishing strategic partnerships with Permian, Common Foundation, the Green Impact Incubation Fund and others.

REGIONAL CAPACITIES

Partnerships

(most important existing and/or to develop partnerships; e.g. civil society, governmental, private sector)

In LAC region, WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL will work aligned with the organizational strategy and national priorities to support local key players in promoting sustainable development paths, focusing in wetlands ecosystems conservation, management and sustainable use. For this end, a multisectoral, multi-partner and collective impact approach will be applied region wide. WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL will proactively look for establishing and/or consolidating operative partnerships with organizations of the public, private, academia and civil society sectors.

This approach also includes strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange among WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL offices globally and in LAC, as means to foster team work and programme development. For this

end, we will: a) design and implement an exchange programme for staff members and/or associate consultants; b) work collaboratively to develop regional or sub-regional proposals for submission to potential public and private donors; c) organize virtual/in person regional knowledge exchange events to promote wetlands leadership and science; d) secure participation of LAC staff in global events/work forces /initiatives organized by the global office or other network members.

During the next five years we will work with different partners to achieve the proposed regional targets, including civil-society organisations (CSOs), knowledge centres, the private sector, international conventions like Ramsar, IFIs and governments at local regional and national levels (see Annex II).

Mangrove swamp in Santa Cruz, San Félix



How we strengthen our own capacity in the region

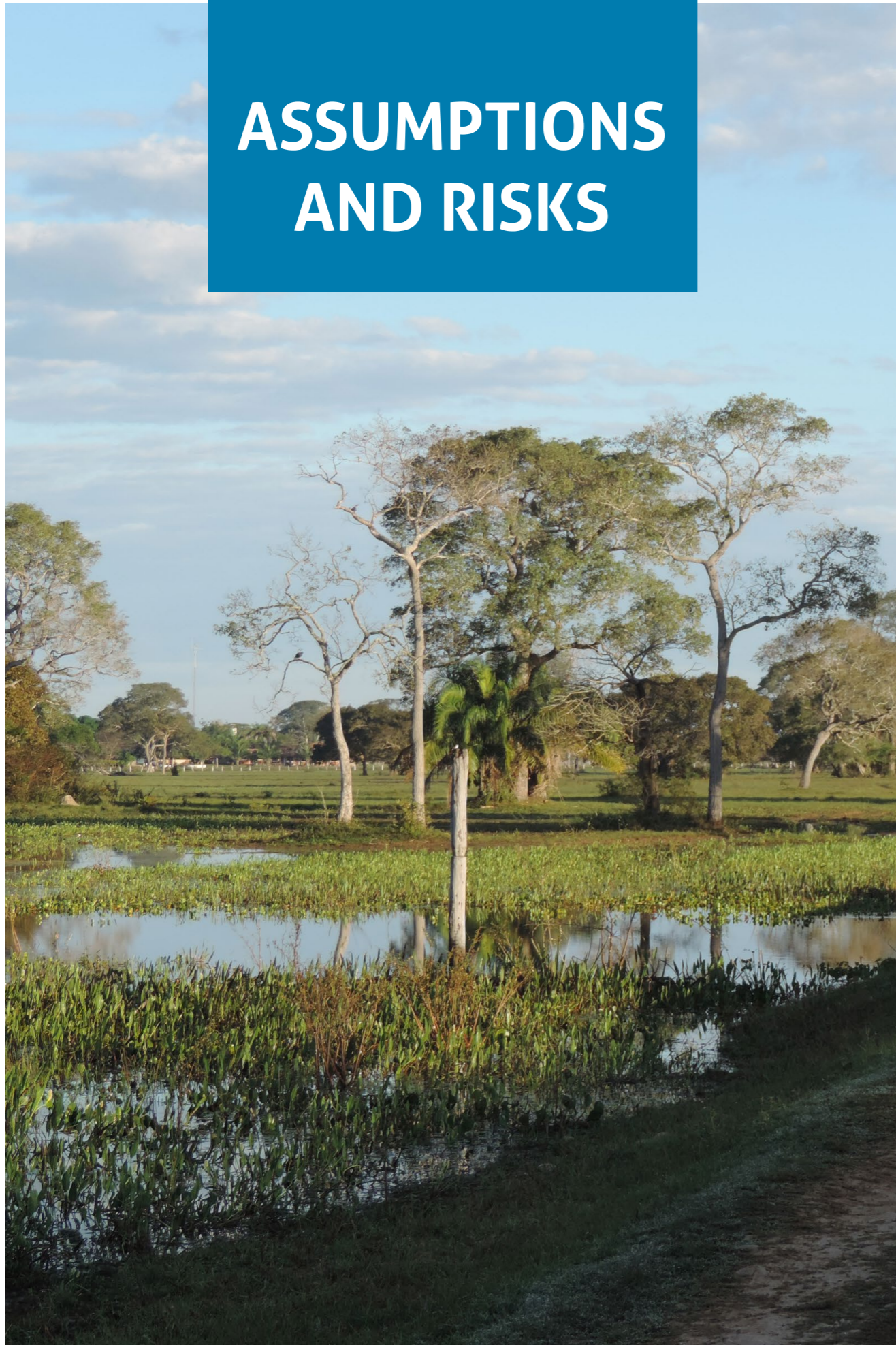
(including cooperation with the network)

By the end of 2020 WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL had four offices in LAC region and around 25 staff with diverse expertise and backgrounds, plus more than 50 associated experts supporting programs and projects implementation.

Our development priorities to increase our impact in LAC region could be summarized in the following three points:

- **Institutional development**, reinforcing the network of offices within the LAC region, including the consolidation of the Guatemala Office.
- **Increase our financial resilience**, including the recruitment of a LAC Regional Resource Development Officer, the development of a regional fundraising strategy and the preparation, submission and approval of at least three big project or program proposals during the next 5 years.
- **Higher visibility and influence**, enlarging and improving the capacities of our lobby and advocacy teams.
- **To better structure and share our technical knowledge** by improving the exchange of experiences within the network of offices and with our key partners in the region.

ASSUMPTIONS AND RISKS



- The COVID19 pandemic is expected to be controlled in the region thanks to the existence of the vaccine, the new normal provides the conditions to continue working in the region, especially with an ecosystem approach, which has gained relevance.
- The political situation in LAC, although not entirely stable in general, provides spaces for synergies with government entities, especially in the countries where WI's offices are located, in which there is a good relationship, support and spaces working with government entities related to our objectives.
- Social gaps and differences in the region can be a threat to the conservation of natural resources. It is important to continue working with civil society (youth, women) and academia with approaches that integrate the value of wetland conservation in terms of disaster risk reduction and better adaptation to climate change.
- There are good relations and synergy of work with other NGOs related to the conservation of wetlands in the region, although due to the reorientation and prioritization of regions and countries (more focused on Asia and Africa) and the monetary cuts of international cooperation there is competition for financing. Alliances and working consortia are important in the management of programs and projects.
- A good interaction has been forged with the private sector considering the promotion of corporate social responsibility by guiding mitigation and compensation actions and projects translated into the conservation and restoration of wetlands in the region.

Annex I.

Other working lines at national and local levels

- Provide technical advice and promote specific policies and legal frameworks at national and local level regarding wetland conservation
 - Coordinate the Neotropical Waterbird Census Program in synergy with the IWC and other waterbird count schemes in the Americas, involving the different LAC offices
 - Assess the distribution and population trends of waterbirds in South America
 - Contribute to the implementation of national shorebird's conservation plans
 - Contribute to the development and implementation of the Shorebirds Mid-continental Flyway Initiative in South America
 - Promote and strengthen public-private partnerships for the restoration of coastal marine ecosystems
 - Work on knowledge management through the promotion of existing tools and other resources that have been generated by the different offices of Wetlands International
- in the region and globally, for the support of civil society organizations, local and national governments, for example: guides for the restoration of wetlands landscapes, guides of vulnerability reduction, methodological support modules for teachers and eco-criteria, among others.
- Develop guidelines and implement pilot projects for the restoration of peatlands in southern Patagonia
 - Develop guidelines and implement pilot projects for wetland restoration in arid zones of western Argentina (Cuyo region)
 - Contribute to development and implementation of actions towards restoration of mangroves and marine ecosystems functions at the Zona da Mata coastal zone
 - It is expected to expand the scope of work in Central America, for example in the Volcanic Chain of Guatemala, promoting joint work with partners with whom work has already been done previously in basins located in the Guatemalan highlands.

Anexo II.

Strategic partners

During the next five years we will work with different partners to achieve the proposed regional targets, including civil-society organisations (CSOs), knowledge centres, the private sector, international conventions like Ramsar, IFIs and governments at local regional and national levels. Here, we present a non-exhaustive list of main partners from various

sectors, who are contributing, or can potentially provide significant contributions to advancing the LAC strategy. Our intention is to strengthen already existing collaborations at the same time as expanding to new partnerships from non-traditional segments, such as the aid and human rights, international organisms and private sectors.



"Piraputangas" (*Brycon hilarii*), river Olho d'Água, Jardim (MS) - Brazil

Colophon



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5. CIVIL-SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- ARGENTINA: Aves Argentinas, Fundación AVINA Argentina, Fundación Cambio Democrático, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Fundación Yuchán, .
- PERU: ECOAN
- PANAMA: Fundación Natura, CEASPA, CREHO REGIONAL CENTER
- GUATEMALA: MAR Fund, Global Network of CSO's for DRR (GNDR), ECOPIIL México
- Brazil: Mupan, CPP, SOS Pantanal, WWF Brazil, DHESCA, Instituto Terramar.

13. KNOWLEDGE CENTRES

- Universidad Nacional de San Martín (Argentina)
- Universidad Nacional de Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- Universidad Nacional de Tierra del Fuego (Argentina)
- Universidad Católica de Quito (Ecuador)
- Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (Guatemala)
- CIAT
- CATIE
- ECOSUR, Chiapas, México
- InterU-GRD Platform (11 Universities) of Guatemala
- INAU – National Institute of Wetlands
- Coexistence Lab –Federal University of Mato Grosso do Sul
- Environment and Human Rights Clinic – Federal University of Mato Grosso
- ITA – National Technology Institute for Aeronautic

23. GOVERNMENTAL PARTNERS

- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina
- Ministries of Environment and Education of Guatemala
- MINAM - Ministry of Environment of Perú
- SERNANP, Perú
- APN, Argentina
- Secretaría Agricultura Familiar, Argentina
- Ministry of Environment of Panama
- *Secretaría de Planificación* of Guatemala
- Civil Protection Entities of the countries of the region
- Ministry of Environment in Brazil, IBAMA and ICMBIO



8. THE UN SYSTEM

(Funds, Programmes, Specialized Agencies and Others)

- UNFCCC Secretariat
- CTCN (Climate Technology Centre and Network)
- UNEP
- UNDP
- UNDRR
- FAO
- UNWTO
- World Bank

7. INTERNATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTIONS

- CAF
- IADB
- BCIE
- BNDES
- WB
- ECAs
- FONPLATA

14. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- World Wildlife Fund / WWF
- Birdlife International and its partners in LAC region
- IUCN South and Central America Offices
- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)
- Partners for Resilience: IFRC, CARE, Caritas, Red Cross
- World Wetland Network - WWN
- ICCA Consortium
- Global Forest Coalition - GFC
- Nature and Culture International
- LookFar Conservation
- World Resource Institute
- RedeMPA - Latin American Network of Environmental Public Ministries
- RELAC Youth
- CONDESAN

6. PRIVATE SECTOR

- Companies interested in water issues and water footprint, such as Danone, Coca Cola, HSBC Companies interested in wetland restoration and green infrastructure (ARAUCO, Grupo Motta)
- Mining companies
- Forestry, livestock and urban development sector in the Parana Delta, Argentina
- Energy providers (AES Panamá, Jaguar Energy Guatemala), Mix Pack Guatemala
- Center for the Action of Corporate Social Responsibility in Guatemala CENTRARSE (Centro para la Acción de la Responsabilidad Social Empresarial en Guatemala)
- Guatemala Chamber of Food and Beverages.

- National Institute of Sismology, Meteorology, Vulcanology and Hidrology of Guatemala (INSIVUMEH)
- National Association of Municipalities of Guatemala (ANAM)
- Government agencies like the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA) and Instituto Nacional del Agua (INA), both in Argentina
- Authority of Aquatic Resources of Panama
- SINAC of Costa Rica
- Embassies of EE.UU., Canada and The Netherlands
- Local and provincial governments
- Dutch embassies and consulates in the region



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