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# FOREST+

## Annual Report

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## ACTIVITY SUMMARY DATA

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- Activity Team:
  - Andrea Von der Ohe, Amazon Unit Lead [[andrea.vonderohe@usda.gov](mailto:andrea.vonderohe@usda.gov)]
  - Priyanka Jagtap, Peru Program Manager [[priyanka.jagtap@usda.gov](mailto:priyanka.jagtap@usda.gov)]
  - Martha Cuba Cronkleton, FOREST+ In-Country Director [[mcuba@usforests-service.pe](mailto:mcuba@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Craig Wayson, Silvacarbon & SWAMP Program Manager [[craig.wayson@usda.gov](mailto:craig.wayson@usda.gov)]
  - Mariana Cerna, Climate Change Coordinator [[mcerna@usforests-service.pe](mailto:mcerna@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Manuel Burga, Multiple Forest Use Coordinator [[mburga@usforests-service.pe](mailto:mburga@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Renato Poire, Market- Based Solutions Coordinator [[rpoire@usforests-service.pe](mailto:rpoire@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Leandro Castaño, Applied Research Coordinator [[lcastano@usforests-service.pe](mailto:lcastano@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Mercedes Cardoso, Youth Coordinator [[mcardoso@usforests-service.pe](mailto:mcardoso@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Víctor Rodríguez, Loreto Coordinator [[vrodriguez@usforests-service.pe](mailto:vrodriguez@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Karen Arbe, Ucayali Coordinator [[karbe@usforests-service.pe](mailto:karbe@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Valeria Vásquez, Madre de Dios Coordinator [[vasquez@usforests-service.pe](mailto:vasquez@usforests-service.pe)]
  - José Luis Orbegoso, MEL Coordinator [[jorbegoso@usforests-service.pe](mailto:jorbegoso@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Jerly Castillo, MEL Assistant [[jcastillo@usforests-service.pe](mailto:jcastillo@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Jenny Chimayco, Communications Coordinator [[jchimayco@usforests-service.pe](mailto:jchimayco@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Yamile Sanchez, Youth and Urban Forestry Specialist [[ysanchez@usforests-service.pe](mailto:ysanchez@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Francisco Perez-Reyes, Graphic Design Specialist [[fperezreyes@usforests-service.pe](mailto:fperezreyes@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Carolina Delgado, Budget Coordinator [[cdelgado@usforests-service.pe](mailto:cdelgado@usforests-service.pe)]
  - Milagros Bustamante, Administrative Assistant [[mbustamante@usforests-service.pe](mailto:mbustamante@usforests-service.pe)]
- USAID team:
  - Lucas Benites, AOR, [[lbenites@usaid.gov](mailto:lbenites@usaid.gov)], Regional Environment Office
  - Katia Villanueva, MEL PoC, [[kvillanueva@usaid.gov](mailto:kvillanueva@usaid.gov)]

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## ACRONYMS

ACOR	Alternate Contracting Officer Representative
ADEX	Exporters Association
ADS	Automated Directive System
AFIMAD	Madre de Dios Indigenous Forestry Association
AGROBANCO	Bank for the benefit of farmers
AGROIDEAS	Competitiveness Compensation Program
AIDER	Association for Research and Integral Development
AIR	Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis
AO	Agreement Officer
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
APEXA	Exporters
ARA	Regional Environmental Authority
ARFFS	Regional Forestry and Wildlife Authority
CCNN	Native Communities
CEDIA	Center for the Development of the Amazonian Indigenous People
CEO	Collect Earth Online
CFM	community forest management
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CITE	Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer
CLA	Collaborating, Learning and Adapting
CMLTI	Multisectoral Commission to Combat Illegal Logging
CO	Contracting Officer
COP	Chief of Party
COR	Contracting Officer Representative
CTP	Primary processing centers or sawmills
CUSAF	Agroforestry Contracts
DAR	Rights, Environment and Resources NGO
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse
DEMA <sub>s</sub>	Environmental Management Declarations
DEVIDA	National Commission for Development and Drug-Free Life
DIS	Development Information Solution
DOF	Organization and Functions Document
ERCC	Regional Climate Change Strategy
ENA	Unauthorized timber extraction
ER-GTF	Application for Issuing and registering the Forest Transportation Guide
FCF	Faculty of Forestry Sciences
FEMA	Prosecutors' Offices Specializing in Environmental Affairs
FOREST+	Forest Oversight and Resource Strengthening Program
FREL	Forest reference emissions levels
GCF Task Force	Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force

GEE	Google Earth Engine
GEOSERFOR	SERFOR's spatial data infrastructure
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GoP	Government of Peru
GOREs	Regional governments
GRFFS	Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management
GTAC	Geospatial Technology and Applications Center
IBC	Institute for the Greater Good
IDER-U	Ucayali's Spatial Data Infrastructure
IFM	Improved Forest Management
IIAP	Research institute of the Peruvian Amazon
INAIGEM	National Institute for Glacier and Mountain Ecosystem Research
INEI	National Institute of Statistics and Informatics
INIA	National Institute for Agrarian Innovation
IOARR	Investment on optimization, marginal expansion, replacement and rehabilitation
ISL	In-situ Laboratory Initiative
JDI	Joint Declaration of Intent
LACC	Latin American Chamber of Commerce
LVO	Local Vigilance Organizations
MEL	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MIDAGRI	Ministry of Agricultural Development and Irrigation
MINAM	Ministry of Environment
MINEDU	Ministry of Education
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCSU	North Carolina State University
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OSINFOR	Forest and Wildlife Resources Oversight Agency
OTI	Information Technology Office
PAS	Administrative sanctions procedure
PIRS	Performance Indicator Reference Sheets
PMP	Performance Monitoring Plan
PPR	Performance Plan Report
PROCOMPITE	Competitive Fund Program
PUCP	Pontifical Catholic University of Peru
REDD+	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
ROF	Organization and Functions Regulation
SAF	Agroforestry Systems

SENASA	National Agricultural Health Service of Peru
SERFOR	National Forest and Wildlife Agency
SERNANP	National Service for Natural Areas Protected by the State
SIR	Information and Registration System
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIADO	OSINFOR Digitized File Information System
SIGOsfc	OSINFOR's Management Information System
SIR	Information and Registration System
SISFOR	Forestry Information System
SNIFFS	SERFOR's National Forest and Wildlife Information System
SUNARP	National Superintendent of Public Records
SUNY-ESF	State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry
SWAMP	The Sustainable Wetlands Adaptation and Mitigation Program
TGD	Technology Gap Diagnosis
TUPAs	Unified Text of Administrative Procedures
UCLA	University of California, Los Angeles
UGELs	Local Education Management Units
UGFFSs	Forest and wildlife management units
UNALM	La Molina National Agrarian University
UNAMAD	National Amazonian University of Madre de Dios
UNAP	National University of the Peruvian Amazon
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNU	National University of Ucayali
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
VETAF	Time-space variations of forest attributes
VectorRForest	Algorithm developed in R programming language with the support of UNAP Data Forest Connect

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The USAID-USFS Forest Oversight and Resource Strengthening Program (FOREST+) collaborates with the Government of Peru to fulfill international climate change commitments by promoting sustainable, multiple-use forest management in three key regions of the Peruvian Amazon- Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios. The program works in close coordination with SilvaCarbon and SWAMP, two programs that are integral to the overarching objective of FOREST+ by strengthening capacity in carbon monitoring and peatland research.

The Amazon rainforest accounts for 53.2% of the country's area, with the regions of Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios making up 76.8% of total forest land. Illegal logging and land use change has led to significant deforestation; however, and, according to data from the Ministry of Environment, Loreto and Ucayali represent, after Lima, the highest greenhouse gas emitters in Peru. Given the importance of these regions to mitigating global climate change, protecting biodiversity and providing food, shelter and livelihoods to the thousands of communities that live there, USAID and the USFS are focused on initiatives spanning regulatory improvements, capacity-building, financial inclusion, and scientific research, aligning with Peru's commitment to climate change mitigation and sustainable development. In fiscal year 2024, 22 USFS specialists supported these efforts.

Progress under each objective is summarized below.

## **Objective 1: Strengthen national and regional forest governance for multiple-use forest management and climate change mitigation.**

- **Multi-Sectoral coordination for illegal logging prevention:** FOREST+ played a crucial role in supporting the Multisectoral Commission to Combat Illegal Logging (CMLTI), facilitating decentralized meetings and field visits across Loreto, Ucayali, and San Martín. These efforts led to important agreements, including the establishment of a new lumber yield percentage to reduce waste and ensure sustainability, increased joint inspections by OSINFOR and regional authorities, and improved data-sharing for ongoing joint operations. These actions enhance traceability, transparency, and accountability in forest management.
- **Improving timber management documentation:** FOREST+ held workshops to address delays in forest management documentation, producing a regulatory matrix to identify and address bottlenecks. This matrix is a tool to support the process to reduce approval times for timber management plans and improve the efficiency of inspections, benefiting the timber supply chain and market availability.
- **Collaborative research and academic partnerships:** The program advanced knowledge-sharing among government, private sector, and academic stakeholders, establishing the UniBosques Alliance led by North Carolina State University and the Molina National Agrarian University based in Lima. Additionally, courses offered by the National University of the Peruvian Amazon based in Loreto enhanced efficiency in forest concession evaluations, benefitting native communities through VectorR software use. These partnerships strengthen the scientific basis for policy-making and operational decision-making.

## **Objective 2: Build institutional capacities of national and regional forest and environmental authorities and other strategic stakeholders for sustainable forest use and climate change mitigation.**

· **Strategic planning and budget execution:** FOREST+ provided technical assistance to the Regional Forest and Wildlife Authorities (ARFFSs) in Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios, significantly improving budget execution for forest management under Budget Program 0130. With US\$8 million allocated in 2023 and US\$11.7 million in 2024, ARFFSs awarded forestry permits covering nearly 700,000 hectares, conducted over 1,000 visual and CTP (primary processing centers or sawmills) inspections, and provided support for forest management plans across vast areas. These actions strengthen regional capabilities to meet conservation goals and improve operational planning for forest concessions.

· **Climate change functional unit:** FOREST+ assisted SERFOR in developing a dossier to create a Climate Change Functional Unit, establishing SERFOR's role in climate change adaptation and forest ecosystem services. This will embed climate change responsibilities within SERFOR's core functions, aligning with Peru's commitments under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) measures.

· **Regional capacity building:** Technical assistance focused on building regional structures for forest and wildlife management, particularly in Loreto, where FOREST+ helped justify a budget to establish new management units. These units aim to streamline services for forest users and improve administrative efficiency. Moreover, FOREST+ worked with the Loreto ARFFS to develop automated systems using Google Earth Engine for real-time monitoring of forest conservation areas. This technology enables the detection of disturbances in forests under conservation, providing critical information for managing compliance and maintaining forest cover.

· **Capacity building in forest carbon management:** Through forest carbon management courses, more than 73 professionals were equipped with skills for managing carbon projects, enabling authorities to better meet NDC commitments.

· **Carbon monitoring:** SilvaCarbon offered substantial support to Peruvian forest agencies, especially SERFOR, to improve the accuracy of forest carbon data. This included training on using Google Earth Engine for mapping key forest indicators like tree cover, volume, and biomass, helping SERFOR staff strengthen their skills in remote sensing and data analysis. Additionally, SilvaCarbon advised MINAM on refining methods for estimating forest emissions and creating a system to include local forest projects in Peru's national monitoring and reporting efforts. This work included better methods for estimating deforestation rates, which are critical for Peru to meet its climate goals.

· **Peatland mapping and emission estimates:** SWAMP supported the mapping of mountain peatlands, assisting INAIGEM, the highest authority in scientific research of the glaciers and mountain ecosystems of Peru, to develop a national inventory of these ecosystems. This collaboration included sharing methodologies and initiating field validation in regions like Ancash, enhancing Peru's ability to monitor and conserve its peatlands, which are significant carbon sinks. SWAMP conducted studies on greenhouse gas emissions from traditional peat extraction and livestock activities. These findings will provide the foundation for emission factors that can be incorporated into Peru's NDCs, allowing for better-informed strategies on climate change mitigation in these critical ecosystems.

· **Enhancing forest data interoperability and transparency:** FOREST+ made strides in integrating forest information systems by establishing geospatial interoperability between OSINFOR, Ucayali's Spatial Data Infrastructure, and SERFOR's GEOSERFOR portal. This facilitates efficient data exchange, enhances traceability and monitoring, and supports coordinated responses to illegal logging. Three

regional forest statistics platforms were made operational, integrated with SERFOR's National Forest and Wildlife Information System (SNIFFS). The ARFFSs of Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios now have R-based algorithms for generating automated reports, allowing more consistent and transparent monitoring across forest operations.

- **Empowering indigenous communities for sustainable forest management:** FOREST+ helped implement a pilot for Environmental Management Declarations (DEMAs) in Loreto and Ucayali, significantly reducing evaluation times for management plans. Although approval rates varied, the project streamlined processes for native communities. Additionally, OSINFOR launched a fine compensation program with 10 native communities in Loreto and Ucayali, involving the conservation of 15,000 hectares over five years. This initiative promotes forest stewardship and provides financial incentives for sustainable forest practices, strengthening community engagement in conservation.

### **Objective 3: Implement initiatives to strengthen the competitiveness of the timber, non-timber products and ecosystem services value chains.**

- **Enhanced forest management instruments for climate change mitigation:** FOREST+ supported SERFOR in updating agroforestry and forest carbon regulations, conducting an Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis to incorporate ecosystem services. Proposed amendments address legal frameworks for forest carbon projects, aiming to formalize sustainable practices among small and medium-sized producers. Furthermore, FOREST+ worked with OSINFOR to enhance monitoring tools, including machine learning-based methods for selective logging detection. Training sessions with the USFS Geospatial Technology and Applications Center (GTAC) on tools like Google Earth Engine and Python were conducted to ensure ongoing, effective supervision.

- **Financial access for sustainable economic activities:** FOREST+ collaborated with the Ministry of Production and AGROIDEAS to integrate environmental criteria into the PROCOMPITE law, fostering environmental and gender-inclusive economic initiatives. A feasibility study for forest carbon credits found that regulatory adjustments could further incentivize forest carbon projects, enhancing investment in concessions to meet climate goals. In coordination with multiple agencies, FOREST+ organized workshops reaching over 340 participants across Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios, enhancing access to loans and grants through programs like AgroPerú and AGROIDEAS. Significant financing support was provided to indigenous communities, including loans for non-timber products like *aguaje*, directly benefiting hundreds of local families.

- **Supporting market inclusion for forest products:** FOREST+ assisted the Ucayali regional government in developing technical standards for school furniture sourced from sustainable local timber at a value of 30 million soles and benefiting 293 schools. At the national level, FOREST+ worked with SERFOR and the CITEforestal Pucallpa to update wooden furniture standards, securing approval from PERUCOMPRAS and facilitating expanded market access for regional forestry companies. Additionally, FOREST+ facilitated commercial agreements for Amazonian non-timber products, establishing partnerships with companies like Candela and Natura. These efforts enhance forest product value chains and promote sustainable, fair-trade practices, benefiting native communities.

- **Advancing research and scientific knowledge:** FOREST+ and Silvacarbon supported studies on species conservation and sustainable forest management. Population assessments for CITES-listed species like *shihuahuaco* and *tahuari*, and research on underutilized timber species with the Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer (CITE) and students from UNAP, provide vital data for

conservation and informed forest policy decisions. FOREST+ formalized an alliance with North Carolina State University and UNALM, promoting research on sustainable forest management among students and faculty at Amazonian universities. A call for proposals was issued in September for funding 15 undergraduate theses from UNAMAD, UNU, and UNALM. USFS specialists, the CITE network and NGO partners provided mentorship support to students during this process.

· **Empowering youth leaders:** 21 young leaders from indigenous communities participated in a mentorship program focused on environmental challenges, culminating in six project proposals. Participants gained technical and soft skills, supported by USFS experts and local NGOs. FOREST+ and SERFOR also trained 164 young people in professional ethics. In partnership with the Ministry of Production's "RETO PERU TEC", 40 young people of Ucayali, developed innovative proposals focused on conserving the Amazon rainforest. The winner was awarded with 10,000 soles to implement their first minimum viable output.

Looking forward to FY2025, FOREST+ will strengthen institutional commitments and combat illegal logging with new inter-agency agreements, supporting regional authorities in monitoring, budget use, and sustainable multiple-use management. Priorities include establishing climate roles in SERFOR and regional authorities, capacity building on NDC reporting, finalizing forest carbon guidelines, improving information systems and data sharing, boosting support for forest products, engaging women and youth and promoting scientific research. With continued commitment to sustainable forestry, capacity building, and inclusive economic growth, FOREST+ is poised to strengthen Peru's forest sector resilience and advance its climate goals, creating lasting impact for Amazonian communities and ecosystems.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

As stated by the US Agency for International Development (USAID), "the decade from 2020-2030 is critical for setting the global trajectory and ensuring future generations are not subjected to the most devastating effects of climate change." The GoP in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Update Report<sup>1</sup> commits to keeping its net greenhouse gas emissions from exceeding 208.8 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq by 2030. To achieve this commitment, Peru will need a whole-of-government approach to tackling deforestation in the Amazon and keeping natural forests intact through economic diversification and sustainable use.

FOREST+ is a five-year (October 2022 - September 2027) USAID-USFS program that emerged as the continuity of the effort of USAID and the US Forest Service to help reduce deforestation by working primarily with government authorities to implement multiple-use forest management aimed at conserving biodiversity, reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, increasing resilience to climate change, and improving living standards for communities in the Peruvian Amazon. The program incorporates the partnership SilvaCarbon & SWAMP, as they directly contribute to the FOREST+ objective of strengthening Peruvian institutions to sustainably manage forests and mitigate climate change. SilvaCarbon and SWAMP play a critical role in providing technical assistance from USFS experts in improving information on carbon dynamics and emissions mitigations. All programs will work together to improve engagement between government officials, national research institutions, and Peruvian and international universities to improve use of scientific information in decision-making.

FOREST+ has established three main objectives:

### **1. Strengthen national and regional forest governance, promoting multiple-use forest management for climate change mitigation.**

This objective seeks to strengthen the coordination and participation of national and regional institutions involved in forest management to reduce deforestation. To this end, FOREST+ promotes cooperation between the government, the private sector, and civil society, as well as informed decision-making, so that each stakeholder can fulfill its role efficiently, regulatory proposals can be developed to reduce deforestation, forest management instruments can be updated, and the participation of the private sector and academia can be promoted. With strengthened coordination and collaboration, the Peruvian government will be able to achieve results that evidence compliance with international commitments, such as NDC implementation and access to results-based payments for the implementation of the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) deliverables.

### **2. Strengthen institutional capacities of national and regional forest and environmental authorities, as well as other strategic stakeholders, for sustainable forest use and climate change mitigation.**

FOREST+ provides technical assistance to build the technical capacities of national and regional authorities. To this end, we will seek to improve strategic planning and budget implementation, so that these authorities can carry out their functions in a way that promotes sustainable forest use, reduces deforestation and contributes to climate change mitigation. We support the systematization and publication of information on multiple forest use, and the interoperability of information systems, which

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Reporte%20de%20Actualizacio%CC%81n%20de%20las%20NDC%20del%20Peru%CC%81.pdf>

will generate evidence of compliance with climate commitments (NDC/JDI). Finally, we support the development of national and regional regulations to improve the processes of granting, evaluation, control, and monitoring of forestry licenses and concessions [*títulos habilitantes*] for better forest use thus reducing deforestation. SilvaCarbon and SWAMP will also support institutional capacities through technical assistance for strengthening national forest inventory, forest reference emissions levels (FREL) projections, peatland mapping, and development of emissions factors for peatlands to use as input in the creation of NDCs.

### **3. Implement initiatives to strengthen the competitiveness of the value chains of timber and non-timber products and ecosystem services.**

FOREST+ seeks to generate conditions and incentives to enable forest users –indigenous communities, small and medium business organizations, and entrepreneurs– to continue developing and diversifying their business activities in the Amazon forest. To this end, national and regional forest management instruments will be improved to facilitate the sustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber products as well as ecosystem services. We develop initiatives to improve users' access to financial mechanisms and their ability to link with national and international markets. In addition, in collaboration with SilvaCarbon and SWAMP, we will seek to demonstrate how the generation and application of applied research can facilitate the sustainable use of the Amazon. Greater participation of young leaders committed to this process will be encouraged.

To achieve the results and objectives listed above, the FOREST+ program is organized into five strategies with gender as a transversal topic:

- Forests and climate change mitigation
- Multiple-use forest management
- Market-based solutions
- Applied research for forests and climate
- Young leaders for the Amazon

Strategy 1 supports all activities related to institutional strengthening and coordination mechanisms of national forest and environmental authorities to achieve a common vision for the sustainable development of the Peruvian Amazon, implement climate change mitigation strategies, and comply with international climate commitments. Strategy 1 coordinates closely with SilvaCarbon and SWAMP, specifically in the institutional strengthening of MINAM and SERFOR for climate change mitigation.

Strategy 2 supports regional governments to coordinate with national authorities using existing mechanisms to implement national and regional forest management and climate change mitigation policies. FOREST+ will continue to support regional governments in critical areas such as budget management and planning, accountability, and information management, and above all, institutional capacity building for promoting and developing timber, non-timber forest activities, ecosystem services, and agroforestry.

Strategy 3 focuses on ensuring that the needs and initiatives of the private sector are taken into account in the development of public policies and the strengthening of national and regional institutions. It also supports the development and dissemination of economic incentives (financial mechanisms, market, productive capacities) so that forest users (forest concessions, indigenous communities, agroforestry concessions) can continue to invest and develop productive activities in the forest.

Strategy 4 supports the incorporation of research into decision-making and public policy formulation. This involves the creation of mechanisms for collaboration between academic institutions and public and private stakeholders, facilitating the development, systematization, access to and dissemination of applied research. The strategy focuses on addressing the needs identified by the public and private sectors for multiple forest use and climate change mitigation. Strengthening the capacities of Amazonian universities in applied research methodologies will be key in promoting a cultural shift in academia towards problem-solving and the incorporation of scientific information in decision-making processes by the public and private sectors. Strategy 4 coordinates closely with SilvaCarbon and SWAMP research activities and in capacity building of university students and faculty.

Strategy 5 supports a new generation of leaders (15-29 years old) concerned with forest protection, sustainable and integrated development, and committed to climate change mitigation. The strategy encourages the participation of government institutions at the national level (MINAM, SERFOR, OSINFOR and GOREs) as well as other local partners in the implementation of youth programs that generate the next leaders for the Amazon. Strategy 5 supports youth through technical exchanges with USFS experts, including SilvaCarbon and SWAMP detailers.

Finally, the USFS SilvaCarbon program and SWAMP closely align with USAID's 2022-2030 Climate Strategy. They work at the national level with partners such as the MINAM, the SERFOR, the National Institute for Glacier and Mountain Ecosystem Research (INAIGEM), and the research institute of the Peruvian Amazon (IIAP) to improve their capacity to address climate change mitigation. The activities will also work to bring together stakeholders to improve technical capacity on climate mitigation to design and implement robust, transparent national forest and landscape monitoring systems and terrestrial GHG inventories that address national sustainable development goals and feed into international reporting frameworks.

## 3. RESULTS AND PROGRESS

### 3.1. OBJECTIVE 1 - STRENGTHEN NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FOREST GOVERNANCE, PROMOTING MULTIPLE-FOREST USE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

#### Highlights

- The CMLTI held decentralized meetings in Amazon regions, bringing together regional and national government authorities and resulting in three agreements for joint operations to detect illegal timber.
- 57 families from native communities benefited from streamlining the approval of forest land management plans, or DEMAS.
- The National University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP) implemented courses to streamline DEMA evaluations, significantly reducing timelines and improving timber supply reports for government, NGOs, and the private sector.
- North Carolina State University and La Molina National Agrarian University held participatory workshops with more than 250 participants from universities, governments, NGOs, and businesses to identify priority research topics in Ucayali and Madre de Dios.

**1.1. National and regional institutions strengthen coordination and decision-making mechanisms to carry out comprehensive interventions that promote multiple-use forest management for climate change mitigation.**

**1.1.1 Strengthen multisectoral coordination and decision-making mechanisms to meet climate change mitigation commitments (NDC/JDI).**

In 2024, FOREST+ achieved significant progress in climate change mitigation and combating illegal logging through its support to the CMLTI. Decentralized meetings held in Loreto, Ucayali, and San Martín led to key agreements to improve subnational coordination and strengthen illegal logging prevention. Field visits with the CMLTI helped national authorities to better understand local challenges and propose more effective measures to combat illegal logging. Key agreements include: (i) SERFOR will issue a resolution with a new allowed lumber yield percentage, (ii) the GOREs and OSINFOR will continue to conduct joint inspections of primary processing centers (CTPs), and (iii) information-sharing between commission members will be bolstered for purposes of conducting joint operations on a more continuous basis. These agreements are important for multiple reasons. A lumber yield percentage is the proportion of usable wood obtained from a harvested tree or log. A higher yield percentage indicates that more of the tree's volume is used for lumber, which reduces waste and can decrease the demand for additional trees, contributing to more sustainable forestry practices. Inspections at primary processing centers help

maintain traceability from forest to market, reducing fraud by ensuring wood origins are documented. By enforcing regulations at processing points, inspections encourage adherence to yield standards and sustainable forest management practices. OSINFOR previously did not participate in these inspections with regional authorities; the joint inspections mark an important milestone for ensuring transparency and legal accountability in the forest sector.

Additionally, FOREST+ coordinated with SERFOR to expedite the approval of forest management plans. During the second half of the fiscal year, FOREST+ also assisted the Amazon Regional Commonwealth in proposing amendments to the regulatory framework that would foster the sustainable use of natural resources and reduce deforestation. These regulatory proposals will be submitted to SERFOR as part of the process of amending the regulations of the Forest and Wildlife Act.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Signing of an inter-agency government agreement to combat illegal logging and the associated timber trade that sets out all the commitments and actions that each GoP authority must undertake to combat illegal logging and deforestation.
- Approval of at least two updated NDC measures, based on technical meetings held to identify priorities and discuss key issues related to their implementation.

**1.1.2. Strengthen regional coordination mechanisms to develop initiatives that promote multiple-use forest management.**

Joint efforts of the ARFFSs, SERFOR, OSINFOR, and the MEF’s Executive Board for Forest Sector Development have led to 18 agreements to address bottlenecks in the regions. FOREST+ is providing technical assistance to the Executive Board for Forest Sector Development, which serves as a forum for the national and regional agencies to coordinate and to discuss and decide on solutions to the main bottlenecks in the forest sector. Progress on agreements are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1. Major agreements – MEF Executive Board for Forest Sector Development**

No.	ACTIVITY	RESULT	STATUS
1	DEMA pilot to issue DEMAs for timber in Loreto, Ucayali, and Amazonas	57 families benefited from the granting of DEMAS as a result of the pilot to improve their economic livelihoods.	Concluded
2	Update of guideline 065-2016-SERFOR, “Guideline for preparing a management declaration for forest harvest permits in native and rural communities,” so that it includes third parties.	SERFOR issued a resolution that modifies the guidelines for the preparation of DEMAs for forest harvesting permits in native and peasant communities ” with the objective of visualizing the contract with the third party and the non-inclusion of CITES species in the DEMAs.	Concluded
3	Joint ARFFS-OSINFOR visual inspections .	320 inspections have been carried out.	In progress
4	Five-year audits of forest concessions.	To date, OSINFOR has audited 13 forestry concessions in Loreto, representing an audited area of 161,000 ha. In Ucayali, 21 audits were carried out, with an audited area of 382.7 thousand ha.	In progress
5	Joint ARFFS-OSINFOR inspections of primary processing centers.	A total of 268 inspections were carried out at CTPs in Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios.	In progress

No.	ACTIVITY	RESULT	STATUS
6	Strategic checkpoints approved	SERFOR approved the creation of 9 control posts in Loreto, 4 in Ucayali and 4 in Madre de Dios. For their implementation, training was provided for 20 professionals from the UGFFS of the ARFFS of Loreto.	In progress
7	Capacity-building for users and regents, especially in the management plan design.	10 people trained in the formulation of forestry DEMA for the harvesting of non-timber forest products.	Concluded
8	Review and improvement of internal processes for approving management plans within each GORE.	352 management plans for 213,000 ha have been approved this year.	In progress
9	Capacity-building for technical staff tasked with evaluating DEMA files.	66 people trained in the course “Automating the preparation and evaluation of DEMA for timber forest products using the VectorforestR tool”.	In progress
10	Update the regional governments’ TUPAs (Unified Text of Administrative Procedures).	The Loreto and Madre de Dios ARFFS have reports on the adequacy of administrative procedures (TUPA), and are in the process of designing the methodology that will allow standardization for all GORES.	Not implemented

**Photo 1. Meeting of the MEF’s Executive Board for Forest Sector Development**



*“FOREST+ has helped us a great deal because we had to standardize approval processes and reduce times to be efficient and effective in our use of public resources. FOREST+ enabled us to reduce times, coordinate efforts, and work in a sustained manner to benefit native communities in the region of Loreto. The communities will benefit financially from the sustainable use of their resources, with traceability and due diligence.”*

*Henry Martín Lagunas Pilco, Forest Specialist, Loreto Regional Forest and Wildlife Bureau*

### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- Continued technical assistance to members of the Executive Board for Forest Sector Development (MEF, SERFOR, OSINFOR, and ARFFSs) as a forum for national-subnational government coordination and agreement.
- ARFFSs trained on how to use optimized supervision tools and equipment for visual inspections and monitoring of concessions.
- Studies on illegal logging indices to be carried out at regional level.
- Budget monitored for operational activities included in Program Budget 130.

## **1.2. The public-private sector and academia promote the sustainable and diversified development of the Amazon forests.**

### **1.2.1. Promote public-private coordination instruments that incorporate the needs of the private sector in national forest and environmental agendas.**

To streamline forest management documentation processes between the private sector and regional forest authorities, FOREST+ organized workshops to identify improvement opportunities and address key obstacles. As part of this effort, FOREST+ developed a matrix highlighting major regulatory barriers across the wood value chain. This matrix was shared with both private sector representatives and the MEF Forest Executive Board at the Ministry of Economy and Finance. Using the matrix as a guide, FOREST+ provided technical assistance to SERFOR in drafting regulations to reduce approval times for timber harvesting management plans. While the current law mandates a 90-day approval period for all plan types, the private sector has advocated for a reduction to 30 days, which would expedite timber flow to sawmills and enhance its market availability.

FOREST+ also facilitated meetings between the Peruvian Association of Brazil Nut Processors and Exporters (APEXA )-which represents 70% of the exportable supply of Amazonian Brazil nuts- and the Madre de Dios Forest Authority. These meetings aimed to streamline cargo inspection and shipment processes. Previously, bureaucratic delays and poor coordination limited exports to just 3-4 containers per week, far below the optimal 8-10 containers, thereby restricting trade opportunities. With FOREST+ technical support, exporters have now increased shipments to 4-5 containers per week. Additionally, FOREST+ has provided technical assistance to enhance the evaluation process for non-timber forest product management plans, identifying and addressing bottlenecks. This includes offering more training to checkpoint personnel in Madre de Dios to standardize criteria for verifying non-timber products and inspecting cargo, further improving efficiency.

### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- Matrix to solve bureaucratic barriers to non-timber forest products approved and disseminated to the public and private sector with concrete solutions.
- Improved process for granting forest concessions, both timber and non-timber, to maintain active forests through sustainable management and productive use.

### **1.2.2. Coordination among government, private sector, and academic stakeholders for the generation and use of scientific information.**

In 2024, FOREST+ facilitated interactions between the government, the private sector, and Amazonian universities for purposes of generating and applying scientific information. 20 research topics per region (Madre de Dios and Ucayali) were prioritized, and more than 250 actors from universities, regional governments, NGOs, and businesses were engaged. In March, the UniBosques Alliance led by North Carolina State University (NCSU) and La Molina National Agrarian University (UNALM) was presented to national agencies such as MIDAGRI, SERFOR, INIA, OSINFOR, MINAM, and the IIAP.

The National University of the Peruvian Amazon (UNAP) implemented courses on using the VectoRForest<sup>2</sup> algorithm to make the evaluation of forest concessions more efficient. This effort, aimed at government, NGO, and private sector representatives, has significantly shortened timelines and improved the quality of reports on the timber supply.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Publication of the Analysis on bureaucratic hurdles to approving DEMAs.

### 3.2. OBJECTIVE II - BUILD INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FOREST AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES AND OTHER STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST USE AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

**Highlights**

- Using the budget allocated by MEF and technical assistance from FOREST+, regional forest authorities awarded 185 forestry permits and concessions covering 236,762 hectares, approved 352 management plans for 213,000 hectares, conducted 320 visual and 268 CTP inspections, provided technical assistance to 20 native communities, and submitted timely reports to OSINFOR, enhancing permit and concession oversight.
- FOREST+ began the study “Estimation of the Index and Percentage of Illegal Logging in Loreto,” the first region with its own illegal logging index. As Loreto’s unauthorized timber extraction has risen in recent years, the study will establish a baseline for improving forest resource control.
- 63 native communities trained on forest surveillance, traceability, and sustainable practices.
- Two regional regulations were developed in Loreto and Ucayali: (i) a protocol for joint forest and wildlife control, coordinating actions among Loreto ARFFS, FEMA, National Police, SERNANP, and ARA; and (ii) a guideline regulating the use of logging debris (limbs, stumps, and buttresses) for sustainable resource use in forests under concession or license.

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<sup>2</sup> Vector R is software developed in R that can be used to produce spatial products and to calculate the volumes and standard tables needed for forest management plans.

- 73 national and regional authorities were trained in carbon project management and NDC reporting implementation, leading to five new REDD+ project proposals to reduce deforestation.
- Implementation of a seminar led by Silvacarbon, USFS and UNAP experts to reinforce technical capacities of SERFOR in the use of GEE for developing maps of forest indicators (basal area, volume, and biomass) using data from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) of Peru.
- 66 professionals trained on the use of data analysis tools to reduce time needed to evaluate DEMAS.
- The first 14 Agroforestry Contracts (CUSAF) issued in Ucayali.
- Roadmap for the harvesting of non-timber forest products; as a result, for the first time the Madre de Dios regional government granted titles for huicungo, covering 323,017 ha of forest managed by communities.

## **2.1. Regional forest and environmental authorities improve their planning and budgetary implementation skills.**

### **2.1.1. Strengthen strategic planning and budgetary implementation capacity of ARFFS and Regional Environmental Authority (ARA).**

FOREST+ provided technical assistance to the Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios ARFFSs to improve their budget execution and justify additional budget requests under Budget Program 0130, and also supported them in coordinating with SERFOR and the Executive Board for Forest Sector Development.

#### **a. Budget allocation**

With FOREST+ technical assistance, the Regional Forest and Wildlife Authorities (ARFFS) of Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios executed 99% of the budget assigned in 2023, achieving the following:

- 259 forest titles awarded (forestry permits and concessions), bringing 433,737 hectares under sustainable forest management.
- 652 approved forest management plans covering 445,132 hectares and 6.8 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber.
- 382 ex ante visual inspections for management plans and 248 CTP inspections.
- Technical assistance to 12 native communities for the fine offset program.

For 2024, MEF allocated US\$11.7 million to 12 regional governments. Budget execution levels in Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios were 83%, 80%, and 76%, respectively; the target is to surpass 95% by December. Accomplishments include:

- 185 forestry permits and concessions awarded, covering 236,762 hectares and approving 352 management plans covering 213,000 hectares.
- 320 ex ante visual inspections and 268 CTP inspections.
- Technical assistance to 20 native communities for the fine offset program.
- The funding has improved the timely submission of management plans, facilitating better planning by OSINFOR of its supervision of permits and concessions.

Unauthorized timber extraction (ENA) has declined significantly, due mainly to the increase in control and monitoring activities throughout the timber value chain, as well as to the incorporation of satellite monitoring as a tool for tracking disturbances in forests under license or concession. Loreto is still the

region with the largest number of ENA cases. In 2023, cases increased after a period of decline, so in 2024, we have been working with OSINFOR to bring the numbers back down.

### **b. Activities and Public Services Monitoring Matrix**<sup>3</sup>

To monitor the physical and financial progress of the regions, SERFOR has developed the “Matrix of Public Services and Activities,” a tool in which each ARFFS updates its corresponding data.

This matrix has been officially approved<sup>4</sup>, and enables SERFOR to track the physical and budgetary progress of interventions. Additionally, a guide is available to support the monitoring of institutional management, transparency, digitization, and control of forest resources.

The resulting information is used to prepare the “Follow-up Report on Strengthening of Institutional Management, Transparency, Digitization, Control, and Monitoring of Forest and Wildlife Resources,” which is then sent to the MEF and to the ARFFSs so they may use the findings to take action.

### **c. Additional budget requests**

The additional budget request process is a critical aspect of financial management in the GOP. It takes place when the existing budget is no longer sufficient and the organization cannot perform its functions. During FY2024, two additional budget requests were submitted -one for the Loreto ARFFS (US\$575,000) and one for the Ucayali ARFFS (US\$267,000)- to cover operational activities such as technical assistance for native communities that have been fined, management plan inspections, assistance with offsetting fines, and forest monitoring and control operations. SERFOR, the Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios ARFFS, and MEF concluded that given the economic situation, MEF would not approve further budget requests for 2024.

#### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios ARFFS secure budget allocation to implement forest harvesting, control and monitoring and Community forest management activities.
- ARFFS improve physical and financial execution.

## **2.2. National and regional forest and environmental authorities, as well as other strategic stakeholders, expand and improve their functions and services by effectively incorporating multiple use forest management and climate change.**

### **2.2.1. Strengthen SERFOR, MINAM, and OSINFOR’s organizational structure to incorporate multiple-use forest management and climate change in their functions and processes.**

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<sup>3</sup>

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HGH2UEIaO1w0zsF54xx0H9AF\\_bddKFeW99\\_0uoPhWWI/edit#gid=1068015900](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1HGH2UEIaO1w0zsF54xx0H9AF_bddKFeW99_0uoPhWWI/edit#gid=1068015900).

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to the “Guideline for the strengthening of institutional management, transparency, digitization, control and monitoring of forest and wildlife resources” (RDE D000029-2024-MIDAGRI-SERFOR-DE, amended via RDE 000043-2024-MIDAGRI-SERFOR-DE)

FOREST+ assisted SERFOR in preparing the technical dossier for the creation of a Climate Change Functional Unit -a process that included reviewing current legislation and institutional needs in relation to climate change and ecosystem services. This was the first step toward identifying SERFOR's functions and meeting its climate commitments. We also provided technical assistance to SERFOR's Community Forest Management Functional Unit to optimize the process of approving DEMAs by having a single approval process for all the regions, even if regional TUPAs need to be amended to achieve full implementation. This joint effort between the ARFFSs, the MEF, and SERFOR, has been vital to ensuring alignment with international forest and climate commitments.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- NDC measure monitoring and reporting responsibilities are included in SERFOR's ROF.
- Update the reference sheets of the NDC measures, with key institutions to ensure that they are consistent and representative at a national level.
- Update the LULUCF sector NDC.

#### **2.2.2. Strengthen the ARFFS and ARAs organizational structure to incorporate multiple-use forest management and climate change mitigation in their functions and processes.**

FOREST+ provided technical assistance for several lines of intervention, with the following results:

- A technical dossier was prepared for the creation of a budget execution unit within Loreto's Regional Forest and Wildlife Development Bureau. This unit will have separate planning, budget, administration, logistics, and cash management departments, making it possible to provide more nimble and efficient services to forest users. The dossier justifies the need for an annual budget of US\$4.2 million to operate eight forest and wildlife management units. As of now, it has been approved by the regional government and will be submitted to MEF
- Two forest and wildlife management units (UGFFSs) have improved their operational processes to provide better services to forest users. This effort focused on the Maynas UGFFS in Loreto and the Coronel Portillo UGFFS in Ucayali, but indirectly benefited other UGFFSs as well. The main outcomes include:
  - ❖ Capacity-building for evaluation of timber management plans using VerforForest, which helped reduce evaluation times. 66 UNAP-certified professionals received training.
  - ❖ Training provided to 15 professionals from the Maynas management unit on evaluating palm fruit management plans, avoiding the excessive demands of requirements not included in existing guidelines.
  - ❖ Capacity-building on the use of tools such as SIADO Región, SIGOsf, the Mi Bosque app, and the "Casilla Electrónica" virtual mailbox, along with training for 63 native communities under the DEMAs pilot project on forest surveillance, traceability, and sustainable practices. Design of two regional regulations: (i) Protocol for joint interventions in forest and wildlife control, which sets out procedures and actions agreed among the Loreto ARFFS, FEMA, the National Police, SERNANP, and the ARA; and (ii) Guideline on volumes derived from limbs, stumps, and buttresses in forests under concession or license, which regulates the use of logging debris as a form of sustainable forest resource use.

- FOREST+ assisted SERFOR in training UGFFS and current checkpoint personnel on the following: (i) application of the protocol for verifying forest timber during land and river transport, (ii) use of the app for issuing and recording forest transport permits (ER-GTF), (iii) identification and recognition of forest timber species in transport, and (iv) application of the administrative sanctions procedure (PAS).
- FOREST+ assisted the Ucayali ARFFS in updating its Organization and Functions Document (DOF), adding functions related to carbon sequestration and harvesting of non-timber products. The Ucayali ARA has also added five functions related to climate change and conservation. Ucayali ARFFS officials collaboratively developed a proposed process manual that would include the process of evaluating and awarding permits for non-timber products.
- Technical assistance was provided to prepare two reports on the adequacy of the TUPAs of the ARFFSs of Loreto and Madre de Dios, in compliance with Ministerial Resolution 004-2023-MIDAGRI. The Executive Board for Forest Sector Development identified disproportionate costs in DEMA evaluation and visual inspections, so meetings have been held to map out a methodology to adjust and standardize the TUPAs. In addition, the regional government of Loreto is working on a new Organization and Functions Regulation (ROF) that seeks to merge the forestry bureau with the environmental bureau. This has been communicated to the Executive Board.
- Under a joint work plan between OSINFOR and the Loreto ARFFS, and as one of the actions agreed by the Multisector Commission to Combat Illegal Logging, FOREST+ has begun to support the study, “Estimation of the index and percentage of illegal logging and trade in timber in Loreto,” making this region the first to have its own illegal logging index. Given that Loreto has seen its “unauthorized extraction” indicator (ENA) go up in recent years, this study will provide a baseline for implementing improvements to forest resource control in the region.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- Illegal logging index study in Loreto and Ucayali finished.
- OSINFOR continues conducting and supervising joint inspections with at least two ARFFSs.

### 2.2.3. Strengthen CITES capacities to provide better services to entrepreneurs and native communities.

The Peruvian timber industry faces challenges in diversifying markets and adding value to its exports and national sales. To address these challenges, efforts have been made to strengthen the services of forest and timber-focused CITE centers, aimed at identifying new species, improving wood treatment, and accessing new markets. With support from international experts such as Dr. Jeffrey Morrell and USFS specialists, strategic actions were developed in collaboration with the CITEforestal network. These efforts focused on wood durability, structural design, and innovation to increase the use of lesser-known timber species. As a result of the work with the experts, a protocol for preserving low-medium density wood for the international market is being developed and a study is underway to include 4 new wood species in the market.

CITEforestal Pucallpa advanced with implementing a labor skill certificate for timber inventory management and, in coordination with SERFOR, updated technical standards for 16 models of wood office furniture. Additionally, a trade promotion office was designed to foster market access to timber companies. CITEmadera Lima showcased Peruvian wood at CASACOR Peru, earning multiple awards and is working on a technical standard for wood adhesives in construction, targeted for mid-2025 approval. CITEproductivo Madre de Dios strengthened the services provided to wood companies in regards to furniture design and manufacturing and wood anatomy. CITEforestal Maynas is applying for a \$5 million

IDB grant, with North Carolina State University as a partner to enhance services and modernize technology and equipment. Finally, a proposal to expand CITEpesquero Pucallpa into a productive CITE has been approved, set to benefit over 200 non-timber companies by the end of 2024.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Support the CITEs in completing research on wood preservation and identification of new timber species with technical support from USFS experts.
- Implement commercial management services in CITEForestal Pucallpa and replicate it in at least one additional CITE.
- Sign an agreement between the CITEforestal-madera network) and NCSU and develop a joint annual work plan.
- Launch the CITEproductivo Pucallpa and support its implementation.

**2.2.4. Strengthen capacities of national and/or regional authorities to enhance competitiveness in the forest sector.**

In FY24, efforts focused primarily on providing technical assistance to SERFOR in four areas: (1) financial inclusion (2) development of proposed regulations to enhance forest sector competitiveness, (3) job competencies, and (4) institution-strengthening.

As regards to financial inclusion, we helped strengthen SERFOR's relationship with Agrobanco and AgroPerú, with an emphasis on greater financial inclusion of native communities and small-scale producers of non-timber products. The next section will describe the results.

During the year, assistance was provided to SERFOR to identify opportunities to extend economic incentives for the agricultural sector to the forest and wildlife sector under the Forest and Wildlife Act, and to identify legal gaps in the law that limit the effective implementation of these incentives and subsidies. As a result, two regulatory proposals were drafted: (1) a draft regulation amending the Law for the Promotion of Investment in the Amazon to include wildlife and non-timber forest activities within the regulation's scope of application and make adjustments to make it easier for timber companies to take advantage of tax and fiscal incentives; and (2) a draft regulation amending the regulations of the AGROIDEAS Competitiveness Compensation Program to more clearly include timber and non-timber forest producers as beneficiaries and to create new incentives for the sector. The former is still in the process of being validated by SERFOR, but the second was included in the law that redesigned AGROIDEAS.

As regards to the strengthening of job competencies, last year technical assistance was provided to SERFOR to develop a proposal to update the map of functional competencies in the forestry sector. This year, SERFOR was assisted during the process of validation and review by the Ministry of Labor, which led to approval of the proposal. As a result, businesses will be able to have employees with certified job skills, making them more productive and raising wages for the sector. In the last quarter, a consultant was engaged to identify management issues in the General Directorate for Forest and Wildlife Policy and Competitiveness (SERFOR's most important directorate) and potential improvements that would enable it to play a stronger role and contribute more to boosting forest sector competitiveness.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Regulation on tax incentives for the forestry sector approved.
- Projects presented to FONDOEMPLEO approved to strengthen labor skills in the forestry-wood sector.

- New AGROIDEAS regulations implemented to create new incentives and promote access to funds for the forestry sector.

### **2.3. National and regional forest and environmental stakeholders strengthen their technical capacities to promote multiple-use forest management and climate change mitigation.**

#### **2.3.1. Build capacity of MINAM, SERFOR, OSINFOR, ARFFS, and ARA personnel in climate change for compliance with NDC/JDI commitments.**

FOREST+ supported training and technical assistance activities in coordination with SERFOR, MINAM, OSINFOR, regional governments, and the private sector, focused on awarding CUSAF contracts, climate change, NDCs, and on forest carbon projects.

This year, a workshop on CUSAF contracts was held in the province of Alto Amazonas (Loreto), with the participation of 29 technical specialists from three forest management units with the support of SERFOR and organizations like ICRAF and SPDA. As a result of the event, the Loreto GORE pledged to award CUSAF contracts, in keeping with its NDC-related commitments. Also, talks on climate change were given to national and regional authorities, laying the groundwork for future climate monitoring tools, with support from USFS experts.

Training on climate change and forest carbon was provided to 23 professionals from 13 institutions via the Michigan State University "Understanding Forest Carbon" course. Additionally, MINAM received technical assistance in developing monitoring and adaptation tools, in collaboration with USFS specialists, the goal being to create a tool to measure the private sector's adaptation footprint.

Lastly, 73 national and regional authorities received training on carbon project management and NDC mitigation measures. This resulted in five new proposals for REDD+ projects to reduce deforestation, strengthening institutional capacity vis-à-vis climate change and promoting forest sector sustainability.

#### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Improved issuance of CUSAF contracts by the regional government and registration in SUNARP.
- Enabling conditions for CUSAF developed.
- Capacity-building on climate change and NDC measures for MINAM, SERFOR, OSINFOR and ARFFS (Loreto and Ucayali) staff.

#### **2.3.2. Build capacity of ARFFS and ARA personnel in multiple-use forest management and climate change.**

During 2024, Forest+ identified several challenges in the regions, including a lack of understanding of how forest management contributes to the Regional Climate Change Strategy (ERCC) and to NDCs, a lack of active participation by the ARFFS in identifying actions and reporting measures, and insufficient capacity to prepare reports related to climate change commitments.

To address these challenges, SERFOR and MINAM with support of Forest+, organized workshops that helped the Madre de Dios ARFFS to better understand its responsibilities with regard to implementation and reporting of NDC measures. As a result, the Madre de Dios has now an updated reporting reference

sheet that can include data aligned with the ARFFS’s responsibilities. This will not only improve the accuracy of national reports, but will also highlight the region’s essential role in combating climate change.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Capacity-building for ARFFS on NDC reporting NDC related to sustainable forest management, community forest management, and agroforestry systems.

**2.3.3. SERFOR technicians will have complete control over the analysis process when they decide to make changes to their inventory protocol (SilvaCarbon and SWAMP).**

With the support of one SilvaCarbon expert, three specialists on remote sensing (two from USFS and one from the University of the Peruvian Amazon) conducted a seminar on Google Earth Engine (GEE) addressed to four technical staff from the Peruvian Forest Service and four researchers from the National Agrarian University. The aim of the seminar was to reinforce technical capacities in the use of GEE with the intention of developing maps of forest indicators (basal area, volume, and biomass) using data from Peru’s National Forest Inventory (NFI). As part of the seminar, biweekly calls took place from February to August where the USFS experts shared GEE codes, training and guidance to the seminar’s participants on how to use and put in practice those GEE algorithms to develop maps of forests indicators (basal area and volume) using data from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and remote sensing data. As a result of this collaboration, the SERFOR team has been able to develop draft maps of basal areas that will be included in the Peruvian NFI report. Furthermore, the SERFOR team expects to use these maps for planning at subnational scale.

**Photo 2. Technical meeting with the SERFOR team and La Molina University researchers on a basic course on Google Earth Engine.**

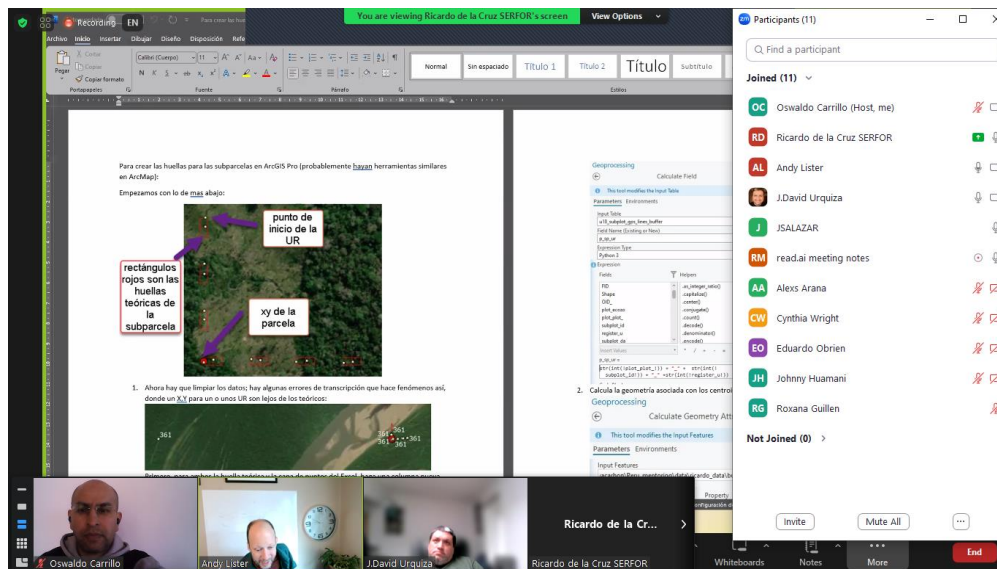


Photo: USFS IP

The SilvaCarbon LACC also supported the participation of George Gaines at the Small Area Estimation 2023-2024 conference in Lima last June, an event aimed to serve as a bridge between statisticians, survey methodologists, engineers, mathematicians, computer scientists, and more. The goal was to combine

information from multiple databases to develop reliable inferences at granular levels to fill gaps in sample due to external factors e.g. difficult access areas. USFS organized and chaired the session "Evaluation of a Constrained Fay-Herriot Model for Annual Estimation Using Panel Survey Data." with collaboration of David Affleck, University of Montana.

**Photo 3. Patricia Duran, Ricardo de la Cruz, (SERFOR staff members) and George Gaines (RMRS FIA), at the SAE 2024 conference in Lima, Peru.**



Photo: SERFOR

The SAE 2023-2024 conference was an opportunity to engage with students and junior researchers from South and Central America and other developing regions, fostering collaboration on current research challenges. For example, two colleagues from SERFOR, long-time partner of SilvaCarbon LACC, made significant contributions at this event. In particular, Patricia Duran and Ricardo de la Cruz (SERFOR staff) participated in the Parallel Session H1 “Recent developments in SAE” where they shared a talk on “Opportunities to use data from the National Forest Inventory of Peru in Small Area Estimation.” The SilvaCarbon LACC team collaborated with the SERFOR technical staff for their participation at this conference, recognizing their efforts to look for innovative options to improve the use of the National Forest Inventory of Peru in the framework of collaboration with SilvaCarbon - USFS experts.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- The SERFOR team will finish the basal area map developed with GEE using NFI data and it is expected to be included in the Peruvian NFI report.
- A clean and documented version of the GEE and R code will be developed as output of this collaboration in order to be shared with other partners.

**2.3.4. MINAM will resubmit the subnational reference level to better fit newer data estimation methods striving towards a national reference level (SilvaCarbon and SWAMP).**

Technical advisors from SilvaCarbon continued to provide technical assistance to six technicians from the General Directorate of Climate Change and Desertification of MINAM on various estimation approaches towards the construction of a nesting system to integrate local initiatives into the national MRV system. Particularly, SilvaCarbon technical advisors and partner scientists from State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), provided feedback on methods used to

generate and validate cumulative deforestation maps (e.g., from 2019 to 2021) in the Amazon region, using a sample-based approach. This activity included the exploration of potential underestimation of deforestation rates using different stratification criteria applied to the available Collect Earth Online (CEO) plots. Also relevant, SilvaCarbon provided support on conducting practical training sessions on using existing “area sampling tools.” This collaboration contributed to increase MINAM staff’s understanding on the scope and limitations of the methodologies implemented to estimate unbiased and precise deforestation rates.

Following administrative adjustments within the General Directorate of Climate Change and Desertification of MINAM, and the integration of new technical staff, it was necessary to review some of the analysis processes that have been discussed over the past year. Hence, from April to May, a step-by-step review was carried out by the SilvaCarbon/USFS team on the use of an Excel tool designed for the calculation of: a) sample-based area estimations, b) analyzing the effect of the number (and location) of subplot points per CEO plot, and c) optimizing the costs associated with interpretation time for each subplot. The plan is for the MINAM team to further use it to improve sample-based area estimation approach of deforestation rates, in preparation of its new FREL submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Peru is the only country under a VERRA assessment process that uses its own national FREL as the basis for nesting. Therefore, during last semester, the SilvaCarbon team supported MINAM in conducting a broader accuracy assessment process, from the project level to the Amazonian level. This is an ongoing effort, but progress has been made to include additional sample size estimates and new area ‘weights’ based on the unique combinations of ‘project, region, ecozone and Amazon’. The precision estimate will be summarized at the Amazonian level and at the ecozone level. To meet VERRA requirements, the accuracy estimate is expected to be reported considering >90% for stable forest and 70% for deforestation.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- The SilvaCarbon team will continue discussions on VERRA requirements to identify methodological differences between their standard and the MINAM approach. Also, it will generate a joint work plan (with timeline) to advance the development of the new FREL, integrating the lessons learned so far, i.e. from the previous FREL to the discussion on the implications of the methodological differences/estimates with respect to the VERRA standard.
- The MINAM team is in process to develop a biomass map to improve the estimation of emissions due to degradation.

#### **2.3.5. INAIGEM will have a national mountain peatland map to complement their national mountain wetland inventory (SilvaCarbon and SWAMP).**

Peru is currently working on a proposal for a pilot in the Ancash region, where they will validate their methodology to identify peatlands in the field. This validation is planned to happen by the end of October 2024. The SWAMP team has been meeting with the INAIGEM team to share methods for mapping mountain peatlands, using the expertise from mapping in Colombia and Ecuador.

Peru has the most extensive mountain peatlands, yet it needs to catch up in mapping them. The National Institute for Research in Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems (INAIGEM), a unit under the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) tasked with developing a national inventory of mountain peatlands, requested the technical support of the SWAMP team to create a comprehensive map of mountain peatlands.

The SWAMP team will continue to work closely with INAIGEM to complete this task, and include a peatland layer in their national wetlands map.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Peru will have a validated methodology for mapping peatlands.

**2.3.6. MINAM will develop GHG flux estimates in mountain peatlands to be included in Peru's NDC (SilvaCarbon and SWAMP)**

The SWAMP team is finishing writing the manuscript for an article on the study focused on impacts of traditional peat extraction in CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes at the Junín National Reserve, in central High Andes of Peru. Our results are the first to characterize greenhouse gas fluxes in this type of extractive activity in the Wet Puna region. SWAMP compared recently impacted areas (exposed peat), areas with natural secondary succession divided in 3 stages, and surrounded peatland vegetation divided into *Distichia muscoides* cushions and mixed cushion vegetation.

**Figure 4. Representative pictures of plot classes evaluated in our study.**

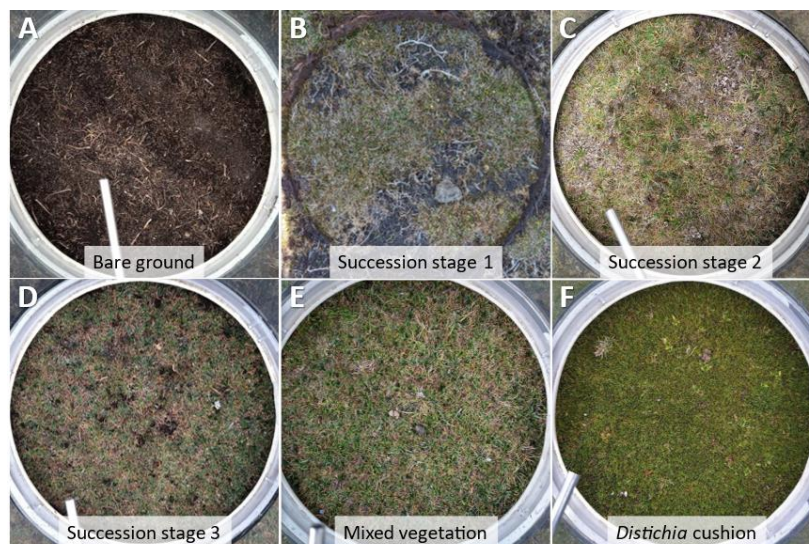


Photo: USFS IP

Similarly, the SWAMP team is analyzing the data and preparing the manuscript from the second GHG fluxes study in the Junin National Reserve focused on the effects of partial enclosures of cattle (cows, South American camelids, sheep, and others) in cushion peatlands. The SWAMP team analyzed three areas fenced in different years and control areas outside the fence, and measured CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes paired with environmental variables and vegetation surveys to account for the heterogeneity of the sites.

The efforts from the studies allowed for quantifying changes in GHG emissions according to degradation in Puna peatlands, and established a base from which additional research could construct emission factors for these peatlands. Additionally, SWAMP members from both CIFOR and USFS will coordinate results and analyses with the USFS-led Quistococha eddy flux tower team and their collaborators, the site of which overlaps with one of CIFOR's sites.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- A manuscript is being prepared to be submitted to the Journal of Ecological Applications titled “Traditional Andean peat-extraction shows low impact on CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> fluxes in Peruvian cushion-plant peatland” by December 2024.
- Another manuscript is being prepared on the effects of partial enclosures of cattle in cushion peatlands.

## **2.4. National and regional forest authorities improve the interoperability of their information systems for sustainable forest management and the generation of evidence for compliance with climate commitments (NDC/JDI).**

### **2.4.1. Strengthen interoperability of information systems between forest authorities on the multiple uses of the forest.**

In 2024, FOREST+ advanced geospatial interoperability between Ucayali ARFFS and OSINFOR to optimize regional and national forest management and enhance efforts against illegal logging. This initiative defined interoperability requirements for OSINFOR's geographic information system for forest and wildlife supervision (SISFOR), Ucayali's Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDER-U), and SERFOR's spatial data infrastructure (GEOSERFOR) web portal. Software architecture diagrams were developed for interoperability between OSINFOR and the Ucayali regional government (GOREU), and the geospatial data from the three platforms was analyzed to facilitate integration. This comprehensive design will enable efficient integration and seamless exchange of geospatial information among key institutions, boosting efficiency, transparency, and coordination in regional and national forest management.

#### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Incorporate Excel formats into the Information and Registration System (SIR), developed by SERFOR's Information and Registration Directorate (DIR), as an input for using data for physical and financial monitoring.

### **2.4.2. Implementation of regional information systems for multiple-use forest management.**

In FY2024, efforts centered around enhancing forest information systems and data accessibility. Three regional forest statistics platforms are now operational, providing updated information on timber and non-timber products, fully integrated with SERFOR's National Forest and Wildlife Information System (SNIFFS). These platforms offer open access to raw data for public use. In addition, the Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios ARFFS now have an algorithm in R language for automated report production and progress was made in the spatial data infrastructure in Ucayali, resulting in the training and certification of over 30 professionals.

Furthermore, Ucayali's Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure (IDER-Ucayali) is now operational, with cadastral information on forest assets being published. Ten professionals from the Regional Environmental Authority (ARA) and the Gore Ucayali's Information Technology Office (OTI) were trained in spatial data infrastructure implementation. Additionally, two directives regulating satellite monitoring of forest assets and the use of drones in addressing forest violations in Ucayali are ready for approval.

These initiatives have significantly improved the availability and quality of forest data, facilitating better monitoring and decision-making within the forest sector. The automated analysis platform in Loreto generated 94 reports on potential illegal forest activities, leading to the identification of 15,000 m<sup>3</sup> of unauthorized timber by OSINFOR. While progress has been made in narrowing the gap in data utilization for decision-making, consistent use of this information remains a challenge.

### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- Generate information on timber titles and timber potential for the supply of products to the private sector.
- The R-based tool for identifying forest disturbances and generating semi-automated reports will continue to be improved.

## 2.5. National and regional forest and environmental authorities have efficient processes for the granting, evaluation, control, and monitoring of forestry licenses and concessions for the use of forest goods and services.

### 2.5.1. Strengthen the process of granting, evaluation, control, and monitoring of forestry licenses and concessions in native communities.

As part of the "Technical Assistance Program for the Preparation of Environmental Management Declarations (DEMAS) Pilot Project", SERFOR financed the preparation of 75 DEMAs files for native communities (65 in Loreto and 10 in Ucayali). In Loreto, the VectoRForest algorithm was used, reducing the technical evaluation time from 6 days to just 2. However, only 30 of the 65 DEMAs submitted in Loreto were approved, and in Ucayali, 5 were approved. Training on using this tool was provided to 66 professionals from the Maynas UGFFS of the Loreto ARFFS, CEDIA, the decentralized offices of OSINFOR in Loreto, and OSINFOR Lima and its decentralized offices.

SERFOR also issued a resolution to update the management declaration guidelines, focusing on clarifying third-party contracts and excluding CITES-listed species from DEMAs. In Ucayali, the ARFFS issued 14 Agroforestry contracts (CUSAF) to producers in Huipoca. Additionally, fifteen professionals were trained in the use of forestry backpacks to enhance community engagement. In Madre de Dios, a diagnostic process was launched to verify 85 CUSAF applications could proceed and coordinations with SUNARP were made for their registration in public records.

**Photo 4. Delivery of 14 contracts of Assignment in Use for Agroforestry Systems to producers of Huipoca.**



Photo: FOREST+

Meetings between the Loreto and Ucayali ARFFS have led to the formulation of a roadmap for the harvesting of non-timber forest products. As a result of the technical assistance provided, the Madre de Dios ARFFS granted, for the first time, titles for the non-timber product “huicungo”, covering 323,017 ha of forest. In addition, forest transport documents for non-timber products are being improved, and in Ucayali, a DEMA was approved for palm fruit harvesting. These actions promote the sustainable use of forest resources and benefit the native communities involved.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Improve the VertorRForest tool to make it more user-friendly for DEMA evaluation and timber supply reporting.
- Improve the granting of different enabling titles.

**2.5.2. Articulation between the Regional Forest Authority and OSINFOR in the process of monitoring and supervision of conservation areas in indigenous communities that are participating in the fine offset payment mechanism.**

OSINFOR issued a resolution that includes 10 native communities from Loreto and Ucayali in the compensation program through forest conservation. These communities, with technical files prepared by the Community Forest Management (CFM) units of the ARFFS of Loreto and Ucayali, will compensate a total of USD \$1.7 million by conserving approximately 15,000 hectares of forest over a five-year period.

Additionally, the Loreto ARFFS CFM Unit has developed a platform on Google Earth Engine to automate multi-temporal analyses, detecting disturbances in areas conserved by native communities. This system is crucial, as any disturbance from deforestation or illegal logging will result in the loss of compensation benefits. By October 2024, the Loreto CFM Unit will be responsible for monitoring a total of 113,754.49 hectares of forest under conservation as part of the fine compensation framework.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Presentation of the “Guide for the implementation of the compensation of fines”.
- Improvements to the monitoring platform for conservation of forests and its socialization and contributions by OSINFOR.

### 3.3 OBJECTIVE III - IMPLEMENT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN THE COMPETITIVENESS OF TIMBER AND NON-TIMBER PRODUCTS AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES VALUE CHAINS

**Highlights**

- The PROCOMPITE law now includes climate mitigation, adaptation measures, and a circular economy approach to minimize environmental impact and promote inclusivity in forest product business plans.

- \$10 million in PROCOMPITE funds were approved to support organizations and native communities with improved technology, capacity, and infrastructure for forest product development. Over 340 attendees learned about PROCOMPITE, AGROIDEAS, and AgroPerú, resulting in loans and grants that directly benefited more than 20 communities.
- With FOREST+ support, the Ucayali government prepared procurement documents for preschool furniture valued at 30 million soles, benefiting 293 schools.
- FOREST+ secured a three-year purchase agreement for aguaje and huicungo with Candela, and linked Loreto's communities to Natura, strengthening Amazonian products in global markets.
- University partnerships: 11 students from UNAP were selected to conduct research on underutilized timber species and non-timber products like aguaje, with mentorship from CITE Forestal Maynas and NGO CEDIA. In addition, a USFS specialist from the International Institute of Tropical Forestry implemented a scientific writing course for UNAP students and professors, resulting in the development of 9 articles. In partnership with North Carolina State University, a call for proposals was issued in September for funding 15 undergraduate theses from UNAMAD, UNU, and UNALM.
- Youth Empowerment: A new module for the Forest Backpack was developed with Regional Education Directorates. It will be integrated into secondary school curricula to enhance environmental awareness among students and teachers next fiscal year. 21 youths from 17 native communities in Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios completed the Youth for the Amazon mentorship program, developing six group projects over seven months with guidance from USFS specialists and local NGOs. FOREST+ and SERFOR delivered a professional ethics course to 164 young forest and environmental sector employees, strengthening their ethical understanding and skills to address workplace challenges effectively.

### **3.1. Improved national and regional forest management instruments incorporate multiple use forest management and climate change mitigation.**

#### **3.1.1. Update management instruments to incorporate and promote multiple forest use.**

In 2024, FOREST+ assisted SERFOR in enhancing regulations for agroforestry system allocation and forest carbon access. Through national and regional government meetings, improvements were identified to strengthen the regulatory framework, ensure legal certainty, and support integrated forest and agroforestry management.

FOREST+ supported the Ex Ante Regulatory Impact Analysis (AIR), with a view to amending the regulations of the Forest and Wildlife Act to include the use of ecosystem services, especially on private lands and in indigenous communities. Additionally, changes were proposed to 14 articles to regulate the management of forest plantations and agroforestry systems, facilitating the formalization of small and medium-sized producers. This process, which involves the active participation of regional authorities and key stakeholders, was not completed this year due to the complexities of consensus-building, but it lays the groundwork for greater institutional capacity to implement sustainable practices.

#### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Support the granting of CUSAF's process and the use of ecosystem services.

### **3.1.2. Update instruments for monitoring and supervision of NDC measures and JDI results in timber forest licenses and concessions.**

FOREST+ supported OSINFOR in updating monitoring and supervision instruments, with the aim of evaluating the concession holder obligations to be reflected in the NDC report. The process revealed the need for training in data analysis, focused on machine learning methods. Technical exchanges were organized with the USFS Geospatial Technology and Applications Center (GTAC), in which experiences were shared and useful tools that OSINFOR could apply were identified.

#### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Compilation and analysis by SERFOR of data on forest cover change in concessions, in coordination with MINAM (PNCB).
- Estimation by SERFOR of emissions and/or removal of GHGs associated with forestry licenses and concessions, using the methodology provided by MINAM (DGCCD).
- OSINFOR has the capacity to update and maintain the selecting logging algorithm/model.

### **3.1.3. Improve ARFFS technical instruments related to multiple use forest management.**

The Ucayali and Loreto ARFFS have taken an important step by approving directives that regulate inspections in Primary Transformation Centers (“Standards and Procedures for Primary Transformation Center Inspections”). The Madre de Dios ARFFS, on the other hand, is in the process of developing its directive based on the Loreto and Ucayali experience and with support of OSINFOR. These directives are essential to standardizing inspections and ensure regulatory compliance in the forestry sector.

This FY24, the Ucayali ARFFS carried out a total of 50 inspections of the CTPs in the district of Coronel Portillo. Of these, 24 were carried out independently, while 26 were carried out in collaboration with OSINFOR. As a result, of the inspections conducted, an excess of 52.6 thousand m<sup>3</sup> of timber that did not physically exist was identified. On the other hand, Madre de Dios ARFFS, carried out 16 supervisions to CTPs, where several infractions were identified that have resulted in the opening of administrative sanctioning processes (PAS) due to lack of documentation and the management of forest products without proper authorization.

In addition, the Loreto and Ucayali ARFFS have organized and uploaded to the SIADO region platform the files of five-year audit to be carried out to 55 timber forest concessions by OSINFOR. This process is key to strengthening governance and transparency in forest resource management. To date, OSINFOR has audited 13 concessions in Loreto, covering an area of 161,000 ha, of which 3 have received unfavorable opinions. Likewise, in Ucayali, 21 audits have been carried out covering 382.7 thousand ha, with 1 unfavorable opinion. These audits are fundamental to guarantee the legality and sustainability of forestry activities.

#### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- 100% of the inspections to the CTPs in Ucayali and Loreto will be finished, an important point in the traceability of timber and legal origin.
- 100% of the five-yearly audits of timber concessions in Ucayali and 50% in Loreto will be finished.

### **3.1.4. Improve the process of reporting national obligations related to NDC measures and JDI results.**

This activity is being reported under objective 1.

### **3.2. The private sector has greater access to financing economic activities in the Amazon forests.**

#### **3.2.1. Design of regulatory proposals for the inclusion of forest products and services in public financial instruments**

In the last quarter, we supported the Ministry of Production and AGROIDEAS in drafting and improving the regulation for the recently amended PROCOMPITE law. As a result, business plans have to incorporate criteria aligned with climate change mitigation and adaptation measures with a circular economy approach, minimizing negative impacts on the environment and promoting gender inclusion and relationships with vulnerable communities (Article 9 of the regulation). The approved legislation will also improve the way subnational governments facilitate the implementation of business plans, in addition to including tools for monitoring and following up with beneficiary organizations.

##### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Support the Ministry of Production and AGROIDEAS in drafting the regulations of the PROCOMPITE Law, taking into account the experience of regional governments and companies.
- Carry out an evaluation of the placement of AgroPeru funds in the forestry sector and develop regulatory improvements in coordination with SERFOR and Agrobanco.

#### **3.2.2. Develop studies on the financial and/or economic viability of multiple-use forest management projects.**

In 2024, FOREST+ support for SERFOR and OSINFOR enabled significant progress in implementing a forest carbon business model in concessions. Joint efforts focused on identifying and proposing improvements to address legal and technical hurdles that were limiting the participation of concession holders in forest carbon projects.

In this context, a feasibility study that analyzed current legislation found that regulatory adjustments needed to be made to explicitly recognize the carbon rights associated with forest concessions and facilitate the inclusion of emission reduction activities in management plans. Main recommendations for encouraging carbon projects in concessions included changing the purpose of concession contracts to allow ecosystem services development to be a primary activity. Another suggestion was to develop guidelines for including activities related to forest carbon in management plans. Additionally, it was recommended that SERFOR expand its role in calculating the forest carbon emissions factor and incorporate comprehensive monitoring of GHG reduction initiatives in Peru.

This study is expected to lead to increased investment in concessions for purposes of developing forest carbon projects, making this a viable alternative for encouraging more concessions to be awarded and effectively meeting climate commitments to reduce GHG emissions.

##### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Technical support for SERFOR and the ARFFSs to develop a guideline that includes forest carbon credits in forest concession management plans.
- Technical support for SERFOR and the ARFFSs to evaluate the feasibility of forest concessions paying the harvest fee when they earn carbon credits.
- Technical support for the ARFFSs to conduct a study on the feasibility of forest carbon credits being earned in priority concessions via forest carbon projects (IFM or REDD+).

### 3.2.3. Disseminate financial instruments among small and medium business organizations and enhance their access to funds.

As part of the process that began last fiscal year, in 2024, FOREST+, in coordination with SERFOR, AGROBANCO, SERNANP, AGROIDEAS, SIERRA y SELVA EXPORTADORA and regional governments, held decentralized workshops in Loreto (4), Ucayali (2) y Madre de Dios (2) to disseminate financial instruments such as PROCOMPITE, AGROIDEAS and AgroPerú. More than 340 people attended, including forest and agricultural producers, native communities, government representatives and civil associations. In terms of financial inclusion activities, FOREST+ provided technical support to numerous small business organizations and indigenous communities in Loreto and Madre de Dios, as follows:

**Table 2. Small business organizations and indigenous communities with approved loans**

N°	PARTICIPATING INSTITUTION	REGION	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL USD \$
1	Cooperativa Agraria Achuar Shakaim.	Loreto	Received a loan from AgroPerú to finance <i>aguaje</i> harvesting and processing. The loan will benefit 45 small producer association members from 14 indigenous communities, 60 families, and 300 family group members.	24,324
2	Asociación de Conservación de Recursos Naturales (Veinte de Enero)	Loreto	Received a loan from AgroPerú to finance <i>aguaje</i> harvesting and processing, which will benefit 19 small producer association members, 16 families, and 80 family group members. In addition, it received a grant of 45,000 soles from SERNANP's competitive fund to finance <i>aguaje</i> harvesting and processing.	15,405
3	Native Community Ormarena - Buenos Aires	Loreto	Received a loan from AgroPerú to finance strengthening of the <i>aguaje</i> production chain, which involves 12 associated small-scale producers, 10 families, and 50 family members.	16,216
4	Native Community Las Palmeras - Veinte de Enero	Loreto	Received a loan from AgroPerú to finance strengthening of the <i>aguaje</i> production chain, which involves 12 associated small-scale producers, 11 families, and 55 family members.	8,108
5	Native Community - Mishki Muyu - Alfonso Ugarte (Pucacuro Reserve)	Loreto	Received a loan to finance strengthening of the <i>ungurahui</i> production chain, which involves 8 associated small-scale producers, 6 families, and 30 family members.	10,811
6	The Asociación Kukamanu Uka	Loreto	Native women's association received a grant from AGROIDEAS Indigenous and Rural Women Fund.	34,840

7	The Sonene and Palma Real native communities of the Tambopata Reserve and Bahujaja Sonene National Park	Madre de Dios	Each CCNN received a grant from SERNANP's competitive fund to promote sustainable <i>huicungo</i> and Brazil nut harvesting projects.	27027
8	The Association ACORENA, CCNN 20 de enero	Loreto	received a grant from SERNANP's competitive fund to promote sustainable <i>huicungo</i> and Brazil nut harvesting projects.	13,514
<b>TOTAL USD \$</b>				<b>150,245</b>

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Technical assistance will be provided so that at least 2 organizations in Ucayali can access AgroPerú and/or Agroideas funds.
- We will continue to provide support to productive organizations led by women so that they can apply for competitive funds.
- Technical follow-up will be provided to organizations that have already received funds to ensure that they are well utilized, that they apply for new funds and improve their productive and business capacities.

**3.2.4. Improve PROCOMPITE processes in Loreto, Ucayali and/or Madre de Dios to ensure the inclusion of the forestry sector in the value chains to be financed.**

PROCOMPITE funding is a very powerful tool for helping business organizations and native communities to access technology, improve their infrastructure, and add value to their products and services. It is very important that the GOREs launch new calls each year, help organizations apply, ensure on-time delivery of machinery and infrastructure, and conduct proper follow-up of beneficiaries.

In coordination with AGROIDEAS (the Ministry of Agriculture agency tasked with delivering technical assistance to the GOREs for PROCOMPITE implementation), we provided technical assistance to the regional governments of Loreto and Ucayali and to the Provincial Municipality of Tambopata in Madre de Dios. This collaboration and technical assistance resulted in the approval of two PROCOMPITE funds in Loreto, for 3 and 38 million soles respectively; one PROCOMPITE in Tambopata, Madre de Dios, for 1 million soles; and one PROCOMPITE in Ucayali, in the process of being approved, for 15 million soles. In all PROCOMPITEs, we secured the inclusion of timber and non-timber products as value chains eligible for funding. This funding is expected to enable more than 160 business organizations and native communities to improve their capacity, technology, and infrastructure. In past PROCOMPITE processes in these regions, these value chains were not a funding priority, nor were the organizations belonging to tablethose chains offered capacity-building to help them apply. This fiscal year, more than six workshops were held, providing over 150 individuals from the public and private sectors with training and information on how to develop a business plan and how to apply. Lastly, it should be mentioned that the regulation allows subnational governments to use 10% of approved PROCOMPITE funds. Since the regional governments of Loreto and Ucayali have gone from approving 3-5 million to 38 million, this means they will have a larger operating budget to use for local economic development.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Support will be provided to at least 5 forestry organizations to prepare their business plans and apply for PROCOMPITE funds in Loreto and/or Ucayali.
- Assistance will be provided to at least 1 regional government to improve its capacity to follow up and monitor the business plans that will receive PROCOMPITE funds.

### **3.3. Forest business organizations have access to new public and private markets.**

#### **3.3.1. Promote the inclusion of forest products in public procurement by national and regional authorities.**

FOREST+ focused on promoting the procurement of wood products by the Ucayali regional government, specifically for public school furniture. A key requirement for this initiative is that the wood must come from forest concessions or indigenous communities that comply with traceability and sustainable harvesting regulations. Additionally, the wood must be sourced from local micro and small enterprises, ensuring they benefit from the process.

FOREST+ provided technical assistance to the Ucayali government for the preparation of technical documents and procurement files for replacing preschool furniture. This project aims to benefit 293 schools by supplying approximately 5,600 tables and 22,800 chairs, with an estimated value of 30 million soles. Despite initial delays, it is expected to be approved and launched by December. To ensure the sustainability of the acquisition model, FOREST+ also developed two manuals for the regional government on furniture supervision and future procurement.

At the national level, FOREST+ collaborated with SERFOR and the CITEforestal Pucallpa to update technical specifications for 16 wood furniture product sheets, enhancing efficiency and reducing quality risks. These were approved by PERUCOMPRAS and included in the national procurement platform, marking a significant milestone for expanding wood product supply. Additionally, a workshop in August registered over 10 regional forestry companies, preparing them to sell to the state.

#### **Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- Receive approval of the investment project for the purchase of school furniture for Ucayali's elementary schools, as well as the two supervision and project development manuals.
- Support the regional government of Ucayali in the development of another investment project for the purchase of school furniture for primary schools.
- In coordination with the CITES, support forestry companies to become certified as suppliers of the state and be able to sell office or school furniture to the state at the national level.

#### **3.3.2. Develop trade promotion initiatives between public and private actors for forest products and services**

The Peruvian Amazon has a lot of potential beyond wood and its biodiversity could provide high value products for the gastronomy, nutraceuticals and cosmetics markets. During FY2024 FOREST+ aimed to create commercial opportunities for non-timber products by facilitating partnerships between local Amazonian suppliers and national and international buyers, while ensuring respect for and conservation of the environment, in addition to promoting fair trade.

In that sense, FOREST+ reached out to Candela Peru, a mid-size company that has been processing and exporting Amazon products and ingredients for the food and cosmetics industry for more than 30 years, to establish new partnerships to increase their supply with new Amazonian fruits. That effort led to

establish 3-year purchase agreements with native communities of the Tapiche - Blanco basins in Loreto to buy aguaje and Madre de Dios Indigenous Forestry Association (AFIMAD) to buy huicungo.

It is important to highlight that, in the case of aguaje, a commitment to purchase aguaje oil produced by Candela from the aguaje of the Tapiche-Blanco communities was obtained from the transnational company Natura Cosmetics. FOREST+ supported representatives of these partners to travel to Brazil to visit Natura facilities and learn its business model with native communities and all the program they have with them to strengthen the supply chain with fair trade and sustainable practices. At the end of the trip, Natura confirmed its commitment to source aguaje oil from Peru and the details of the business agreement are being worked with Candela and communities.

Finally, FOREST+ supported the Organic Collectors of the Castaña Nut (RONAP) in Madre de Dios to elaborate a business plan to export castaña snacks to Colombia and the U.S in collaboration with PROMPERU and SIERRA y SELVA EXPORTADORA. Further support will be given to achieve the export of these products.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- Consolidate the production of fresh and dried *aguaje* from the communities in Loreto.
- Continue coordination with Natura to ensure that they are able to purchase *aguaje* oil from Peru.
- Accompany Indigenous Forestry Association of Madre de Dios (AFIMAD) in the fulfillment of its contract with CANDELA and ensure that they can install machinery to sell peeled *huicungo* in greater quantities.

### **3.3.3. Develop and disseminate tools and platforms to promote the inclusion of forest products and services in the new markets.**

FOREST+ supported business organizations, native communities, representatives of CITEs, and local NGOs from Loreto and Madre de Dios with training on the Green Value Tool, which provides a simplified methodology for monitoring and analyzing costs and revenues. 15 participants were trained on how to identify costs and revenues associated with the production of Brazil nut, *aguaje* and *timber*, improving their financial management capacities and ability to better negotiate with buyers. This tool was very well received by the participating organizations and the easy to understand cost and financial concepts is a great opportunity to replicate the workshop during FY2025.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- Replicate the Green Value Tool workshop in at least 1 region.
- Monitor the indigenous communities that participated in the first workshop to ensure that they incorporate the tool in their decision making.

### **3.4. Public and private environmental and forest agencies access and incorporate scientific information into multiple-use forest management and climate change decision-making.**

#### **3.4.1. Generate scientific information on multiple forest use and climate change. (Includes FOREST+, SilvaCarbon and SWAMP.)**

Under Peru's commitments to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), SERFOR requires a population assessment of the *shihuahuaco* and *tahuari* tree species. To support this, SERFOR requested assistance from SilvaCarbon and USFS experts to estimate the

population size and distribution of species *Dipteryx micrantha*, *Dipteryx ferrea*, *Handroanthus serratifolius*, *Handroanthus incanus*, and other species within the *Dipteryx* and *Handroanthus* genera. These assessments will inform the non-detriment findings prepared by the CITES scientific authority and guide decisions and adjustments by SERFOR as the CITES administrative authority.

As part of this collaboration, SilvaCarbon and USFS experts have conducted technical exchanges with the SERFOR team on statistical and remote sensing data analysis to meet SERFOR's requirements. This ongoing work aims to develop a predictive model for these species' population sizes in the short term, providing essential data to meet Peru's CITES obligations.

In addition, in 2024, FOREST+ worked with the Center for Innovation and Technology Transfer network to generate scientific data on the potential for using less common timber species in construction and school furniture. More than a ton of samples from four species -*Tachigali argyrophylla* (Tangarana), *Anaueria brasiliensis* (Añuje rumo), *Eschweilera cf. rodriguesiana* (Machimango), and *Vochysia vismiifolia* (Quillosa)- were processed. This undertaking helped to further understanding of the physical and mechanical properties of these species and that, in turn, will make it possible to use them in more diverse ways, thereby reducing pressure on more in-demand species.

FOREST+ also worked with USFS specialists to launch a study on the fungal attack on *Pterygota amazonica* (Paujil ruo) wood with a view to developing a protocol for controlling blue stain. Finally, FCF-UNAP spearheaded the development of a database of resources for forest and climate research in Loreto that houses 1,355 digitally accessible documents. The database will make it easier to search for scientific data and will support informed decision-making regarding conservation and forestry projects, e.g., identifying research priorities and synergies in the aguaje value chain.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- In the framework of the collaboration SERFOR-SilvaCarbon, finalize the estimation of the population size and distribution of the species *Dipteryx micrantha*, *Dipteryx ferrea*, *Handroanthus serratifolius* and *Handroanthus incanus*, as well as those corresponding to the genera *Dipteryx* and *Handroanthus*, in order to provide estimates on these which will be included in Appendix II of CITES.
- Complete the studies and disseminate the findings on the four forest species with timber potential, with CITEforestal Maynas leading the effort with support from the CITE network (Pucallpa and Lima).
- Launch phase two of the study on forest species with timber potential, which will include at least four more species.
- Wrap up the study on blue stain in light woods with the development of a protocol to control it.

#### **3.4.2. Facilitate access to scientific information on multiple-use forest management and climate change for decision-making (includes FOREST+, SilvaCarbon, and SWAMP).**

FOREST+ provided technical assistance to SERFOR for developing a research platform to be integrated into its National Forest and Wildlife Information System (SNIFFS). The analysis, design, and prototype were completed for the "Studies and Research" sub-module of the Promotion and Competitiveness module. The platform will improve access to forest and wildlife data and research.

Additionally, with technical support from FOREST+ and FCF-UNALM, the second issue of the *Revista Forestal del Perú (RFP)* was published, for a total of 20 articles in 2024. This partnership is increasing the

visibility of forest sciences research and enabling RFP to move forward with its application for SciELO status, which will make the journal more academically relevant. Circulation of the RFP among regional partners will ensure that local researchers have a quality platform for sharing their work.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- The Studies and Research Submodule, part of the SNIFFS<sup>5</sup> Promotion and Competitiveness Module will be implemented.

**3.4.3. Strengthen applied research capacities of UNAP students and faculty in multiple forest use and climate change mitigation (Includes FOREST+, SilvaCarbon and SWAMP).**

UNAP scholarship program: In 2024, 11 students from UNAP's School of Forest Engineering were selected to conduct research on underutilized timber species and non-timber products like *aguaje*. They have all begun their theses, nine of them timber-related and two related to non-timber species. This research promotes more sustainable and diversified forest management aimed at helping to reduce pressure on high demand species and encouraging the responsible harvesting of timber and non-timber products. Partnering with entities such as CITE and the Center for the Development of the Amazonian Indigenous People (CEDIA) has been key to consolidating technical support networks and promoting high-impact research in the region.

UNAP & FOREST+ Work Plan (2024-2027): In 2024, the UNAP & FOREST+ Work Plan (2024-2027) was approved. The plan lays out a roadmap for strengthening UNAP's forestry and climate change mitigation research capabilities and provides for the creation of research groups, execution of 20 studies, and inclusion of five professors in the *Registro Nacional Científico, Tecnológico y de Innovación Tecnológica* [National Science, Technology, and Technological Innovation Registry].

Technical exchanges between the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (IITF) and FCF-UNAP: In 2024, the IITF and FCF-UNAP participated in technical exchanges that resulted in agreements to work together on scientific writing and to explore joint funding. The exchange was accompanied by a course on scientific writing that led to nine proposals for articles, exceeding the initial target. Efforts like this make UNAP better able to take its research global and produce higher quality scientific publications, as well as share its findings with the public through better dissemination.

**Anticipated progress for the next year:**

- At least 11 studies will conclude in 2025: 9 on forest species with timber potential and 2 on non-timber species related to the aguaje value chain.
- An "Amazonian Palm" research group will be created and the "Time-space variations of forest attributes" (VETAF) research group will be strengthened. The members of these two UNAP research groups will receive capacity-building and at least six studies will be launched.
- FCF-UNAP and IITF will hold at least two technical exchanges focused on publishing scientific data and securing research funding.

**3.4.4. Strengthen applied research capacities of faculty and students at Amazonian universities through the North Carolina State University (NCSU) and UNALM alliance.**

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<sup>5</sup> National Forest and Wildlife Management Information System

The alliance between NCSU and the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (UNALM) was formalized in early 2024 and aims to improve applied research in Amazonian universities. The Alliance consists of three components: (i) capacity-building, (ii) research, and (iii) curriculum development.

- Capacity-building. More than 60 students, graduates, and faculty from UNALM, UNU, and UNAMAD received training on tree growth measurement and germplasm management in hybrid and in-person sessions led by NCSU professors. The instructors -Drs. Meredith Martin and Juan José Acosta and Alejandra Betancourt (M.Sc.) and Romeo Jump (M.Sc.) -shared practical and theoretical tools for forest management. The hybrid formats were improved and a repository of accessible content was created for former participants and professionals.
- Research – undergraduate theses. A call for proposals was issued in September for funding 15 undergraduate theses for students from UNAMAD, UNU, and UNALM that are aligned with regional priorities in Ucayali and Madre de Dios. The call for proposals came about through collaborative engagement with faculty and local authorities. This investment in undergraduate research is key to generating local knowledge and specific solutions to respond to the environmental, economic, and social needs identified by more than 250 stakeholders in the Peruvian Amazon.
- Curriculum development. The process to improve the curricula at UNAMAD and UNU began with a curriculum assessment conducted with instructors from both universities' schools of forestry sciences to identify curriculum needs and to demonstrate how using case studies as a competency assessment tool -which is not currently being done at either institution- works. In addition, to help guide curriculum reforms at UNU and UNAMAD, FOREST+ facilitated experience sharing with UNALM, where competency-based assessment is already being done.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- At least four trainings will be offered on key topics. These will provide supplementary instruction, particularly to current thesis students and to other undergraduates interested in doing theses with the Alliance. Topics will include programming and basic analysis in R, forest productivity, biometrics and modeling, LIDAR data, agroforestry, reducing the impact of logging, and non-timber product management.
- At least 15 studies will be launched in 2025 within the framework of the NCSU+UNALM Alliance. These are expected to cover the four FOREST+ thematic areas (timber, non-timber, agroforestry, and forest carbon).
- A second call for undergraduate thesis funding will be issued and by year's end, the next group of thesis students will have been selected.

### **3.5. Young leaders have the technical and soft skills to promote the multiple uses of their forests and climate change mitigation.**

#### **3.5.1. Young people from Amazonian communities have the skills and tools to care for and use their forests.**

The module "Conservation and friendly harvesting of our forests" for the Forest Backpack was developed and validated through a collaborative work process involving the Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios Regional Education Directorates, which was crucial to ensuring that the module was context-sensitive and relevant to the different Amazonian areas. The [multi-themed story](#), which covers each region's key flora, fauna, and forest products, will be integrated into secondary school curricula. It reinforces environmental

awareness in students and teachers and is a response to requests from the regional environmental authorities that forestry and environmental education be promoted in their respective jurisdictions.

Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service transferred the [Amazonaria educational material](#), created within the framework of the FOREST program alongside SERFOR and the Museo de Sitio Pachacamac. It includes teaching materials, supplementary readings, informative videos, and a bibliography that enable users to explore Peru's fascinating places and species. The Museum will make the educational content available on its website, thereby making it accessible to schools, teachers, students, and the general public.

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- In coordination with OSINFOR, provide training on the use of the Forest Backpack “Conservation and friendly use of our forests” learning module to representatives/officials of the Ucayali, Loreto, and Madre de Dios Regional Education Directorates and Local Education Management Units (UGELs). Support will be provided for replications of the training given by these same representatives/officials.

#### 3.5.2. Strengthen technical and social-emotional skills of young students and professionals.

Twenty-one young people from 17 native communities in Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios successfully completed their participation in the fourth edition of the Youth for the Amazon mentorship program. Over the course of seven months, these young people worked on [six group project proposals](#) that addressed critical challenges for the Amazon. Collaboration with key regional partners such as AIDER, Conservation International, and Caritas Madre de Dios ensured a comprehensive and context-sensitive approach to the needs of the Amazon. The process included mentoring sessions with U.S. Forest Service experts and regional mentors from partner organizations. Seven follow-up sessions, youth dialogues with forest sector experts, in-person technical workshops, and field visits were also held to build the participants' skills. This [program](#) has been key to developing both soft skills and technical competencies of participants.

**Photo 5. Closing event of the Youth for the Amazon Mentoring Program.**



Photo: USAID/USFS

"I feel proud to be here, representing indigenous women. For me, the *Youth for the Amazon* mentoring program has been a door full of opportunities, a way to meet and create partnerships with other entities, to bring those benefits to my community."

Ariana Anai - Participant of the Youth for the Amazon 2024 Mentoring Program.

FOREST+ worked with SERFOR to deliver a [professional ethics course](#) to 164 young people (104 women and 60 men). The course provided training to young people ages 19 to 29 who are currently employed in institutions that work on forest and environment-related issues and focused on improving their understanding and application of ethical principles in professional settings, as well as on developing critical skills for identifying and resolving ethical dilemmas in complex situations. The impact of the training will be significant because participants will be prepared to tackle ethical challenges in the workplace.

*"After taking SERFOR's Professional Ethics course, I understood that ethics is something that is reflected in how we act as people and professionals. I learned the importance of actively listening and valuing the opinions of others. I now know the need to communicate clearly and with empathy, seeking solutions. I also understood that it is key to create an environment where everyone can express themselves without fear and support those who need it".*

*Seleni Fasanardo - Participant of SERFOR's Professional Ethics Course*

The second edition of the "[RETO PERU TEC: UCAYALI 2024](#)" challenge, organized by the Ministry of Production with support from FOREST+, UNDP, and the FAO, offered training to more than 40 young people from the region on developing innovative proposals focused on conserving the Amazon rainforest. Winners were chosen for each of the competition's three categories, and the team supported by FOREST+, and assisted by U.S. Forest Service specialist Marcus Taylor in the "Valuation of Forest Timber Species" challenge, was awarded funding in the amount of 10,000 soles to implement their first minimum viable output. The team proposed a digital platform to make forest plantations more competitive by using timber resources and debris. Throughout the process, the young people received technical assistance and mentoring and attended workshops on soft skills like teamwork, communication, and active listening.

Photo 6. Peru Tec Winners Awards



Photo: USAID/USFS

*"The Peru Tec Challenge opened many doors for me, from strengthening my management, innovation and creative skills to improving my soft skills. The teamwork dynamics helped me learn about leadership, empathy and collaboration. Networking was also key, I met many people involved in the challenge. I also received mentoring from U.S. Forest Service engineer Marcus Taylor, who provided great ideas and support".*

*Kenneth Garcia - Winner of the Peru TEC Challenge*

#### Anticipated progress for the next year:

- A fifth edition of the Youth for the Amazon mentorship program will be carried out.
- A community of practice will be established among graduates from previous mentorship programs. The idea is to create a forum in which young people can interact, reflect on their professional work, and share information on sustainable forest management and climate change mitigation.
- Technical assistance will be provided for the "incubation process" for the winners of the "Valuation of forest timber species" challenge at Peru TEC 2024. Technical assistance will also be offered to help young people access public and private funding as part of the Peru TEC 2025 incubation process. U.S. Forest Service support and soft skills training will be provided.
- FOREST+ will host lectures/webinars by U.S. Forest Service specialists and relevant GoP forest and environmental stakeholders to improve young people's technical understanding of agroforestry systems, forest carbon, and restoration.
- The interpersonal skills course developed in FY24 in partnership with SERFOR will be given to young people working with partners, including MINAM, SERFOR, OSINFOR, ARFFSs, universities, CITEs, and IIAP.

## 4. CROSS-CUTTING THEMES RESULTS AND PROGRESS

### 4.1 GENDER AND VULNERABLE POPULATION

In this FY24, the following activities were developed:

#### **Assistance to 18 women of the Kukamanu Uka del Río Amazonas Association, to apply for an Entrepreneurship of Rural and Indigenous Women (EEMRI) grant**

Technical assistance was provided to 18 indigenous women of the Kukamanu Uka del Río Amazonas Association located in Loreto in executing the funds obtained through the Entrepreneurship Strategy for Rural and Indigenous Women of 2023. The budget will be used to improve the production and marketing of chambira-based handicrafts, upgrade its equipment, strengthen its capacities, create a website, have a social media presence, and build a maloca (ancestral communal dwelling used by indigenous people in the Amazon). At the end of FY24, 80% of the execution has been completed and 100% of the project is planned to be delivered in Q1 of FY25.

#### **Participation of women leaders in the "Women's Leadership in Conservation"**

The Women in Conservation Leadership Seminar was offered by the USFS and Colorado State University for women working to have a positive impact on biodiversity conservation, forest management, protected area management, climate change and sustainable development. This FY, FOREST+ benefited 5 women, who work in agencies related to sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation in Peru, with full scholarships to participate in this seminar that began in May and ended in August 2024. Through this seminar, participants networked with other women leaders working in conservation around the world and acquired the skills necessary to further their careers.

*"It has been a very rewarding experience to have been part of the Women in Conservation Leadership Seminar put on by the Center for National Protected Areas Management and U.S. Forest Service International Programs. I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to bringing what I've learned back to the local communities we work with at the Sanctuary and to sharing a comprehensive vision from the perspective of women engaged in the world of conservation.*

*Thank you so much."*

Carolina Guevara Molina

SERNANP Manager, Tabaconas Namballe National Sanctuary

#### **Capacity training in forest carbon management**

In FY24, FOREST+ encouraged women working in the public sector to apply for and attend the "Understanding Forest Carbon Management" course organized by the Michigan State University Department of Forestry with support from FOREST+. Out of a total of 51 attendees, 19 were women representing MINAM, SERFOR, OSINFOR, the ARFFSs, the Regional Environment and Strategic Planning Authorities, the Amazon Regional Cluster, the municipal government of Tambopata, and academia. The low attendance from women represents a need to invest more in promotion of women participation.

### **Non-Timber Forest Products**

In May, forest titles were granted to five CCNN in Madre de Dios, formalizing for the first time in the region the use of the *huicungo* fruit for commercial purposes and empowering women, who are responsible for much of the harvesting activity. Moreover, a contract was signed between the Candela company and the AFIMAD for three years, granting association members access to markets. Candela will also provide capacity building to improve harvesting techniques. This milestone provides women the opportunity to support their community and play an active role in climate change mitigation and sustainable resource management.

### **Capacity Building in Community Forest Management**

The CCNN of Sonene and Palma Real in Madre de Dios were trained in community forest management, rights and obligations of enabling titles, sanctions and infractions in the LFFS and forest control and oversight. This activity was carried out by MDD's ARFFS, AFIMAD and FOREST+ and was attended by 121 people, 63% women, showing the important role women play in managing forest resources and contribution to their community's livelihoods.

### **AGROIDEAS**

In coordination with AGROIDEAS and Sierra y Selva Exportadora, a workshop titled "Access to Non-Reimbursable Funds through the AGROIDEAS Competitiveness Compensation Program" was held for the Indigenous Communities (CCNN) in the Manu province, Madre de Dios. The workshop aimed to empower various organizations involved in agriculture, livestock, and non-timber forest activities by providing them with access to these funding opportunities and services to enhance their competitiveness. A total of 58 participants from CCNN attended, 23 of them were small forest producers and 50% percent of the total number were women.

## **4.2 YOUTH**

In 2024, a total of 336 young people between 19 and 29 years old (190 women and 146 men) received training on key topics such as forest management, climate change mitigation and multiple use of forests. In these training events, with exchanges with UNAP and USFS-IITF specialists standing out in particular. Also, during the fourth edition of the Youth for the Amazon program, 21 young people from 17 indigenous communities in Loreto, Ucayali, and Madre de Dios received technical training and developed soft skills to lead forest management activities in their territories. These events have strengthened the young people's capabilities and helped them become better leaders conserving Amazonian forest resources.

FOREST+ partnered with SERFOR Educa to offer a virtual course on professional ethics to young people between the ages of 19 and 29 who are currently employed in institutions that work on forest and environment related issues in Peru. The course enhanced their understanding and use of ethical principles in the workplace and helped them develop critical skills for identifying and resolving ethical dilemmas in complex situations. A total of 164 young people participated (104 women and 60 men).

Through our work with strategic partners like FCF-UNALM, CITE, CEDIA, and UNAP we have been to provide technical assistance and mentoring to young university students working on their theses and research projects. This support helped 11 UNAP forestry students improve their thesis plans, eight of

which were ultimately approved. In addition, 40 young people from UNAMAD, UNU, and UNALM received training on advanced techniques for measuring tree growth in tropical forests. They learned to use innovative methodologies, which improved their capacity to generate scientific data to support sustainable forest management.

## 4.3 BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK

Our partners have played a key role in advancing our shared goals in climate change mitigation, multi-use forestry, sustainable forest management, and market-solutions topics. The feedback received is essential for adapting our strategies and fostering the sustainability of our interventions. Below is a selection of feedback from our partners, reflecting their perspectives and experiences in our joint work.

Four questions were formulated to gather their feedback.

- What did the joint work with FOREST+ consist of this year?
- What would be your opinion of the work carried out with FOREST+ in relation to timeliness, relevance, quality and impact? What was the main contribution to your institution?
- How could the work done be made sustainable and scalable?
- What would be your recommendation to FOREST+ to improve the work coordinated with your institution?

“The work with FOREST+ was framed within the development of responsible public procurement activities, certification of labor competencies in the framework of traceability for wood processing centers, research on wood preservation for species with commercial potential and, above all, institutional strengthening of the CITE through the inclusion of new areas and operational professional profiles”.

Kevin Isaac Rodriguez Vasquez  
Director  
CITEforestal Pucallpa

“I am very pleased with the work done with FOREST+, especially the direct accompaniment of your team in the execution of the project. I have been impressed by how FOREST+ has identified research and work needs at the regional level, which has allowed it to precisely focus its areas of impact. This contributes to a much more efficient and meaningful investment of resources. For our institution, the NCSU Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, it is essential to continue collaborating with FOREST+, as this partnership provides us with the opportunity to carry out global research in the conservation of highly relevant forest resources, such as the Peruvian Amazon”.

Juan Jose Acosta Jaramillo  
Director - Camcore, Associate Professor  
North Carolina State University

“Sustainability and scalability could be given to the work done by maintaining constant coordination and mapping synergies and other projects where collaboration could take place”.

Bismarck Chavez Montoya

“My recommendation for FOREST+ would be to coordinate directly with each Line Manager who is operationally in charge of the activities”.

Sonia María González Molina  
Directora de Fortalecimiento de Capacidades  
Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre

Additionally, FOREST+ continued the work of applying the feedback tool to the participants, according to USAID guidelines. The following questions were asked based on USAID’s feedback guidance, which gives seven areas to be addressed: 1) relevance and acceptability, 2) quality, 3) satisfaction, 4) unintended negative consequences, 5) outcomes, 6) recommendations, and 7) requests for information:

- Do you think the activity was timely and relevant? Why?
- Do you feel that this was a high-quality activity? Which aspects of it stand out?
- Did this activity meet your expectations?
- What knowledge are you taking away from this activity? How would you apply it in your personal, professional, and/or workplace life in the medium and long term?
- Do you need additional information? Please indicate which type of information.
- Over the course of the activity (before, during, and after), did you feel that it was not appropriate, violated any right, or caused you any harm or negative consequence?
- Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for improvement?

The results are as follows:

**Table 3. Collecting Beneficiary Feedback - 2024-Training**

REGION	EVENTS HELD	EVENTS EVALUATED	WOMEN INTERVIEWED	MEN INTERVIEWED	TOTAL INTERVIEWED
LIMA	7	6	6	6	12
LORETO	11	9	12	12	24
MADRE DE DIOS	7	5	10	8	18
UCAYALI	8	7	6	8	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>68</b>

**Table 4. Collecting Beneficiary Feedback - 2024-Awareness-Raising**

REGION	EVENTS HELD	EVENTS EVALUATED	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL INTERVIEWED
LIMA	13	0	0	0	0
LORETO	23	2	1	2	3
MADRE DE DIOS	15	2	3	2	5
UCAYALI	27	7	8	17	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>33</b>

## 4.4 COMMUNICATIONS

Communications in FY2024 focused on making the FOREST+ program visible, especially in the regions where the program has a direct impact -Loreto, Madre de Dios and Ucayali-, promoting the importance of biodiversity conservation. During this period, we continued working closely with the communications teams of government institutions, both at the national and regional levels.

**Table 5. Outreach and Communication Events FY2024**

FOREST+ OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	PRODUCTS
Objective 1. Strengthen national and regional forest governance, promoting multiple-use forest management for climate change mitigation.	Capacity training in forest carbon, San Martin.	Directors, managers, SERFOR officials and regional forestry and wildlife authorities of San Martin, Madre de Dios, Ucayali, and Loreto.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>News outlets: <a href="#">Andina</a>, <a href="#">Perú 21</a>, <a href="#">Radio Nacional</a>, <a href="#">Trome</a>, <a href="#">Diario Uno</a>, <a href="#">La Última</a>, <a href="#">Diario Voces</a>, <a href="#">AgroPerú</a>, <a href="#">Inforegión</a>, <a href="#">Andina- 2</a>, <a href="#">La Republica</a></li> <li>Social media: <a href="#">Facebook SERFOR</a>, <a href="#">Twitter SERFOR</a></li> </ul>
	Capacity building of Strategic Control Posts, Loreto.	Serfor, GRFFS de Loreto, CITE Forestal Maynas y CITE Forestal Ucayali.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media: <a href="#">Facebook SERFOR</a>, <a href="#">web SERFOR</a>, <a href="#">web FOREST+</a></li> </ul>
	Award ceremony of enabling titles to 5 native communities, Madre de Dios.	Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management Bureau of Madre de Dios and native communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media: <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+</a> and <a href="#">web FOREST+</a></li> <li>News outlets: <a href="#">Inforegión</a>, <a href="#">Tambopata Noticias</a>, <a href="#">Noticiero La Hora de la Verdad</a>, <a href="#">Informativo Madre de Dios</a></li> </ul>
	DEMA award ceremony to the San José de Tunuya community, Ucayali.	CEDIA, Terra Nuova, OSINFOR, SERFOR and Loreto and Ucayali GRFFS, private companies and native communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>News outlets: <a href="#">Inforegión</a>, <a href="#">Diario Jornada</a>, <a href="#">El Búho</a>, <a href="#">HuancaYorkTimes</a>, <a href="#">El Objetivo</a>, <a href="#">Noticias Trujillo</a>, <a href="#">La Lupa</a>.</li> </ul>
	Meetings of the Executive Board for the Forestry Sector Development with regional authorities of Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios.	Ministry of Economy and Finance Regional Government of Ucayali Regional Government of Madre de Dios Regional Government of Loreto Serfor Peru Osinfor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media: Meeting to improve DEMA deliveries: <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 1</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 2</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 3</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 4</a>, <a href="#">Facebook GRFFS de Loreto 1</a>, <a href="#">Facebook GRFFS de Loreto 2</a>, <a href="#">Facebook GRFFS de Madre de Dios</a></li> </ul>

FOREST+ OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	PRODUCTS
	Budget of US \$11.7 million received by the Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios GRFFS.	MEF, and Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios GRFFS.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Web FOREST+</a></li> </ul>
	Creation of the CUSAF technical roundtable, Ucayali.	SERFOR, AGROIDEAS, SIERRA y SELVA EXPORTADORA, Agrorural, Regional Directorate of Agriculture, OSINFOR, DEVIDA, National Agricultural Health Service of Peru (SENASA) and the Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News outlets: <a href="#">Inforegión</a>, <a href="#">La Lupa</a>, <a href="#">El Buhúo</a>, <a href="#">Diario Jornada</a>, <a href="#">HuancaYork Times</a>, <a href="#">Noticias Trujillo</a>, <a href="#">El objetivo</a>.</li> </ul>
	PANGEA-GCF Workshop: PAN Tropical Biogeochemistry and Ecological Adaptation Research. Scope of a NASA terrestrial ecology field campaign.	NASA, PUCP, GCF Task Force, UCLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+</a> and <a href="#">web FOREST+</a>.</li> </ul>
Objective 2. Strengthen the institutional capacities of national and regional forest and environment authorities and other strategic stakeholders for sustainable forest use and climate change mitigation.	Technical exchange of USFS specialist with forest authorities, businessmen and academia.	CITEforestal Pucallpa, CITEforestal Maynas and CITEmadera, UNU and UNALM authorities, professors and students,, ADEX and forestry sector entrepreneurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Facebook ADEX</a>, <a href="#">Facebook ADEX 2</a>, <a href="#">Live broadcast FOREST+</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 1</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 2</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 3</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 4</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 5</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+ 6</a>, <a href="#">web FOREST+</a>, <a href="#">Facebook USAID</a>, <a href="#">Twitter USAID</a> and <a href="#">Instagram USAID</a></li> </ul>
	Inauguration of ITP space in CASACOR 2024	Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation, ITP, CITEmadera, CITEforestal Pucallpa, CITEforestal Maynas and CITEproductivo Madre de Dios.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Web USAID</a>, <a href="#">Twitter USAID</a>, <a href="#">Instagram USAID</a>, <a href="#">Facebook USAID</a></li> <li>• News outlets: : <a href="#">El Peruano</a>, <a href="#">Inforegión</a>, <a href="#">Contigo TV</a></li> </ul>
	Capacity building in forest carbon, San Martin region.	Directors, managers, SERFOR officials and San	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News outlets: <a href="#">Andina</a>, <a href="#">Perú 21</a>, <a href="#">Radio Nacional</a>, <a href="#">Trome</a>, <a href="#">Diario Uno</a>, <a href="#">La Última</a>, <a href="#">Diario Voces</a>,</li> </ul>

FOREST+ OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	PRODUCTS
		Martin, Madre de Dios, Ucayali and Loreto regional forest and wildlife authorities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">AgroPerú</a>, <a href="#">Inforegión</a>, <a href="#">Andina-2</a>, <a href="#">La Republica</a></li> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Facebook SERFOR</a>, <a href="#">Twitter SERFOR</a></li> </ul>
Objective 3.  Implement initiatives to strengthen the competitiveness of the value chains of timber and non-timber products and ecosystem services	Youth for the Amazon Mentorship Program	Young people from native communities of Madre de Dios, Ucayali and Loreto.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Media: <a href="#">Facebook USAID 1</a>, <a href="#">Facebook USAID 2</a>, <a href="#">Facebook USAID 3</a>, <a href="#">Instagram USAID 1</a>, <a href="#">Instagram USAID 2</a>, <a href="#">Twitter USAID 1</a>, <a href="#">Youtube USAID</a>, <a href="#">web Conservation International</a>, <a href="#">web Cáritas Madre de Dios</a>, <a href="#">web Conservation International Peru 2</a>, <a href="#">web FOREST+</a>, <a href="#">Closing video FOREST+ Testimonials 1 FOREST+</a>, <a href="#">testimonial 2 FOREST+</a>, <a href="#">testimonial FOREST+3</a></li> <li>• News outlets: <a href="#">Inforegion</a></li> </ul>
	2024 Peru TEC innovation challenge for competitiveness, Ucayali.	Ministry of Production, CITE Forestal Pucallpa, UNDP, FAO and local and regional authorities of Ucayali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+</a> and <a href="#">web FOREST+</a></li> </ul>
	Capacity building in professional ethics	Serfor, forest sector, public servants, youth sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Facebook Serfor</a></li> </ul>
	Call to finance undergraduate thesis - UNAP, Loreto.	Authorities, and UNAP forest professors and students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media: <a href="#">Facebook UNAP</a></li> </ul>
	Award of Agroperu Bonds from Agrobanco (Bank for the benefit of farmers) to two communities in Loreto	Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation, and producers associations (Shakaim Association and 20 de enero).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News outlets: <a href="#">Inforegión</a>, <a href="#">El Objetivo</a>, <a href="#">Noticias Trujillo</a>, <a href="#">HuancaYork Times</a>, <a href="#">Jornada</a>, <a href="#">El Búho</a>, <a href="#">La Lupa</a></li> </ul>
	Award of the Kukamanu Uka Indigenous Association for obtaining funds from the	Agroideas, Ministry of Production, Ministry of Agrarian Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Press releases: Regional Government of <a href="#">Loreto</a> and <a href="#">MIDAGRI</a></li> </ul>

FOREST+ OBJECTIVE	ACTIVITY	AUDIENCE	PRODUCTS
	state program AGROIDEAS.	and Irrigation, GORE Loreto and the Kukamanu Uka Indigenous Association.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media: <a href="#">Facebook MIDAGRI 1</a>, <a href="#">Facebook MIDAGRI 2</a>, <a href="#">Facebook USAID</a>, <a href="#">Twitter USAID</a>, <a href="#">Instagram USAID</a>, <a href="#">Youtube USAID</a></li> </ul>
	Award of Sernanp's contest "Entrepreneurs by nature" to two native communities of Madre de Dios.	Native communities, SERNAMP, AIDER, AFIMAD Ministry of Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media: <a href="#">Facebook USAID</a>, <a href="#">Instagram USAID</a>, <a href="#">Youtube USAID</a>, <a href="#">Facebook FOREST+</a> and <a href="#">web Forest+</a></li> <li>News outlets: <a href="#">Andina</a></li> </ul>
	Launch of the Unibosques Alliance	Students and professors of Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media: <a href="#">Facebook USAID 1</a>, <a href="#">Facebook USAID 2</a>, <a href="#">Instagram USAID 1</a>, <a href="#">Instagram USAID 2</a>, <a href="#">Twitter USAID 1</a>, <a href="#">Twitter USAID 2</a>,</li> <li>News outlets: <a href="#">Inforegión</a></li> </ul>

**Table 6. Communication and Learning activities for FY25**

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE	COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES
<b>Objective 1:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop communication products on the following NDC measures: Community Forest Management (CFM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).</li> <li>Develop communication products on NDC reporting. Launch a communications campaign to highlight the work being done by partners (SERFOR and the ARFFS) on forest management and its contribution to NDCs.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a communication product on the roadmap for awarding timber and non-timber forest concessions for SERFOR and ARFFS.</li> <li>Develop a communication product on the aguaje value chain.</li> <li>Develop a communication product on the process of issuing CUSAF contracts and recording areas in public registries.</li> <li>Develop communication products detailing the characteristics and benefits of forest species with timber potential: Tangarana, Añuje Rumo, Machimango, and Quillosisa.</li> <li>Organize three events: Presentation of the Legal Timber Pact in October 2024; presentation of the OSINFOR Fine Offset Guide "Offset to conserve. Echoes of the Forest: Stories of resilient communities" in November 2024; and presentation of the study on the illegal logging and trade index in Loreto in January 2025 (tentative date).</li> </ul>

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE	COMMUNICATIONS PRIORITIES
<b>Objective 3:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conduct a series of webinars on business plan development and access to government funding.</li> <li>● Develop a communications campaign on social media to explain what Perú Compras is, how to sell products to Qali Warma, and how to apply.</li> <li>● Develop a communications campaign on social media to explain the Green Value Tool and its methodology.</li> </ul>

## 5. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

### 4.5 AWARD MODIFICATIONS

No award modifications

### 4.6 MEL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The MEL plan was implemented as scheduled, successfully managing and collecting indicator results while supporting the team in monitoring the progress of its activities. This fiscal year, the project completed the [baseline study](#) for strategic objectives and indicators reported to USAID, providing a key reference point to assess the project's impact and performance.

Following a joint analysis with USAID, FOREST+ updated its Theory of Change and results chains, and is now structured around three core objectives:

- a. Forest and climate change mitigation
- b. Multiple-use forest management
- c. Market-based solutions

FOREST+ also enhanced its logic model by specifying outcome statements for each intermediate result, facilitating a more streamlined demonstration of achievements. The definitions of indicators in the Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS) have been refined, and adjustments have been made to the targets of some indicators. These improvements are reflected in the updated Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Plan.

Additionally, the MEL unit has consistently prepared and submitted monthly reports to USAID, while also contributing to the development of quarterly and annual reports, as well as the work plan.

### 4.7 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS TASK STATUS

During the execution of the fiscal year activities, administrative and logistical support was provided to the three objectives of the program, through consultancies and scheduled events in the three regions of the project scope and the events scheduled in Lima, in line with the work plan.

The administration and finance area was responsible for planning and controlling the project's budget, ensuring that resources were used efficiently and that financial objectives were met, keeping detailed records of expenditures and reporting on budget execution. In addition, monthly reports of scheduled events were shared with USAID and partners.

## 6. LEARNING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Through its adaptive management approach, FOREST+ has demonstrated flexibility in adjusting its activities by incorporating continuous feedback and aligning with regional priorities. By consistently monitoring results and identifying areas for improvement, the program shifted its focus from completing the CUSAF work plan in Loreto to providing technical assistance in Huipoca, Ucayali. This strategic adjustment not only aims to create a replicable model for sustainable resource management but also ensures that interventions are more impactful and aligned with the region's evolving needs.

Furthermore, key partnerships have fostered learning and adaptation. For example, based on the expertise of USFS climate change specialists, MINAM refocused its efforts on developing an adaptation footprint for the private sector and enhancing monitoring systems for climate measures, rather than pursuing a "Budget increase to finance the MRV team". This shift underscores how FOREST+ effectively leverages technical input to align priorities with long-term sustainability goals.

In addition, FOREST+ has continuously refined its interventions to optimize impact and address shifting regional priorities. For instance, although the FY2024 work plan initially scheduled two youth mentoring programs, internal coordination led to the decision to cancel the 5th session of the "Youth for the Amazon" mentorship program during 2024. Instead, efforts centered on highlighting the importance of the 4th session, particularly since it marked the first time FOREST+ engaged with indigenous youth and regional partners. Similarly, while FOREST+ was initially expected to support SERFOR in updating the guidelines for the formulation of BPP Master Management Plans, SERFOR completed the task internally after jointly preparing the initial proposal with FOREST+. This collaboration laid the groundwork for more efficient BPP management, contributing to strengthening the competitiveness of Peru's forestry sector.

Finally, FOREST+ updated its theory of change and logic model, ensuring a clearer articulation of project strategies. This update also improves the program's ability to demonstrate its achievements more effectively through the revised Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan (MEL Plan).

## 7. ANNEXES

### A. PERFORMANCE INDICATOR TRACKING TABLE

N°	Indicator	FY 2023- Y1		FY 2024 – Y2		FY 2025 – Y3		FY 2026 – Y4		FY 2027 – Y5	
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
1	EG.10.2-2: Number of hectares of biologically significant areas under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance.	0	0	0	0	500,000		300,000		200,000	
2	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.	0	0	0	103,936	TBD		TBD		TBD	
3	EG.13-8: Number of hectares under improved management expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as a result of USG assistance.	0	0	TBD	413,393	500,000		300,000		200,000	
4	EG.13-4: Amount of investment mobilized (in USD) for sustainable landscapes as supported by USG assistance.	8,000,000	8,300,000	500,000	8,942,702	800,000		300,000		300,000	
5	EG.13-2: Number of institutions with improved capacity to address sustainable landscapes issues as supported by USG assistance.	7	23	9	9	9		13		9	
6	EG.13-1: Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance.	216	434	345	681	265		400		200	
7	EG.13-3: Number of laws, policies, regulations, or standards addressing sustainable landscapes formally	38	7	22	39	15		15		7	

N°	Indicator	FY 2023- Y1		FY 2024 – Y2		FY 2025 – Y3		FY 2026 – Y4		FY 2027 – Y5	
		Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
	proposed, adopted, or implemented as supported by USG assistance.										
8	PES2: Number of private sector enterprises that engaged with the USG to support U.S. Foreign Assistance objectives.		23	20	310	30		30		20	
9	YOUTH-1: Number of youth trained in soft skills/life skills through USG-assisted programs.	40	22	50	268	50		50		50	
10	CBLD-9: Percentage of organizations assisted by the United States Government with improved performance.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%		100%	
11	C11: Value of sales of products promoted by the Activity to the public sector.	0	0	453,000	925,551	808,000		269,000		269,000	
12	C12: Number of studies and scientific research related to environmental issues which contribute to better management of natural resources as a result of USG assistance.	64	19	44	48	29		26		19	
13	CI3: Number of people informed and sensitized on natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and climate change as a result of USG assistance.		2418	760	2450	700		700		470	

To see the complete tracking table [click here](#).

## B. TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING PPR AND PMP INDICATORS

To see the complete PPR report, [click here](#).

## C. DELIVERABLES AND MATERIALS PRODUCED

NO	NAME	DATE OF COMPLETION	APPROVED	DEC	LOCATION
Management documents					
1	Quarterly Progress Report 1 [October – December 2023]	01/30/2024	Yes	No	N/A
2	Quarterly Progress Report 2 [January – March 2024]	04/30/2024	Yes	No	N/A
3	Quarterly Progress Report 3 [April – June 2024]	07/30/2024	Yes	No	N/A
4	Work Plan FY2025	09/19/2024	In progress	No	N/A
5	Baseline study of strategic objectives and indicators	12/21/2023	N/A	No	N/A
Main technical documents					
1	Servicio especializado en Materia Legal para la revisión, análisis, elaboración de propuestas de mejora normativa a nivel de reglamento vinculadas al otorgamiento y gestión de Sistemas Agroforestales y del acceso a los beneficios del aprovechamiento de servicios de Ecosistemas Forestales y otros Ecosistemas de Vegetación.	23/04/2024	Yes	No	To be uploaded 11/30/2024
2	Servicio especializado para diseñar e implementar una unidad funcional de cambio Climático y Servicios Ecosistémicos y realizar el Análisis respectivo para su transición a una Dirección de línea del Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre-Serfor	23/03/2024	Yes	Yes	<a href="https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222DS.pdf">https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222DS.pdf</a>
3	Servicio de asistencia técnica para fortalecer el acceso de productores y asociaciones del sector forestal al Programa de Financiamiento Directo para las Cadenas Productivas Forestales No Maderable priorizadas en Loreto del Fondo AgroPerú, incentivos del Programa de Compensaciones para la Competitividad de Agroideas y otros.	27/06/2024	Yes	Yes	<a href="https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222BW.pdf">https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222BW.pdf</a>
4	Servicio especializado para diseñar e implementar una unidad funcional de cambio Climático y Servicios Ecosistémicos y realizar el Análisis respectivo para su	7/06/2024	Yes	Yes	<a href="https://dec.usaid.gov/ec/content/">https://dec.usaid.gov/ec/content/</a>

NO	NAME	DATE OF COMPLETION	APPROVED	DEC	LOCATION
	transición a una Dirección de Línea del Servicio Nacional Forestal y de Fauna Silvestre-SERFOR				Detail.aspx?vID=47&ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&rID=NjM3Njcx
5	Servicio profesional para realizar el estudio de viabilidad para la implementación de un modelo de negocio de carbono forestal en títulos habilitantes	13/04/2024	Yes	Yes	<a href="https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222C3.pdf">https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222C3.pdf</a>
6	Servicio para la trazabilidad, instalación y primera medición del Estudio de durabilidad Natural de 04 especies Forestales Maderables	27/09/2024	Yes	No	To be uploaded 11/30/2024
7	Asistencia técnica: seguimiento de la ejecución de metas físicas en el Marco del PIA 2024 de las ARFFS del Gore Loreto, Ucayali y Madre de Dios.	26/04/2024	Yes	Yes	<a href="https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&amp;ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&amp;rID=NjM3NzE5">https://dec.usaid.gov/dec/content/Detail.aspx?vID=47&amp;ctID=ODVhZjk4NWQtM2YyMi00YjRmLTkxNjktZTcxMjM2NDBmY2Uy&amp;rID=NjM3NzE5</a>
8	Informe de Identificación, adecuación y elaboración de los formatos de base de datos para el seguimiento de metas físicas de las tres ARFFS.	17/05/2024	Yes	No	To be uploaded 11/30/2024
9	Asistencia técnica para el fortalecimiento institucional del Cite Productivo Madre de Dios para mejorar sus servicios de soporte productivo, diseño y entre otros, para emprendimientos de segunda transformación y carpintería.	28/06/2024	Yes	No	To be uploaded 11/30/2024
10	Servicio de asistencia técnica en la implementación del Proceso concursable de la estrategia Procompite del Gobierno regional de Loreto para promover la productividad y competitividad de cadenas productivas forestales y agrarias en Loreto.	12/07/2024	Yes	Yes	<a href="https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222DS.pdf">https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA0222DS.pdf</a>

#### D. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND MITIGATION REPORT

To see the Environmental Management and Mitigation report, [click here](#).

#### E. LIST OF CONSULTANCIES

N°	CONSULTANCY NAME	DATE
01	Technical assistance to the Agrarian Women's Organization "Kukamanu Uka Association of the Amazon River" for the implementation of its Plan for Entrepreneurship and Empowerment of Rural Indigenous Women – PEMRI	01/18/2024
02	Technical Assistance Service to the regional government of Loreto to promote the productivity and competitiveness of forestry and agricultural production chains in Loreto, through the implementation of the competitive process of the PROCOMPITE strategy.	01/24/2024
03	Specialized service in legal matters for the review, analysis and preparation of proposals for regulatory improvement	01/25/2024
04	Technical assistance to strengthen the access of producers and associations in the forestry sector to the Direct Financing Program for Non-Timber Forest Productive Chains prioritized in Loreto del AgroPerú Fund, incentives from the Agroideas Competitiveness Compensation Program and others	01/29/2024
05	Technical assistance for the collection of productive information in the implementation of the Technology Gap Diagnosis (TGD), for the evaluation of the feasibility of adapting CITE with emphasis on the agro-industrial and aquaculture-fishing production chains in the Ucayali region	01/29/2024
06	Specialized Service to design and implement a Functional Unit for Climate Change and Ecosystem Services and carry out the respective analysis for its transition to a Line Directorate of the National Forest and Wildlife Service – SERFOR	02/27/2024
07	Anatomical characterization service of the wood of three (03) timber forest species for the development of scientific research	02/01/2024
08	Technical assistance to support the actions and activities of the implementation of Procompite of the Provincial Municipality of Tambopata-Madre de Dios	02/01/2024
09	Professional service to carry out the feasibility study for the implementation of a forest carbon business model in enabling titles	02/29/2024
10	Technical assistance service to the Regional Management of Social Development of the Regional Government of Ucayali, for the Preparation of the Technical Sheet and Technical File of the IOARR "Acquisition of classroom furniture in II.EE of the initial level at the departmental level (Ucayali) II Stage	03/04/2024
11	Service to improve the database and complement it with pre-identified key information, in addition to accompanying the FCF-UNAP in the process of socialization and dissemination of this material	02/13/2024

N°	CONSULTANCY NAME	DATE
12	Technical Assistance for the optimization of the evaluation and approval process of forest management plans	02/13/2024
13	Technical assistance in public and/or private financing management for the development of productive organizations and/or CCNN in Madre de Dios	02/21/2024
14	Technical Assistance: Monitoring the execution of physical goals within the framework of the PIA 2024 of the ARFFS of the GORE Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios	03/08/2024
15	Technical assistance for monitoring, quality control and consolidation of the physical goals of public services/operational activities assigned to the regions of Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios	03/14/2024
16	Technical Assistance for the institutional strengthening of the CITE Productivo Madre de Dios to improve its productive support services, design and, among others, for second transformation and carpentry ventures	03/19/2024
17	Design and implementation of a tool that automates reports for the preparation and evaluation of management statements in the department of Loreto	03/19/2024
18	Technical assistance in planning and budget execution of the ARFFS Loreto	03/19/2024
19	Legal assistance for the implementation of the Forest and Wildlife Management Unit of the Regional Forest and Wildlife Authority of the GOREU	05/29/2024
20	Service Update of the Professional Ethics course on the SERFOR Educa platform within the framework of the mentoring program for young people from CCNN in Ucayali, Loreto and Madre de Dios	04/30/2024
21	Technical assistance to carry out the activities of diagnosis, review and conditioning of information on forestry concessions in the department of Loreto for the execution of five-year audits by OSINFOR	05/31/2024
22	Web Portal Creation Service using GOOGLE EARTH ENGINE for Satellite Monitoring of Forest Enabling Titles and Compensation Mechanisms for Fines for Forest Conservation in Native Communities	05/30/2024
23	Technical assistance in planning and budgeting for ARFFS Madre de Dios	06/10/2024
24	Service for traceability, installation and first measurement of the Natural Durability Study of 04 Timber Forest Species	05/29/2024
25	Technical assistance to develop a methodological guide for the formulation and evaluation of business plans for water-related production chains within the framework of Law 29337 - PROCOMPITE	05/08/2024
26	Technical assistance service for the implementation of PROCOMPITE Loreto for the strategy competition to promote the productivity and competitiveness of the forestry and agricultural production chains of Loreto.	05/10/2024

N°	CONSULTANCY NAME	DATE
27	Technical assistance to the agrarian women's organization "Kukamanu Uka Association of the Amazon River" for the implementation of the PEMRI "Improving the production and marketing of chambira-based crafts"	05/10/2024
28	Assistance to the Regional Economic Development Management of the GORE Ucayali to strengthen the PROCOMPITE 2024 regional productive competitiveness support fund competition	05/29/2024
29	Technical assistance service for the management of public and/or private financing for the development of productive organizations and/or native communities in the department of Madre de Dios	06/10/2024
30	Technical Assistance Design and creation of the Commercial Management area for CITE Forestal Pucallpa	06/17/2024
31	Technical assistance to CITEforestal Pucallpa for the updating of the plans and approval sheets of the sixteen (16) wooden school furniture sheets approved with Ministerial Resolution No. 355-2023-MINEDU	06/27/2024
32	Specialized service to prepare the spatial data interoperability implementation plan between OSINFOR and the GOREU	07/05/2024
33	Technical Assistance for the Design of a Course on Soft Skills to Train Young People to Better Face the Challenges of Climate Change and Forest Management	07/22/2024
34	Legal Advice for the Preparation of the Statement of Reasons and Dissemination of the Proposed Modification of the LFFS Regulations	08/14/2024
35	Specialized Service for the Improvement of the Qualifying Titles Module and Data Transfer of the Information and Registration System (SIR) of the Statistical Component of SERFOR with the Regional Governments of Loreto, Ucayali and Madre de Dios	08/05/2024
36	Development of Content for the User-Friendly Version of the OSINFOR Fines Compensation Directive	08/19/2024
37	Facilitation and coordination service for the planning and prioritization of interventions by the General Directorate of Forest and Wildlife Policy and Competitiveness	08/12/2024
38	Statistical sample design service, analysis and statistical evaluation to determine the Index and Percentage of Illegal Logging and Timber Trade 2023	08/12/2024
39	Analysis of the current situation of declarations for the management of forest products other than wood with emphasis on palm fruits and promotion of regulatory improvements and attention to requests at GERFOR Loreto	08/17/2024
40	Technical assistance service for the granting of Contracts for Transfer of Use for Agroforestry Systems – CCUSAF to the Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management (GRFFS) of the Regional Government of Madre de Dios	09/04/2024

N°	CONSULTANCY NAME	DATE
41	Research and Study Topic Development Service of the Promotion and Competitiveness Module of the National Forest and Wildlife Information System	08/23/2024
42	Technical Assistance Service at the Regional Forestry and Wildlife Management of Ucayali, for carrying out integrated inspections at Primary Transformation Centers jointly with OSINFOR	08/02/2024
43	Service for the analysis of the current situation of declarations for the management of forest products other than wood, with an emphasis on palm fruits and the promotion of regulatory improvements and attention to requests at GERFOR Loreto	08/17/2024
44	Assembly and tutoring service for the soft skills course to train young people to better face the challenges of climate change and forest management on the SERFOR Educa platform	09/16/2024
45	Specialized service to carry out a diagnosis and proposal to update the first chapter of the Community Forest Management (MFC) mitigation measure, corresponding to the Forest and Wildlife Service – SERFOR	09/12/2024
46	Technical assistance service at the Regional Economic Development Management of the Regional Government of Ucayali, to strengthen the competitive fund to support regional productive competitiveness PROCOMPITE 2024	09/17/2024
47	Legal Advice for the Regulatory Improvement of Timber Forest Management Declarations for Native and Rural Communities within the framework of Law 29763, Forestry and Wildlife Law	10/03/2024
48	Technical Assistance to strengthen the competitiveness of the aguaje business in native communities in the Tapiche Blanco basins	09/20/2024
49	Service for the analysis and determination of production processes and products for the first and second transformation of wood	09/17/2024

## F. USFS COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS

- **Sustainable Landscapes and Community Livelihoods**

The USFS and Department of Defense in Peru are supporting local partners in multiple use forest management for sustainable landscapes and community livelihoods, improving community resilience in the face of climate change. NGO partners include CEDIA, DAR and Terra Nuovo, who are supporting communities to provide nutrition for their families and a reliable source of income while protecting natural resources.

NGO partner CEDIA is working to enhance the sustainable management and commercialization of aguaje palm fruit in the Tapiche and Blanco River basins of Loreto, Peru. Aguaje is a superfood and important nutrition staple for communities in the Amazon. The commercial extraction of the fruit also provides

valuable income for communities, however destructive harvesting techniques threaten the sustainability of these peatlands that provide habitat to thousands of animal species and sequester large amounts of carbon. Through photosynthesis, aguaje palm trees capture carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their tissues. In addition, the soil in these areas is rich in organic matter, which also contributes to carbon sequestration. In the first three months of the fiscal year, key advancements included the development and dissemination of an organizational plan for aguaje fruit commercialization for six native communities, alongside training sessions conducted by CITE Maynas for 60 participants (44 men, 20 women) from Wicungo and Palmera communities on harvesting techniques and tools. By March, 40 individuals were certified in climbing techniques with maquisapa tools. A coring machine was acquired to facilitate transport of seedless products. The regional government also trained 60 community members on monitoring and forestry regulations, while CEDIA provided training on water management and community organization for aguaje use. The Wicungo community had its first formal sale of dehydrated aguaje to local company FRUTAMA, which has a demand for 250 bags (40 kg each) every two weeks. Towards the second half of the year a study tour to Brazil was organized for community leaders and CEDIA, focusing on establishing commercial partnerships and learning about aguaje oil commercialization. Lastly, annual management reports for six communities were submitted to the regional forest authority, and four land management plans were reformulated to expand areas for aguaje harvesting.

NGO partner DAR is supporting communities in artisanal fishing using solar energy. Artisanal fishing plays a key role in the diet of the Peruvian people, which is why it is important to conserve this natural resource and prevent overexploitation. During the first half of the fiscal year, guidelines for the use of natural resources in regional conservation areas were socialized, carried out jointly by the regional environmental authorities and NGOs IBC and DAR. Three native communities of the Apayacu basin renewed the recognition of their members as Local Vigilance Organizations (LVO). These LVOs are the ones that, together with the regional government, carry out monitoring, patrolling and surveillance activities in their communal territories, basin and within the Regional Conservation Area. This monitoring includes the participation of the organizations of artisanal fishermen of the communities, who, through their artisanal fisheries surveillance committees, carry out the monitoring actions of the fishing areas in accordance with the scope established in their Fisheries Management Plan. During January-March 2024, CITE Productivo Maynas trained 20 people from the Manati and Arahuanú artisanal fishermen associations of the Apayacu river basin on primary processing and techniques for salting and pressing Amazonian fish. The Monitoring and Pre-treatment Center for the Commercialization of Amazonian Fish of the Apayacu native community built with a renewable photovoltaic system (solar panels) was constructed and equipped with materials and supplies. In the second half of the year, participatory workshops were held with community members to support them in applying for public funding to support expansion of their business. It is the goal that these communities receive funding in 2025.

Agroforestry systems provide a viable solution for conserving environmental resources while providing economic livelihoods in areas that have been deforested or degraded, but maintain some forest cover. Terra Nuova has made significant progress in strengthening agroforestry systems (SAF) in Peru's Ucayali region. Between October and December 2023, a forest inventory identified 5,400 forest trees and 4,800 fruit trees, with georeferencing incorporated into SAF design. The inventory helped identify areas where agroforestry systems could be successfully implemented. In this period, Terra Nuova also trained 51 people, including 10 youths and 13 women, in safety and environmental management for agri-food processing plants. Additionally, private sector partners like Super Frío obtained certification for General Hygiene Principles (PGH) in camu camu and aguaje production lines, while completing food safety certification. These certifications increase the value of products and allow the company a greater market reach. From January to March 2024, Terra Nuova trained 10 producers, half of them women, on topics

including fertilization, undergrowth control, and plant health, which has enhanced SAF nurseries and led to the planting of 4,200 seedlings. SAF processing plants improved their production quality through targeted training and new equipment, such as industrial kitchens and electronic scales, which have helped standardize product quality. Terra Nuova also played a role in formalizing the Ucayali BioTrade Strategy (2024-2028), which seeks to enhance biodiversity-based value chains; members of the regional Biotrade Management Committee received training on biotrade principles and the circular economy to support these initiatives. In the municipality of Campo Verde, Terra Nuova further advanced agro-tourism by establishing the Pishcota farm route and ecotourism circuit, accompanied by an organic waste composting plan. In collaboration with SENASA, Terra Nuova trained 30 small-scale agroforestry producers in Campo Verde on pest recognition and maintenance of bananas and citrus. Lastly, members of the APE Pimental association participated in workshops to standardize production costs, improving the marketing and supply chain for products like chili, cocona, and copoazu.

- **Urban Forestry & Youth**

The USFS and USAID are supporting sustainable urban forest management in Peru through the support of women and youth-led NGOs, FICUS and Ciudad Viva. In 2024, the "Pulmoncitos Verdes for Healthy Cities" project by NGO Ciudad Viva launched a 24-hour MOOC on "Urban and Micro Forests for Peru," featuring 45 speakers, including USFS experts, and trained 60 young volunteers in urban forestry to manage six community micro forests in Lima and Puno. Boskea.pe, a digital platform for urban forestry, was promoted internationally and at the UN 'DESA' Global Policy Dialogue for the International Day of Forests. Ciudad Viva also developed community microforests, resulting in the planting of 114 trees and training of 163 people, with financial backing from multiple companies. Additionally, Ficus Peru launched a water guide and hosted EcoRed discussions, while planning three more guides on local biodiversity. An "I tree eco" tool guide was registered and introduced in virtual workshops, training youth and officials in urban forestry management across Peru. The Etno-BioLab educational project, presented in Berlin, created a partnership with Pacasmayo for a local tree inventory and educational initiatives.

- **Migratory Birds**

Climate change directly impacts bird migration and populations. USAID and USFS are supporting Peruvian NGOs like CORBIDI in conserving migratory birds through research and community engagement. In October, to mark World Migratory Day, CORBIDI hosted two shorebird and wetland festivals in Lambayeque's Ciudad Eten and San José, raising awareness about the importance of coastal wetlands for migratory birds. Held in the central squares, these events drew about 1,300 participants, including 29 trained teachers, 146 students, and seven environmental agencies, alongside university and volunteer support. Additional activities in 2024 included workshops with local municipalities, engaging youth participants, and visually impaired individuals. Forest bathing and bird-watching tours took place every week. CORBIDI's urban bird program was also promoted in Mexico and at the Peruvian Ornithology Congress, where preliminary findings on urban birds in Peru were shared.

- **One Health**

USFS and the Department of Defense partners with Field Projects International and the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance in Peru. The One Health involves building sustainable regional capacity for long-term monitoring of plant and animal communities in key natural resource areas, and especially along the

human-wildlife interface. Strategic investments were made in the In Situ Laboratory initiative, which has resulted in the establishment of a solar-powered BSL 2 molecular laboratory facility at the Los Amigos Biological Station, with in-house sequencing. In June, the solar battery system was upgraded for the laboratory and installed a 96-channel pipetting robot (Opentron Flex) that reduces the amount of time it takes to extract DNA and RNA from biological samples by three-fold. These upgrades are intended to contribute to high-throughput research capacity in the region for wildlife pathogen testing, species identification, and wildlife population assessment. Also in June, the Madre de Dios Wildlife Veterinarian Network was launched that began carrying out animal health evaluations at three animal rescue centers in the area; Hoja Nueva, Amazon Shelter, and the Taricaya Rescue Center. From June 17-19, the team completed a 2-day workshop to standardize data collection strategy, practice inputting data and sample information to a structured database, and determined protocol for transferring samples to two laboratories that will carry out pathogen screening and species classification; at the ISL and UPCH. From June 19-30, the team visited each rescue center to provide practical training to resident veterinarians on the updated health evaluation and sampling protocols. From July onwards, monthly follow-up will be performed by the WVN to record health from new animal arrivals, document necropsy events, and continue repeat health evaluations and sampling as the rescue centers program interventions, respectively. More systematized and accessible animal welfare data and disease screening will allow the team to recognize patterns of morbidity and mortality, and ultimately, reduce One Health risk factors for the region. We anticipate that this system will also improve collaboration between rescue centers and government authorities such as SERFOR and OSINFOR, particularly surrounding animal reintroduction requirements.

Finally, species extinctions in the tropics are accelerating, outpacing documentation efforts. Meanwhile, DNA barcoding is flourishing in the Global North, backed by extensive infrastructure, allowing non-taxonomic experts to identify species from nonlethal, noninvasive, and environmental samples. However, hyper-diverse regions like Peru make up only 0.52% (n=93,246) of the Barcode of Life Database (BOLD). To address this, we established three decentralized laboratories with low-cost, portable nanopore sequencers. From 2018-2023, we generated 1,858 barcodes in situ from six genetic markers for 1,097 vertebrates and 76 plants from existing and new biobanks. We present the first genetic barcodes for 30 mammal and 196 bird species from Peruvian specimens, increasing the number of Peruvian mammal and bird species in BOLD by 110% and 36.5% respectively. We also report the first records of the marsupial *Marmosops ocellatus* and the bat *Sturnira lilium* for Peru. This dataset represents an effort to go from fresh or museum-preserved samples to barcodes entirely in situ, avoiding the export of samples outside the country, and facilitating local capacity in molecular biodiversity research.