

The background is a dark green monochromatic illustration of an Amazonian landscape. It features large, dense trees with thick canopies on the left and right sides. In the lower right foreground, there is a stylized figure of a person wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a patterned shirt, holding a long staff or tool. The overall style is graphic and textured, with visible line work and shading.

Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change

WEAVING SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

**ENVIRONMENTAL REGULARIZATION
AND NATIVE VEGETATION
RESTORATION POLICIES**

**AMAZON SUSTAINABLE
LANDSCAPES PROJECT
(ASL BRAZIL)**

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National Office for Biodiversity, Forests, and Animal Rights

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Brasília - DF
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COORDINATION
Carlos Eduardo Marinelli
Chief of Staff of SBIO/MMA and ASL Brazil Project Supervisor

Fabiana Mauro
Coordinator of Integrated Communications / ASL Brazil

Henrique Santiago Alberto Carlos
Technical Coordinator / ASL Brazil

PRODUCTION TEAM
Ana Navarrete / CI-Brasil
Júlia Beatriz Oliveira de Freitas / CI-Brasil
Sara Amaro Pais / FGV Europe

CONTENT REVIEW
Fabiana Sousa / ASL Brazil
Laura Lamonica / CI-Brasil
Neila Maria Cavalcante da Silva / CI-Brasil
Leuzabeth Assunção Silva / CI-Brasil
Maria Eliene Gomes da Cruz / CI-Brasil
Fagner Richter / CI-Brasil
Italo Do Ó Ferreira / CI-Brasil
Renato Augusto Soares Rodrigues / CI-Brasil
Symone Maria Pancrácio Falcão / CI-Brasil
Marcus Mendes / FGV Europe
Fabiola Mendes / FGV Europe
Fábio Ribeiro / FUNBIO
Hélio Hara / FUNBIO

CONTENT PRODUCTION AND GRAPHIC DESIGN
GAMELEIRA LAB COMUNICAÇÃO
Átila Ximenes
Creative and Communications Projects Director

WRITING
Jaqueline Sordi

PROOFREADING
Aline Costa Santos das Neves
Jaqueline Sordi

PHOTOGRAPHY
Conservation International / Flavio Forner
SEMA AC / Uêsllei Araújo
PNUD / Floresta+ Amazônia Archive

ILLUSTRATION
Fernando Igor de Godoy

TRANSLATION
Adara Multilingual

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In Rolim de Moura (RO), the community nursery managed by Ecoporé, with the support from ASL Brazil, produces native seedlings to recover degraded areas and strengthen the restoration chain in the state of Rondônia.

INTRODUCTION

THE ASL BRAZIL PROJECT

The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project - ASL Brazil is part of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes (ASL) Regional Program, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and implemented by the World Bank, in which Brazil participates along with seven other Amazonian countries.

In Brazil, the project is coordinated and implemented by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MMA), through the National Office for Biodiversity, Forests, and Animal Rights (SBIO), and its executing agencies are Conservation International (CI-Brazil), the Brazilian Biodiversity Fund (FUNBIO) and the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV Europe).

ASL Brazil is also implemented by the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), the Brazilian Forest Service (SFB) and the State Environmental Agencies (OEMAs) of the states of Acre, Amazonas, Pará and Rondônia, as well as by regional territorial governance collectives and local municipalities. These partnerships strengthen efforts aimed at conservation, sustainable development, the governance of integrated management areas, the restoration of the Amazon and the consolidation of environmental public policies.

The project is implemented in line with federal and state public policies and other strategic instruments, such as the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Legal Amazon (PPCDAm), the National Native Vegetation Recovery Plan (Planaveg), the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR), and the National System of Nature Conservation Units (SNUC).

Additionally, the project is aligned with biodiversity and climate change strategies, strengthening local policies and creating synergies among federal, state, municipal, and community actions. ASL is founded on the principle that conserving the Amazon depends on coordinated and integrated efforts, recognizing the essential role of both public and private protected areas in reducing deforestation, promoting sustainable development, and maintaining ecosystem services.

ASL Brazil is structured into three phases, two of which are currently being implemented and one scheduled to begin in 2025, as detailed below.

PHASES OF THE ASL BRAZIL PROJECT

PHASE 1

It focuses on the creation and strengthening of protected areas management in the Brazilian Amazon through the Amazon Protected Areas Program (ARPA) in the states of Acre, Amazonas, Pará, and Rondônia, as well as on the strengthening of public environmental management policies, the environmental regularization of private properties, the restoration of degraded areas, and the promotion of sustainable management practices.

PHASE 2

Implemented in the states of Acre, Amazonas, Pará, and Rondônia, it expands the project's scope by promoting connectivity among protected areas, strengthening Integrated Management Areas (AGIs), enhancing collective territorial governance, and consolidating the actions initiated in the first phase.

PHASE 3 (ASL XINGU)

Building on the lessons learned and progress achieved in Phases 1 and 2, the project's next stage focuses on the Lower Xingu region, in the state of Pará. It aims to strengthen the management of Conservation Units, quilombola territories, and Indigenous lands, as well as agrarian reform settlements, while promoting community-based regional governance, the integration of public policies, and the encouragement of sustainable, biodiversity-based socioeconomic solutions.

COMPONENTS OF THE ASL BRAZIL PROJECT



COMPONENT 1

Creation, expansion, and strengthening of Conservation Units management



COMPONENT 2

Integrated Landscape Management which promotes ecological and sociobiocultural connectivity and supports sustainable production chains



COMPONENT 3

Support for the development and implementation of Public Policies and Plans for the Protection and Restoration of Native Vegetation, which strengthen territorial and environmental governance and foster financial mechanisms for forest restoration



COMPONENT 4

Project Coordination, Capacity Building, and Regional Cooperation among the countries supported by the ASL Program, to enhance knowledge exchange and improve project implementation

This publication marks the beginning of the series “Weaving Sustainable Landscapes,” created under the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project (ASL Brazil) to give visibility to the initiative’s main areas of action and achievements.

In this first volume, the focus is on Environmental Regularization and Native Vegetation Restoration Policies in the Amazon. The publication illustrates how ASL Brazil has strengthened public policies, trained technical teams, and supported rural producers in restoring native vegetation — integrating conservation and sustainable development across the states of Acre, Amazonas, Pará, and Rondônia.

It also presents concrete results, the challenges of implementing the Forest Code, and lessons learned along the way, revealing how integrated environmental management has become more effective in the region.

Future volumes will explore new themes — such as the creation and management of Conservation Units, ecological restoration, recovery of degraded areas, and sustainable forest management — gathering the knowledge and experiences that make up ASL Brazil’s legacy for the Amazon.



In the Médio Rio Negro region, in Amazonas, riverside communities are carrying out conservation and restoration actions.

STORIES THAT INSPIRE



Floresta+ Amazônia Archive.

"My story is one of a family that has always lived off the land — and can finally call that land our own. All the love we have cultivated in this place, and that my father fought to keep alive and protected, is now recognized under the law, and that is very rewarding. I submitted the Rural Environmental Registry on January 31, 2022, and it was approved on May 20, 2023".

RAIANA XAVIER PANTOJA, 24 YEARS OLD

Roots that connect the land, the people, and the future

From a very young age, Raimundo Ferreira Pantoja learned that the land rewards the care it receives. On his property, located in Oeiras do Pará (PA), he built his story growing manioc, corn, guava, cashew, and many other crops that have sustained his family for generations. But Raimundo always knew that working the land also meant taking care of it; to prosper, he needed to preserve it. At 82 years old, he knows well the rhythm of the farm, but the pace of paperwork, stamps, and formal requirements always seemed to follow a different tempo. For more than two decades, he struggled to regularize his property, facing bureaucracy that stubbornly prolonged his wait. Yet he never gave up. He continued believing that his dedication to the land needed to be recognized—and it was. With the arrival of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project in the region, he finally managed to achieve environmental regularization of his rural property, which is now in compliance with the environmental protection criteria established by law.

The Amazon, like the story of Raimundo and so many smallholders in the most biodiverse forest in the world, is built through invisible connections, where networks extending above and below the ground sustain lives that intertwine within a vast, interconnected system. Similarly, the ASL Brazil Project works to promote environmental regularization as an essential tool to ensure that rural properties comply with current environmental legislation, promoting the sustainable use of natural resources and integrated landscape management. Since its arrival in the Amazon region, the project has implemented actions to connect rural producers with official information, train technical teams, strengthen environmental offices, and expand access to policies that ensure land and forest conservation. These processes have accelerated the preparation and analysis of Rural Environmental Registries (CARs) and provided support to rural landowners in adapting their land, offering a faster and more effective path to environmental regularization, and ensuring that more producers can access the rights and incentives established by law.

Raimundo's story, which seemed solitary, is in fact the story of thousands. He never knew how many others were in the same situation. But over the years, he heard similar stories from neighbors and friends who were also trying to regularize their lands without success. "When we finally obtained the land documentation, it was like a weight being lifted from my father's shoulders," says Raiana Xavier Pantoja, Raimundo's daughter. "He, who has always worked with so much love and dedication, saw his life and the lives of his children change. It was an immense source of pride for us. This moment brought not only regularization but also new hope for our family. The land now has the future he always dreamed of for us."

With the regularization of the property, Raimundo's family became eligible to participate in the Floresta+ Amazônia Program, an initiative of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change that develops and fosters the environmental services market, recognizing and valuing activities that contribute to forest conservation and encouraging both monetary and non-monetary returns. An active Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) is one of the requirements for small landowners and other rural producers to be able to access this and other benefits. Thanks to the project, the family was able to invest in improving the property's conditions: they purchased materials, expanded cultivation areas, and built structures to improve their work. Environmental regularization of the property was not merely a bureaucratic process—it was the key to a more sustainable and secure future.

Today, it is understood that sustainable land use goes beyond a title. It is the guarantee that families like Raimundo's can remain, cultivate, and preserve. This is a process that brings benefits to everyone: to communities, through access to financial incentives and sustainable practices; to the Federal Government, through significant progress in implementing the Forest Code; through the commitment to reduce deforestation; by meeting climate targets; and for the forest itself, through the expansion of conserved areas, the regeneration of degraded areas, and the maintenance and expansion of landscape connectivity.

So far, more than 57,000 CARs have been analyzed with the project's support, and approximately one thousand hectares of active restoration have been implemented in areas with environmental liabilities. Additionally, over 40,000 hectares are undergoing restoration, considering both active restoration and assisted natural regeneration actions, in Conservation Units and rural properties.

Beyond assisting rural producers in complying with legislation, ASL Brazil strengthens the work of state and national offices, promoting the development of public policies focused on environmental regularization. For those with environmental liabilities, the project offers support in implementing Projects for the Recovery of Degraded or Altered Areas (PRADAs), ensuring that native vegetation areas are recovered and protected for future generations. ASL Brazil continues to connect people, strengthen territories, and ensure that the land remains a source of life and livelihood for those who care for it.



"My property is 87 hectares, and from the beginning, we have worked in agriculture. I submitted my Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) in 2016, when it was a requirement of the municipality, and the analysis was only completed in 2024. Since then, it has only helped us. I always keep the registration updated because I know how much it facilitates access to bank credit, which is an essential tool for producers. Here on the property, all Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) are protected, and this commitment to conservation has brought benefits. Today, I receive a small incentive from the State Office for Environment and Sustainability of Pará (SEMA) for maintaining my areas preserved. I live here with my wife, one son, and three daughters, and this support is an extra incentive for us to continue taking care of the land and ensuring a sustainable future for our family."

OSWALDO VAGNER, 54 YEARS OLD

Rural Producer in the Triunfo do Xingu Environmental Protection Area, State of Pará

"I have been working at the office for 15 years and have closely followed all the changes since the arrival of the ASL Brazil Project in our state. Indeed, we have witnessed a transformation. The implementation of the Forest Code, which is the main forest protection policy, has gained new momentum, and the CAR became one of the main instruments, along with the PRA."

The project initially provided strong support for environmental regularization through the analysis of CARs, and this action generated changes not only in the numbers, but also in the debate on the subject. It highlighted the importance of collaboration with other agencies, such as the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company (Emater) and the Agricultural Defense Agency of the State of Pará (ADEPARÁ), which work on animal and plant health, in addition to municipal offices."

Furthermore, the project fostered this dialogue precisely at a time when the office needed such support. With financing and direct support for its activities, ASL Brazil promoted discussions and concrete actions. Today, we see changes both in the numbers and in the behavior of those involved, and plans, projects, and programs have advanced significantly."

LUIZ EDINELSON CARDOSO

Agronomist and Technical Advisor to the Deputy Office for Environmental Management and Regularization, State Office for the Environment and Sustainability - SEMAS of Pará

A STORY THAT REFLECTS THOUSANDS OF LIVES

In São Félix do Xingu, in the State of Pará, Rosely and Damião grow native seedlings in a nursery supported by ASL Brazil to recover degraded areas of the Triunfo do Xingu APA, one of the largest Conservation Units in Brazil, with more than 1.7 million hectares.

The Importance of the Forest Code and the Rural Environmental Registry in Environmental Regularization

“

“My story with this land began 36 years ago, when I came from Mato Grosso with my parents. Here, I built my family — I married Damião, we raised our children, and now also our grandchild. Our 28-hectare property is located in the Triunfo do Xingu Environmental Protection Area (APA), and it is our home, our livelihood. We work hard — we plant cocoa, bananas, corn, beans, vegetables... and every Wednesday we are at the market selling what we harvest with so much care. With all the documentation in order, we have security, we have rights. It is a feeling of relief and pride. Now, we can dream bigger — seek resources, invest, grow. What used to be a challenge is now an opportunity. And that makes all the difference for our future.”

ROSELY ALVES DIAS, 44 YEARS OLD
Rural Producer in the Triunfo do Xingu
Environmental Protection Area (APA), in the
State of Pará

The first step in transforming Rosely's life was ensuring land tenure regularization of her property — an essential requirement to access public policies and move on to other stages of productive and environmental planning. But it was through environmental regularization, through registration in the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR), that Rosely and her family began to access benefits such as greater legal certainty, technical support, and opportunities to obtain credit for sustainable production practices.

The path toward a new future for Rosely's family — and for thousands of smallholders across Brazil — began to take shape in 2012, with the revision of the Brazilian Forest Code, which brought important changes to environmental management in the country. It defines rules for land use and establishes mechanisms to ensure that rural properties comply with native vegetation protection requirements, rewarding producers for these practices.

One of the major progresses of the revised Forest Code was the establishment of the environmental regularization process for rural properties based on the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) and the Environmental Regularization Programs (PRA). These mechanisms allow for the identification of Permanent Preservation Areas, Legal Reserves, native vegetation, consolidated use areas, and those that must be restored or compensated for. Additionally, they enable access to credit lines, incentives, and programs promoting sustainable production, ensuring greater legal certainty for producers, and encouraging environmental conservation.



In the Triunfo do Xingu Environmental Protection Area (APA), in the State of Pará, rural producers are expanding forest restoration through community-based native seedling nurseries, with technical and logistical support from ASL Brazil.

INSIDE THE BRAZILIAN FOREST CODE

THE FOREST CODE (LAW NO. 12,651/2012)

This law establishes rules to conserve native vegetation on rural properties. It defines how Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) and Legal Reserves (RLs) must be protected, in addition to regulating the sustainable use of natural resources.

THE RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGISTRY (CAR)

The CAR is a mandatory electronic registration for all rural properties. It functions as a database that supports environmental monitoring, the identification of those responsible for environmental violations, and the fight against illegal deforestation.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULARIZATION

Actions carried out within the rural property to comply with environmental legislation, especially regarding the maintenance and restoration of APPs, RLs, and Restricted Use Areas, or Legal Reserve compensation, where applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULARIZATION PROGRAM (PRA)

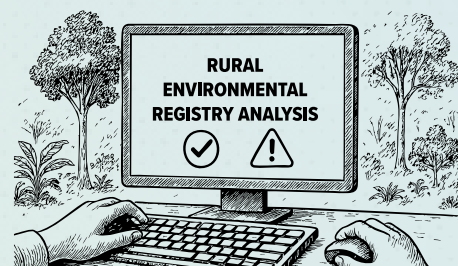
The PRA is a voluntary program that helps producers in restoring environmental liabilities identified in the CAR. It guides the recovery of protected areas within rural properties.

THE PROJECT FOR THE RECOVERY OF DEGRADED OR ALTERED AREAS (PRADA)

PRADA is one of the instruments for regularizing environmental liabilities, defining the actions required to restore degraded areas. It must be prepared by a qualified professional appointed by the rural producer and approved by the competent state environmental agency. The plan may include the planting of native or productive species and management to support natural vegetation regeneration.

STEP-BY-STEP: HOW REGULARIZATION WORKS

- 1 The rural producer submits the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) online. The registration is carried out in two stages: an offline system and the upload to the online system. This workflow is mandatory.
- 2 The environmental agency analyzes the registration and checks for environmental liabilities.
- 3 If liabilities are identified, the producer may join the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA), which defines the actions necessary for regularization.
- 4 As part of the PRA, the producer prepares a PRADA, detailing how the recovery of degraded areas will be carried out.



- 5 The producer signs an Environmental Commitment Agreement (TCA) in which they commit to implementing the PRADA drawn up. Once the TCA is signed, the producer may access benefits such as rural credit, clearance, and exemption from environmental fines.
- 6 The producer implements the actions defined in the PRADA and becomes subject to monitoring by the environmental agency.
- 7 Once all targets have been met, the property is considered compliant with environmental conservation obligations.



- 8 Subsequently, the producer must keep the registration information continually updated. Any changes to the property or its boundaries must be registered to ensure continued access to benefits such as rural credit and exemption from environmental fines.



GOOGLE GEMINI. (Artificial Intelligence)

The implementation of the Forest Code in Brazil involves different levels of government, each with specific responsibilities. The federal government sets general legal guidelines and maintains the National Rural Environmental Registry System (SICAR), where information on rural properties is registered. States play a central role in environmental regularization: they are responsible for analyzing and validating the Rural Environmental Registries (CARs), coordinating the Environmental Regularization Programs (PRAs), and enforcing compliance with the rules. Municipalities, depending on local capacity and institutional arrangements, may analyze CARs and provide technical support and guidance to rural producers, thereby facilitating the regularization process and ensuring integration among public policies.

Implementation Challenges

Even with these instruments in place, putting the Forest Code into practice is not an easy task. The regularization process is complex, and many Brazilian states still lack sufficient capacity to analyze and validate registries efficiently — whether due to limited staff training or inadequate technology. This lack of structure results in delays that create uncertainty for producers and may even discourage them from joining the CAR and the PRA. Moreover, many smallholders do not have access to the technical assistance needed to fully understand the legal requirements involved in the regularization process.

CHALLENGES

MAIN DIFFICULTIES FACED BY RURAL LANDOWNERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL REGULARIZATION

Rural landowners — particularly small and medium-sized producers — face several challenges in bringing their properties into environmental compliance. Among the main obstacles are:



Land Tenure Regularization

Land tenure regularization is the first and often one of the most significant challenges faced by rural landowners. Without documentation proving ownership or legal possession of the land, producers are unable to move forward with the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) or access public policies, technical assistance programs, and credit lines that would enable environmental regularization.



Difficulties in completing the CAR

Many landowners experience technical issues when submitting their registration, especially in cases involving overlapping areas, incomplete documentation, or outstanding environmental liabilities.



Lengthy review of registrations

The delay in the government's analysis of CARs creates uncertainty and discourages producers from continuing with environmental regularization processes.



High costs and bureaucracy

Without proper assistance, complying with the requirements of the Forest Code—such as the recovery of Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs) and Legal Reserves—can require substantial financial investments and complex bureaucratic processes that many rural landowners are unable to carry out.



Lack of knowledge and technical assistance

Many smallholders are unfamiliar with PRA requirements and do not have access to qualified professionals who can advise them on best regularization practices. This often results in errors that lead to new pending issues.



Lack of incentives

There are still insufficient financial incentives and credit lines to support environmental regularization, making the process costly and discouraging for rural landowners.

MAIN OBSTACLES FACED BY STATES IN ENVIRONMENTAL REGULARIZATION

State and municipal environmental agencies also face significant challenges in making progress in analyzing and validating registrations.



Large backlog of pending registrations

In many regions, the demand for CAR analysis exceeds the available technical and administrative capacity.



Lack of systems integration

Integration between state and federal systems remains limited, making it difficult to check and cross-check data.



Shortage of human and financial resources

The lack of specialized staff and insufficient investments reduce the efficiency with which registrations are analyzed.



Challenges in implementing the PRA

The program still lacks clear guidelines and sufficient incentives to encourage producer participation, especially at the state level in coordination with the federal government.



Difficulties in inspection and monitoring

The vast territorial extension of Amazonian states poses an additional challenge for monitoring regularization and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

These challenges highlight the need to strengthen policies, expand incentives, and enhance technical capacity to ensure the effectiveness of environmental regularization.



This is where the ASL Brazil Project comes in

The ASL Brazil Project helps to address key bottlenecks and make environmental regularization more accessible and efficient. With a special focus on smallholders, the project began in 2017, following approval and signing by the World Bank. In 2018, the first actions aimed at strengthening policies began to be implemented, organized into annual operational plans. From the beginning, the project has worked directly on environmental regularization — an activity present in four states: Acre, Amazonas, Pará, and Rondônia — always in partnership with the respective State Environmental Offices.

Each state environmental agency identifies its specific challenges and the reasons behind delays in the regularization process. The obstacles range from a lack of equipment to the need to hire more qualified technicians to analyze CAR submissions and the processes that involve the following stages. Another recurring issue is the lack of follow-up after smallholders receive initial feedback from the environmental office requesting adjustments to their registrations. To speed up this process, known as Rectification, the project has invested in training professionals from other institutions — such as the Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Company (Emater) — to help producers respond properly to these requests and continue their regularization process.

How the ASL Brazil Project has helped overcome these challenges

The ASL Brazil Project has helped make the regularization process more accessible for producers and more efficient for states through several key initiatives:

Support for CAR analysis	Teams were hired to analyze 61,500 registrations, speeding up the regularization process.
Preparation of PRADAs	The project is supporting the preparation of 10,300 Environmental Recovery Plans for producers.
Institutional Strengthening	A total of 773 pieces of equipment — including laptops, GPS units, printers, drones, and vehicles — were provided to improve the operational capacity of state environmental offices.
Technical Training	Fifteen technicians from the municipal environmental offices of São Félix and Altamira were trained to analyze registrations, monitor PRADAs, and oversee the implementation of TCAs using geospatial tools.
Decentralization of CAR analysis	In the state of Pará, the project supported the municipalities of Altamira and São Félix do Xingu in carrying out their own analyses, training 15 technicians from the municipal environmental offices to analyze the registrations, monitor PRADAs, and oversee the implementation of TCAs using geospatial tools. This initiative helped to reduce the workload of the State Environmental Office and speed up the overall process.
Restoration of degraded areas	Over 1,000 hectares of environmental liabilities have been restored in the states of Acre, Amazonas, Pará, and Rondônia through active restoration methods. The project also supports more than 40,000 hectares currently under restoration — combining both active restoration and assisted natural regeneration — across Conservation Units and rural properties.
Institutional Strengthening and Tool Development	In addition to direct actions aimed at environmental regularization, the ASL Brazil Project has made significant contributions to technical capacity-building and the creation of more effective governance mechanisms, the establishment of interinstitutional committees to promote stronger alignment in the implementation of environmental policies, the creation of specific monitoring modules for PRADAs, as well as partnerships with organizations that have enabled broader scale and impact, such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the World Resources Institute (WRI), among others.
Development of Incentive Mechanisms	To encourage greater participation in environmental regularization, the ASL Brazil Project supported the development of instruments that foster legal compliance. In the state of Amazonas, for example, an Environmental Regularization Commitment Agreement is being designed — a document through which landowners formally commit to fulfilling legal obligations and addressing any existing environmental liabilities.

THE AMAZON AND THE POINT OF NO RETURN: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

A village in the Karitiana Indigenous Territory, in Rondônia, engaged in the restoration chain by collecting seeds with the support of Ecopré.

For thousands of years, the Amazon Rainforest has sustained a continuous rainfall cycle, regulating the climate, and harboring 10% of the world's biodiversity. But this delicate balance is increasingly under threat. Deforestation, wildfires, illegal practices, and the global climate crisis are accelerating degradation, pushing the Amazon closer to its tipping point — the moment when the forest begins to lose its ecological characteristics and its ability to recover.

Studies indicate that if degradation continues at the current pace, by 2050 the Amazon forest could undergo a process of savannization, transforming itself into a drier landscape with reduced biodiversity, undermining the forest's capacity to store carbon in its biomass and to absorb greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, further aggravating the climate crisis. This ecological collapse would directly impact agriculture by disrupting rainfall patterns essential for food production; threaten water security by reducing the humidity carried by the so-called "flying rivers"; and compromise the quality of life of millions of people — especially urban populations and traditional communities that depend on the forest for food, water, income, and climate stability.

The point of no return and the role of Environmental Regularization in forest conservation

Environmental regularization has been an essential tool for ensuring forest conservation and enabling producers to access sustainable policies. However, the challenges for conserving the Amazon go far beyond the regularization of rural properties. The forest is facing increasing threats that endanger not only the livelihoods of those who live there, but also the climate stability of Brazil and the world — including Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities who depend on the forest for their survival.

Therefore, accelerating regularization and restoration efforts is urgent to prevent the irreversible destruction of the Amazon and its global consequences.

Opportunity for transformation: ASL Brazil and global targets

Despite the challenges, the Amazon still holds enormous potential to be conserved, sustainably managed, and harnessed to generate socioeconomic opportunities that promote development models rooted in a living, thriving forest. In this context, the ASL Brazil Project stands as a concrete and inspiring model. The initiative has promoted integrated landscape management and ecosystem conservation in priority areas of the Amazon, making environmental regularization one of the key pathways to strengthening the coexistence between production and forest — a balance that acknowledges the interdependence between local livelihoods and ecosystem conservation.

Beyond its direct benefits to families in the participating states, the project is deeply connected to Brazil's global environmental commitments. ASL Brazil contributes to the Paris Agreement, which sets targets for reducing carbon emissions, and to the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which calls for protecting 30% of the planet's natural areas by 2030. It is also aligned with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (COP-CMS), by supporting the conservation of habitats and ecological corridors essential for wildlife. Furthermore, it strengthens actions in territories recognized as Ramsar Sites, protecting wetlands of international importance. The project is also connected to Brazil's national environmental preservation goals and the safeguarding of Indigenous Peoples' and traditional communities' rights, reinforcing a sustainable model for the Amazon.

THE ASL BRAZIL PROJECT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project contributes directly to achieving 12 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda:



Source: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>

THE ASL BRAZIL PROJECT AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) TARGETS

The actions of the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Project directly contribute to 12 of the 23 targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):



Source: <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/branding>

RESULTS

MAP 1 - COVERAGE AREA ASL 1, 2, AND 3

18,337
REGISTRATIONS
ANALYZED

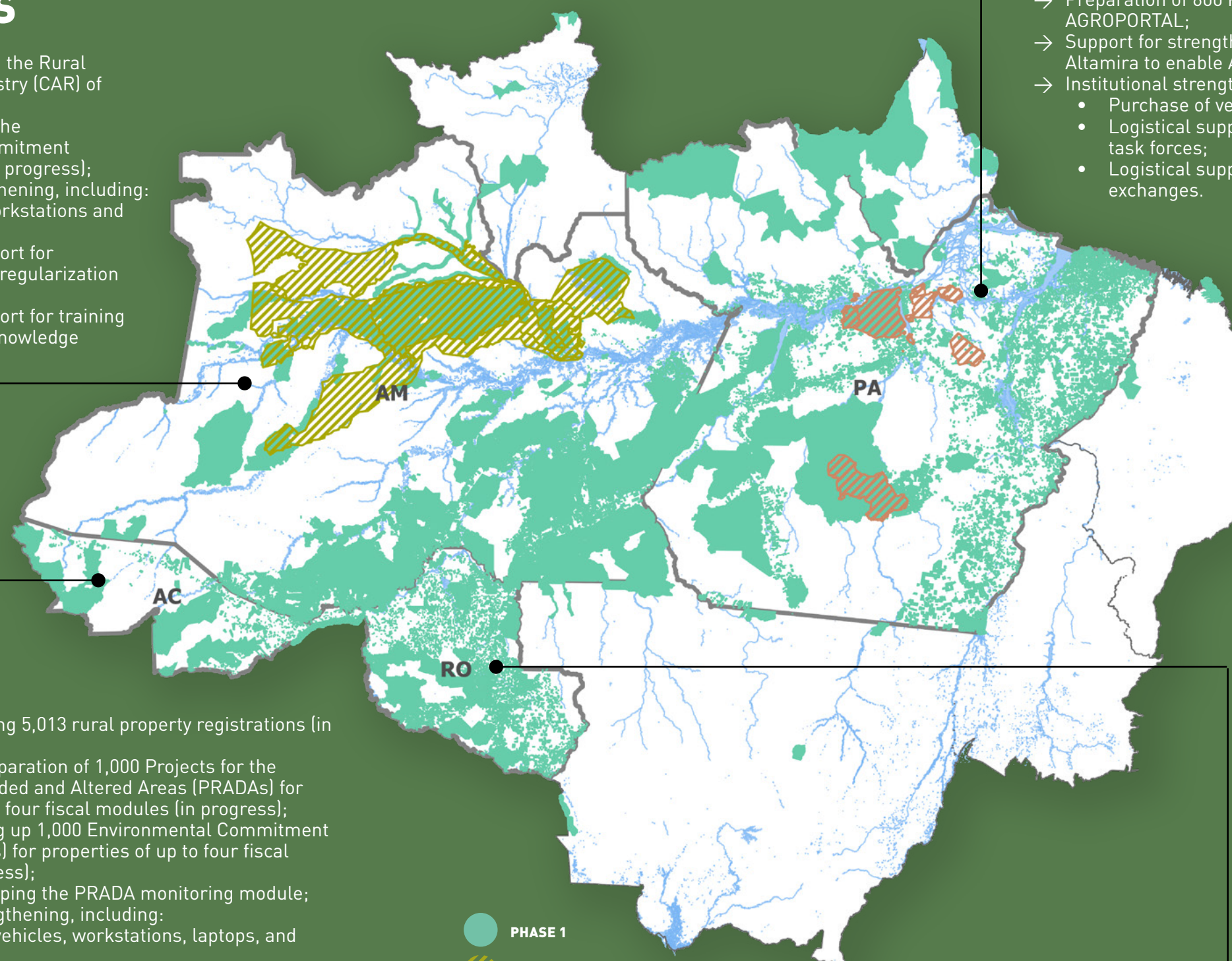
AMAZONAS

- Support in analyzing the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR) of 18,337 properties;
- Support in drafting the Environmental Commitment Agreement (TCA) (in progress);
- Institutional strengthening, including:
 - Purchase of workstations and laptops;
 - Logistical support for environmental regularization task forces;
 - Logistical support for training sessions and knowledge exchanges.

17,500
REGISTRATIONS
ANALYZED

PARÁ

- Support in analyzing 17,500 rural property registrations, with the aim of reaching 27,000 registrations analyzed;
- Support for the correction of 5,000 rural property registrations;
- Support in drawing up the PRADA monitoring protocol and module (in progress);
- Preparation of 600 PRADAs by EMATER and 100 by the company AGROPORTAL;
- Support for strengthening SEMMAS in São Félix do Xingu and Altamira to enable Altamira's accreditation for CAR analysis;
- Institutional strengthening, including:
 - Purchase of vehicles, workstations, and laptops;
 - Logistical support for eight environmental regularization task forces;
 - Logistical support for training programs and knowledge exchanges.



ACRE

- Support in analyzing 5,013 rural property registrations (in progress);
- Support in the preparation of 1,000 Projects for the Recovery of Degraded and Altered Areas (PRADAs) for properties of up to four fiscal modules (in progress);
- Support in drawing up 1,000 Environmental Commitment Agreements (TCAs) for properties of up to four fiscal modules (in progress);
- Support for developing the PRADA monitoring module;
- Institutional strengthening, including:
 - Purchase of vehicles, workstations, laptops, and drones;
 - Logistical support for field actions aimed at environmental regularization;
 - Logistical support for training programs and knowledge exchanges.

5,013
REGISTRATIONS
ANALYZED BY THE
END OF 2025

● PHASE 1
▨ PHASE 2
▨ PHASE 3

Source: Conservation International (CI-Brasil)

RONDÔNIA

- Support in analyzing 21,744 rural property registrations;
- Support for training Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (ATER) and private-sector professionals for PRA implementation;
- Support in the preparation of 10,000 Projects for the Recovery of Degraded and Altered Areas (PRADAs) and the signing of Environmental Commitment Agreements (TCAs) - in progress;
- Support for mobilizing rural producers through task forces to join the PRA in 14 municipalities (in progress);
- Institutional strengthening, including:
 - Purchase of vehicles, workstations, and laptops;
 - Logistical support for 11 environmental regularization task forces;
 - Logistical support for training programs and knowledge exchanges.

21,744
REGISTRATIONS
ANALYZED

Effectiveness and Observed Impacts

The results achieved so far demonstrate not only the volume of actions implemented, but also concrete progress in terms of effectiveness. In some states, a significant reduction in the average time required to analyze Rural Environmental Registries (CAR) can already be observed, increasing the response capacity of environmental agencies. The growing number of analyzed registrations compared to the total submitted represents a major efficiency gain, while the regularization process has enabled rural producers to access new agricultural credit lines that were previously out of reach.

Moreover, the increased participation in the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA)—including through the conversion of environmental fines into restoration commitments—illustrates a behavioral shift that combines legal certainty, promotion of sustainable production, and forest conservation. These results show that the implementation of the Forest Code, when supported by integrated actions such as those offered by the ASL Brazil Project, can generate environmental, economic, and social benefits simultaneously.

These advances gain even greater significance given the size and strategic importance of the Brazilian Amazon, which represents 60% of the entire international Amazon biome. The Amazon biome covers approximately 6.74 million km² (2.60 million square miles), of which 4.2 million km² (1.62 million square miles) lie within Brazilian territory, encompassing nine states. The region is home to about 22 million people, most of whom live in urban areas, but also includes local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and traditional populations who depend directly on natural resources for their well-being and livelihoods.

The Amazon River basin is the largest in the world, covering around 6 million km² (2.32 million square miles) and including 1,110 tributaries. It holds about 15% of the planet's unfrozen surface freshwater. Its main river, the Amazon, flows across the region to empty into the Atlantic Ocean, discharging approximately 175 million liters (46.23 million US gallons) of water per second—a reminder of the magnitude and responsibility involved in conserving this natural heritage.



A fisherman supports a team of researchers at Rebio Abufari, in the State of Amazonas.

LESSONS: CONNECTION IS KEY

Ecoporé's Citizen Nursery in Rolim de Moura, in the State of Rondônia.

The ASL Brazil Project teaches us that the conservation of the Amazon requires joint and coordinated efforts. Integration among governments, communities, and rural producers is essential to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, protect biodiversity, and maintain ecosystem services. The engagement of subnational governments in the implementation and improvement of environmental policies has been a key factor for the success of the actions developed.

Within the network of connections that sustains life in the forest, environmental regularization has proven to be a strategic tool not only to ensure compliance with environmental legislation but also to enable smallholders to access financial incentives, public policies, and sustainable production practices.

Throughout the project's implementation, significant challenges have been identified and overcome. The validation of the Rural Environmental Registry (CAR), for example, initially faced delays that are now being minimized through the adoption of new methodologies, such as automated and streamlined analyses, which have made the process more efficient. Participation in the Environmental Regularization Program (PRA) was initially low, but awareness campaigns among rural producers—especially environmental regularization task forces that included financial support for travel and participation, as well as training opportunities—enabled greater engagement, expanding the area under regular management.

The project has also fostered important innovations. Tailored regularization models for smallholders were developed, facilitating the inclusion of family farmers in the process. Improved coordination among state and federal environmental agencies has helped prevent overlapping efforts, making management more efficient. Monitoring has also improved, ensuring greater transparency and control over the effectiveness of environmental regularization.

This push to implement the Forest Code has been significantly supported by the ASL Brazil Project, particularly by accelerating CAR analyses in the states of Amazonas, Acre, Pará, and Rondônia. In Amazonas, for example, the project was decisive in unblocking the process, which until then had only seen four registrations analyzed. In Rondônia and Acre, ASL has joined forces with other ongoing initiatives, strategically strengthening institutional capacity and speeding up environmental regularization. This movement has paved the way for a new, more agile, structured, and effective environmental management dynamic. And it doesn't stop there: as it builds on the lessons of its first phase, ASL Brazil moves forward into its second and prepares for the third, helping to consolidate a lasting legacy for the Amazon and its people.

Legacy: Strong Networks, Deep Roots

The ASL Brazil Project, in coordination with partner institutions, has helped build a lasting legacy across the four states where it operates, which continue to advance in the analysis and validation of environmental registrations. The institutional strengthening supported by the project has contributed to improving the internal processes of environmental agencies, ensuring that jointly implemented improvements continue to benefit environmental management in the long term.

In Acre, for example, the project has strengthened environmental regularization strategies by enabling the purchase of essential equipment, hiring specialized consultants to support the analysis of PRADAs and Environmental Commitment Agreements, as well as establishing dedicated departments for notification, analysis, regularization, and restoration. This has provided the state with specialized teams and greater agility in its processes. Acre has also developed a model for monitoring regularized properties, which has significantly strengthened local environmental management capacity.

In Pará, the project enabled the hiring of specialized companies, the organization of environmental regularization task forces in multiple municipalities, the training of technicians and rural extension workers, and the provision of equipment such as drones, computers, and GPS units to strengthen state and municipal institutions. ASL has also been instrumental in strengthening environmental governance by aligning its actions with the Amazônia Agora Plan and the Regulariza Pará Program, and by supporting the implementation of the Plan for the Recovery of Native Vegetation in the State of Pará (PRVN-PA), which sets an ambitious target of recovering 5.6 million hectares by 2030—representing almost 50% of the national target established in the National Native Vegetation Recovery Plan (Planaveg) and consolidated in Proveg. Ongoing initiatives are already helping to position the state as a national reference in ecological restoration.

The project's impacts also include greater legal certainty for rural producers, allowing them to access credit, financial incentives, and support programs. Strengthened environmental governance has led to improved workflows for CAR analysis and the creation of more efficient protocols. Interinstitutional dialogue has also expanded, fostering cooperation among government sectors and civil society organizations.



"The project helped the state of Acre strengthen the entire regularization process, from the initial CAR submission to the monitoring stage. That is very important for us."

CLAUDIO CAVALCANTI, Technical Coordinator of the Rural Environmental Registry Office and the Environmental Regularization Program, State of Acre

With over 1.7 million hectares, the Triunfo do Xingu Environmental Protection Area, in Pará, is the focus of restoration and sustainable management actions supported by ASL Brazil, involving local communities and rural producers.

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“Without the support of the ASL Brazil Project, the results currently achieved by SEMAS—especially regarding the CAR—would not be as positive. This is not only reflected in the numbers but also in the knowledge, experience, and key partnerships made possible by the project. Today, all of this serves as a foundation for other projects and programs that promote environmental regularization and forest restoration in Brazil.”

LUIZ EDINELSON CARDOSO, Agronomist and Technical Advisor to the Deputy Office for Environmental Management and Regularization, State Office for the Environment and Sustainability (SEMAS/PA)

Future: A Continuous and Effective System

The strengthening of environmental regularization in the Amazon has received a significant boost from the initiatives implemented by the ASL Brazil Project. The support provided has enabled essential progress—especially in institutional strengthening, technical capacity building, and the creation of incentives for PRA participation. The states are now advancing the implementation of the Forest Code, consolidating the progress achieved and seeking ways to maintain and expand the processes initiated.

To achieve this, it will be crucial to improve integration among environmental agencies, avoiding duplication of efforts and increasing efficiency in regularization management. Developing new incentive policies will also be essential, including more robust payment mechanisms for environmental services and funding for the adoption of sustainable practices. Furthermore, monitoring and transparency must be strengthened to ensure that established targets are met and that environmental regularization delivers tangible results.

Together with its partner networks, the ASL Brazil Project has shown that it is possible to preserve the Amazon while also promoting sustainable development. The future of environmental management in the region will depend on the continuity of these initiatives—ensuring that rural producers can meet regularization requirements while preserving one of the most important biomes on the planet.

Vessel during an ASL supervision mission in July 2024, in the Nova Esperança community, Rio Negro, in the State of Amazonas.



ASLBrasil

Projeto Paisagens Sustentáveis da Amazônia

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