



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Preserving Biodiversity and Combatting Climate Change

Biodiversity and nature provide essential resources such as food, water, clean air, and economic livelihoods for people worldwide. Effective natural resource management and conservation can deliver these benefits while protecting biodiversity and addressing climate change.

ACDI/VOCA has extensive experience in agriculture, where farming communities manage natural resources like soil, water, and seeds. Farms are part of agroecosystems that buffer natural ecosystems; perennials such as cocoa and coffee can be grown in shade agroforestry systems, creating biodiversity value for migratory birds and habitat connectivity. Other perennials and annuals can be managed to promote biodiversity with practices such as habitat buffers and integrated pest management.

Biodiversity-positive interventions protect habitats and endangered species while offering natural climate solutions that reduce emissions and support climate adaptation for vulnerable communities. In markets, we use a systems approach to address topics such as technical services, enabling environments, access to finance and markets, and gender and youth participation. Applied to biodiversity, we use a similar approach to address key issues of policy, livelihoods, and climate finance.



Photo: Indigenous Kogi in the dry forests of Sierra Nevada, northern Colombia

"Ethnic communities inhabit and manage the tropical forests and other ecosystems that make Colombia one of the most biodiverse countries in the world. In our ACDI/VOCA 'IPACE' project, we support these communities with governance capacity, sustainable livelihood opportunities, and promotion of cultural diversity to empower them to safeguard this incredible biodiversity."

— Luis Sevillano, Chief of Party
USAID Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombian Empowerment Activity (IPACE)

Impact goal focus areas:



Biodiversity & Natural Resource Policy



Livelihoods & Nature Based Solutions



Conservation & Climate Finance

ACDI/VOCA is a global development design and delivery partner implementing effective economic and social development projects in nearly 150 countries since 1963. ACDI/VOCA and its Affiliates (AV Group) is a family of development organizations that implements donor-funded projects, facilitates impact investing, delivers financial services, and partners with businesses to promote inclusive practices and build sustainable supply chains. AV Group is composed of ACDI/VOCA and its affiliates Tanager, Fundación ACDI/VOCA Latin America (FAVLA), AV Ventures and the funds it manages, and Frontiers. Learn more at www.acdivoca.org.

Advancing Sustainable Biodiversity and Community Development

BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY

Local and national policies significantly influence the management of natural areas and biodiversity. Increasingly, local communities, especially ethnic groups, are being given control over their own lands. ACDI/VOCA works with these communities to create long-term plans for managing the environment. At a broader level, we help countries balance nature conservation and economic growth, and we work with the private sector to leverage investment into green economy sectors.

Biodiversity Management in Community Forests



Photo: FIFES in Liberia

of Liberia: Liberia, despite past timber exploitation, remains heavily forested with vital habitats for forest elephants, chimpanzees, and pygmy hippos. The USAID-funded

Forest Incomes for Environmental Sustainability activity helped communities secure governance structures to manage forest resources, conserving biodiversity and enhancing local livelihoods through sustainable timber harvest and agroforestry. The project supported conservation of 50,000+ hectares of high biodiversity habitat.

Natural Resource Management in Honduras: In the Honduras dry corridor, watersheds provide water for various uses and contain remnant biodiversity habitats. The **Comprehensive Rural Development and Productivity Project (PIDRP - ProOccidente)**, funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, promotes climate-smart agriculture and supports communities in watershed management. In addition to promoting biodiversity-smart agriculture practices like agroforestry, ACDI/VOCA builds community capacity for conservation and monitoring, supporting 10 macro communities and 25,000 hectares of biodiversity habitat.

CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE FINANCE

Biodiversity conservation creates long-term economic value but struggles to compete with harmful activities in the short term. ACDI/VOCA leverages green finance mechanisms like carbon markets and green bonds to support conservation activities. We support the effective implementation of these funds through tools like REDD+ (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries) and blended finance, and work with local financial institutions to ensure inclusive access to credit.

LIVELIHOODS AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Sustainable biodiversity conservation must include economic opportunities for local communities. ACDI/VOCA supports rural communities' economic growth, focusing on nature-based solutions like agroforestry, sustainable forest and fisheries management, and ecotourism. We use a market systems approach and leverage private sector investment for sustainable job creation.



Photo: Mozambique CLCR, Credit: Luca Crudeli

Sustainable Livelihoods and Marine Conservation in Mozambique: The Mozambique channel, a biodiversity hotspot with the second greatest coral diversity globally, is the focus of the **Coastal Livelihoods and Climate Resilience project**, funded by the Millennium Challenge Account. There, ACDI/VOCA will work with partner ProAzul to improve livelihood opportunities and develop sustainable value chains in the blue and green economy, including sustainable fisheries and eco-tourism.

Sustainable Livelihoods and Agroforestry in the Philippines: The Philippines is an island archipelago with high marine and terrestrial endemism. Here, ACDI / VOCA implemented the USDA **Philippine Coffee Advancement and Farm Enterprise (PhilCAFE)** project, where we supported coffee cooperatives and 17,000 farmers in agroforestry practices, improving product quality and increasing coffee yield by nearly 20% over 4,000 hectares.

Conservation Finance: REDD+ in Colombia

Colombia's carbon-rich and biodiverse forests, managed by indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities, benefit from the USAID-funded **Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Colombian Empowerment (IPACE) project**. ACDI/VOCA is helping to establish a REDD+ project in Valle de Cauca, which will provide long term income for local communities and support the conservation of their forests.