Building a Sustainable Colombia in Peace
The Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation, APC-Colombia, has led the coordination efforts within the Colombian Government to set up the Colombia Sostenible Fund.
“Colombia Sostenible” is a country-wide initiative that takes a systemic approach to addressing climate change, social inequality and post-conflict challenges—built on the sustainable development goals.
Climate change could cause a 7.4% reduction in agricultural yields due to changed hydrological conditions and an increase in the average temperature (2-4°C).

The Challenge

88% of municipalities that were most affected by the armed conflict are rural areas.

58% of all deforestation has taken place in municipalities that had the highest conflict levels.

48% of municipalities that had a high prevalence of conflict and development gaps have natural protected areas.
The Solution

Colombia and the IDB have designed a multidonor trust fund that promotes environmental sustainability and protects the country’s rich biodiversity in regions that were previously affected by the armed conflict.

Now that peace in Colombia is a reality, Colombia Sostenible plays a key role in ensuring that development and growth in these regions is economically and environmentally sustainable.

Colombia Sostenible has four key pillars that will enable its success in the long-run:

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

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

**STRONG PARTNERSHIPS**
An innovative and comprehensive governance scheme, coupled with strong partnerships with local and international actors, ensures an effective planning and benefits the initiative with valuable input.

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

- Mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- Innovation in rural development
- Alternative development of forests areas
- Value chains and access to markets
- Strengthening of National Parks and Protected Areas
- Promoting silvopastoral and agroforestry systems
- Payment for environmental services
- Alternative development to replace illegal crops
- Environmental and social land use planning
- Socioeconomic reconstruction
- Recovery of areas degraded by mining and illicit crops
- Physical and social infrastructure for rural productivity
- Strengthening of family-based sustainable agriculture
The Colombian Government approved a public policy document (CONPES 3850) to frame the Colombia Sostenible Trust Fund as an integral part of Colombia’s International Cooperation Post-conflict Strategy.

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

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

- Deforestation areas
- Fiscal performance
- Impact of armed conflict
- Hectares of illicit crops
- Protected areas
- Rural reality
- Territorial development gaps
- Vulnerability to weather events

Source: National Planning Department (2016).
Launched in 2016 and planned on a 15-year horizon with three tranches, Colombia Sostenible's first tranche has a $400 million dollar fundraising objective.

In parallel, the Government of Colombia has created the Colombia en Paz National Fund, with its own "Colombia Sostenible" Special Account, assuring harmony between governmental and international resources by matching funds to co-finance the fund’s projects. The Government of Colombia is setting up this account with an initial US$100 million contribution, as a signal to donors of its commitment to this initiative.
Governance

Six governmental entities have actively participated in the design of Fund and continue to do so via its **Steering Committee**: Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development; Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Ministry of Finance; National Planning Department; Presidential Office of the High Counsellor for Post-Conflict; and Presidential Agency of International Cooperation. The participation from multiple government actors, along with the leadership from donors, provides the fund with strategic vision and guidance.

The fund has a **Technical Coordination Unit** in charge of project implementation, with top experts in the fields of climate change and sustainable development, agriculture and rural development, planning and monitoring, and project evaluation.

**High Level Advisory Group**

The initiative counts on inputs from its High-level Advisory Group, which provides non-binding strategic advice. The experience of the Advisory Group’s members is crucial to ensure that innovative and dynamic fund’s fundraising get incorporated. Their insight on cutting edge projects contributes to the fundraising and enhances the scope of the work envisioned for Colombia.

**Private sector**

To scale up investments and enhance impact at the implementation level, the private sector is a critical partner. The initiative will help leverage institutional investors and create new business opportunities, particularly for SMEs that are key to providing sustainable goods and services across supply-chains.
In order to measure attained achievements and provide national entities and donors with key information and reports, the fund is being set up with a solid monitoring and evaluation system to track project progress and make adjustments over time.

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

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

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

*Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies
*National Planning Department
Colombia Sostenible is designed to channel payment-for-results funding from the Joint Declaration of Intent between Colombia, Norway, Germany and the United Kingdom, signed at the COP21 with the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the Amazon.

In its first tranche, the Fund will finance activities that contribute to new public policy milestones to fight deforestation in Colombia.