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Latin American and Caribbean Countries Launch Initiative 20x20 to Restore 20 Million Hectares of Land

Initiative 20x20 brings together national and regional commitments plus \$365 million of private finance to restore forests and improve agricultural productivity in degraded land

LIMA (December 7, 2014)—Today, Latin American and Caribbean countries launched [Initiative 20x20](#), a country-led effort to bring 20 million hectares of degraded land into restoration by 2020. As part of the initiative, five impact investors also announced plans to invest up to US\$365 million of new financing to support land restoration efforts in the region. Initiative 20x20, which will eventually help restore an area larger than Uruguay, is supported by the [World Resources Institute](#) (WRI), [International Center for Tropical Agriculture](#) (CIAT), [Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza](#) (CATIE), and the [International Union for the Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN).

Through Initiative 20x20, countries and programs in the region will work with leading research organizations and the private sector to restore functionality to degraded lands, resulting in carbon storage, new reforestation, more productive agriculture, avoided deforestation and improved livelihoods. The 20 million hectares committed through Initiative 20x20 will not be fully restored by 2020 because it takes many years for forests and agricultural areas to redevelop, but the restoration process will have begun by 2020.

Ambitions announced through Initiative 20x20 will also support the **Bonn Challenge**, a global commitment to bring 150 million hectares of land into restoration by 2020. Today, Initiative 20x20 announced **about 16 million hectares** of written and verbal commitments for restoration from:

1. **Mexico: 8.5 million hectares**
2. **Peru: 3.2 million hectares**
3. **Guatemala: 1.2 million hectares**
4. **Colombia: 1 million hectares**
5. **Ecuador: 0.5 million hectares**
6. **Costa Rica: 50,000 hectares**
7. **Regional Program “Bosques Modelo”: 1.6 million hectares**

“Land restoration in the region is an essential element to promote equity, poverty reduction, alternatives for development in poor rural areas as well as a mechanism for a low carbon, more resilient future,” said **Minister of Environment Gabriel Vallejo**, Colombia.

The restoration activities of Initiative 20x20 will be partly supported through **\$365 million USD** of commitments from impact investors and bilateral and multilateral funders. Other financial instruments, including a partial risk guarantee for restoration, are under design. So far, private sector investors have indicated the intention to invest:

1. **Althelia:** \$120 million in support of agroforestry and silvopastoral activities.
2. **Moringa:** \$80 million in support of agroforestry and silvopastoral activities.
3. **Permian Global:** \$100 million in support of reforestation and avoided deforestation in tropical rainforest biomes.
4. **Terra Bella:** up to \$60 million in non-timber forest projects and high-value low carbon and climate resilient sustainably produced agricultural projects
5. **Rare:** about \$5 million in the protection and recovery of cloud forest and riparian biomes

“Althelia is deploying capital in support of a portfolio of projects in the region to improve agricultural practices, restore degraded lands, and reduce pressure on natural ecosystems, with concrete results in emissions reductions, zero-net deforestation commodities, biodiversity, and livelihoods,” said **Christian del Valle**, CEO, Althelia Climate.

About half of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean are generated from land use, land use change, and forestry. Of the 4.2 gigatons of GHGs emitted by Latin American and Caribbean countries in 2012, 2.0 Gt were from land use and loss of forests. Reducing emissions from land use change is key for the prospects of a low carbon development future.

“Agriculture and land use change together account for about half of the GHG emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean. As the world prepares to deliver a binding climate agreement in Paris by 2015, restoration will be absolutely essential for countries to hit their emissions targets, while also delivering huge benefits for the rural poor. Through their leadership in Initiative 20x20, these countries will have a tremendous head start,” said **Dr. Andrew Steer**, President and CEO, WRI.

Analysis by WRI and IUCN has identified over 200 million hectares of restoration opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Further analysis is underway to quantify the economic and climate benefits of reaching the Initiative 20x20 restoration targets.

“CIAT has understood for a long time the pivotal linkage between agriculture and climate change. We are committed to support initiative 20x20 as a cost effective approach to reduce GHG emissions while promoting improved soil quality, nutrient retention and agricultural yields,” indicated **Ruben Echevarria**, Director General, CIAT.

“Initiative 20x20 can be an important contribution to the global restoration goals outlined under the Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests,” added Grethel Aguilar, IUCN coordinator in Central America,” added **Grethel Aguilar**, IUCN coordinator in Central America.

Through Initiative 20x20, countries and investors will work to restore forests on cleared land and improve the productivity of “mosaic landscapes” through better use of trees in agriculture (agroforestry) and livestock production (silvopasture). This restoration is expected to provide extensive economic, social, and environmental benefits through improved local livelihoods, ecosystem services such as erosion prevention and water purification, as well as carbon storage.

“The mosaic approach in Initiative 20x20 or what we call ‘climate smart territories’ will allow countries to target improvements in rural incomes and food security as well as to protect natural forests and grasslands so critical to our sustainable future,” said **Jose Joaquin Campos**, Director General, CATIE.

For more information, visit www.initiative20x20.com.

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Países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe lanzan la Iniciativa 20x20 para restaurar 20 millones de hectáreas de tierra

*La Iniciativa 20x20 reúne compromisos nacionales y regionales y US\$365 millones de
financiamiento privado para restaurar y mejorar la productividad agrícola en tierras
degradadas*

LIMA (7 de Diciembre, 2014)—El día de hoy, países de Latinoamérica y el Caribe lanzaron la [Iniciativa 20x20](#), un esfuerzo liderado por los países, para llevar 20 millones de hectáreas de tierras degradadas a la restauración antes para el 2020. Como parte de la iniciativa, cinco inversionistas de impacto también anunciaron sus planes de invertir hasta US\$365 millones de nuevo financiamiento para apoyar los esfuerzos de restauración de tierras en la región. La Iniciativa 20x20, que eventualmente ayudará a restaurar una área mayor a Uruguay, es apoyada por el [World Resources Institute](#) (WRI), el [Centro Internacional para la Agricultura Tropical](#) (CIAT), el [Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza](#) (CATIE) y la [Unión Internacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza](#) (IUCN).

A través de la Iniciativa 20x20, los países y programas en la región trabajarán con centros de investigación líderes y el sector privado para restaurar la funcionalidad de las tierras degradadas, resultando en la captura de carbono, nueva reforestación, agricultura más productiva, deforestación evitada y mejora de la fuente de sustento. Las 20 millones de hectáreas no estarán restauradas por completo en el 2020 ya que lleva muchos años para que los bosques y las áreas agrícolas se puedan recuperar; sin embargo, el proceso de restauración habrá iniciado para el 2020.

Las ambiciones anunciadas en la Iniciativa 20x20 también apoyarán al **Reto de Bonn**, un compromiso global que lleva 150 millones de hectáreas de tierra a la restauración para el 2020. Hoy día, la Iniciativa 20x20 anunció **cerca de 16 millones de hectáreas** de compromisos de restauración escritos y verbales provenientes de:

1. **México: 8.5 millones de hectáreas**
2. **Peru: 3.2 millones de hectáreas**
3. **Guatemala: 1.2 millón de hectáreas**
4. **Colombia: 1 millón de hectáreas**
5. **Ecuador: 0.5 millón de hectáreas**
6. **Costa Rica: 50,000 hectáreas**
7. **Programa Regional “Bosques Modelo”: 1.6 millones de hectáreas**

“La restauración de tierra en la región es un elemento esencial para promover la equidad, reducción de pobreza, alternativas para el desarrollo en comunidades rurales pobres y como un mecanismo para lograr un futuro más resiliente y bajo en carbono,” dice el **Ministro de Ambiente Gabriel Vallejo**, Colombia.

Las actividades de restauración de la Iniciativa 20x20 serán apoyadas en parte por los **US\$365 millones** en compromisos de inversionistas de impacto y fondeadores bilaterales y multilaterales. Otros instrumentos financieros - como la garantía parcial de riesgo para la restauración - están en la etapa de diseño. Hasta el momento, los inversionistas del sector privado han indicado intenciones de inversión por:

1. **Althelia:** US\$120 millones en apoyo a actividades agroforestales y de silvopastoreo.
2. **Moringa:** US\$80 millones en apoyo a actividades agroforestales y de silvopastoreo.
3. **Permian Global:** US\$100 millones en apoyo a actividades de reforestación y deforestación evitada en biomas de selva tropical.
4. **Terra Bella:** hasta US\$60 millones en proyectos no madereros y proyectos agrícolas sustentables de alto valor con alta resiliencia climática y bajos en carbono.
5. **Rare:** cerca de US\$5 million en protección y recuperación de selvas nubladas y riparias.

“Althelia está asignando capital en apoyo de un portafolio de proyectos en la región que mejore las prácticas agrícolas, restaure tierras degradadas y reduzca la presión en los ecosistemas naturales, con claros efectos en la reducción de emisiones, extracción de recursos con deforestación neta cero, biodiversidad y fuentes de vida,” dijo **Christian del Valle**, CEO, Althelia Climate Fund.

Cerca de la mitad de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero (GEI) en Latinoamérica y el Caribe se generan por el uso de suelo, el cambio de uso de suelo y actividades forestales. De las 4.2 gigatoneladas de GEI emitidas por los países en Latinoamérica y el Caribe, 2.0 Gt provinieron del uso de suelo y pérdida de bosques. La reducción de emisiones provenientes del cambio de uso de suelo es clave para la consideración del desarrollo bajo en carbono.

About half of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean are generated from land use, land use change, and forestry. Of the 4.2 gigatons of GHGs emitted by Latin American and Caribbean countries in 2012, 2.0 Gt were from land use and loss of forests. Reducing emissions from land use change is key for the prospects **of a low carbon development future**.

“Agriculture and land use change together account for about half of the GHG emissions in Latin America and the Caribbean. As the world prepares to deliver a binding climate agreement in Paris by 2015, restoration will be absolutely essential for countries to hit their emissions targets, while also delivering huge benefits for the rural poor. Through their leadership in Initiative 20x20, these countries will have a tremendous head start,” said **Dr. Andrew Steer**, President and CEO, WRI.

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