



The Nature  
Conservancy   
Latin America

# Regenerative Ranching & Agriculture (R2A) in Latin America

2025: A year in review  
(January - December)





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Front cover: @Juan Arredondo  
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# 1. Opening message



@Maira Erlich

Latin America is both a global breadbasket and a key region for maintaining the planet's ecological balance. **Agriculture occupies 38% of the territory**, employs 14% of the workforce, and contributes nearly 5% of GDP. However, conventional production practices are the source of serious challenges, accounting for **70% of habitat loss and nearly 50% of greenhouse gas emissions**. Soils are degrading, aquifers are shrinking, rivers are becoming polluted, and biodiversity is disappearing.

As the world's largest food exporter, a global biodiversity hotspot, and a critical provider of ecosystem services, Latin America stands at a crossroads: **how we produce food will shape global food security and the health of the planet**.

The Regenerative Ranching & Agriculture (R2A) is our roadmap for systemic change—restoring ecosystems, reducing environmental footprints, and strengthening rural livelihoods. R2A is more than a set of practices; it is a systemic approach that integrates science and local knowledge to regenerate soils, restore biodiversity, and build climate resilience.

This approach generates a triple positive impact.

**For nature**, it means less deforestation, restored ecosystems, and healthier soils and water sources.

**For agriculture**, it delivers higher productivity, lower costs, and more resilient value chains.

**And for communities**, it translates into improved livelihoods, greater food security, and a more inclusive transition.

Our goal is clear: **to transform food production and improve land management across 12 million hectares in Latin America**.

In strategic landscapes such as the Gran Chaco, the Orinoquia, Selva Maya, the Andean Amazon and Cerrado—where unique biodiversity converges with key food production systems—the future of this transition is taking shape. These territories are essential for climate regulation, water provision, and species conservation, while also sustaining rural economies and global food chains. There, thousands of farmers and ranchers—youth, women, small-scale producers, and Indigenous communities—are proving that regeneration is possible. They are more than just producers; they are stewards of the planet's natural wealth.

**The year 2025 was a pivotal period for continuing to build the future we envision for regeneration in Latin America**. Throughout the year, we took important steps to make regeneration the norm in the territories where we work, thanks to the commitment of producers, communities, and partners. Each advance reflects



@ Juan Arredondo

shared learning, actions adapted to diverse contexts, and growing confidence in both productive systems and the dynamics that sustain them.

Through a regional strategy that connects innovation with implementation, we work with producers, companies, governments, and civil society to accelerate the transition toward regenerative food systems. Our approach activates five key levers of transformation:

- **Public policy and public finance:** Aligning incentives, redirecting harmful subsidies, and mobilizing public finance to enable systemic change.
- **Private finance:** Unlocking private capital through innovative, low-risk instruments that make it possible to scale and invest in regenerative agriculture.
- **Business models:** Rethinking agri-food business models to create and capture value more equitably for communities and nature, using financial tools that scale net positive impacts.
- **Knowledge development and dissemination:** Generating evidence, monitoring results, and strengthening capacities to accelerate the adoption of regenerative practices.

- **Partnerships and community building:** Bringing together diverse actors in a collaborative platform that coordinates action, shares learning, and amplifies impact.

This year delivered key milestones through stronger partnerships, the creation of spaces for exchange that expanded the conversation around regeneration, and the identification of strategies that now more clearly guide the regenerative pathway. This experience reaffirms that transforming landscapes requires time, trust, and collaboration—and that each of these elements lays a solid foundation for scaling impact.

This report highlights milestones—both regional and country-specific—that reinforce our conviction: Latin America can lead global food production while regenerating life. This potential, which fuels our hope, is built on the work of millions of producers who are already cultivating the regenerative future we need.



## Mauricio Castro Schmitz

Director of Agriculture, Latin America - The Nature Conservancy



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## 2. Year in review: Regeneration at a glance

Regeneration is visible through concrete results. In 2025, ongoing work across Latin America demonstrated steady progress in adopting regenerative principles. Here is our progress across our prioritized Iconic Places.

# Iconic Planes

## (TNC's Regenerative Ranching & Agriculture in Latin America)



### Selva Maya (Mexico, Guatemala and Belize)

Strengthening the technical foundations for tri-national regenerative and sustainable cattle ranching through indicator alignment, shared baselines, and collaborative governance platforms to support deforestation-free transitions.

### Andean Amazon (Ecuador)

Progress toward regenerative scaling by combining strategic partnerships with the State, capacity building, access to inclusive financing, and the development of technical and verification frameworks in key value chains.

### Orinoquia (Colombia)

Scaling regenerative agriculture and livestock through alliances with companies, producer associations, and local governments, integrating validated business models, territorial action, and financial mechanisms for large-scale adoption.

### Andean Amazon (Peru)

Creating enabling conditions for regenerative scaling through strong public policy advocacy, institutionalizing R2A within national frameworks, and consolidating public-private and territorial partnerships.

### Cerrado (Brazil)

Co-constructing reference frameworks and monitoring tools for regenerative transitions, strengthening the methodological backbone and fostering stakeholder ownership to ensure feasibility and national relevance.

### Gran Chaco (Paraguay and Argentina)

Scaling regenerative production in the Chaco by strengthening territorial governance and multisector networks, with influence on public policy, local agreements, access to financing, and validation of regenerative business models within the beef value chain.





@Federico.Rios

# 3. Regional milestones in 2025

In 2025, seven major milestones positioned regeneration at the center of the conversation on transforming agriculture and livestock systems in Latin America. These achievements represent spaces for dialogue and coordination among actors, efforts, and approaches—making visible a collective transition.



# 3.1. Summit Regeneradores 2025

In July 2025, we gathered in Cali, Colombia, to advance the regeneration of the agri-food system:

Over **600** participants from 21 countries

**40+** learning sessions

**3** field visits



**+60** expert speakers, including leading voices such as Pablo Tittone and Lauren Tucker

The Summit Regeneradores connected science, practice, and policy. The presence of the German Ambassador to Colombia, Martina Klumpp, The Nature Conservancy's Latin America Director, Paula Caballero, and Cali Mayor, Alejandro Eder, reaffirmed both global and local commitments to a regenerative future.

[Watch a Recap Video](#)



## 3.2. New TNC Policy Note on regenerative agriculture and livestock

Developed by TNC's R2A team in Latin America, this new Policy Note presents **10 actionable recommendations** to accelerate regenerative agriculture and livestock in the region. It offers a roadmap for policymakers and key stakeholders to create enabling conditions for transitioning productive systems for producers, companies, and communities—generating benefits for climate, biodiversity, and human well-being.

Read and download it here



## 3.3. Regenerative Business Models Toolkit

We introduced a pioneering conceptual framework and toolkit defining what a regenerative business model is and how it can be applied across agri-food value chains. Grounded in agroecological principles, it provides practical tools for companies and producers to integrate profitability with ecological restoration and social well-being. This approach promotes systems that regenerate soils, preserve biodiversity, and strengthen communities—pointing the way toward a truly regenerative economy.

Explore the framework here

English

Spanish



### 3.4. DEIJ Action Fund

DEIJ Action Fund was a one-year funding initiative implemented under Future Landscapes, aimed at strengthening capacities and raising awareness among TNC staff and implementing partners on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ). The initiative sought to embed a DEIJ approach transversally across the R2A strategy.

This effort was developed through three complementary lines of action: inclusive data collection and analysis, the promotion of transformative actions at the regional level, and the meaningful inclusion of youth in the project's strategic spaces.



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#### Key achievements:

- One training cycle on DEIJ-informed data collection and analysis, developed in collaboration with DataGénero.
- Implementation of DEIJ transformative actions, including an in-person exchange at CBA19 and monthly coordination sessions with DEIJ Focal Points, strengthening the regional network.
- Inclusion of youth through a dedicated space for young regenerators at the Regenerators Summit 2025.

[Read the report here](#)

### 3.5. Safeguards

This year, we initiated the strengthening of the Future Landscapes safeguards system through the development of the **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)**, which defines measures and tools to minimize risks and ensure monitoring. Interviews with teams and partners were conducted, and training was delivered to all staff, fostering a shared understanding of safeguarding principles and criteria. These advances consolidate key processes to ensure the responsible implementation of the regenerative model across countries.



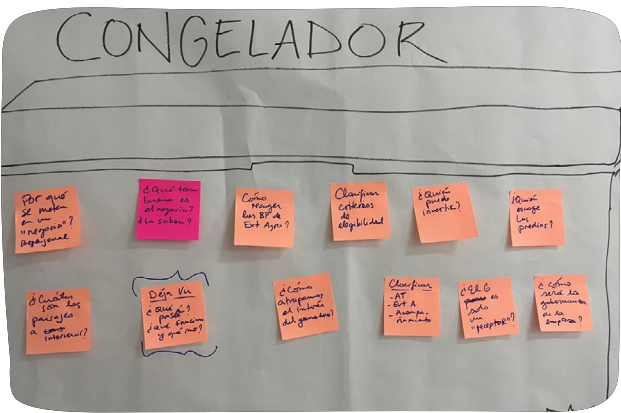
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[Learn about the framework here](#)

### 3.6. SPV – Scaling pilot through external financing

Progress was made in the feasibility analysis and co-design of the **Raiz Ganadera financial mechanism (SPV)** to mobilize private and blended capital tailored to producers’ needs. Targeting more than 8,500 farms and 1.2 million hectares in the Caribbean and Orinoquia regions, the model integrates governance, technical planning, and repayment through profits and carbon credits. This innovative mechanism seeks to overcome financing barriers and be replicated in other countries, driving the scalability of silvopastoral systems and amplifying the environmental, economic, and social benefits of the regenerative transition.



Taller Villavicencio, Region Orinoquia

### 3.7. Educational Ecosystem

The R2A Educational Ecosystem is a regional strategy that integrates local knowledge and needs to advance the regenerative transition. Through tools, content, and learning spaces, it strengthens the Regenerators network across Latin America. In 2025, we reached more than 3,700 people through:

- 9 webinars
- 12 in-person workshops
- 43 virtual courses
- 14 exchange visits
- 38 knowledge products

These efforts consolidated capacities and contributed to scaling the regenerative transition.



TNC Colombia



Youth space in Summit Regeneradores

[Learn more here](#)



@Thais Quimbaya Ramos

## 4. How regeneration took shape in each Iconic Place?

In 2025, regeneration adapted to each landscape's context and delivered tangible benefits. Here is a snapshot from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Peru.

# 4.1. Gran Chaco

## Argentina

### Strengthening technical capacities and productive models for small-scale producers

In Argentina, efforts focused on enhancing the technical and organizational capacities of small-scale producers, promoting regenerative models that do not replace forest ecosystems. Technical assistance networks and the development of tailored business models were key to scaling impact.

- Consolidation of the **Patchaco network**, articulated with INTA and multiple institutions, providing regenerative technical assistance in the Chaco with potential impact across 30,000 hectares.
- Reach of **1,300 producers through training spaces**, in-person and virtual workshops, and Training-of-Trainers programs.
- Development of the **Regenerative Calf Business Model**, adapted to small-scale producers and presented to the Government of Salta.
- Identification of productive practices, transformation levers, risks, and strategies to ensure economic, social, and environmental viability.
- Validation plan across **nine demonstration sites** and diversification into complementary value chains.
- Influence on large-scale public financing, aiming to support intervention across **1.3 million hectares and benefiting more than 1,000 families** through the FAO-managed PPR-REDD+ fund.

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## Paraguay

### Territorial articulation and governance to scale regenerative production in Gran Chaco

In Paraguay, the strategy focused on strengthening territorial governance and multisector coordination as key conditions for scaling regenerative production in Gran Chaco. Through impact networks and institutional mechanisms, enabling conditions were created for advocacy, financing, and on-the-ground implementation.

- Active participation in the Coalition for Sustainable Production, led by Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI), to reach consensus on the national definition of regenerative agriculture.
- Signing of a Framework Agreement with MIDAGRI to advance R2A and contribute to the agricultural sector's NDCs.
- Delivery of training for public officials, technicians, and advisors to support the creation of a national R2A promotion instrument. The reach of these training sessions is over 250 people."
- Implementation of demonstration plots in oil palm and cocoa in Ucayali, in partnership with Solidaridad Network NGO. Capacity strengthening through specialized training programs and diploma courses
- Implementation of 14 Savings and Credit Units (UNICAS) in collaboration with Earthworm Foundation and Development Bank of Peru (COFIDE), benefiting 252 producers.
- Development of a verification framework for regenerative livestock in Madre de Dios, focused on traceability and market credibility.

## 4.2. Orinoquia

### Colombia

#### Scaling regeneration through alliances, business models, and territorial action

In Colombia, the strategy prioritized scaling regenerative agriculture and livestock through partnerships with companies, producer associations, and local governments—integrating validated business models with strong territorial and public policy action.

- **Strategic alignment with national companies and associations**, linking sustainability goals with regenerative models in beef and dairy value chains.
- Creation of **eight territorial scaling nodes**, replicating public-private coordination schemes in priority regions.
- Development and validation of the **Regenerative Business Models Conceptual Framework**, co-designed with producers, companies, and the financial sector.
- **Pilot implementation** with supplier networks (Grupo Moriche, Alkosto, Angus Azul), engaging more than 50 producers.
- Public policy influence at the territorial level, integrating R2A and climate adaptation into the Casanare Departmental Agricultural Extension Plan.
- Selection of **56 demonstration farms**, with 85 producers in transition and 1,692 people trained.
- Development of tools such as **Participatory Farm Planning (PFP)** and progress in designing a financial mechanism to scale silvopastoral systems.

**Please note** that some of these activities were carried out in the Magdalena region, which is now one of the National Catalytic Platforms. The Platforms' remit is to drive significant changes in policy, finance and markets at state or national levels, with a view to supporting Orinoquia IP scalable solutions.



# 4.3. Andean amazon

## Ecuador

### Public Policy as an enabling condition for regenerative scaling

In Ecuador, the strategy positioned public policy at the core of scaling regenerative agriculture and livestock. Institutional advocacy, combined with strategic partnerships, enabled the creation of formal frameworks that facilitate the adoption of regenerative practices at the landscape level.

- Influence on **Ecuador's Second NDC (2026–2035)**, securing recognition of regenerative agroforestry systems in cocoa within the climate adaptation component. Positioning as the only civil society organization with direct influence in this process.

- Organization of the **first international seminar on Regenerative Agriculture and Livestock** for the Ministry of Agriculture officials for 37 officials of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Signing of agreements and MoUs** with FONAG, FONDAGUA, the Pichincha Prefecture, UNOCACE (Unión de Organizaciones Campesinas Cacaoteras), and UDLA (Universidad de las Américas) to accelerate territorial implementation.
- Consolidation of the **National Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture and Livestock** in Ecuador, with a public-academic steering core and an expanded network of actors.
- Signing of a Letter of Intent to promote regenerative agriculture in Santa Elena, marking a milestone in a region with high water vulnerability.



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## Peru

### Scaling through institutional alliances, financing, and capacity building

In Peru, efforts focused on building strategic alliances with the State, private sector, and technical organizations to create structural conditions for scaling regenerative production. The combination of policy advocacy, training, and access to financing proved essential.

- Active participation in the **Coalition for Sustainable Production**, led by MIDAGRI, to reach consensus on the national definition of regenerative agriculture.
- Signing of a **Framework Agreement with MIDAGRI** to advance R2A and contribute to the agricultural sector's NDCs.
- Delivery of training for public officials, technicians, and advisors to support the creation of a national R2A promotion instrument.
- **Implementation of demonstration plots** in oil palm and cocoa in Ucayali, in partnership with Solidaridad.
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- Implementation of **14 Savings and Credit Units (UNICAS)** in collaboration with Earthworm Foundation and Cofide, benefiting 252 producers.
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# 4.4. Selva Maya

## México, Guatemala and Belize

### A Tri-National Vision for Conservation and Sustainable Development

Across Selva Maya, we strengthened the technical foundations needed to advance regenerative and sustainable cattle ranching through the R2A Transition Indicators Methodological Framework (MMIT)<sup>1</sup>. Stakeholders in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize progressed in standardizing transition indicators—aligning definitions, minimum criteria, and shared baselines—so that monitoring and adaptive management can work consistently across diverse production contexts.

- Tri-national alignment on a shared list of 30 transition indicators across Social, Economic, and Ecosystem dimensions, enabling a unified structure for baseline setting and transition goals.
- Progress in reducing differences in indicator definitions while agreeing on minimum criteria to support farm-level monitoring and landscape-level coherence.

Support to consolidate the Tri-National Sustainable Livestock Roundtable as a key platform to promote deforestation-free and regenerative ranching across the landscape.

- Advancement toward a shared operational agenda, including work toward a livestock traceability system that can unlock access to premium markets.
- Current efforts focused on translating this vision into implementation through concrete projects, financing mechanisms, and participatory governance structures, creating enabling conditions that mobilize public policy, investment, and local capacity.

<sup>1</sup>The MMIT is a tool designed to evaluate farms and landscapes based on context, guiding assessments through principles and long-term environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

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# 4.5. Cerrado

## Brazil

### Co-Constructing a Reference Framework and Monitoring Tools for Regenerative Transitions in Brazil

During this year, our efforts focused on strengthening the methodological backbone for regenerative transitions through the MMIT, reinforcing its differentiation and usability across contexts. Recognizing that monitoring tools only work when they are feasible and owned by stakeholders, we prioritized producer and producer-organization inputs to ensure technical, operational, and political viability.

- Technical review of the MMIT with the ICRAF Metrics project, reaffirming differentiating elements:
  - explicit integration of social and economic dimensions;
  - applicability across farm and landscape scales;
  - emphasis on outcome-based evaluation (not practice checklists);
  - development rooted in Latin America, strengthening regional relevance and legitimacy.
- Prioritization of producer contributions to ensure monitoring feasibility and ownership—strengthening adoption pathways and political viability.
- Alignment with Brazil's multi-institutional process to define and implement the Tropical Regenerative Agriculture and Ranching Reference Framework, moving toward validation by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Collaboration fostering with ICRAF to establish a joint work plan contributing to the Reference Framework, strengthening its social dimension and systemic approach.
- Support for co-creating a validation process with key national actors to ensure the framework is technically sound and grounded in real-world adoption pathways.



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