



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



## Technical Coordination

Natalia Lopez-Hurst

## Editing

Quartzo Comunicação

## Texts

Juliana Nogueira

Luciana Abade

Luciana Constantino

## Infographics

William Anderson

## Graphic Design

William Anderson

## Translation

Luiz Hargreaves

## Cover photo credit

Thiago Theo

## Report photos credits

Bruno Kelly

Lalo de Almeida

Marizilda Cruppe

Juliana Nogueira



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# Mission

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USAID works closely with the Government of Brazil, the private sector and civil society partners to protect Amazon biodiversity and strengthen sustainable economic growth. These efforts promote conservation, climate action, income generation, and the well-being of the most vulnerable people in the region.

Specifically, we support the management of Brazilian Legal Amazon landscapes, natural resources, and protected areas; strengthen Indigenous and local communities and organizations; and partner with the private sector to develop market-based approaches which generate social impact.







# Impact

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2023 was marked by hard work and significant achievements. Partnering with the United States Forest Service (USFS), USAID bolstered the Brazilian government’s ability to control and prevent forest fires through an integrated fire management approach, as well as promote the restoration of fire-prone degraded areas. These efforts helped to reduce forest-fire emissions and promote carbon sequestration.

In partnership with the Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry (CIFOR-ICRAF), we launched a new project named Regenerative Agriculture for Conservation of the Amazon (ARCA, Portuguese acronym). ARCA aims to develop solutions for biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation by advancing agroforestry and restoration, through technical-scientific knowledge and partnerships.





Photo: Marizilda Cruppe

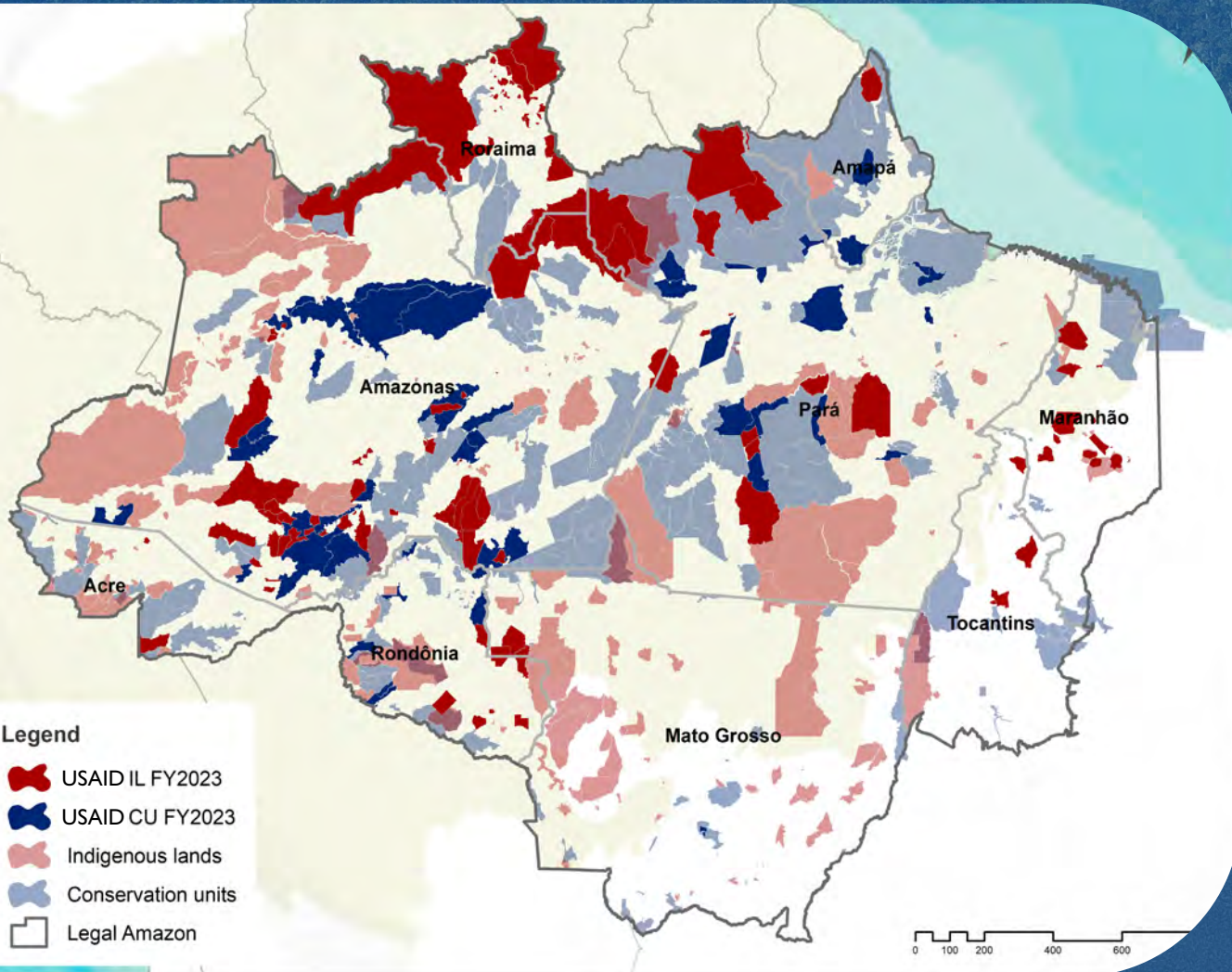
Private sector partners join our efforts to support 15 projects under the Partnership Platform for the Amazon (PPA), which was formalized as an independent institution in 2023. In total, our 287 partnerships with the private sector leveraged US\$ 12 million and supported 229 socio biodiversity products. Our business partners increased the number of enterprises providing solutions to socioenvironmental problems through training and investment in community-based businesses. By strengthening these community enterprises, our partners enhance their autonomy, while generating income and recognizing the value of local cultural assets.

We continued advocating for gender equality and opportunities for women. We are integrating our gender concerns and women's empowerment into our future programming, we uphold building opportunities to elevate women's voices and roles through our work.

Gender equality is one of USAID's top priorities. We encourage our partners to focus on empowering women's organizations and implementing capacity-building initiatives that enable women to hold active roles in community decision-making. By fostering these efforts, we aim to create environments where women can thrive and significantly contribute to their communities.



# Where We Work



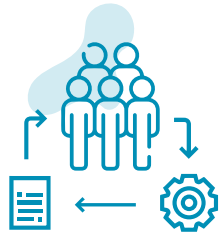
USAID improved management practices in **48 million hectares** of natural forest.

Implemented activities in 2023



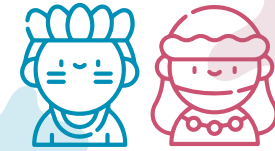
**116** Indigenous lands +  
**54** Conservation units =  
**170** Protected areas





Over  
**8,000**  
**people**  
with access to  
new technologies  
and processes.

## USAID/Brazil in Numbers



USAID projects  
delivered training to  
**13.6** thousand people,  
**50%** of whom  
were woman,  
**27%** youth, and  
**52%** members  
of Indigenous and  
Quilombola communities.



USAID supported the  
commercialization of  
**230** sustainable  
Amazon products and facilitated  
**108** commercial  
contracts.



USAID reduced, sequestered,  
or avoided approximately  
**25.4 million tons**  
of carbon dioxide.



# Objectives



Photo: Bruno Kelly

## Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation

The climate and biodiversity crises are interconnected and require a holistic approach.



Photo: Juliana Nogueira

## Improve the Well-being of Amazon Communities

We strengthen sustainable economic alternatives and improve the quality of life of the people that protect the forest.



Photo: Marizilda Cruppe

## Protect the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples are the best guardians of their own territories, and supporting their protection efforts is essential for conservation.



Photo: Bruno Kelly

## Localization

Joining forces with local organizations ensures that our activities have a lasting impact.



# HOW WE WORK

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# 1

## Consolidation of Protected Areas

Working on biodiversity conservation means promoting a sustainable Amazon. USAID projects supported monitoring, implementation, and sustainable management practices in protected areas.

### Indigenous Women's Leadership

Indigenous women from the state of Maranhão pioneered female Indigenous fire brigades, inspiring new generations, promoting the value of traditional knowledge in fighting wildfires, and recovering degraded areas.



[read more](#)



Photo: Marizilda Cruppe

### Firefighters Confronting Prejudice and Defending Their Territory

Indigenous female firefighters perform domestic chores while training, learning new techniques and technologies to build their skills as community leaders.



[read more](#)



Photo: Bruno Kelly

### 50 Years of Territorial Protection

The Roraima Indigenous Council celebrated its 50th anniversary showcasing their successful journey marked by resilience and unity.



[read more](#)



Photo: Bruno Kelly



# 2

## Value Chains

Valuing forest products promotes biodiversity-based livelihoods for the benefit of local communities. USAID projects promote bioeconomy and generate income for riverine populations, Indigenous people, extractive workers, and Quilombola communities.



Photo: Bruno Kelly

### Connections for Sustainability

Indigenous and riverine communities in the Médio Juruá region launched a digital platform on sustainable marketing and fishing practices for the pirarucu, one of the largest freshwater fish species on the planet. This initiative promotes engagement across the supply chain for the conservation of this species.





# 3

## Private Sector Engagement

Businesses play an important role in supporting sustainable development projects in the Amazon and act as drivers for a viable bioeconomy. In the world's largest tropical forest, USAID partners with the private sector to enhance their engagement fighting climate change and support an economy based on the standing forest.



### PPA: Reaching New Heights

The PPA has 33 members, including 15 businesses and private sector foundations. Building on its many achievements, the PPA became a legally recognized institution in 2023.

### Crowdfunding

Around R\$ 400,000 were invested in five projects to produce food and industrial inputs in a sustainable way. The ABF implements innovative monitoring methodologies developed in partnership with USAID and the Alliance of Bioersity International and CIAT.





# 4

## Innovation and Technology

Science, technology, and innovation help USAID overcome a number of challenging development problems. USAID invests in monitoring and training so communities may invest in income-generating activities, while keeping the forest standing and reducing or avoiding greenhouse gas emissions.

### New Ways of Funding and Evaluating Biodiversity Investments

The Amazon Biodiversity Fund (ABF) raised R\$ 150 million from BNDES and an international philanthropy network for investments in sustainable private sector ventures in the Amazon. This patient capital fund provides innovative finance arrangements to facilitate the growth of socio-biodiversity enterprises. It also uses Terra-Bio, a new methodology to measure the impacts of investment on biodiversity.



read more



Photo: ECAM



# LOOKING AHEAD

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## Mark Carrato, USAID/Brazil Director

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The relationship between the US and Brazil is long-standing. As we celebrate 200 years of diplomatic relations this year, we look to build on our successes, with 2024 bringing many new programs to enhance USAID's 60 years of partnership with the Brazilian people. COP30, USAID will draw on the expertise of our Brazilian partners, to advance our shared goals in the Brazilian Amazon.

The Amazon is a key priority for the US-Brazil cooperation due to its global importance. Success requires partnerships not only between our governments, but also with civil society and the private sector and critically the participation of local communities, Indigenous peoples, women, and other parts of our society that struggle to amplify their voices. With its rich technological and human resource capacity, Brazil is in a position to develop innovative approaches to reduce carbon emissions and restore ecosystems.

The bicentennial celebrations offer us an opportunity to reflect on the countless ties that link our two countries, as well as our shared values, most importantly our mutual commitment to safeguard the environment and the health of our planet. USAID is committed and passionate about its critical role in advancing this vision through our present and future partnership with Brazil.



# Partners



Alliance Biodiversity    AMARU    **CIAT**    Fundo Vale

**AMECSARA**    ASMANJ    Amazonbai    AMBEV    CODAEMJ    INGA    CNS    IJUS

**IBAMA**    ASPROC    CIR    City Foundation    CTI    **CLUA**    **OPAM**

Bemol    Ball    Centre de Empreendedorismo da Amazônia

Forest Trends    ALCOA    Greendata    Imaflora    ASSOAB    Conexsus

**PLATAFORMA PARCEIROS PELA AMAZÔNIA**

ALCOA Foundation    **FUNAI**    Fundo de Sustentabilidade Hydro    NESst

Instituto Terraó    Unilever    Ipam    WWF Brasil    Valgroup

**Natura**    **IEB**    **Quintessa**    Ikea Foundation    Impact Earth    Suzano

Pepsico    Instituto Humanize    **MAIS UNIDOS**

Iniciativa Barcarena Sustentável    SITAWI

Rare Brasil    Instituto ALCOA    Memorial Chico Mendes    Michelin

**US Forest Service**    Michelin Foundation    **ICMBio**





**STANDING (LEFT TO RIGHT):**

**Socorro Borges**

IT Manager

**Luisa Moreira**

Project Management Specialist

**Patrícia Benthien**

Project Management Specialist

**Ana Paula Mendes**

Program Office Chief

**Catherine Hamlin**

Environment Office Director

**Natalia López-Hurst**

Development Outreach and Communications Specialist

**Bernardo Portela**

Administrative Financial Management Specialist

**Alex Araujo**

Project Management Specialist

**Janaina Sallas**

Health Program Management Specialist

**SEATED (LEFT TO RIGHT):**

**Felix Aponte-Gonzalez**

Environment Officer

**Mark Carrato**

Director

**Marcos Bauch**

South America Regional Program Country Coordinator

**Cinthya Soares**

Administrative Assistant

# USAID/Brazil Team







**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## MAIL

United State Embassy in Brazil  
SES - Av. das Nações, Quadra 801, Lote 03  
70403-900 - Brasília, DF

## PHONE

+ 55 (61) 3312-7248

## ONLINE

[www.pcabhub.org](http://www.pcabhub.org)  
[info@pcabhub.org](mailto:info@pcabhub.org)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

