



# AMAZON Sustainable Landscapes Program

## INTERNATIONAL FUNDING FOR AMAZON CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

A CONTINUED ANALYSIS OF GRANT FUNDING ACROSS THE BASIN

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SUPPORTED BY



Author

**Natalie Hoover El Rashidy**

Study Coordination

**Adriana Moreira and Ana Maria Gonzalez Velosa**

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## **About the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program**

The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL Program), is an Impact Program funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) with the objective to protect globally significant biodiversity and implement policies to foster sustainable land use and restoration of native vegetation cover in Amazon regions of Brazil, Colombia and Peru. It aims to strengthen management effectiveness of more than 66 million hectares of protected areas, facilitate the creation of 4.3 million hectares of new protected areas, promote sustainable practices in almost 11 million hectares, restore 35,000 hectares of forests and support actions to mitigate emissions by 164 million mtCO<sub>2</sub>e. The ASL national projects are led by the countries' Ministries of Environment and are being executed collaboratively between public and private entities. The World Bank (lead agency), WWF and UNDP act as GEF Implementing Agencies providing support and supervision. A regional coordination project, implemented by the WB, provides technical assistance and knowledge management opportunities to the participant countries.

## **Contact**

ASL Coordinator

**Ana Maria Gonzalez Velosa** [asl-info@worldbank.org](mailto:asl-info@worldbank.org)

ASL website:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/amazon-sustainable-landscapes-program>

ASL Community of Practice:

<https://collaboration.worldbank.org/content/sites/collaboration-for-development/en/groups/amazon-sustainable-landscapes-program-cop.html>



# Contents

LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES .....	4
ACRONYMS .....	5
FOREWORD .....	7
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	8
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	10
INTRODUCTION .....	13
The Amazon Basin and the Role of Conservation and Sustainable Management .....	13
Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program .....	14
About this Report: Tracking Funding within the Amazon, 2007 - 2019 .....	16
APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING THE INTERNATIONAL DONOR FUNDING LANDSCAPE OF THE AMAZON BASIN .....	18
Overview .....	18
Study Criteria .....	19
Data Gathering .....	23
Important Considerations about the Data .....	23
RESULTS .....	25
Respondents .....	25
Aggregate Conservation Funding by Recipient Country .....	26
Donors .....	27
Funding by Donor Agency .....	30
Funding by Grantee .....	31
Allocations across Conservation and Sustainable Management Strategies .....	35
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....	37
Recommendations .....	38
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	41
APPENDIX 1. DONORS FROM 2007-2012 GBMF STUDY .....	42
APPENDIX 2. DONORS FROM 2013-2015 GBMF STUDY .....	43

## List of Tables and Figures

Table 1. Overview of Studies on International Conservation Funding in the Amazon.....	16
Table 2. Primary Conservation and Sustainable Management Strategies and Objectives.....	22
Table 3. List of Donors Included in 2016-2019 Study.....	25
Table 4. Top 10 Conservation and Sustainable Management Donors in the Amazon.....	29
Table 5. Donors Included in the 2007-2012 Study.....	42
Table 6. Donors Included in the 2013-2015 Study.....	43
Figure 1. Total Conservation and Sustainable Management Funding in the Amazon by Country by Year.....	26
Figure 2. Donor Funding in the Amazon, 2016-2019.....	28
Figure 3. Donations in the Amazon by Donor Type, 2013-2015 and 2016-2019.....	30
Figure 4. Percentage of Overall Funding in the Amazon by Primary Grantee Type, 2016-2019.....	31
Figure 5. Percentage of Bilateral and Multilateral Funding in the Amazon by Grantee, 2013-2019.....	32
Figure 6. Percentage of Foundation and NGO Funding in the Amazon by Grantee, 2013-2019.....	34
Figure 7. Overall Funding in the Amazon by Primary Conservation and Sustainable Management Strategy, 2016-2019.....	35
Figure 8. Foundation Funding in the Amazon by Primary Conservation and Sustainable Management Strategy, 2016-2019.....	36





## Acronyms

**AAF** - Andes Amazon Fund & Bluemoon

**AFD** - French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement)

**ASL** - Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program

**BEIS** - UK Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy

**BMU** - German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

**BMZ** - German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development

**CAF** - Development Bank of Latin America (Corporación Andina de Fomento)

**CEPF** - Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

**CI** - Conservation International

**CIFF** - Children's Investment Fund Foundation

**CLUA** - Climate and Land Use Alliance

**COP15** - UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)

**CWF** - ClimateWorks Foundation

**DEFRA** - UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

**EU** - European Union

**FCPF** - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

**FIP** - Forest Investment Program

**FAO** - Organization for Food and Agriculture of the United Nations

**FFEM** - French Facility for Global Environment

**GBMF** - Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

**GCF** - Green Climate Fund

**GEF** - Global Environment Facility

**GGGI** - Global Green Growth Institute

**GIZ** - German Development Agency  
(Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)

**GRIF** - Guyana's REDD+ Investment Fund

**GWC** - Global Wildlife Conservation

**IDB** - Inter-American Development Bank

**MAAP** - Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project

**MACP** - Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies

**MCFA** - Mitsubishi Foundation for the Americas

**MFA** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**NICFI** - Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative

**NORAD** - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

**OECD** - Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

**REDD+** - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

**REM** - REDD+ Early Movers

**RFN** - Rainforest Foundation Norway

**TNC** - The Nature Conservancy

**UK** - United Kingdom

**USAID** - United States Agency for International Development

**USFWS** - United States Forest and Wildlife Service

**WWF** - World Wildlife Fund

## Foreword

The Amazon basin plays an essential role in regulating the climate and providing other ecosystem services, and it is home to the largest and most diverse forest on earth with rich biological and cultural diversity. Its protection, conservation, and sustainable management are essential to guaranteeing the social, environmental, and economic well-being of the Amazonian people and communities, states, and the rest of the world.

The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) is an initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility with an ambitious goal: to protect globally significant biodiversity and implement policies to foster sustainable land use and restoration of native vegetation cover. The Program applies an integrated regional landscape approach by working at the local, regional, and national levels and includes three countries in its first phase: Brazil, Colombia, and Peru.

As ASL initiates a second new phase that will bring together almost all the countries across the basin, the Program has a unique opportunity to coalesce different actors to share experiences and leverage successes toward its common goal. Promoting multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral collaboration and sharing among beneficiaries, partners, and stakeholders will be essential to achieving the ASL goals.

The ASL, under the World Bank's leadership, builds on efforts by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation to track and understand donor investments for Amazon conservation and seeks to advance knowledge and foster greater collaboration. This study extends the analysis of donor conservation funding for the 2016–2019 period, providing a more recent view of how much money has been invested in conservation across the Amazon basin and the strategies donors are using. Together these three studies have identified nearly US\$4.8 billion that has been invested in promoting the protection and preservation of this region since 2007.

This study aims to provide a starting point for donors, countries, and civil society to understand the current funding scenario, begin critical conversations on how these investments can be enhanced, and explore how donors can work together to strengthen and coordinate their efforts.

The author and ASL team thank all the donors and their teams for helping to provide these data and for their engagement in our efforts to drive collaboration and innovation that protects valuable biodiversity and promotes sustainable land and water use in the Amazon.

**Valerie Hickey**

*Practice Manager, Environment, Natural Resources and Blue Economy Global Practice*





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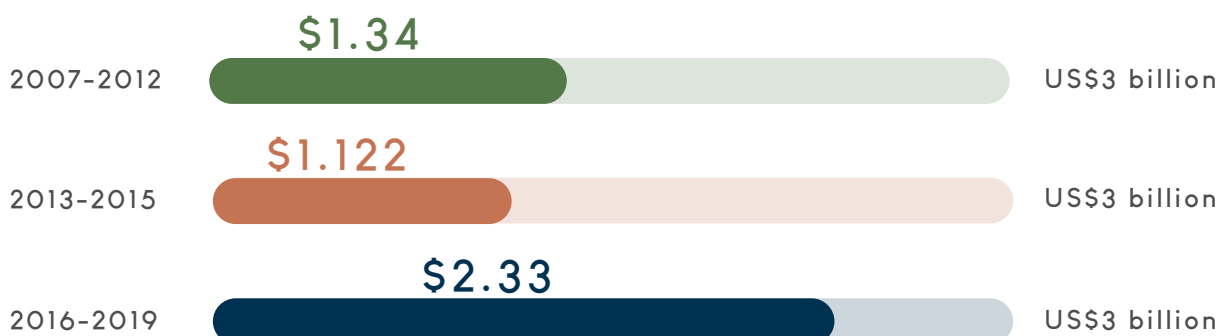
## Executive Summary

The Amazon has long been recognized as a repository for ecological services not only for indigenous people and local communities, but also for the rest of the world. It spans about 40 percent of South America, covering eight countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, and the overseas territory of French Guiana), and remains the planet's largest intact rainforest in terms of size and diversity. The Amazon serves as an important carbon sink and plays a critical role in regulating temperatures and rain patterns.

Recognizing the global significance of the Amazon, the GEF-funded Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) led by the World Bank commissioned this analysis to provide an updated picture of international support for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in the Amazon. This study covers 2016 to 2019 and provides a follow-up to previous studies commissioned by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in 2014 and 2017 (Castro de la Mata and Riega-Campos, 2014; Strelneck and Vilela, 2017). This study maintains the same format as the previously commissioned 2017 study to provide a deeper and continued understanding of the largest donors and how they have directed their funding by country, grantee, and strategy over time. The report also provides an overview of most of the grant funding directed to the Amazon region.

Since 2007, these three studies have identified more than US\$4.8 billion dollars of non-reimbursable grants that have been invested from bilateral and multilateral agencies, foundations, international environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector companies in Amazon conservation. In addition, this study makes the funding data from 2013-2019 available in an [interactive data visualization dashboard](#) for others to explore

A total **49 funding agencies** participated in the current survey that covers investments made from **2016-2019**.





## Key takeaways from the 2016–2019 analysis reveal:

- Donors provided US\$2.33 billion in grants to promote and strengthen conservation efforts in the Amazon.
- Germany and Norway accounted for over half of the total donations with investments totaling US\$611.2 million and \$582.5 million, respectively.<sup>1</sup>
- Four of the top ten funders were bilateral government agencies, three were multilateral agencies, two were private foundations, and one international NGO.
- Multilateral agencies have emerged as significant conservation funders, nearly doubling their contributions from 13 percent of total donations in 2013–2015 to 24 percent of total donations during the 2016–2019 period. The most prominent multilateral funders include Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the European Union (EU).
- National governments received over half of the overall funding. For the overall funding portfolio, national and international NGOs made up an equal percentage (~15 percent) of the primary grantees. Subnational and local governments received less (6 percent). When looking specifically at foundations' grantees, over half of the funding went to international NGOs (52 percent), followed by national or local NGOs (37 percent), and the remaining 11 percent was divided between private sector, academic, and research institutes.
- The greatest proportion of funding was directed to support Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programs and policies, largely through results-based financing (US\$479.7 million) as well as initiatives to create and improve the management of protected areas (US\$334.8 million).
- Overall, donors continued their commitment to support conservation and sustainable management throughout the basin, and new movements emerged to attract new donors and impact investing.

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1. Note that Norway and Germany's contributions to Brazil's Amazon Fund that have not yet been awarded are allocated to future years (2020–2025). Norway has made the largest contribution in direct bilateral aid to Amazon conservation, exceeding US\$1.5 billion since 2013.

This analysis provides valuable insight on funding for conservation and sustainable natural resources management in the Amazon and can be used to inform and strengthen donor coordination efforts. A key recommendation is to use this report to facilitate donor engagement to increase coordination, pool valuable resources, and avoid potential duplication. The report can also be used to promote more effective donor-government dialogues and bring the voices and perspectives from the recipient community to enhance coordination and improve funding practices.

This funder tracking aims to help target investments, build synergies, and spur innovation to protect and conserve the valuable natural resources in the Amazon. The report also reveals how an even greater understanding of conservation can be achieved by continuing to gather data on international funding flows, enhancing analysis to include both reimbursable and non-reimbursable funds, and by identifying critical gaps in the current funding portfolio.



# Introduction

## **The Amazon Basin and the Role of Conservation and Sustainable Management**

The Amazon basin is widely recognized as the most diverse ecological region on the planet and is essential to the region's environmental, social, and economic prosperity. It plays a critical role in global climate regulation, every year absorbing nearly a quarter of carbon taken up by the world's forests. It is the single largest repository of biodiversity on the planet, with over 40,000 species of plants, 16,000 species of trees, 2,000 species of mammals and birds, and 2,500 species of fish. One in ten known species in the world lives in Amazonian ecosystems. The region includes 210 million hectares of protected areas, around 3,000 indigenous territories covering over 200 million hectares, and hosts 40 percent of the world's remaining rainforest, including the largest amount of wetland forests.<sup>2</sup> About 33 million people live in the Amazon watershed, including over 380 indigenous groups, all deriving their livelihoods from its forests, rivers, and tributaries.

The Amazon and its diversity are threatened by deforestation, land degradation, fragmentation, and the over-exploitation of the forest and freshwater ecosystems. Deforestation has been recognized as a priority transboundary problem in the Amazon region by the member countries. Despite national and international commitments to halt deforestation, it is still a challenge for the region. In 2019 alone, more than 1.7 million hectares of Amazonian primary forest were lost in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, according to figures from the Monitoring of the Andean Amazon Project (MAAP).<sup>3</sup>

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the Amazon's environmental problems. Economic pressures and health crises have thwarted enforcement efforts and undermined governments' abilities to further protect the forest. Illegal deforestation, mining, and other unsustainable activities have increased since the beginning of the pandemic. The pandemic has also revealed the inequities and high vulnerability of communities in the Amazon region where the virus has rapidly expanded.

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2. See: <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/03/amazon-rainforest-ability-soak-carbon-dioxide-falling>

3. See: <https://maaproject.org/2020/2019-amazon/>



Around 17 percent of the Amazon forest has been lost in the last 50 years and prominent scientists have warned that the loss of just 20 to 25 percent more of the rainforest could send the Amazon to a point of no return, marking an unstoppable transition to a drier, savanna-like ecosystem (Lovejoy and Nobre, 2019). Coordinated action is urgently needed to prevent reaching the no return point. Several investors have taken steps to green their portfolios and promote more sustainable investment strategies with a focus on the Amazon.<sup>4</sup> International organizations and foundations have increased their attention and funding towards the region. The scientific community is working to identify evidence and solutions to control these and other environmental threats.<sup>5</sup> Finally, national governments have continued committing and manifesting interest in promoting, through policies and plans (such as the 2019 Leticia Pact<sup>6</sup>), specific actions to conserve the Amazon ecosystems, acknowledging the role ecosystem services have in contributing to their citizens' well-being. This study comes at a time where national and international discussions, such as the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) among others, are planned to strengthen the conservation of the world's natural resources and make decisions on resource allocation to promote that goal.

## Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program

Recognizing the urgent need to reduce deforestation and facilitate a regional approach to curb the growing pressures in the Amazon, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved the Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (ASL) under its sixth replenishment period as an integrated program aiming to protect globally significant biodiversity and implementing policies to foster sustainable land use and restoration of native vegetation cover.

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4. See: 2019 statement endorsed by 251 investors representing approximately US\$17.7 trillion in assets; See also BlackRock's Client Letter for a New Standard of Investing from 2020. <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/investor-relations/blackrock-client-letter>

5. For example, with support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network, the Science Panel for the Amazon (SPA) has been put in place to contribute with knowledge and experience to an assessment of the state of the diverse ecosystems, land uses, and climatic changes of the Amazon and their implications for the region. [www.theamazonwewant.org](http://www.theamazonwewant.org)

6. Signed in September 2019 between Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname, the *Leticia Pact* includes commitments to generate a joint response to disasters that may arise in any country within the Amazon region; strengthens regional actions to curb deforestation, and advances the generation of scientific knowledge. Point 16 of the *Leticia Pact* specifically refers to the second phase of the ASL.

The ASL, with the World Bank as the lead agency, takes a regional approach to improve integrated landscape management and conservation of ecosystems in targeted areas in the Amazon region. The Program operates under the rationale that if the following goals are met, then the protection of significant biodiversity and the integrity of the ecosystem services of the Amazon region can be achieved: **(a)** An adequate area of the Amazon is conserved under various regimes (protected areas and indigenous lands); **(b)** Agriculture, degraded, and forest lands are managed sustainably and restored with zero illegal deforestation tolerance; **(c)** National policies and strategies support sustainable development that minimizes deforestation and loss of ecosystem services; and, **(d)** Capacity of and regional cooperation among key players is improved.

ASL currently includes national projects in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru (led by their Ministries of Environment), and a regional project that aims to strengthen coordination, access to information, and capacity of the national projects' stakeholders. The World Bank (as lead agency), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), serve as GEF implementing agencies for the projects. The program is expanding. GEF approved a second phase with the participation of Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana and Suriname, and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF) development bank will serve as new agencies.

The World Bank, as the leader of the Program and Amazon Coordination Technical Assistance project, is responsible for guiding the national projects towards common goals and the expected transformational changes, fostering intergovernmental, multi-sectoral and multiagency cooperation, tracking program-level progress, promoting south-south learning and capacity building opportunities, and developing communication and awareness raising strategies.

One of the key activities of this regional project is to support a donor coordination exchange platform. The platform will allow a better understanding of the current financing flows for conservation and sustainable management, and potential investments in the Amazon for all stakeholders. This, in turn, will build stronger collaboration and learning lessons that, together, will help implement more effective strategies for the conservation and sustainable development in the Amazon. This study also represents a step towards the donor coordination exchange platform.

## About this Report: Tracking Funding within the Amazon, 2007 - 2019

In 2014 and 2017, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (GBMF), an important partner and co-financier of the ASL, commissioned two studies to understand the funding for conservation in the Amazon region and identify potential gaps and needs (Castro de la Mata and Riega-Campos, 2014; Strelneck and Vilela, 2017). These products created an important baseline for the donor community and others to understand the amount of non-reimbursable finance flowing to the region and the strategies used.

Building on these GBMF-commissioned studies and recognizing the global significance of the Amazon, the ASL coordination team conducted this new analysis to provide an updated picture of the depth and breadth of international support for conservation covering the 2016-2019 period (see **Table 1** for an overview of these studies).

**TABLE 1. OVERVIEW OF STUDIES ON INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION FUNDING IN THE AMAZON**

Title	Funder	Study Period
<a href="#">An Analysis of International Conservation Funding in the Amazon</a>	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	2007-2012
<a href="#">International Conservation Funding in the Amazon: An updated analysis</a> • <a href="#">Amazon Funding Tool</a> for 2013-2015	Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	2013-2015
<a href="#">International Funding for Amazon Conservation and Sustainable Management: A Continued Analysis of Grant Funding across the Basin</a> • Interactive <a href="#">Data Visualization Dashboard</a> for 2013-2019	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program	2016-2019



This new study maintains the same format as the previously commissioned 2017 study to provide a deeper understanding of which donors provide the most support, how their funding has evolved over time, and how they direct their funding by country, grantee, and strategy. Given the methodological differences between the first and second study, this report does not compare results to the first study period (2007-2012).

Understanding funding trends provides essential information about donors' interests and priorities. Most donors' decisions are demand-driven, responding to explicit local or national level priorities and needs manifested by the recipients. However, this kind of tracking is not an easy task as it requires mapping a spread of resources across multiple countries from diverse donors, including bilateral agencies, multilateral agencies, private foundations, and a broad spectrum of NGOs, as well as private sector actors. These donors have different approaches, procedures, processes, and systems, and collecting this funding data can be complex and time-consuming.

This analysis is intended to promote dialogue among donors and facilitate collaboration as the philanthropic community seeks to maximize the impact of their investments. Since 2007, these three studies have identified more than US\$4.8 billion dollars of non-reimbursable grants that have been invested in Amazon conservation.



# Approach to Identifying the International Donor Funding Landscape of the Amazon Basin

## Overview

This study aims to provide a high-level assessment of international donor funding that has been allocated across the Amazon to strengthen and promote conservation of its natural resources. The study focuses on capturing and quantifying non-reimbursable funding towards conservation from 2016 to 2019.

More specifically, this study aims to answer the following questions:

- How much was invested in conservation in the region through non-reimbursable grants from 2016 to 2019?
- How does this amount compare to what was invested in conservation in the region from 2013 to 2015?
- Who are the largest international funders of conservation in the Amazon?
- What is the primary conservation and sustainable management strategy of their investments?
- Which countries and types of organizations are the largest recipients of these funds?
- Does the strategic focus of the investments vary by funder type?

As a descriptive analysis, this study does not evaluate the impact these investments have had on conservation and sustainable management or quantify the gap between what is needed and what is pledged. This analysis uses the same methodologies and survey categories from the 2017 study, thus providing a broader picture of international support for conservation from 2013-2019,<sup>7</sup> and providing an important next step toward further analysis and donor dialogue as indicated in the recommendation section. An online data visualization tool [Data Visualization Dashboard](#) is also available as part of this analysis so that policymakers and funders can explore the data in greater depth.

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7. See Strelneck and Viela (2017) for an explanation of methodological improvements implemented in 2017 study. Given these changes and the data available from the previous study, a full panel of data from 2007-2019 is not possible.

## Study Criteria

**Time frame:** The analysis focuses on projects that were approved from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2019. In order to preserve a clear cut off date to facilitate future surveys, no projects that started from 2020 onwards were included, even though some donors provided information about grants that were approved in the first quarter of 2020. Data in this study for 2020 forward represent committed allocations for grants approved in 2019 or before.

**Commitments vs. Disbursements:** Funds included in the study represent donor commitments. In a few cases, primarily with international NGO donors, funding represents disbursement data instead of committed funds. For multilateral organizations, the disbursed amounts may vary from the original commitment estimates. Funding commitments were divided evenly across the number of award years to estimate investment across the years; they do not represent actual annual disbursements as data was not uniformly available.<sup>8</sup>

**Currency:** Cumulative project funds from different international donors are converted to US dollars, based on the award year. These are then divided between the recipient countries and averaged across the number of years for each project.

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8. Methodologically this may overestimate the rate of increase in cases when project disbursement is slow initially, but it does provide an estimate of average investments over time.



**Geographic focus:** The study includes projects both funded and implemented in the Amazon basin, including in the following countries or territories:

1. Bolivia
2. Brazil
3. Colombia
4. Ecuador
5. French Guiana<sup>9</sup>
6. Guyana
7. Peru
8. Suriname
9. Venezuela
10. Basin-wide – Used as a category when donors have a basin-focused intervention or when a project is implemented in multiple countries, and the donor is unable to specify a breakdown of funding across countries.



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9. French Guiana is an overseas department and region of France. As such, it is not eligible to receive funding from a number of donors. It is not included in the analysis from this report but the data can be explored in the online tool. For the study, it was possible to track that, between 2013–2019, French Guiana received US\$3.88 million primarily from NGOs and multilateral agencies. It only received \$40,000 from bilateral donors and did not receive any support from surveyed foundations.

**Donor types:** Donors are grouped into one of the following categories:

1. Bilateral institutions
2. Multilateral institutions
3. Foundations
4. International NGOs
5. Private sector funders

**Grantees:** Recipients are put into one of the following categories:

1. National governments
2. Subnational or local governments
3. International NGOs
4. National or local NGOs
5. Academic institutions
6. Researchers or research groups
7. Private sector or entrepreneurs
8. Not specified<sup>10</sup>
9. Other<sup>11</sup>

**Conservation and sustainable management strategies:** This survey preserves the same categories of strategies used in the 2017 survey (see **Table 2**). These strategies differ from those originally mapped in the 2014 survey.<sup>12</sup> While foundations provided more nuanced breakdowns of their funding by strategy, many bilateral and multilateral donors do not track or could not share this level of detail. In addition, primary strategies capture donor intent, rather than implementation approaches used by organizations on the ground.

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10. This category is used for funding from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

11. This category is primarily used to denote unallocated donations to the Amazon Fund from the Norwegian and German governments, as well as Petrobras.

12. The 2017 study identified a different list of strategies than those used in the 2014 study, thus comparisons by strategy with the first study are not possible.

**TABLE 2. PRIMARY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND OBJECTIVES**

CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	GENERAL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
<b>Analysis: Strategic, Economic, or Technical</b>	Analyzing and comparing conservation approaches, policies, economic evaluations, or strategies
<b>Big Infrastructure</b>	Mitigating the negative impact of road development, dams, and other large physical infrastructure projects
<b>Capacity Building, Education, Training</b>	Providing institutional support or training to enable civil society, indigenous, commercial, or government interests to fulfill conservation roles
<b>Climate Change Adaptation</b>	Increasing social and ecological resilience and reducing risks of the likely impacts of climate change
<b>Climate Change Mitigation (non-REDD)</b>	Efforts to reduce or sequester greenhouse gas emissions and thus reduce climate change (non-REDD)
<b>Commercial Agriculture</b>	Mitigating the negative impact of large-scale commercial agriculture (beef, soy, coffee, etc.)
<b>Compliance/Enforcement</b>	Civil society or governments conducting oversight of landholders, companies, banks, policy institutions, international markets, agreements, etc.
<b>Extractive Resources</b>	Mitigating the negative impact of mining, oil/gas, etc.
<b>Governance Systems</b>	Enabling civil society, indigenous, commercial, or government interests to organize and govern effectively
<b>Indigenous Peoples &amp; Lands</b>	Supporting the ability of indigenous peoples to lead the management and conservation of forest regions
<b>Integrated Landscapes, Land Use</b>	Planning integrating multiple and/or holistic landscape management approaches in specific geographic areas
<b>New Finance Mechanisms</b>	Developing new types of funds or financial market mechanisms that draw more conservation funding into the Amazon
<b>Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)</b>	Developing markets or enterprises to value and compensate forest stewards for ecosystem services like water, pollination, genetic diversity, etc.
<b>Protected Areas Creation &amp; Management</b>	Developing, strengthening, and maintaining Protected Areas
<b>Public Communications &amp; Transparency</b>	Shifting politics, consumer behavior, or compliance by generating and distributing public information
<b>Public Policy Development &amp; Administration</b>	Developing and administering national, local, and international public policies to strengthen Amazon conservation (non-REDD)
<b>REDD+ Programs &amp; Policies</b>	Design or implementation of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) policies, methodologies, programs, projects targeted at the Amazon
<b>Rural Livelihoods</b>	Reducing poverty and fostering sustainable local economies, thus shifting the destructive & constructive pressures on forests
<b>Science Research &amp; Analysis</b>	Scientific research or rapid assessments of ecology, species, or climate
<b>Species Conservation</b>	Focus on protection or trafficking of species of plants or animals
<b>Timber/Forestry</b>	Mitigating the negative impact of commercial timber harvesting
<b>Upstream Markets &amp; Value Chains</b>	Changing international business practices and consumer markets in ways that reduce Amazon deforestation
<b>Not Specified</b>	Donor preferred not to list a primary conservation strategy
<b>Other</b>	Other primary strategies not included on this list, or unclear primary strategies based on the available data



## Data Gathering

The study employed a variety of approaches to gather data from a wide range of funders with an environmental or climate focus. First, a virtual meeting was held with conservation donors to introduce the objectives of the study and promote engagement and participation. Questionnaires were sent to funders, and follow-up interviews with donor representatives were used to verify data and avoid any possible duplication with the previous study. Donors were also provided, when possible, with their data from the previous study to facilitate completion and ensure consistency in the distribution of funding along the established categories. In a few cases, as per donors' request, revisions or additions were made to previously included data.

Researchers also contacted funders working in the region who had not participated in previous survey rounds but whose donations to the Amazon region were important to include. Some of these agencies also chose to provide data prior to 2016. This is important to highlight since the 2013-2015 numbers differ slightly from data previously reported.

Online searches for funding data were also used to verify and supplement data provided by donors. Follow-up conversations and correspondence with the donors were an important element of the study as they enhanced the quality of the data provided. Overall, 96 percent of the donors in the study responded to the survey questionnaire to provide the data.

This study leverages the database tool to store, analyze, and search the data that was previously developed by GBMF. This facilitates comparisons and helps to identify and eliminate possible duplications.

## Important Considerations about the Data

This study maintains consistency with the one previously conducted in 2017 by tracing funding back to its original source. This approach helps avoid double counting and provides a more accurate picture of funding levels to the region; however, it also represents two important trade-offs:

- 1. Loss of precision in the primary conservation strategies:** The primary conservation strategies in this analysis reflect donor intentions, but, on the ground, their awards may have been implemented using a variety of different strategies. For example, donors working on understanding mining in the Amazon may have classified their work under analysis or capacity

building and training rather than extractive resources, or, alternatively, under indigenous peoples if the work aims to support increasing safeguards for indigenous communities. This was especially true for some bilateral and multilateral donors that award larger sums and are unable to accurately break down and assign amounts among the multiple strategies.

**2. Primary grantees:** The grantee categories in this study reflect the primary grant recipient and not subsequent regranting or contracting that national governments or international NGOs may do.

When possible, researchers tried to address these trade-offs. For example, Brazil, Colombia, and Guyana have REDD+ mechanisms to raise donations for non-reimbursable investments in efforts to prevent, monitor, and combat deforestation. In the case of Brazil's Amazon Fund, donation amounts were allocated back to their original donors (Norway, Germany and Petrobras), and detailed information on funded projects allowed researchers to break down those contributions by more nuanced conservation strategies and by grantees.<sup>13</sup> Funding totals for Colombia's Amazon Vision Program as part of the REDD+ Early Movers (REM) Program (supported by Norway, Germany and the UK)<sup>14</sup> and Guyana's REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF) (funded by Norway)<sup>15</sup> were also traced back to the original bilateral donors, but they were all assigned under the *REDD+ Programs and Policies* strategy directed to national governments.

The conservation funding captured in this survey does not include funding from host countries. While host country funding is undoubtedly important, it also poses a substantial risk of being double counted given that national governments also represent a significant funding recipient.

Survey efforts did not include systematic data collection from the private sector and thus funding may be under represented in this study.<sup>16</sup> NGO donor amounts include funds raised from individual donors, the private sector, and other organizations for conservation efforts.

The approach to trace data back to the original source, while entailing certain trade-offs, ultimately ensures a more accurate picture of funding trends over time and avoids the duplication of funding that flows through the complex web of funders and NGOs in the region.

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13. See: <http://www.amazonfund.gov.br/en/home/>

14. See: <https://visionamazonia.minambiente.gov.co/en/>

15. See: <https://www.guyanareddfund.org/>

16. Private sector support in the data is primarily represented by Petrobras's support of the Amazon Fund and specified co-funding for projects from the GEF.

# Results

## Respondents

Efforts were made to include donor agencies that previously participated in the 2017 GBMF report and to expand the funder base, resulting in 49 total donor respondents, 96 percent of which provided survey responses via the questionnaire. (See **Table 3.**) Data for donors who did not respond were collected from secondary sources as in the previous studies. See **Appendix 1** and **2** for a list of donors included in the previous studies.

**TABLE 3. LIST OF DONORS INCLUDED IN 2016-2019 STUDY**

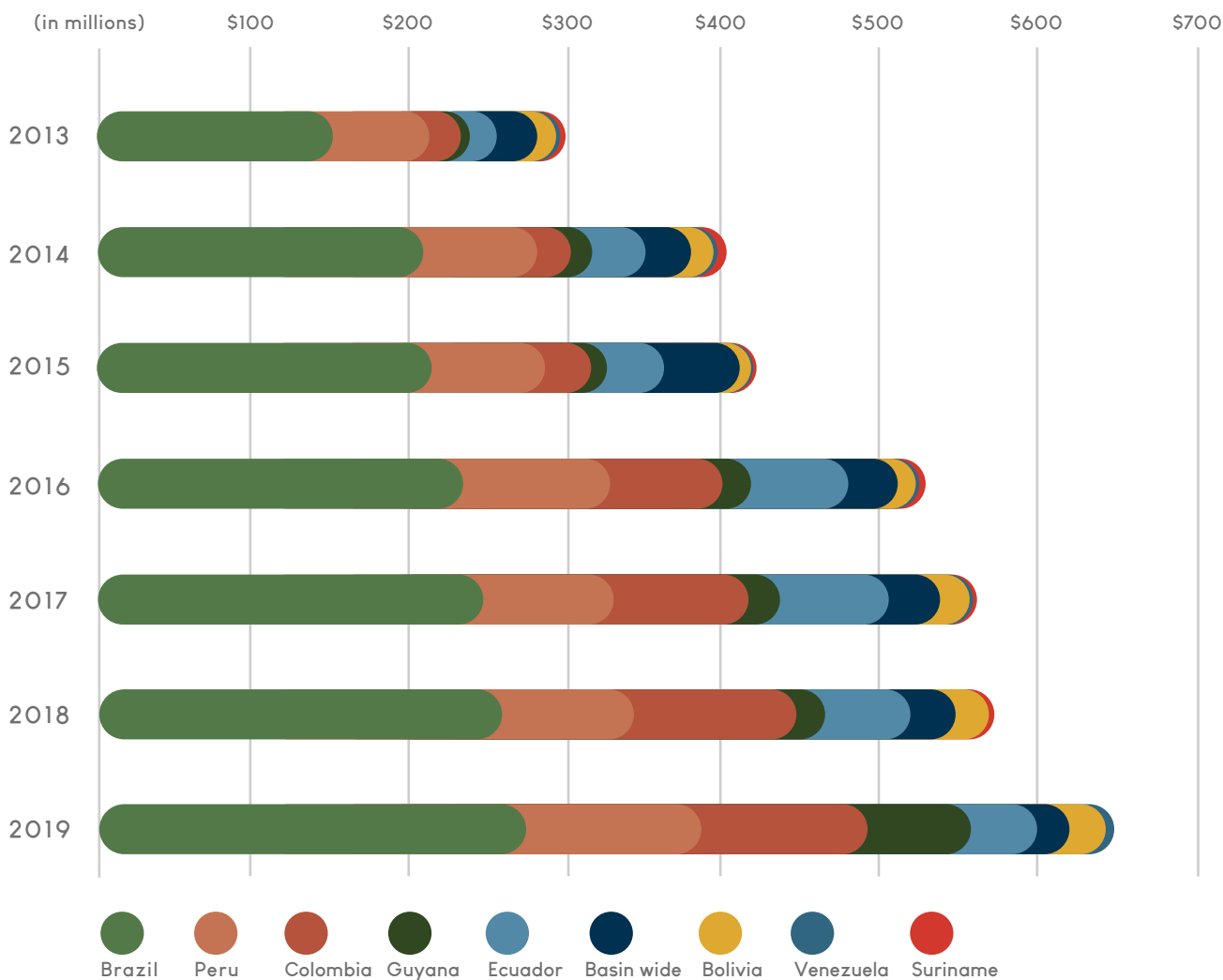
<b>NGO</b> Conservation International (CI) Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) Rainforest Foundation Norway The Nature Conservancy (TNC) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	<b>Private Sector</b> Petrobras Various
<b>Foundation</b> Anonymous foundations <sup>17</sup> Andes Amazon Fund & Bluemoon (AAF) Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) ClimateWorks Foundation (CWF) Charles Stewart Mott Foundation Ford Foundation Fundación Avina Fundo Vale Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (GBMF) Instituto Arapyaú MacArthur Foundation Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies (MACP) Mitsubishi Foundation for the Americas (MCFA) Oak Foundation The Overbrook Foundation Skoll Foundation	<b>Multilateral</b> Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF) European Union (EU) Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Forest Investment Program (FIP) Green Climate Fund (GCF) Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO)
	<b>Bilateral</b> Belgium France (AFD, FFEM) Germany (BMZ, BMU) Korea Netherlands Norway (NORAD, NICFI, MFA) United Kingdom (BEIS, DEFRA) United States of America (USAID, USFWS)

<sup>17</sup>. Anonymous foundations include philanthropic funders that requested their funding details remain confidential.

### Aggregate Conservation Funding by Recipient Country

Between 2013-2019, the donors included in the study invested over US\$3.45 billion. **Figure 1** illustrates how conservation funding has substantially increased from US\$295 million in 2013 to US\$653 million in 2019. Nearly all of the countries across the basin have experienced increases in funding. While Brazil continues to receive the largest amount of the overall funding, its percentage of the total funding has reduced over time from 52 percent to 42 percent. Significant increases in funding for Colombia and Guyana are, in part, related to results-based funding from REM and GRIF. Over the period, Venezuela received less than US\$5 million, nearly 90 percent of which was committed prior to 2018.

FIGURE 1. TOTAL CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT FUNDING IN THE AMAZON BY COUNTRY BY YEAR







## Donors

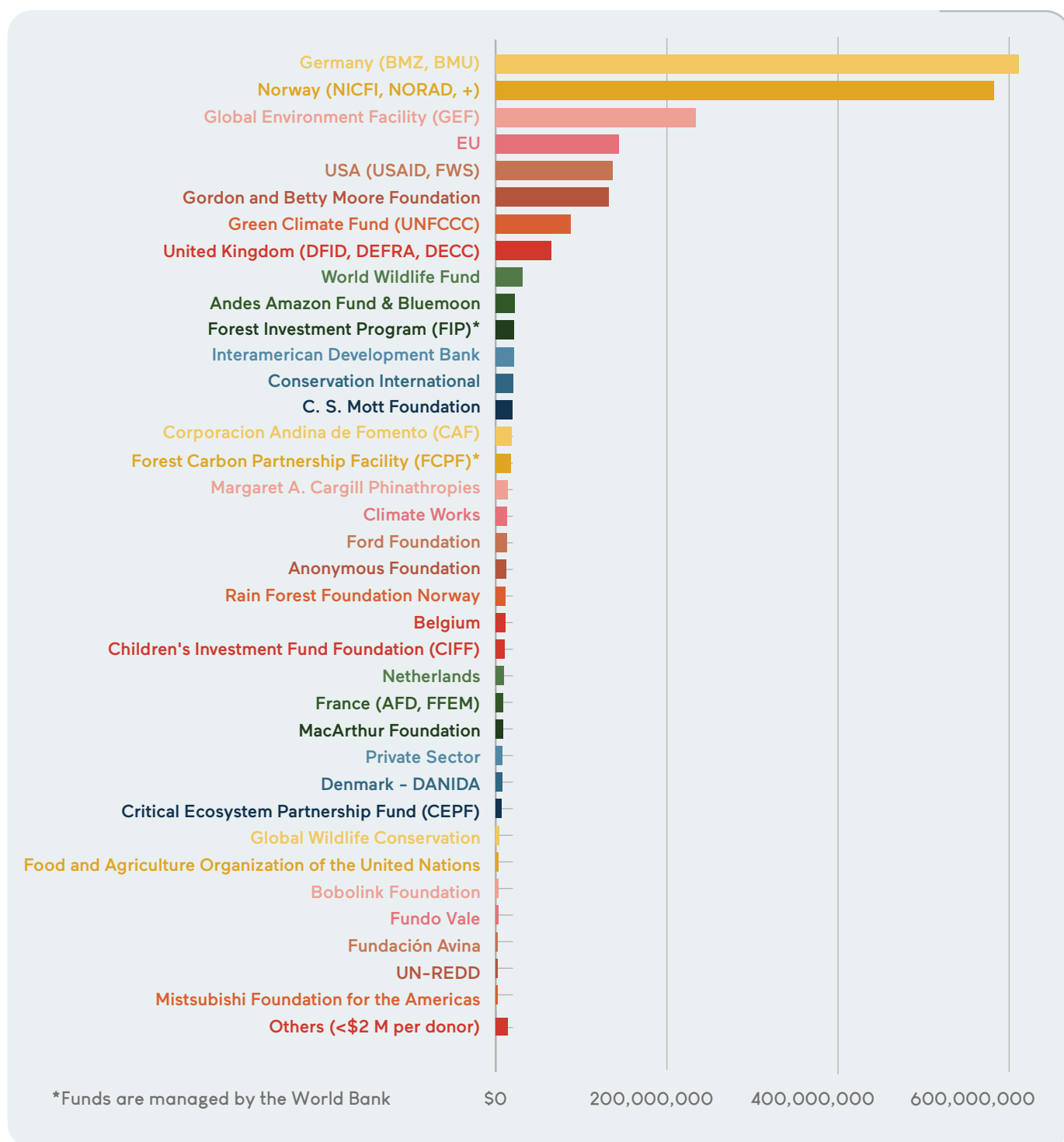
Over the most recent study period from 2016 to 2019, donors invested US\$2.33 billion (see **Figure 2**). Bilateral support remained an important source of funding with Germany and Norway providing over half of the overall funding in the region, US\$611.2 million and \$582.5 million, respectively. The United States contributed 6 percent of the total funding (US\$136.2 million) during the 2016–2019 period, and the United Kingdom investments accounted for 3 percent (US\$65.2 million).

Multilateral donors have emerged as important conservation funders. GEF financing<sup>18</sup> accounted for 10 percent of all conservation funding during the most recent period, exceeding US\$233.9 million, while the European Union (EU) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) emerged as new top funders, contributing 6 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

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18. Note that GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements. GEF has received contributions from 40 donor countries (see: <https://www.thegef.org/partners/countries-participants>). Funds allocated to the GEF by its member countries are assigned to the GEF and not as bilateral funding contributions in this study.

FIGURE 2. DONOR FUNDING IN THE AMAZON, 2016-2019



The GBMF remained a prominent conservation donor with contributions of US\$132.2 million, nearly matching the investment level of the United States conservation funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) combined. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) continued to leverage significant support for the region with contributions of over US\$31.3 million, and the Andes Amazon Fund (AAF), with its support from the Wyss Foundation, has

emerged as a new top funder working to coalesce financing to create and support protected areas.<sup>19</sup>

The top conservation donors in the Amazon have shifted over time. **Table 4** shows which donors made the largest contributions in the 2013–2015 period compared to those in the 2016–2019 study period.

**TABLE 4. TOP 10 CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT DONORS IN THE AMAZON**

2013–2015	2016–2019
1. Germany	1. Germany
2. Norway	2. Norway
3. USA	3. Global Environmental Facility
4. Global Environmental Facility	4. European Union
5. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	5. USA
6. Corporación Andina de Fomento	6. Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
7. United Kingdom	7. Green Climate Fund
8. Fundo Vale	8. United Kingdom
9. World Wildlife Fund	9. World Wildlife Fund
10. Interamerican Development Bank	10. Andes Amazon Fund

Red indicates donors that were not in top ten in 2016–2019

Green indicates donors that entered top ten in 2016–2019

While Germany, through the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has allocated larger sums over the study periods, it is worth noting that Norway’s conservation funding commitments as of December 2019 exceeded those of all other donors, totaling US\$1.53 billion. However, this is not reflected in the list above because a portion of this total funding amount has been committed to the Amazon Fund but has not yet been awarded and thus is allocated to future years starting in 2020.

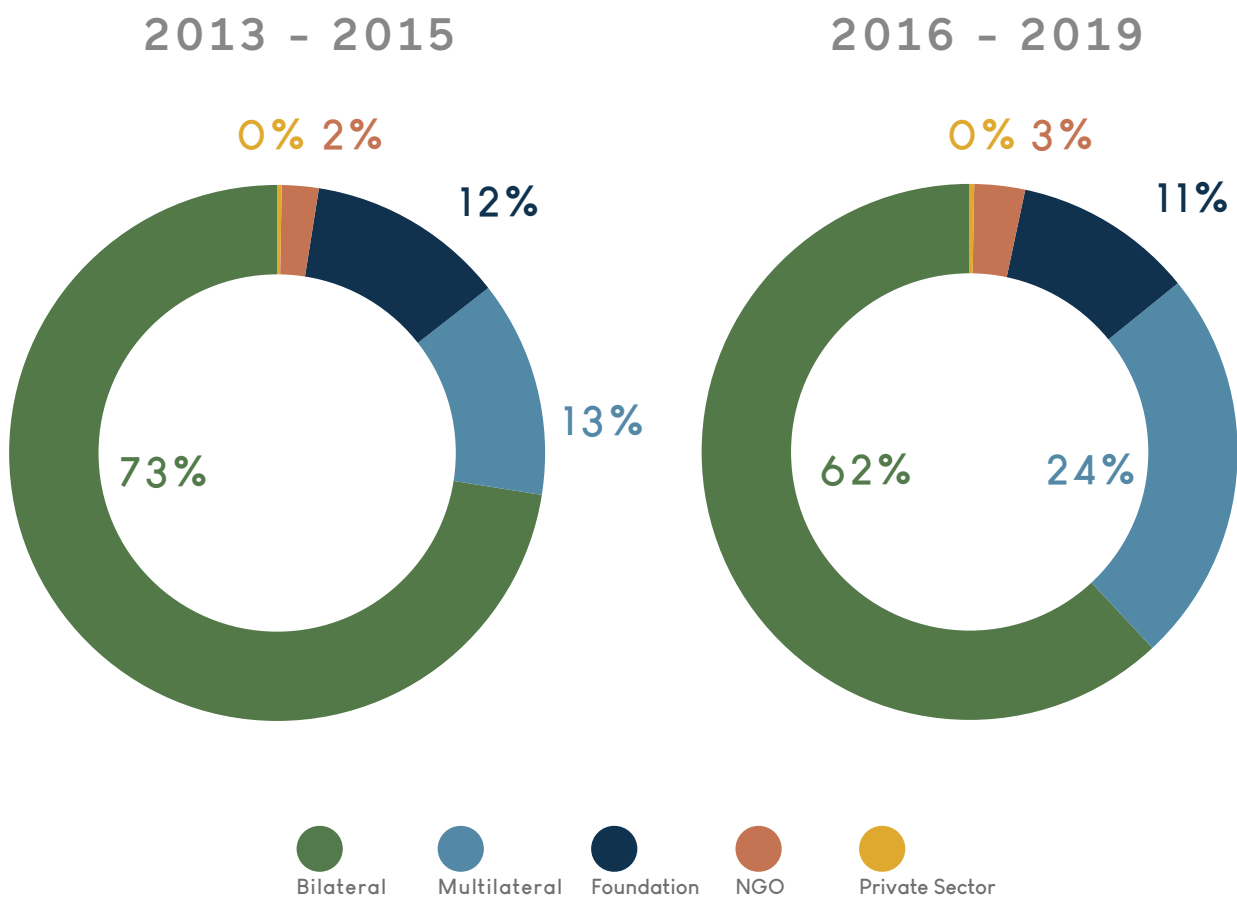
<sup>19</sup>. Funding for the Andes Amazon Fund from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Bobolink Foundation was traced to original sources. This amount represents financial support from the sunset Bluemoon Fund and the Wyss Foundation.



## Funding by Donor Agency

A breakdown of donor contributions between the two study periods confirms the emergence of multilateral donors as an increasingly important source of conservation funding as shown in **Figure 3**. For the 2013–2015 period, bilateral donors made up 73 percent of the total US\$1.12 billion in investments, followed by multilateral donors (13 percent), foundations (12 percent) and international NGOs (2 percent). For the 2016–2019 period, total funding increased to US\$2.33 billion, of which bilateral contributions dropped to 62 percent of that total and multilateral support increased to 24 percent. Despite considerable increases in the total funding amount, private foundations kept pace, making up 11 percent of the total donations, followed by international NGOs (3 percent) and the private sector (less than 1 percent).

FIGURE 3. DONATIONS IN THE AMAZON BY DONOR TYPE, 2013–2015 AND 2016–2019

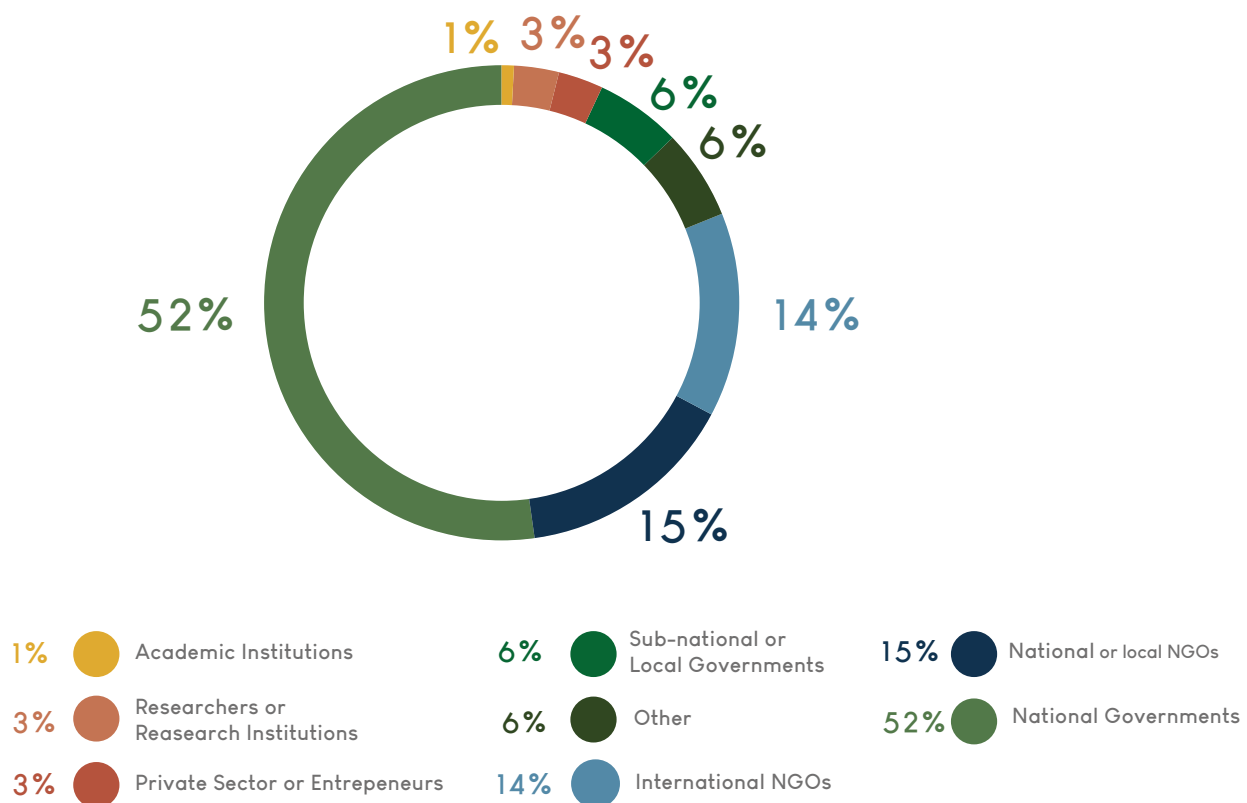




## Funding by Grantee

The destination of funding by primary grantee has remained relatively steady since 2013 with nearly half of all funding going to national governments. **Figure 4** breaks down funding by grantee for the 2016–2019 period. It shows that 52% of the overall funding went to national governments, an increase from 47% in the previous study period. This was heavily influenced by the sizable bilateral and multilateral contributions that flowed to national governments. Often this funding is funneled down eventually to subnational government agencies, national and local NGOs, or other implementing agencies by the primary grantees.<sup>20</sup> Of the overall funding, nearly equal amounts were directed to international and national NGOs (~15 percent) with only 6 percent going directly to sub-national or local governments as a primary grantee. Other kinds of grantees received 6 percent as well, while research and academic institutions together received 6 percent as well, while research and academic institutions together received only 4 percent of conservation and management funding, and the private sector accounted for 3 percent.

FIGURE 4. PERCENTAGE OF OVERALL FUNDING IN THE AMAZON BY PRIMARY GRANTEE TYPE, 2016–2019

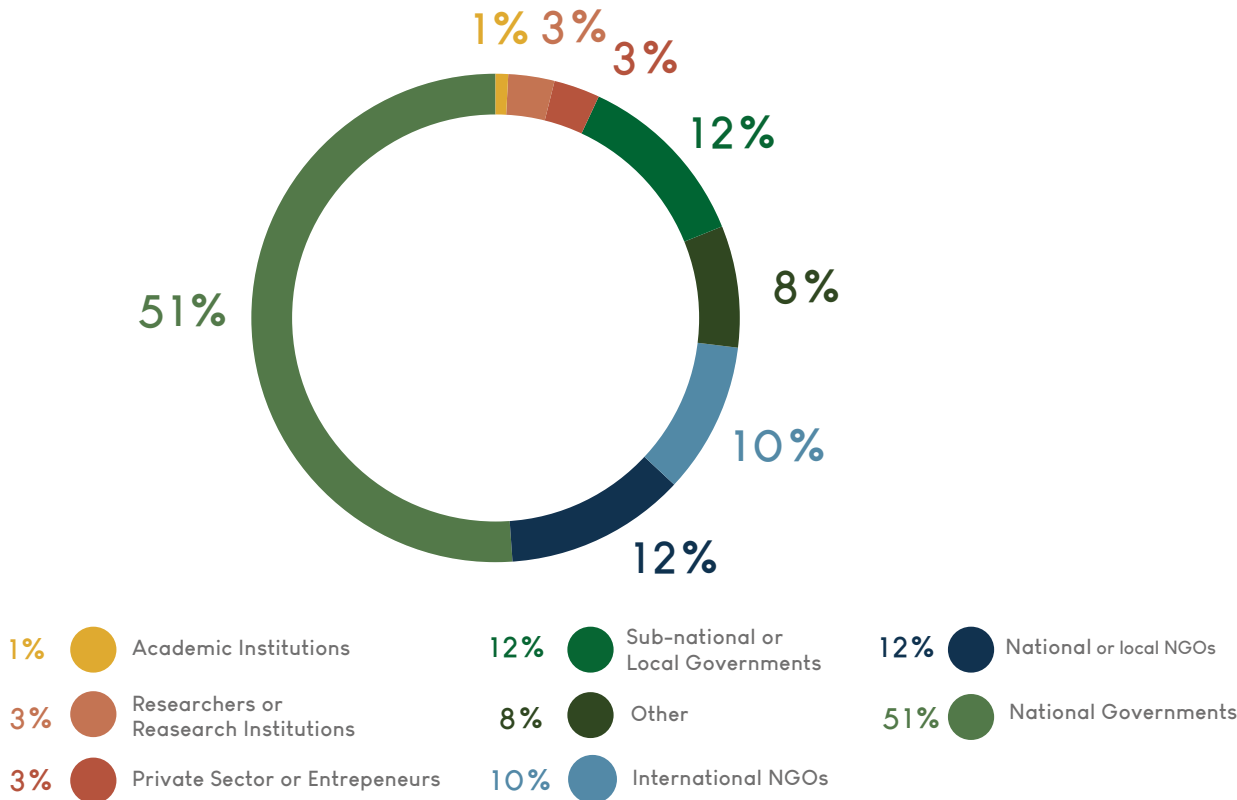


20. Allocated funding from the Amazon Fund is classified by secondary grantee (e.g., the type of implementing agency receiving funding from the Amazon Fund).

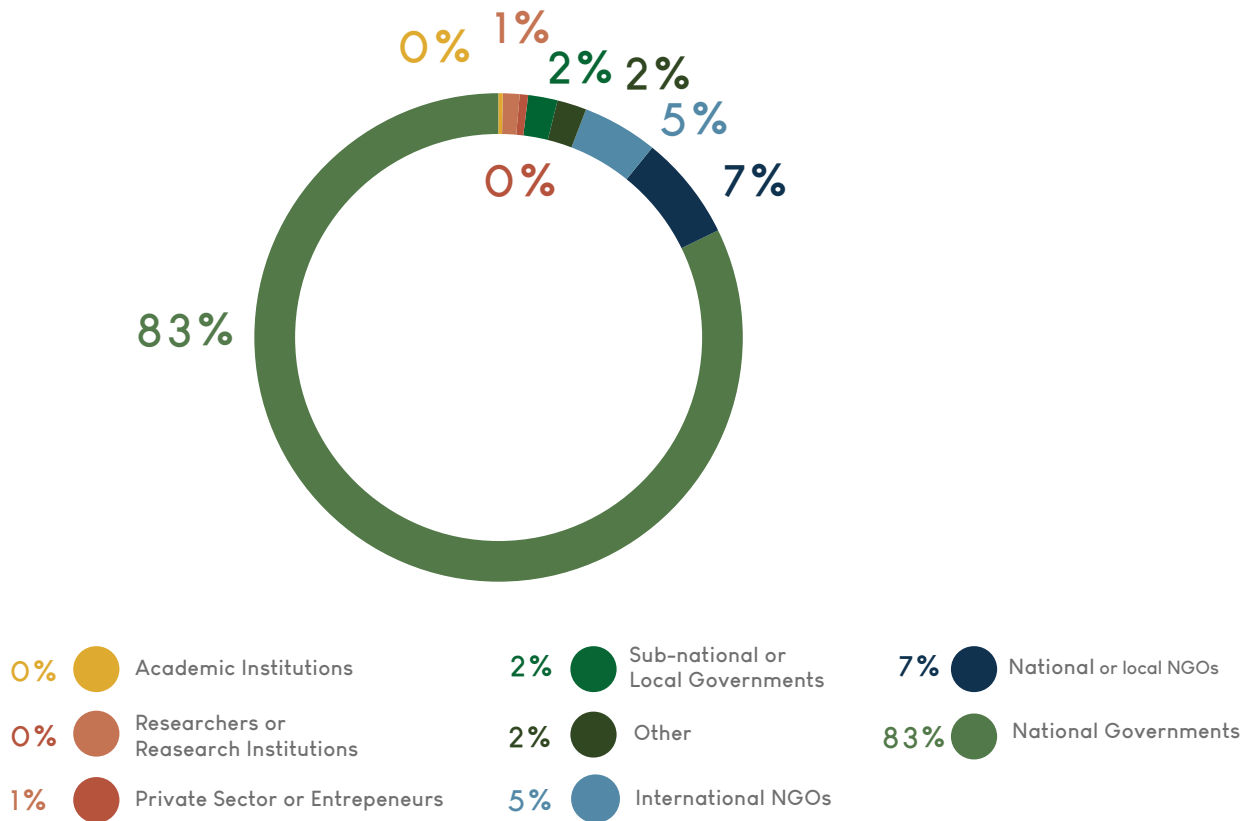
**Figure 5** shows bilateral and multilateral funding by grantee for the full 2013-2019 period. The breakdown of the US\$2.25 billion in bilateral funding was like that of the overall funding levels with (51 percent) directed to national governments. There was a slightly higher percentage of bilateral funding directed to sub-national or local governments (12 percent) and national or local NGOs (12 percent), while 10 percent went to international NGOs, and the remaining 15 percent was divided among other, research institutes, academic institutes, and private sector/entrepreneurs. Of the US\$693.7 million awarded by multilateral agencies from 2013-2019, 83 percent was directed to national governments, 7 percent to national or local NGOs, 5 percent to international NGOs, and the remaining funding to other agencies, subnational governments, research institutions, and the private sector.

**FIGURE 5. PERCENTAGE OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL FUNDING IN THE AMAZON BY GRANTEE, 2013-2019**

**Percentage of Bilateral Funding by Grantee, 2013-2019**



Percentage of Multilateral Funding by Grantee, 2013–2019

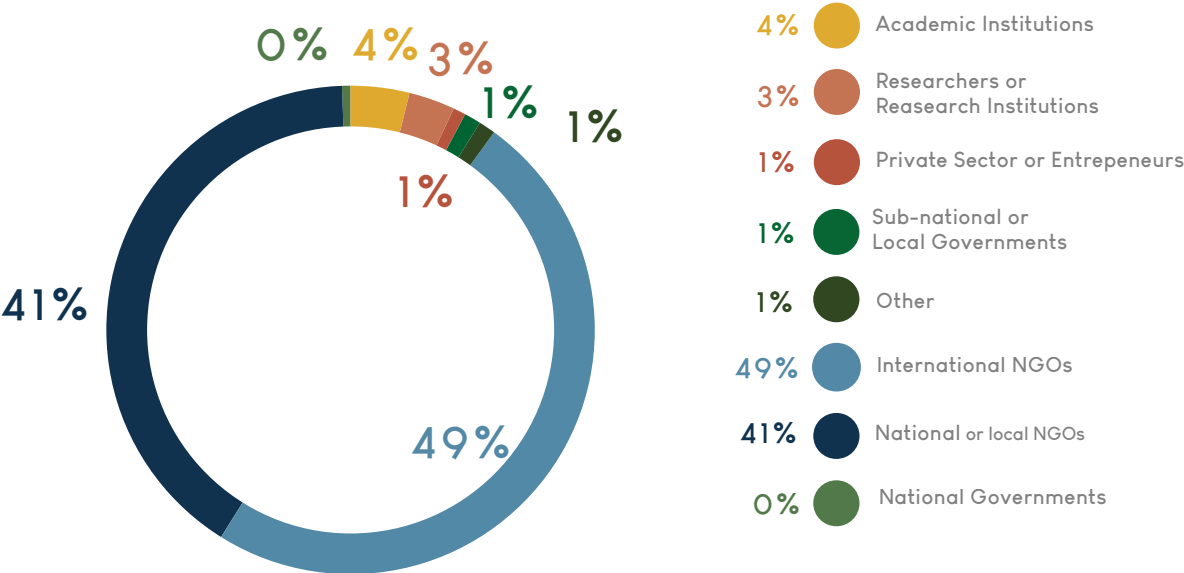


Foundations and NGOs showed a very different pattern, directing funds to NGOs and other kinds of institutions with no direct initial financial support to governments (see **Figure 6**).<sup>21</sup> Since 2013, foundations have allocated nearly half of their funding to international NGOs (49 percent) and national NGOs (41 percent) as primary grantees. The rest of their funding has supported conservation and sustainable management efforts led by academic institutions (4 percent) and research institutions (3 percent), and to a lesser extent the private sector, governmental, or other agencies. NGO funding, which represents funds that have been leveraged from individual fundraising, the private sector, and a limited number of other foundations, were primarily directed to national or local NGOs (51 percent), invested to support their own international NGO programs or operations (25 percent), or passed on to private sector/entrepreneurs (18 percent) or other agencies (6 percent).

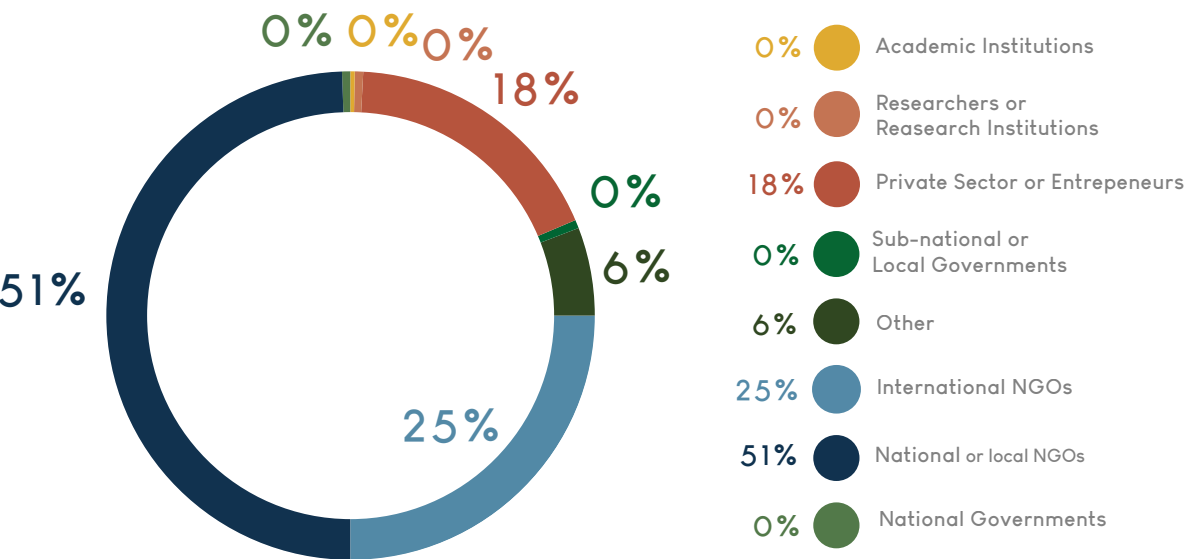
<sup>21</sup>. It is worth noting that some foundations fund NGOs that in turn fund government programs. For example, the GBMF has allocated funds to non-governmental institutions managing transitions funds that then finance national government interventions in protected areas (Funbio for ARPA, Profonampe for SERNANP for Patrimonio del Perú).

FIGURE 6. PERCENTAGE OF FOUNDATION AND  
NGO FUNDING IN THE AMAZON BY GRANTEE, 2013-2019

Percentage of Foundation Funding by Grantee Type, 2013-2019



Percentage of NGO Funding by Grantee, 2013-2019

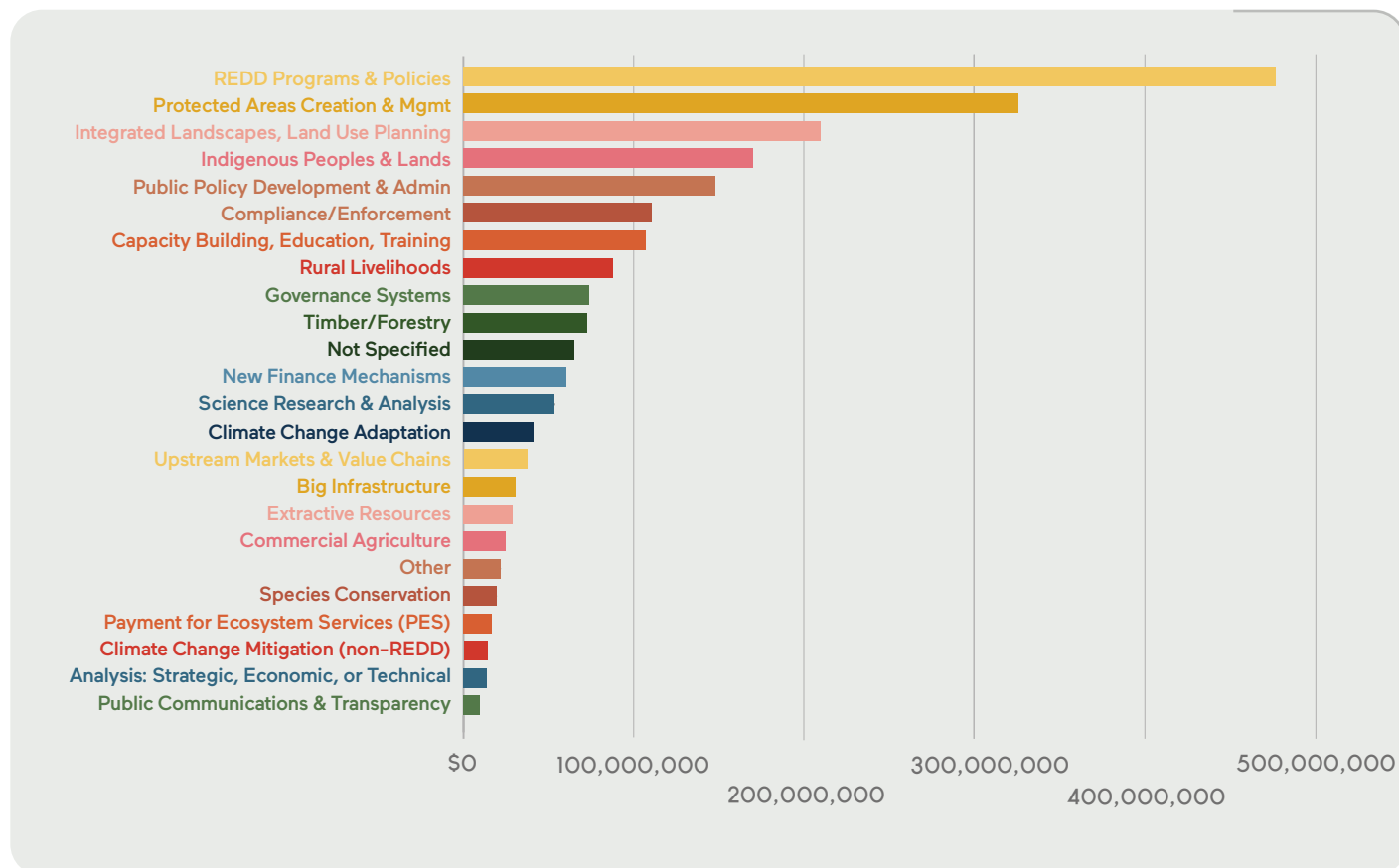




## Allocations across Conservation and Sustainable Management Strategies

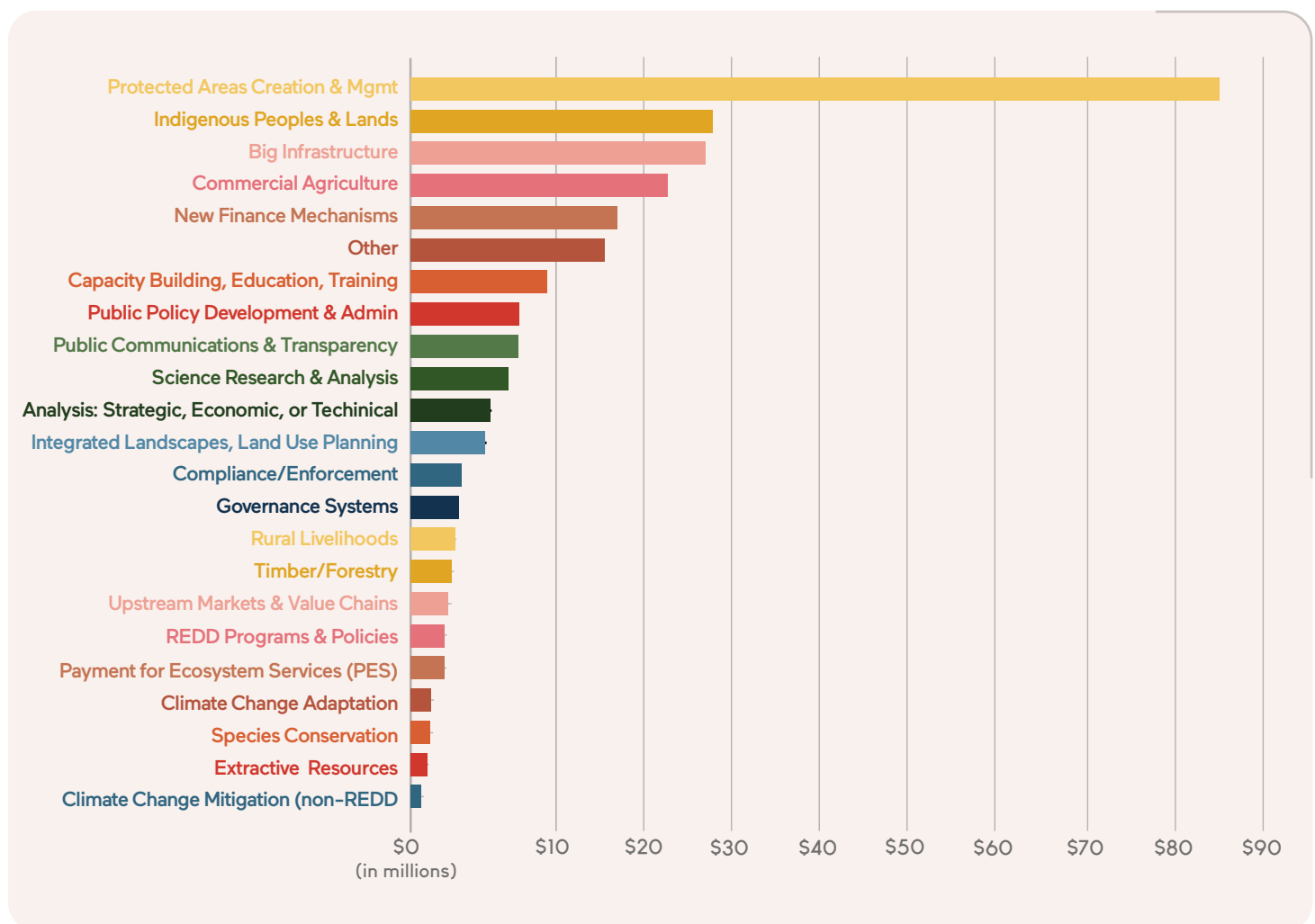
Previous studies have shown how donors' primary conservation and sustainable management strategies have changed over time. During the first period (2007–2012), donors focused on legislation, policies, and law enforcement/compliance, which shifted to protected area creation, management, and finance during the second period (2013–2015). This third study period (2016–2019) reveals a donor focus on REDD+ programs and policies, protected areas creation/management, and integrated landscapes and land use planning (see **Figure 7**). As discussed previously, these strategies reflect donor intent, better capturing the motivation for the funding than perhaps the implementation strategies. While one donor may classify a project to advance anti-deforestation policies, such as *Public Policy Development & Administration*, another may consider their project as part of a *REDD+ Programs and Policies* strategy. Likewise, a grant that aims to strengthen *Species Conservation* may also overlap with efforts to improve the *Creation and Management of Protected Areas*.

FIGURE 7. OVERALL FUNDING IN THE AMAZON BY PRIMARY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, 2016–2019



The predominant strategic focus is driven largely by bilateral and multilateral investments. The classification of their projects often involves large sums and an overall strategy. Foundations, which often have smaller, more discrete projects and a greater proximity to the implementing agencies, are able to provide a greater amount of detail and breakdown of their funding strategies. **Figure 8** shows primary conservation and sustainable management strategies for foundation investments between 2016–2019. One third of all foundation investments aimed to expand the creation of protected areas and improve the management of these areas. Over this period, there was also an emphasis on supporting indigenous people and lands as well as a focus on big infrastructure and projects related to commercial agriculture (e.g., supply chain).

**FIGURE 8. FOUNDATION FUNDING IN THE AMAZON BY PRIMARY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, 2016–2019**



## Conclusion and Recommendations

This study builds on previous work on financing in the Amazon and provides valuable new insights into funding for Amazon conservation. The analysis shows steady increases in support from 2013 to 2019, totaling more than US\$3.45 million during this period. Average donations have increased considerably since the first study on this topic was conducted. In the earliest study, donations averaged US\$215.2 million, and in this round, donations averaged US\$582.6 million. With increased funding for Peru, Colombia, and Guyana, the relative funding for Brazil has decreased over time even though the absolute funding for Brazil increased.

As this study shows, national governments play an important role in promoting and ensuring conservation and sustainable management of the region and receive over half of the overall funding. Over half of this support from international donors is directed toward four primary strategies: REDD+ programs and policies (20 percent), the creation and management of protected areas (14 percent), integrated landscapes and land use planning (9 percent), and indigenous peoples and lands (8 percent).



## Recommendations

The following recommendations, geared mostly toward the Amazon donor community, emerge from the study results and the process of collecting data and engaging with donors. The recommendations aim to increase the impact of this tracking work, address knowledge gaps going forward, and identify ways to open dialogue and collaboration from the study results. They are broken into two categories: (I) strategic and (II) analytical and technical.

### Strategic

**Facilitate donor engagement:** Bring together international donors in periodic virtual/in-person meetings to increase communication and collaboration, building on the findings of the study. Current coordination efforts are often country-specific or occur as bilateral meetings among coordinating partners. Increasing donor knowledge of current programs and approaches would allow donors to improve the effectiveness of coordination efforts, pool valuable resources, and avoid potential duplication. Improved coordination will also promote greater learning and strategic planning. Periodic meetings could also allow for individual donors to share their portfolio highlights.

This engagement could be structured along thematic discussions according to specific areas of interest or funding categories. Key topics that donors prioritized during this study include:

- Increasing collaboration for implementing the Leticia Pact Action Plan;
- Assessing strategies and priorities for subnational vs. national funding;
- Financing the management of national protected areas vs. other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs);
- Aligning conservation and sustainable management funding with development efforts financed by other agencies;
- Aligning grant financing more closely with reimbursable investments (loans) by national and/or subnational governments.

**Promote donor-government dialogue:** Facilitate discussions among donors and relevant governmental agencies to address the above issues and bring the voices and perspectives from the recipient community to promote coordination and better funding practices. The dialogues should build on existing processes.



## Analytical and technical

Continue to track international funding for conservation and sustainable management in the Amazon: Data collection for this study took considerable time and effort and warrants being updated and continued. More unified standards would streamline data collection and reporting by donors and implementing partners. This will help to improve the quality of data available, comparative analysis, transparency, and data exchange. Partnerships between donor organizations to track and facilitate this data collection would ease the survey and response burden and ensure more timely results. Conducting this study every two to three years would provide ongoing tracking information and more frequent input for donors' strategic planning. A follow-up survey would also provide a picture of post-COVID-19 investments and an assessment of if and how donors may have shifted their strategies in response to the pandemic. In addition, this study provides an important baseline for donor and country discussions and the mobilization of resources for the Amazon, as well as discussions regarding other national level commitments and conventions, such as the upcoming COP15.

**Enhance the understanding of investments and identify gaps:** More in-depth analysis would build on this series of studies. Specific analyses could consider the following:

- Expanding this study to include both reimbursable and non-reimbursable investments in conservation and sustainable management efforts in the Amazon and a better understanding of the financing role of the private sector;
- Comparing data collected from donors with investments made by country governments, including in-kind and annual capital, operations, and maintenance budgets;
- Conducting more in-depth analysis, including an evaluation of issues such as investment impacts, benefit/cost analysis of interventions, or gaps in international donor funding across countries and interventions.

**Conduct case studies to capture more detailed data on projects to deepen analysis and provide concrete examples of lessons learned:** Collect quantitative and qualitative information on selected donor-funded projects, country-specific or regional findings, and unique considerations and lessons from key projects that support specific conservation and sustainable management strategies.

Deep-dive case studies of selected projects would bring more lessons on best practices for effective donor cooperation, aiming to improve project outcomes in the future.

**Measure the impacts of investments:** In line with the above recommendation for specific case studies, the field would benefit greatly from structured and rigorous evaluations of conservation and sustainable management strategies to inform donors on the impact they have and how best to invest their money. This kind of information is not readily available and is expensive to collect. One starting point for this would be to measure the “results” that are being captured in REDD+ type of operations, especially given the growing attention these programs are receiving.

In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic created numerous challenges for nations and their populations, straining public budgets and creating significant risks for groups working on the ground. The pandemic may indeed change the funding landscape for the region going forward as donors seek to allocate scarce resources and attend to the most pressing needs in the region. This survey provides an important baseline on non-reimbursable investments for conservation across the basin. More than ever, conservation and sustainable resource management will require strategic collaboration and innovation to meet the social, economic, and environmental needs of the region and promote its green recovery.

These studies and the online data tool provide donors with a starting point for understanding investment trends and priorities within each of the countries and across the Amazon basin. It highlights how much money has been invested in each strategy. However, it is only through concerted collaboration and communication that donors will be able to pool resources and design strategies to promote synergies that advance conservation efforts and work to strengthen a more sustainable future for the Amazon and those whose lives depend on it.

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## Appendix 1.

### Donors from 2007-2012 GBMF Study

**Table 5** shows the participants included in the 2007-2012 study on international conservation funding in the Amazon (Castro de la Mata and Riega-Campos, 2014). Data from these organizations are not included in the online data tool.

**TABLE 5. DONORS INCLUDED IN THE 2007-2012 STUDY**

#### International Environmental NGOs

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)  
Conservation International (CI)  
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)  
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

#### Foundations

Blue Moon Fund  
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
ClimateWorks Foundation  
Ford Foundation  
Fundación Avina  
Fundo Vale  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
The Overbrook Foundation  
Skoll Foundation

#### Multilateral Institutions

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)  
Global Environment Facility (GEF)  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)  
UN REDD  
World Bank

#### Bilateral Institutions

Department for International Development (DFID) (United Kingdom)  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
KfW Group (KfW)  
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)  
USAID



## Appendix 2.

### Donors from 2013-2015 GBMF Study

This study sought to expand the donor participants and the authors actively reached out to representatives from previous studies. **Table 6** shows the participants from the 2013-2015 study (Strelneck and Vilela, 2017). Data from these organizations are included in the online data tool.

**TABLE 6. DONORS INCLUDED IN THE 2013-2015 STUDY**

NGO	Private Sector
Wildlife Conservation Society Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Conservation International Rainforest Foundation Norway The Nature Conservancy World Wildlife Fund	Various
Foundation	Multilateral
The Overbrook Foundation Mitsubishi Foundation for the Americas Tinker Foundation Fundación Avina MacArthur Foundation Skoll Foundation C. S. Mott Foundation Bobolink Foundation Ford Foundation Anonymous foundation Andes Amazon Fund & Bluemoon ClimateWorks Fundo Vale Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation	World Bank Green Climate Fund (UNFCCC) Forest Carbon Partnership Facility European Union United Nations - REDD Forest Investment Program Interamerican Development Bank Corporación Andina de Fomento Global Environmental Facility
	Bilateral
	Switzerland (SECO, SDC, COSUDE) Italy Spain Korea Finland Sweden & Netherlands Denmark - DANIDA Belgium United Kingdom (DFID, DEFRA, DECC) USA (USAID, FWS) Norway (NICFI, NORAD and related agencies) Germany (KfW, IKI)





# AMAZON

## SUSTAINABLE

### LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

