Conserva Aves

Progress Summary

August 2026



Arremon taciturnus
Photo: Daniel Alarcón Arias

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Introduction

Conserva Aves was established in 2021 with an initial USD 12 million investment from the Bezos Earth Fund (BEF) to support the creation, strengthening, management, and long-term sustainability of strategically important subnational protected areas that safeguard threatened, endemic and migratory birds and their habitats, including regional, municipal, Indigenous, and privately protected lands. The initiative was first launched across the Tropical Andes in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

In 2024, with support from Global Affairs Canada (GAC), Conserva Aves expanded its reach to Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, and Panama. In 2025, the initiative was launched in Chile.

Conserva Aves operates through innovative implementation approaches, including direct strategic investments, public requests for proposals, and direct invitations. Together, these complementary mechanisms provide effective pathways for advancing the initiative's conservation goals and delivering lasting impacts for bird conservation and biodiversity across the region.

Ilustration 1: **Conserva Aves timeline and geographic reach**

2021 → Tropical Andes (BEF)

2024 → Expansion to Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras (GAC)

2025 Expansion to Chile (Fundación Cosmos, Audubon)

Story of change :
Ruth Josefina Tapuy (Fundacion Aliados, DI´s local partner, Ecuador)



Ruth mastering cacao pruning and grafting techniques by Aliados

In Ecuador, Ruth Josefina Tapuy, an Indigenous Chachi farmer and mother of five, improved her cacao production through sustainable farming practices while restoring native trees and eliminating chemical inputs. Her efforts have helped bring birds back to her farm, and she now shares her knowledge with other farmers, showing how conservation can improve livelihoods, empower women, and support biodiversity at the community level.

Overall progress*

*Includes data from all Conserva Aves projects (RfP and DI) and donors (BEF and GAC)

General

- **8** countries (and KBA support in Honduras)
- **98** projects
- **82** local partners
- **189** areas supported
- **3M+** hectares supported
- **47** areas declared
- **1,3M+** hectares declared (44%)
- **2M** hectares conserved are located in KBAs (66%)
- **57,000+** allied people
- More than **USD 25M** mobilized since 2021

Biodiversity and conservation impact

- **1842** registered species through local bird monitoring, including 82 threatened species (CR: 9; EN: 14; VU: 59) and 355 migratory species, representing approximately 16% of total global species.
- **8,740** million tons of CO_2 sequestered[1]
- **862,190** hectares are located in upstream protected land[2]
- Conserva Aves INaturalist´s project registers more than 82,000 observations of 9,380 species (4,160 insects; 2,980 plants; but also birds, fungi, mammals, reptiles, amphibians). 90% of the observations were made after the Conserva Aves initiative began in 2021, while 10% predate the initiative.
- Conserva Aves eBird account registers **643** observed species (78 checklists in 4 countries)

1 Source: Beyond Biodiversity: Assessing Ecosystem Services and Climate Co -Benefits of Conserva Aves in Latin America , study made by Valentina Grisales, GIS Specialist at Audubon LAC.
2 Same source. The proportion of water supply originating from protected terrestrial ecosystems upstream of each site. This indicator highlights the importance of protected lands in sustaining downstream water quantity and quality and reflects the role of Conserva Aves sites within broader watershed -scale hydrological processes.

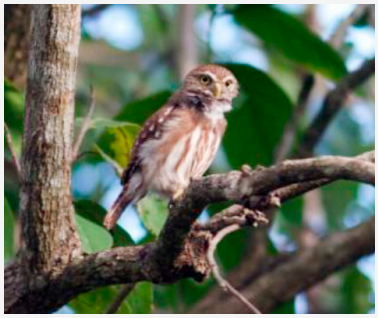
Communication

- Shared tools to improve coordination and collaboration on Dropbox and Notion.
- Creation of Conserva Aves' first social media account: 2,200+ followers on Instagram, 38 publications; 105 collaborations with national and local partners.
- Ongoing revamp of the website.
- Ongoing mixed media campaign.
- The Brand Manual was reinforced among national partners through a training session attended by the majority of them.
- Two regional trimestral newsletters sent in 2026 (open rate: 58%).
- Eight Territories of Life documentary videos were produced across the region: Colombia (4), Ecuador (2), Bolivia (1), and Mexico (1), with an additional video currently in production in Peru.

Gender equality and social inclusion

- **11** projects supported through the Equity Fund.
- Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) regional strategy.
- Capacity building with local partners for implementing social safeguards in the activities and management instruments of conservation territories.
- Application of participatory action research methodology (photovoice) with women, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant communities across five countries to identify the obstacles they face in territorial stewardship and better guide the initiative's future support.
- **28,000+** allied women in local communities.
- **12%** allied indigenous women in local communities.
- **350** women are part of local organization teams (48%).
- **30%** of local organizations are led by women, indigenous people of smallholder farming people.
- **40%** of GAC funding is going to women, indigenous people, Afro-descendant communities (this exceeds the 20% of total funding target set).

Story of change : Martha's bird monitoring journey (Biznaga, San Nicolas de los Montes , Mexico)



Ferruginous Pygmy Owl by David Bradley

Martha, a young teacher and member of a community Bird Monitoring Brigade, has become a local conservation leader through bird monitoring and environmental education. She now uses her knowledge to inspire children to value nature and protect local wildlife , demonstrating how community-led conservation is fostering the next generation of environmental stewards.


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