

# COLOMBIA'S NATIONAL ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT



1

Most of the carbon stored in Colombia's forests is in the Amazon and Andean regions; however the Pacific region presents the forested area with one of the highest averages of carbon fixation, despite being the region with the smallest total area. The places with high storage values in aerial biomass are mainly concentrated in the jurisdiction of indigenous people's reservations. It is necessary to advance in the effective incorporation and strengthening of these places in climate change adaptation and mitigation actions, ecosystem-based adaptation and community-based adaptation scenarios, among others.

2

Deforestation, transformation and degradation of ecosystems and habitats (terrestrial, freshwater and marine) are the main direct drivers of deterioration and loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Colombia, the highest rate of which is found in the Amazon region. In particular, deforestation threatens, among others, the contribution of nature related to climate regulation. Furthermore, climate change is accelerating the deterioration of biodiversity and the loss of nature's contributions to people throughout the national territory.



3

Areas of greatest conservation in the country largely coincide with territories where indigenous peoples, blacks, Afro-descendants, Palenqueros, Raizales, peasants and other local communities develop their own governance and management systems. This is why it is urgent to recognize and articulate more clearly to the environmental institutionality, the knowledge, innovations and traditional practices, and the systems of community local governance.



4

There have been considerable restoration efforts across the country, but the loss and transformation of forests and other ecosystems, as well as the ecosystem services that they provide, continues to outpace their recovery. Protected areas, as well as other area-based conservation strategies, are essential to maintain the material and non-material contributions of nature for present and future generations throughout the Colombian territory.



5

Colombia has identified that more needs to be done beyond declaring protected areas. There needs to be a design of interconnected landscapes which ensures ecological functionality, even in transformed territories. Likewise, adequate systems are required for its management and administration. There is a clear opportunity for mandatory environmental investments associated with environmental compensation to synergize with market regulation mechanisms and inclusive government initiatives.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

