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Bioeconomy in Amazonia: Pilot Project for the GCF Task Force in Brazil and Peru

Overview

The object of this bioeconomy pilot project explores a guiding question: **How can heavily forested states successfully transition from a business-as-usual model to a bioeconomy development model that prioritizes sustainable use of natural resources, while leveraging integrated strategies to conserve tropical forests?**

We will investigate this question using two cases, one in Brazil and the other in Peru. The goal of these pilot cases is to chart a course for transitioning toward bioeconomy at a jurisdictional scale and to consider aspects of this transition such as: (a) the trajectory of transition and priority sectors to involve; (b) timeline, resources, and investments needed; and (c) concrete recommendations for action. These studies will:

1. Evaluate integrated transition strategies for building a bioeconomy model that considers the relationship between environmental conservation and viable, scalable economic activities (e.g., forest assets/product commercialization, carbon markets, innovation/entrepreneurialism, small and medium enterprise investments, sustainable tourism, agro-ecology, and other long-term strategies that depend on intact forests).
2. Identify ways to build and strengthen relationships with governmental, private sector, investment, donor, and civil society partners.
3. Provide a model pilot project that promotes a transition from the current economic system to a strong bioeconomy for Amazonian state governments and investment partners.

In sum, crafting an initial bioeconomy strategy for two state-level governments in the Amazon region aims to promote a new economy - a bioeconomy - based on and guided by the values of sustainable development, creating new opportunities for economic growth focused on improving the quality of life of its people while preserving the ecological value of one of the most important tropical forests on the planet.

Approach

To build this strategy, we will establish a lean interdisciplinary team (< 20 people) comprised of representatives from government, practitioners, industry, academics, and civil society from the the United States, Brazil, and Peru. This team may develop into a longer-term, agile network of advisors, which can serve as a valuable and practical resource for the GCF Task Force in future projects.

The first pilot state will be Amazonas, Brazil. The core team will participate in two, two-day verification workshops: one in the second week of July for initial project planning, and another in October 2023 to review the draft report of a bioeconomy plan for the State of Amazonas. Between workshops, we will conduct research and data collection through literature review, analysis of government and general business data, and synthesis activities (workshops, meetings, interviews, etc.). The final report will include key findings such as a summary of the current state of the local bioeconomy efforts, initial analysis of opportunities and barriers, and a set of recommendations for a transition pathway toward creating a bioeconomy.

Contact

Please contact Colleen Scanlan Lyons (colleen.scanlanlyons@colorado.edu), Project Director of the GCF Task Force, with questions or to express your interest in contributing to this project.