

PLANTING HOPE TO HARVEST A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

We are the social laboratory for inclusion and sustainable rural productivity







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CREDITS

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

Ernesto Fajardo Pinto

Jeanette Munger Banziger
Rafael Fernando Loboguerrero Osorio
Carolina Espitia Manrique
Ángela María Penagos Concha
Paula Delgadillo Sanz de Santamaría
Cristina de la Vega Vallejo
Nelson Guerrero Lozano
Carlos Ignacio Rojas Gaitán
Juan Lucas Restrepo

Alpina Foundation Team

Executive Director

Camila María Aguilar Londoño

Foundation Coordination Officers

María Katherine Piñeros Bedoya Martha Lucía de la Cruz Federici Elver Hernando García Rodríguez Mateo Vélez Rosiers

Management support team

Ángela Milena Salcedo Rincón Sofía Niño Acevedo Manuel Díaz Daniel Hincapié Serna Alejandra Hernández Bulla Antonia Zapata Orozco

Leading team in territory

María José Carrasquilla Escorcia Jenny Alexandra Herrera Díaz María Claudia Carrasquilla Escorcia María del Socorro Bastidas Vallejo Amalia Aguilera Peña Lorena Ávila Mondragón Sofía Beltrán Delgado

Writing and coordination

Camila María Aguilar Londoño Martha Lucía de la Cruz Federici

Graphic design, layout, proofreading:

Sync. www.sync-group.com.co



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2024 was a year of great challenges and lessons learned, highlighted by a challenging social scenario, both in Colombia and globally. Extreme weather events such as droughts and floods affected agricultural production and food security, a situation that further underlined the inequalities that persist in our society. However, this was also a year wherein peasant, family and community agriculture (ACFC, from its name in Spanish) positioned itself as a key player in building a more sustainable future.

In the framework of *COP16*, held in Cali, the leadership of small-scale farmers was highlighted in multiple spaces regarding the preservation of biodiversity and, thereby, the resilience of food systems. Any effort to protect biodiversity must start from the recognition of those who inhabit and care for the territories. Social and environmental issues are closely intertwined: we cannot talk about conservation without including people, their cultures, their knowledge and their needs. They are the true guardians of ecosystems.

Colombia, as one of the most biodiverse countries in the world, has an invaluable opportunity to lead action for the benefit of nature. However, to achieve this, it is essential to recognize and strengthen the central role of the ACFC, which generates between 40% and 70% of the food consumed on the planet. Despite its relevance, 22% of this population lives in poverty and 31% faces food insecurity. In Alpina Foundation, we firmly believe that small-scale agriculture is key to both food security and the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Strengthening sustainable food systems not only improves the living conditions of rural producers, but also protects essential ecosystem services such as soil, water and genetic resources.

However, ACFC livelihoods are highly dependent on access to these natural resources and, at the

same time, they are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, without appropriate protection mechanisms in place.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat: it is here and it is transforming our realities, destroying ecosystems and aggravating food insecurity. Colombia has been no exception. In La Guajira, for example, in the municipality of Manaure, some communities we worked with lost their home and community orchards, as well as their animals, due to intense flooding during November. Namely, they saw their livelihoods disappear.

Despite this situation, thanks to their ability to adapt and the strengthening of technical and socioemotional skills promoted through our processes, these communities were able to coordinate themselves to reestablish their productive units. The **Alpina Foundation** also launched a fundraising campaign that helped us to deliver, in a first phase, blankets, hygiene kits and bags with groceries to all the families with whom we had worked and who had no other type of support. We also extended this assistance to **16 families in the community of Barranco**, with whom we will begin work in 2025.

On the other hand, the village of **Nazareth**, in the municipality of **Uribia**, was isolated due to the rainfall. However, the Wayuu communities we worked with shared a reassuring fact with us: the vegetable orchards they planted through the Foundation's projects **allowed them to guarantee** access to food during the climate crisis.

Transforming food systems involves building joint solutions among all stakeholders:

communities and farmers, the private sector, investors, governments and civil society organizations. This transformation requires a systemic vision and concrete actions that address multiple dimensions, such as capacity building, enabling conditions for rooting livelihood projects, Internet and technology access, appropriate financial support, and the consolidation of public goods.

O3 ANNUAL REPORT



The work carried out this year with participating communities and families illustrates our commitment to this transformation. Every small producer, every woman, every family that manages to strengthen its resilience in the face of climate variability and life's challenges inspires us and drives us to move forward.

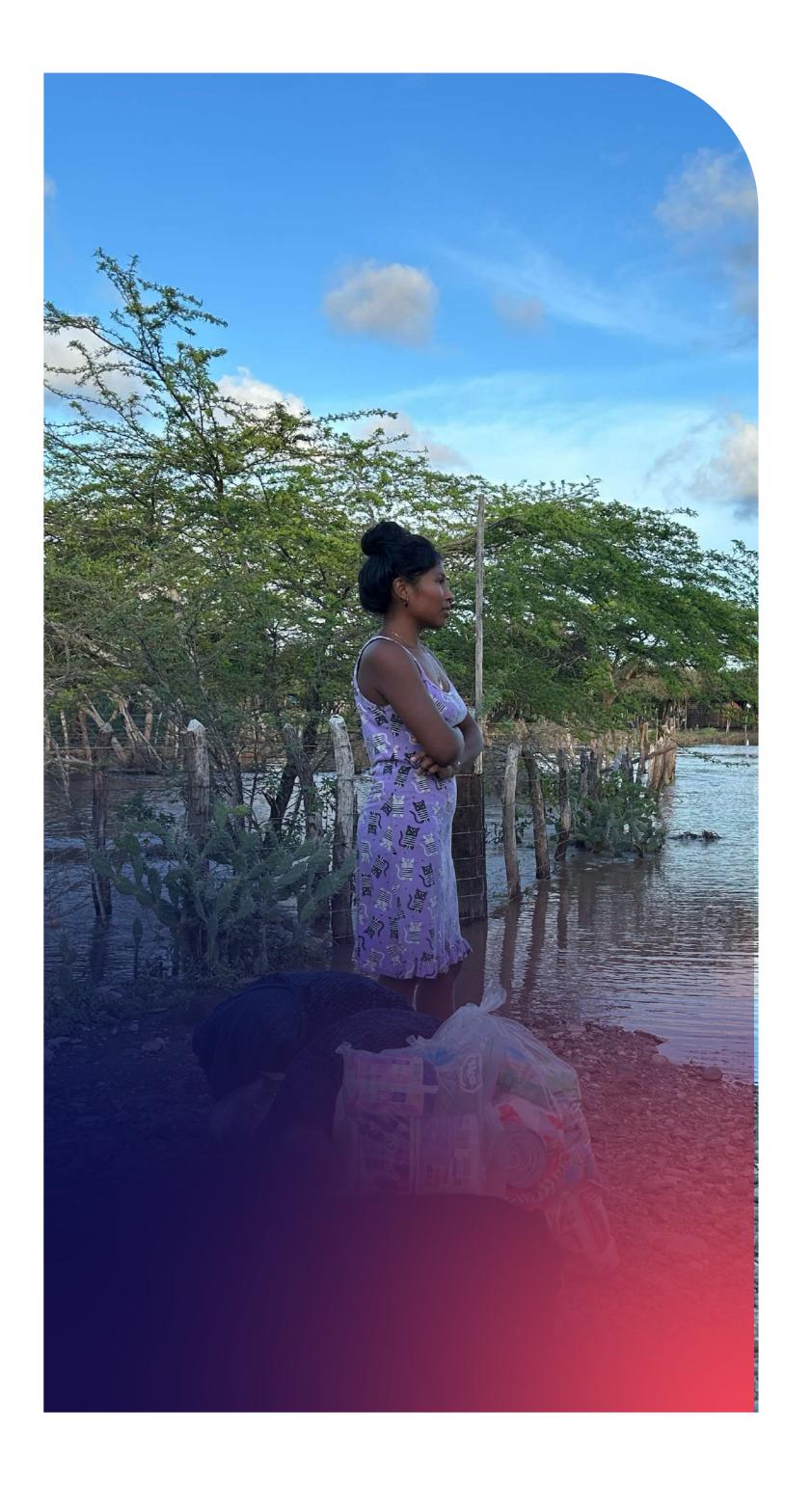
From this point of view, we call for mustering and complementing resources, talents and knowledge. If COP16 taught us anything, it is the certainty that only by aligning ourselves around the impact and the necessary transformations we will be able to make progress in the restoration of ecosystems and the preservation of biodiversity. And this, as I have already mentioned, means placing peasant, family and community agriculture at the center.

In our commitment to address climate change, we are undertaking **two prioritized actions by 2025:**

- 1. Create a group of community multiplier volunteers, made up of participants of our projects, who will promote sustainable agroecological practices, thus contributing to the resilience of their production systems.
- 2. Implement an insurance mechanism specifically designed for small-scale agricultural producers, in order to protect their livelihoods from extreme weather events.

I would like to conclude this message by expressing my deep gratitude to each of our partners, to the Foundation's team and, especially, to the rural communities and families with whom we work. They are our raison d'être and the engine that drives us to continue building a future with opportunities for sustainable progress for everyone.







OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Not only have we been able to increase our income, but we are now able to help more women to help them develop another perspective on their lives.

Oliva Díaz. Cauca





937

Participants with enhanced livelihoods



33

Strengthened association systems



Departments

impacted



28

Strategic partners

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS:

Income:

62% average increase in income of participating families.

Association Systems:
47% of the participants belong to an association system.

Food Security:

47% of participants produce and consume foods with high nutritional value.

Agroecology:

100% of the participants initiated the implementation of agroecological transition plans on their farms.

Events:

20 events, 6 of which were within the framework of COP 16, where we shared our learnings.

Acknowledgments:

Colsubsidio's Xposible:

Recognition for the Alta Guajira Indígena Productiva y (Indigenous, Productive and Sustainable Alta Guajira) initiative;

Association of Corporate Foundations (AFE):

Recognition for best practices in accountability and management 2024, in the category Medium-Sized Foundation.



We are now resilient and prosperous, more because of the knowledge that has brought us together as a community than because of the resources, giving us the strength to overcome this and any other difficulties.

Viviana Zúñiga Pushaina. La Guajira





OUTSTANDING RESULTS





OUTSTANDING **RESULTS**

During 2024, the Foundation continued to promote processes to transform the life projects of families, communities and organizations of family and community agriculture, through replicable productive initiatives.

In this context, capacities were strengthened with project participants in four lines of work:



sustainable **production**



healthy food practices

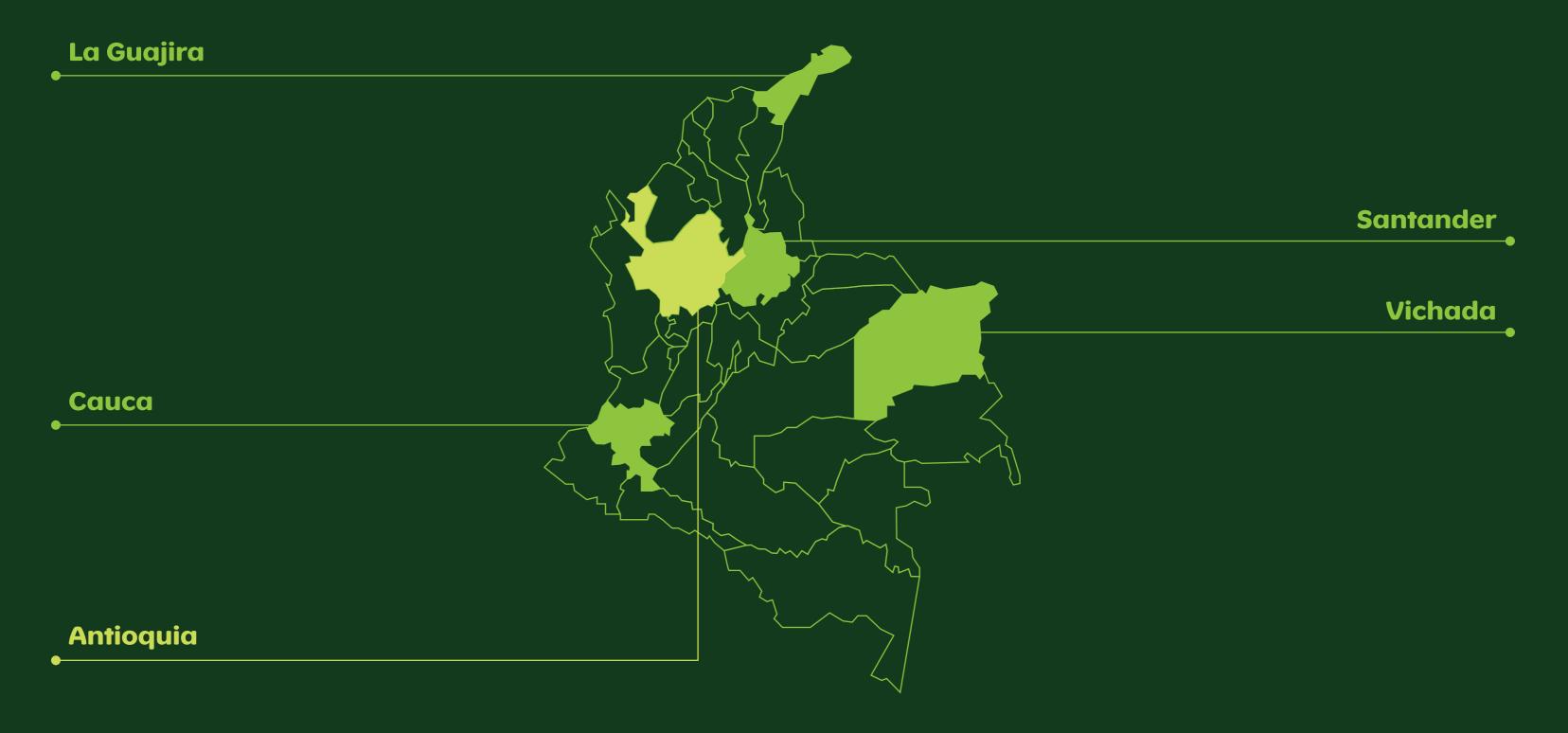


promotion and strengthening of willingness to associate



differential gender approach

Seven projects were executed in the departments of Cauca, La Guajira, Santander and Vichada, where we had been active in previous years, and in a new department:



Processes were developed with

937
participants from 7 municipalities.

Of the total number of participants

61 96

are women

In addition

33

association systems were strengthened.

Projects in 2023 - 2024

La Guajira

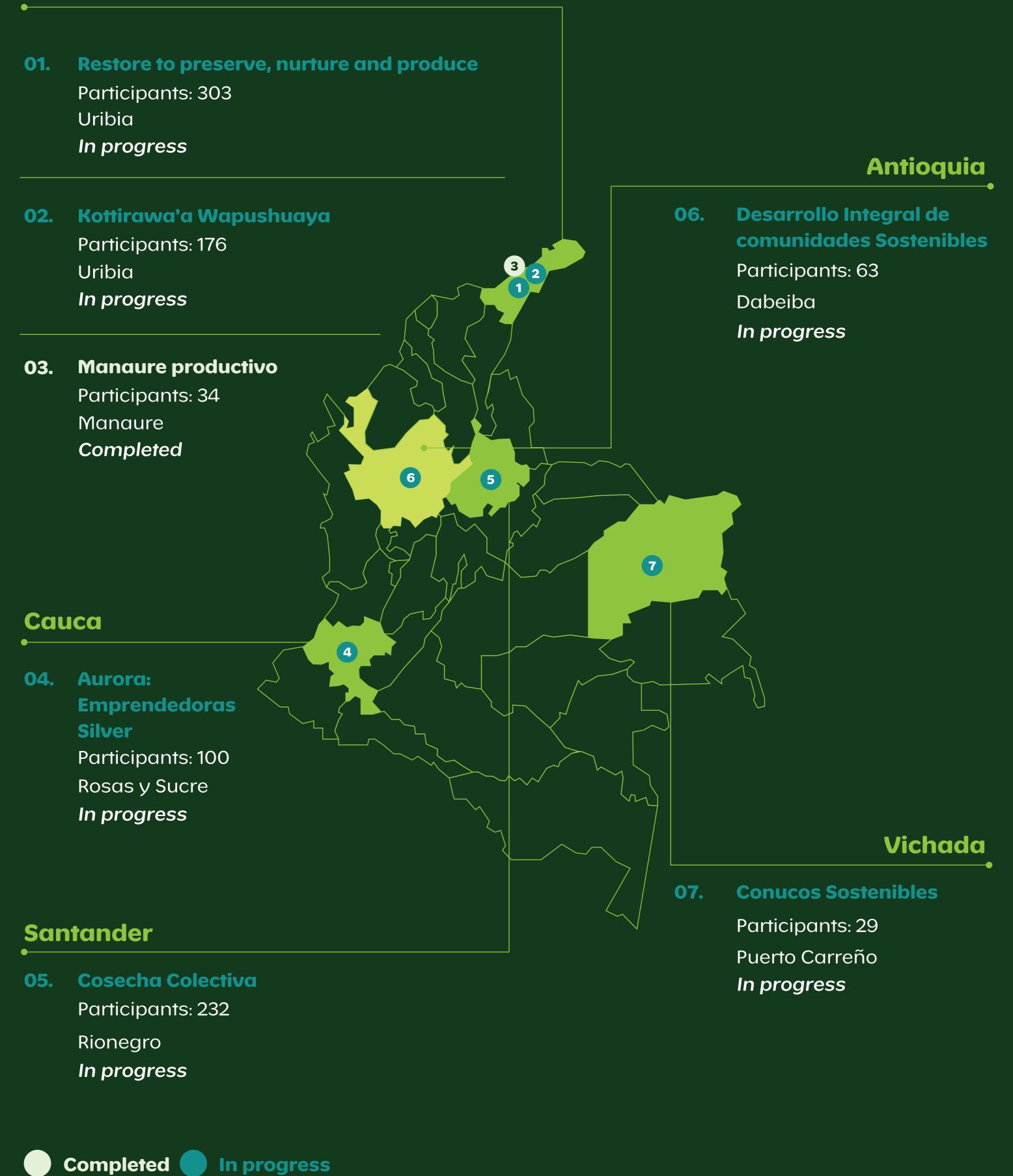




Figure 1.Alpina Foundation's contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



At least 50% of the 167 targets that make up the SDGs are directly or indirectly related to family and community farming and agroecology.

The following are the four (4) **outstanding results for 2024:**



Income

62% average increase in income for participating families.



Association systems

47 % of the participants are part of an association system.



Food security

47 % of the participants produce and consume foods with high nutritional value.



Agroecology

100% of the participants initiated the implementation of agroecological transition plans on their farms.

We would also like to highlight the strengthening of cooperation frameworks with **28 partners**, with whom we have added and multiplied resources, learning and knowledge. Together we have explored new forms of cooperation with the purpose of generating conditions that promote more sustainable transformations and add value to the communities in the territories.





2024



INNOVATION AND LEARNING



INNOVATION AND LEARNING

In terms of innovation, we highlight the new evaluation methodology implemented: Farmer Thriving Index with 60 Decibels. It is a dynamic and standard index that measures the well-being of small-scale farmers, which allowed us to understand, from the voice of the participants, whether they are thriving or simply surviving in dimensions such as: income that meets their needs, financial resilience, livelihood sustainability, food security. As a result of this exercise and an event to socialize the results, the Foundation is leading an impact measurement initiative for large-scale small-scale farmers in the country, which has been joined by Latimpacto.

On the other hand, the methodology and tools of the innovation cycle (empathize-ideate-prototype and test) were applied to solve an internal challenge of the Foundation. This challenge is related to launching an experience that combines tourism and experiential experience, which is planned as a source of income for the Foundation. The result of the co-creation and prototyping exercise was the design of *Parche a la Huerta* (Crew in the Farm), to live a day in the life of a rural producer family and learn about the challenges they face.

What did we learn?

As a social laboratory, the
Foundation has strengthened a
culture of continuous learning,
which allows us to identify are
failures and challenges in process
implementation, so that timely
decisions can be made. In this
context, this year we had, as
always, many lessons learned, but
we would like to highlight six (6)
that we consider most relevant:

1. Teaching-learning systems:

a major challenge in rural extension systems is the "translation" of Arijuna (non-indigenous peoples) technical concepts into traditional languages and indigenous Wayuu belief systems and cosmogonies.

2. Technology for decision making:

For producers to adopt new technologies, they need to find a differentiated added value, for example, to replace traditional pencil and paper records. In addition, training processes need to include issues of digital literacy, connectivity barriers and type of devices.

3. Orchards vs. productive yards:

In Vichada, families did not take ownership of the orchards because, from their cultural perspective, products such as legumes and vegetables are not fundamental in their diet. In addition, factors such as climatic conditions, lack of water and arid soils lacking organic matter hindered the implementation process. Therefore, the strategy was adjusted with the implementation of productive yards, focused on planting fundamental foods in their diet, such as cassava, pumpkin, corn, beans, watermelon and sweet potato. These yards were designed with a larger area of land and adapted to the conditions of the environment.

4. Ex post assessments and follow-ups:

We implemented a follow-up measurement exercise to validate sustainability over time in two projects in the



department of Cauca, specifically to understand the impact of the program on key aspects of rural household welfare, as well as persistent vulnerabilities. However, access to producers and response rate were lower than expected. It is key to have a programmatic CRM that enables post-project contact with participants and to keep data updated.

5. Association systems:

to strengthen association systems, it is necessary to implement strategies that individually encourage the members of the governance bodies in administrative, accounting, leadership and management aspects. Likewise, encouraging member participation is key to strengthening the association, promoting greater empowerment, cohesion and the establishment of internal control mechanisms. Finally, it is essential to involve members' farms in marketing and productive technical assistance processes, which will encourage mutual strengthening.

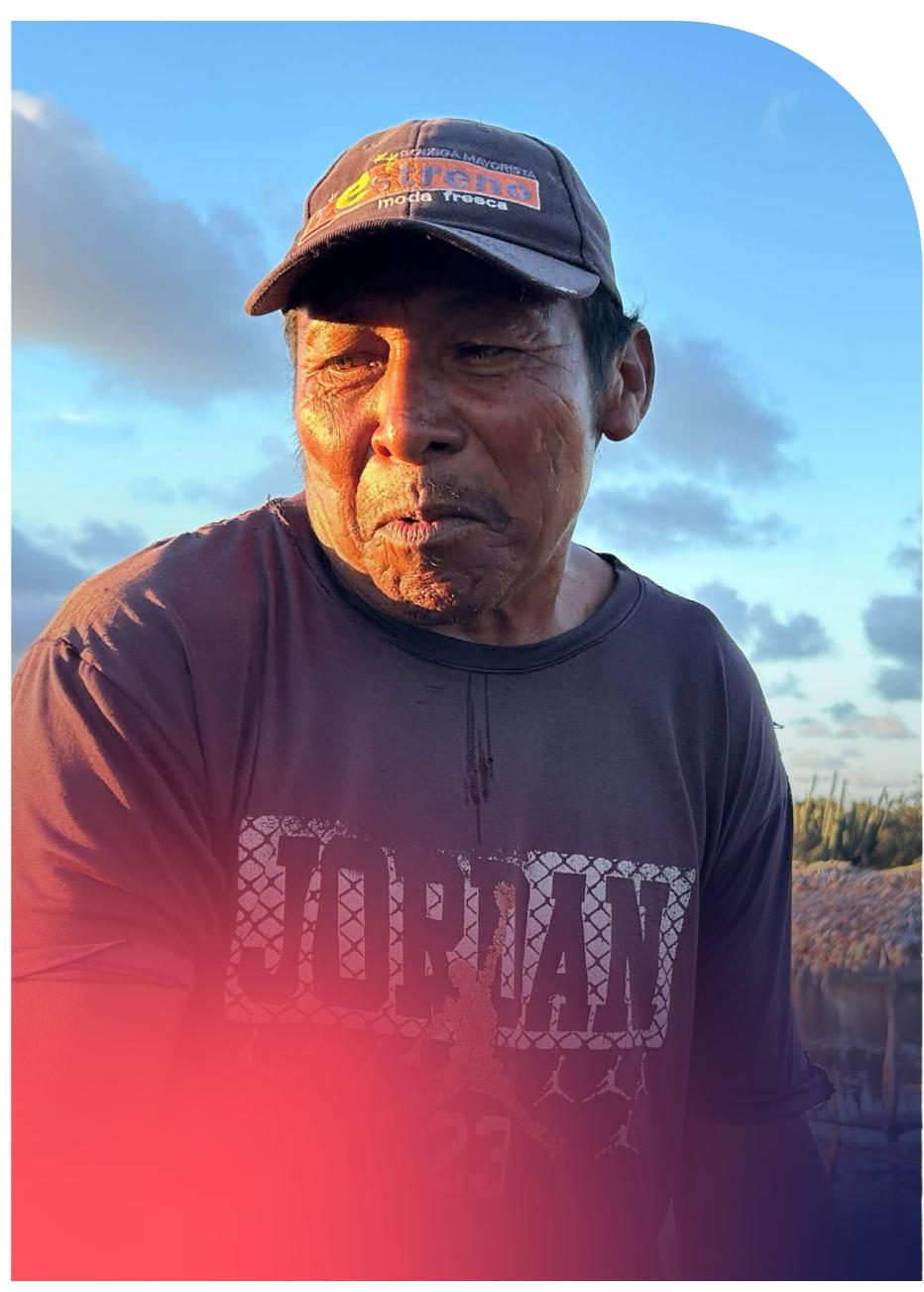
6. Food security first:

The strengthening of production chains in the agricultural sector must be accompanied by concrete actions to improve the food security of small-scale producers, their families and communities. Appropriate nourishment not only contributes to people's health and well-being, but also boosts their productivity, strengthens the local economy and raises their overall quality of life.

What would we do differently?

Adjustments to SER RASSA (Rurality, Sustainable and Healthy Agri-foods, from its name in Spanish)

- · Design customized plans based on initial information, according to levels of literacy.
- · Innovate in methodologies and pedagogies to translate some contents so that they are understood by indigenous communities in the context of their belief systems, cosmogony, customs and traditions.
- Have a specific methodological guide for the implementation of digital tools, including workshops, hands-on activities and dynamics that facilitate interaction with the application and allow effective use.
- Consider the Participatory Guarantee System as an accompaniment or advice among producers, and not as an evaluation of the quality of the products, once the projects are completed, in order to avoid possible inconveniences among the participants.



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INSPIRING
STORIES



AURORA: SILVER ENTREPRENEURS







My name is Sandra, I am 65 years old and my whole life has been spent in the countryside, together with my daughter and my 12-year-old grandson, in the municipality of Rosas, Cauca. I decided to join this project because it offered me a singular opportunity: it not only focuses on strengthening our productive capacities, but also on recognizing and appreciating the role of older women, with all that we know, what we dream of and what we need. What I liked the most, besides the productive part, was learning new skills, such as leadership, communication, emotion management and teamwork. These tools are not only valuable for the countryside, but for life itself.

The project began in June, with training that gave us the basis for designing our agroecological orchard. We prepared the land, received the inputs and started planting products such as lettuce, tomato, cucumber, corn, coriander, onion, carrots and beans.

In addition, I am a member of a group of 20 women who are conducting a contract farming pilot project, producing dehydrated aromatic herbs, such as citron, basil, lemongrass and lemon balm. This model will not only allow us to have access to fresh and nutritious food, but also opens the door to generate additional income that will strengthen our economic autonomy.

One of the most important achievements of the project is that we have begun to form self-managed savings and credit groups. In mine we are 16 women, all committed to the well-being of our families and the prosperity of our communities. Thanks to this process, today I feel that I have more knowledge and tools to carry out my business and greater confidence to achieve my dreams. Together we are building a more prosperous and supportive future.

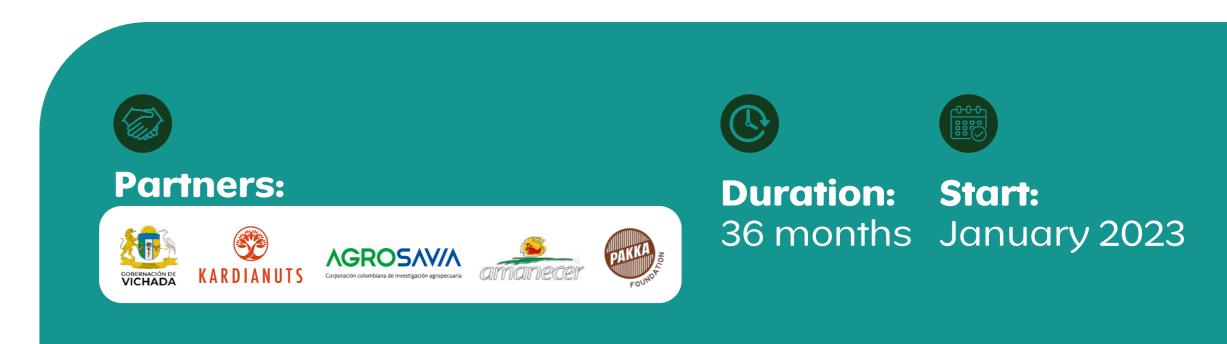




SUSTAINABLE CONUCOS







I am **Carlos**, and I live in the Kanalitojo reservation, made up of three indigenous communities: Amorúa, Sáliba and Sikuani. In recent years we have seen our quality of life affected, because we no longer find in the forest everything we need to feed ourselves, as we did in the past. This has led us to look for alternatives and settle with our families on the reservation's lands near Puerto Carreño, where we have built our houses.

Thanks to the project, the community has experienced a remarkable improvement in its well-being. With the installation of surface wells fitted with solar pumping systems, we now have access to water next to our homes on a daily basis. We no longer need to travel to the banks of the Meta River. In addition, we have implemented productive yards, which we call conucos, combining our ancestral knowledge with modern production techniques. In them we grow corn, yucca, sweet potato, topocho plantain, pumpkin and beans, which form the basis of our diet, which we also supplement with fish.

Last year we planted 15 hectares of cashew trees, which we have maintained and built firebreaks to reduce the risk of

fire, a problem that has seriously affected us in the past. This crop, together with the productive yards, not only generates income, but also contributes to biodiversity conservation, in harmony with our culture. Nature's resources are fundamental to our traditional medicine, and this project allows us to preserve them.

This initiative has given us courage and hope to move forward, strengthening our roots and building a better present and future for the children and youth of the region.



18 ANNUAL **REPORT**



COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES







I am Alonso, I am 50 years old and I live on my farm, in the Palonegro area, with my three daughters, a son-in-law and my grandson. I joined this initiative in August, as a member of the Dabeiba Dairy Farmers' Association Asocolur.

During the first few months, they explained the project very well and we started training workshops on different topics. The ones I liked the most were on investment project planning, design and implementation of the agroecological home orchard, resilience and adaptation to change, participation and leadership. All the workshops are practical, and the outreach team visits us on the farms, where we validate that what we have learned is being applied correctly.

Participating in the group meetings has also been important for me, where I meet, interact and learn with other producers in the region. Although I have a long way to go to these meetings, I believe that they are essential. They have allowed me to acquire new knowledge that will contribute to improve my business and to develop a life project with my family, in our land.

I am so committed to the process that I was selected to participate in the Rural Leadership School program of the Aurelio Llano Posada Foundation. I see this opportunity as a fundamental step to project myself as a leader in my community and in the region.





COLLECTIVE HARVESTING







I am **Rubí Mar**, member of the Cocoa Farmers Association of Rionegro Santander, Ríos de Chocolate.

I have been involved in the project since it began and I would like to emphasize that it has been a process wherein we have learned good practices for the management of the association, the management of our crop and the administration of the business. As an association we now have a logo, a brand, a solid business plan, and we have achieved recognition and positioning in the local market. This has been possible thanks to our participation in two fairs: Chocofest and Chocoshow, where we exhibited the quality of our products and established important contacts.

One aspect I would like to highlight are the workshops we have received to strengthen our communication skills, emotion management, teamwork, conflict resolution and decision making. These trainings have not only been useful for my role as an associate, but have also had a positive impact on my personal life.

In addition, they provided us with inputs and seeds of coriander, pumpkin seeds, tomato, cabbage, green onions, cucumber, chili pepper and passion fruit for our vegetable orchards. I have already harvested twice; these foods have improved our nutrition, and I sold the surplus in the village.

We are committed to continue improving cocoa quality and adopting more efficient and environmentally friendly processes through agroecological practices.

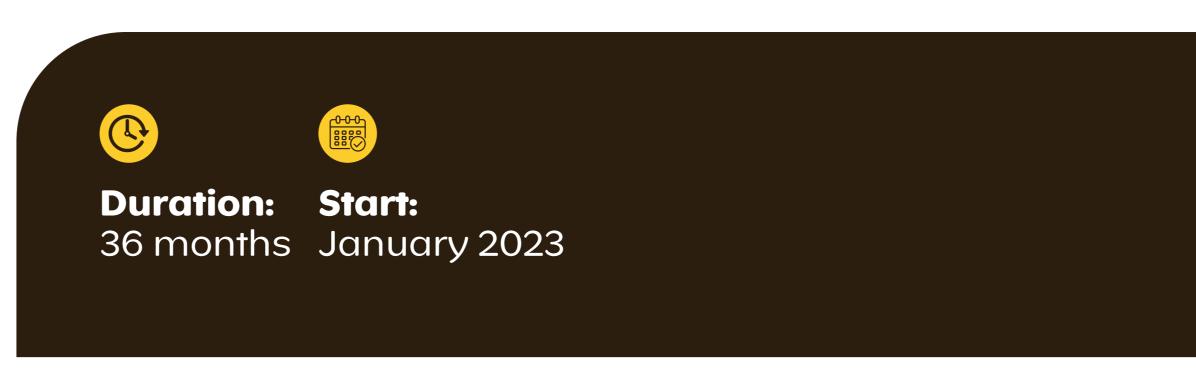
Today, as women, we participate more confidently in the decisions of our association and we have involved our sons and daughters in the process, thinking that, in the future, they will be able to take over the leadership of the association.











I am **Nicolás**, I am a member of the Wayuu Agricultural Producers Association, Kottirawa'a Wapushuaya-Kowa. This association was created two years ago by eight autonomous savings and credit groups and a year ago we established a selling point in Nazareth.

This year, organizationally speaking, we have strengthened our self-management of internal processes, leadership and governance. In addition, we participated in the Potencia Program, which provided us with key tools to design our strengthening plan. Another important achievement was the opening of a selling point in the community of Anuwuo, which facilitates access to and supply of basic family products to communities far from Nazareth.

Three years ago, as part of another project with Fundación Alpina, agro-ecological vegetable orchards were started up with the families of several communities, and thanks to everything we have learned, we have sustained them with our own resources. The families of the communities that belong to Kowa use part of the harvested produce to feed themselves and sell the surplus at the Nazareth sales point to generate additional income.

At this point, we market the products of the vegetable orchards, such as tomatoes, coriander, pepper, parsley, cassava, corn, plantain, beans, lettuce, eggs and chickens, thus benefiting more communities around Nazareth.

Despite our achievements, we face challenges such as water shortages in some communities and the need for well maintenance. However, we are already looking for solutions.

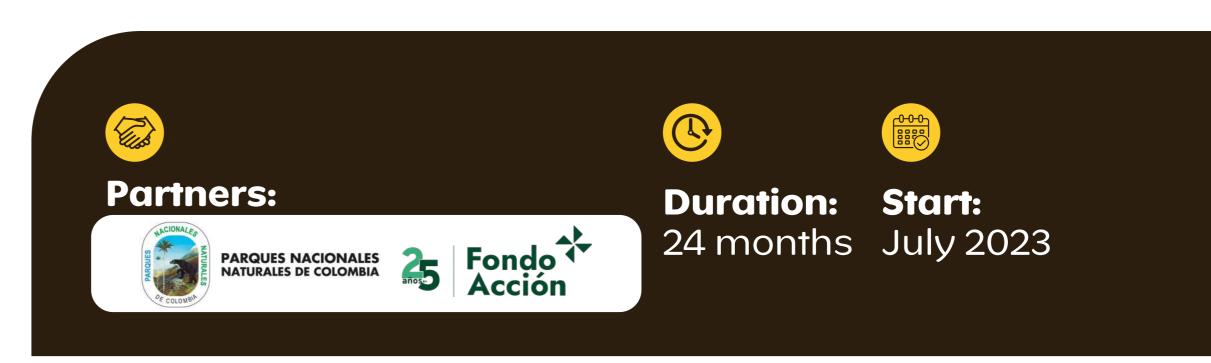
The work done through this association has transformed the quality of life of our families, and we are always thinking about how to continue growing, focused on the welfare of the communities and the region of Alta Guajira.











I am Rosa Epiayú, and I live in one of the communities located in the Macuira National Park. For us, the Wayuu, this is an ancestral and spiritual territory, fundamental in our cosmogony, since it represents the origin of our life.

After receiving individual and group training, we were given seeds to plant beets, peppers, tomatoes, coriander, chives, beans and passion fruit in our orchards. This year we have harvested twice, which has improved our food security. We have sold the surplus to our neighbors, which has generated an additional source of income.

We have also strengthened the production of traditional crops such as corn, cassava and plantain, combining our ancestral practices with new techniques. During the rainy season in November, which left Alta Guajira isolated, we were able to consume all these products in our communities, which was a great relief at that time.

We currently have a water well for irrigation and domestic use, and we have learned to manage and care for this vital resource. We also have an autonomous savings and credit group that has strengthened our union and collaboration.

The young people from the community studying at the boarding school have also received training in agroecology and the environment; they received their diploma in December. With the knowledge they learned, they took the initiative to set up a seedbed and a small pilot orchard at the boarding school.

This project has been of great value to us, because it has focused on strengthening our capacity to produce and improve our food security, while taking care of the natural resources of this sacred territory.











My name is **Esperanza Pushaina**, I am a leader in the Pirruwaitamana community. We are very happy with our achievements in this project as a community. We started with training sessions and workshops that allowed us to strengthen our knowledge and individual and collective capacities. This has been important, because they are lessons that have given us another perspective on life and opportunities; for us, this means progress and wellbeing.

Working with the Foundation's technical and social professionals has been very special because they involve us in all decisions and appreciate our knowledge, customs and traditions.

After the training, we were given the inputs and tools to build the production units: laying hen sheds, broiler sheds, sheep and goat pens, and agro-ecological home orchards with vegetables such as chives, coriander, peppers and carrots. All this represents a great improvement in the conditions of our food security.

I have sold surplus products and also bartered. We created an autonomous savings and credit group that has allowed me to learn about many topics and think differently about money management. With my savings and with everything I already know how to do, I am going to build another shed.

The project brought us together as a community and gave us many elements to face the challenges and shocks of life. Thanks to all this, when the Ranchería River overflowed and flooded everything, we were able to react as a community, and with the knowledge we have we are going to recover our orchards.





ACKNOVLEDGEMENTS AND EVENTS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND EVENTS

The Foundation is especially proud of the two awards granted in 2024. The first, Xposible from Colsubsidio, was awarded to the Alta Guajira Indígena productiva y sostenible (Indigenous, Productive and Sustainable Alta Guajira) initiative. It is also a well-deserved recognition of the commitment of the Wayuu communities for the leadership undertaken with their transformation processes. Likewise, the Association of Business Foundations (AFE, from its name in Spanish) awarded the recognition to the best practices in accountability and management 2024, in the Medium-Sized Foundation category.

We participated in more than 20 events, workshops and national and international webinars. We attended six events in the Green Zone and Blue Zone during the COP16, held in October in Cali, with partners such as Fondo Acción, CIAT Bioversity Alliance, Redeamerica, Latimpacto, the Ministry of the Environment, and the United Nations, inter alia. We also shared a stand in the Green Zone, in the Bulevar del Río, in alliance with Alpina Colombia, where we showed how the Alpina Foundation and Alpina Colombia, working in a different way, have a shared purpose: to contribute to nourish the country, preserve biodiversity in the territories and contribute to overcome the gaps in the Colombian rural areas.













FORECASTS AND CHALLENGES FOR 2025





FORECASTS AND CHALLENGES FOR 2025

From analyses based on the systematization of lessons learned, project evaluations and readings on the challenges faced by family and community farming, the Strategic **Framework**2025-2030 was defined, which will guide the Foundation's work over the next five years.

In this context, it was defined that the Foundation will consolidate its operation as a social, environmental and productive laboratory. To this end, the strategic relationship strategy will be strengthened, promoting new connections with different stakeholders in the territories, to develop actions that add value to families and communities, enabling contexts for **systemic change** and the **strengthening of regenerative agrifood systems.**

Likewise, innovation processes, experimentation and generation of evidence and learning will be promoted. We will build collective knowledge through the design and implementation of learning agendas, with an important focus on the **knowledge transfer** to key stakeholders in the territory. Similarly, an innovative mechanism will be put in place to grant **financial support for association systems** in the niche of **small-scale family and community agriculture** so that they can access other financing mechanisms, pursuant to their possibilities for growth. Strategies will also be designed to enable the Foundation to diversify its sources of income.

Finally, and as previously mentioned, we will create a group of **community multiplier volunteers** in our laboratories, who will promote sustainable agroecological practices; additionally, we will implement an insurance mechanism to protect the livelihoods of project participants, as

contributions to the mitigation of the effects of climate change and contribute to the sustainability of our solutions.









For more information about the Alpina Foundation, we invite you to visit the following website

www.fundacionalpina.org

and its social networks:











as @fundacionalpina.