



Methodology for biodiversity protection payments to coffee growers in RGC Coffee's supply chain

Context

This consultancy arose from RGC Coffee's commitment to the environmental and social sustainability of its value chain, especially for the coffee growers facing low incomes and economic vulnerability. Given the progress of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the growing demand for business regulations and standards to halt nature loss, RGC Coffee sought to develop a payment mechanism for biodiversity protection that would recognize and incentivize good on-farm practices.

The initiative is led by RGC Américas SAS, with technical support from the firms ECS Consultores and SELVAR SAS, and was developed as a pilot in three coffee-growing municipalities: Salgar, Mistrató, and Anserma.

Project Description

The main objective of this consultancy was to develop and validate in the field a methodology for paying coffee growers in RGC Coffee's supply chain for biodiversity protection, strengthening the chain's resilience and anticipating future biodiversity compliance requirements. This was carried out through:

- Designing a methodology that links biodiversity conservation with income generation for coffee growers.
- Validating the methodology through a pilot on three representative farms.
- Formulating recommendations for the implementation and scaling of the payment scheme in the short, medium, and long term.

Results

Key results include:

- Final methodology validated in the field, combining technical rigor and practical applicability, with criteria based on the EUDR, TNFD, GRI, and the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Baseline and monitoring protocol implemented on three pilot farms (Salgar, Mistrató, and Anserma), ensuring traceability, transparency, and continuous improvement.
- Gradual payment scheme that recognizes different levels of biodiversity performance (70% and 100% of the payment) and incentivizes the transition to more sustainable practices.
- Technical definition of the payment amount, including a direct incentive and operational verification costs.
- Strategic recommendations for implementation and scaling, aimed at institutional validation and geographic expansion.

SELVAR provided essential support for the methodological design, the development of the monitoring protocol, technical validation in the field, the consolidation of baseline information, and the systematization of lessons learned and recommendations for the future implementation of the scheme.



Duration

4 months, May 2025 - August 2025

Allies



Client

