

RSPO

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

How to better conserve biodiversity? Insights from two BD-oil palm initiatives in Colombia

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**LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER
FROM VISION TO TRANSFORMATION**



Content

- About Fedepalma
- GEF Project – Biodiverse Oil Palm Landscapes
- Sulu Project – Identifying Biodiverse Savannahs in the Colombian Orinoco Basin



About Fedepalma

Colombian National Federation of Oil Palm Growers



Private, non-profit organization

Brings together, affiliates and represents:

- Oil palm growers
- Palm oil mills



Main units:

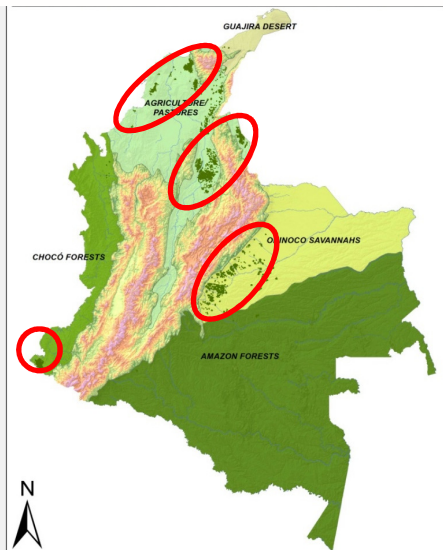
- Oil palm sector representation
- Sector planning and sustainable development
- Commercial strategy
- Research and technological innovation
- Capacity building

About the GEF Project

- **Objective:** Mainstream biodiversity conservation in Colombia's oil palm sector through better planning and adoption of agro-ecological practices
- **Collaboration** between:
 - Fedepalma: Colombian Federation of Oil Palm Growers
 - Cenipalma – Colombian research centre for oil palm sector
 - WWF Colombia
 - Humboldt Institute – Colombian National Biodiversity Research Institute
- 5 year project (2013-2018)
- US\$ 18.5M (4.2M GEF; 14.3M cofinancing)



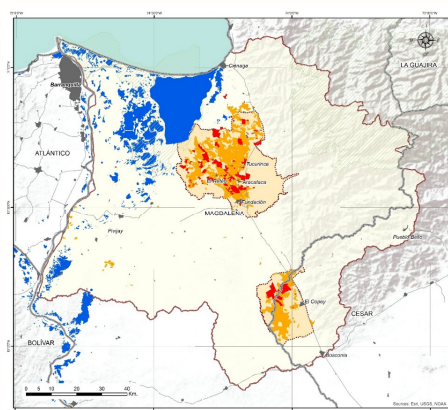
GEF Project – Context



- Oil palm development is not a major driver for deforestation in Colombia; plantations have mainly replaced other crops and pastures
- Colombia:
 - 114M ha total area
 - 60M ha forests
 - 35M ha introduced pastures
 - 8M ha agriculture
 - 500.000ha oil palm
- Agriculture sector: no central planning – decisions of what to plant, where and to what extent are made by private land owners
- Opportunity for oil palm sector to expand without affecting forests
- **Key issues:** water, other ecosystems



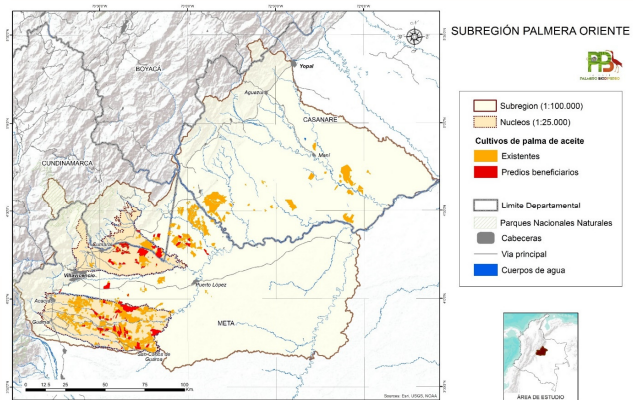
GEF Project Location



Northern Region – Caribbean coast
1'292.107ha

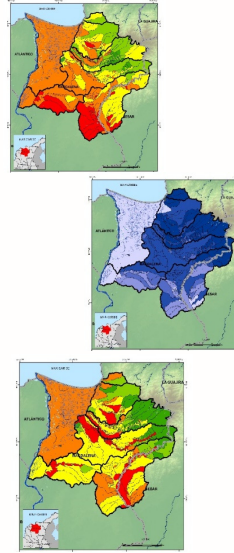


Eastern Region – Orinoco basin
2'899.181ha

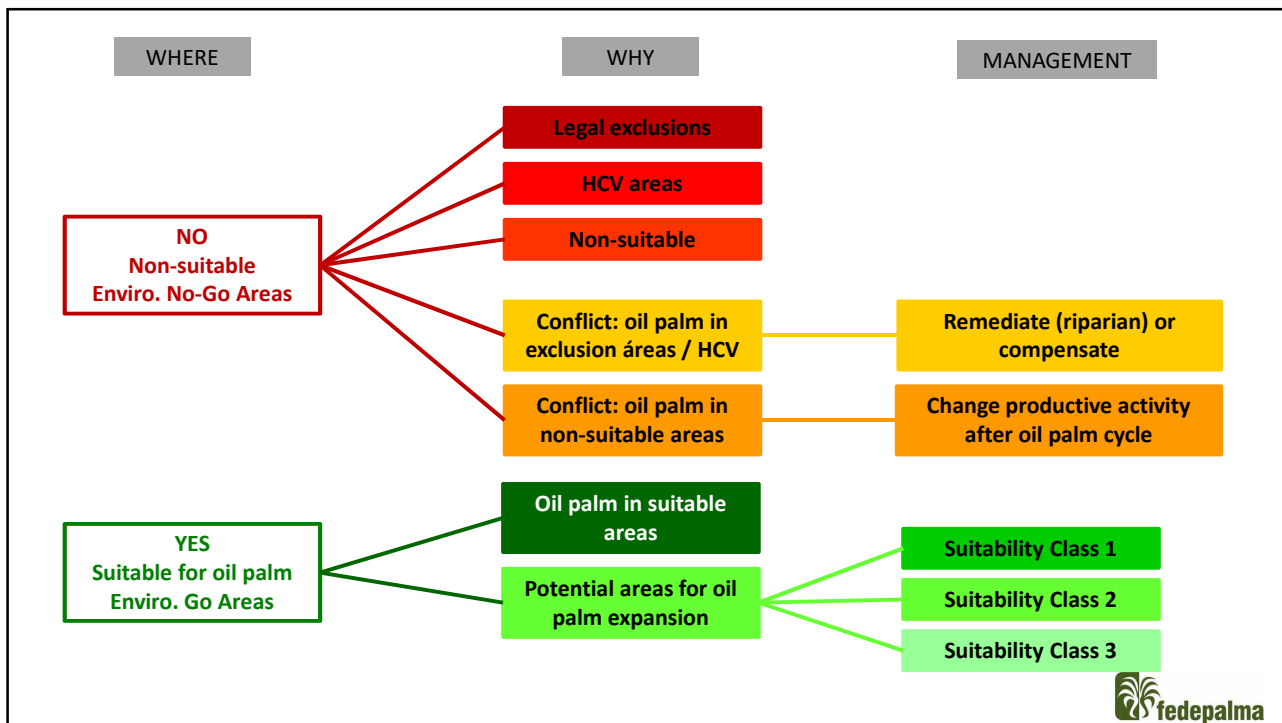


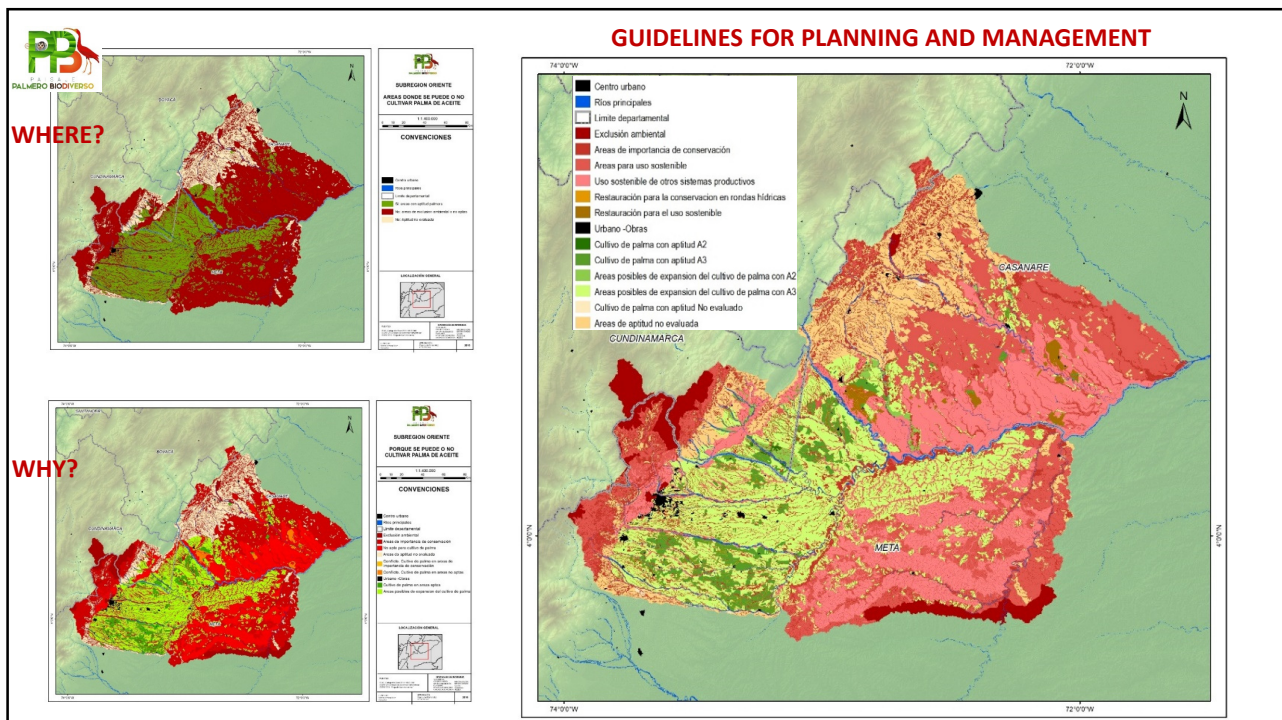
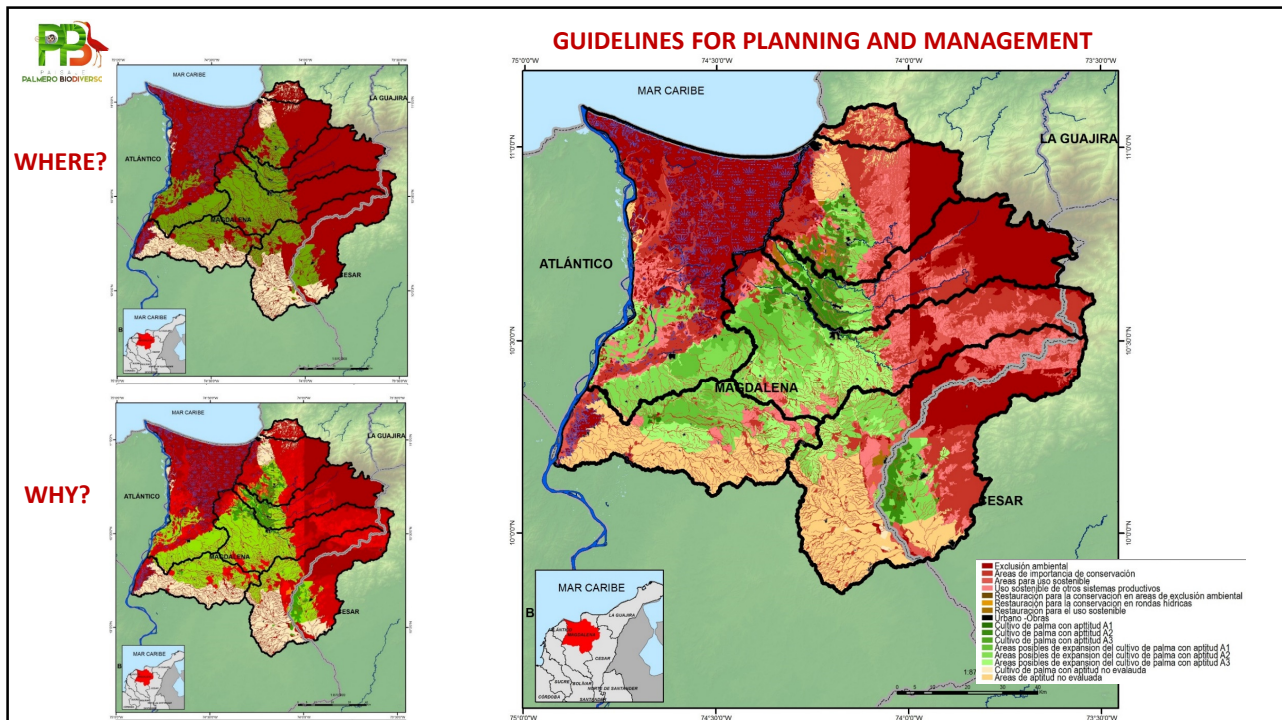
GEF Project – Key Result 1

Tool to incorporate environmental variables
in early planning of new oil palm projects



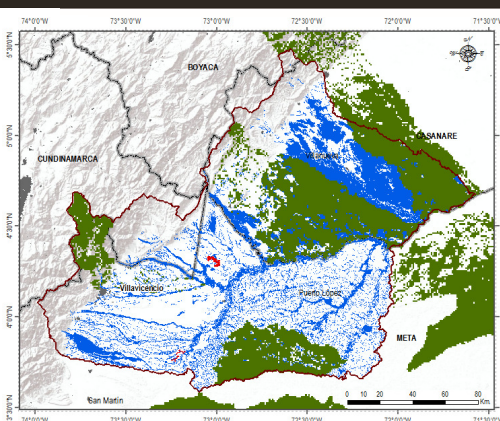
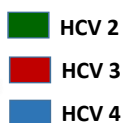
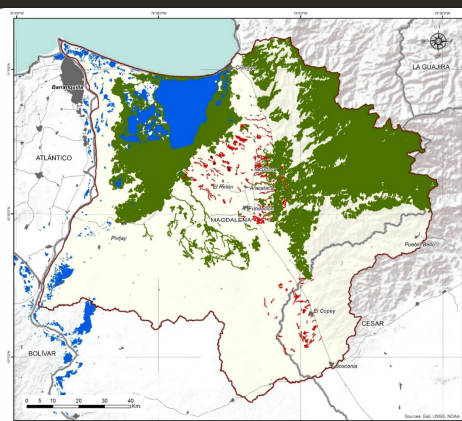
- Assessment by hydrological units
- Results inform oil palm investors as well as environmental authorities
 - Land use planning
 - Water concessions management
 - Risk management





GEF Project – Key Result 2

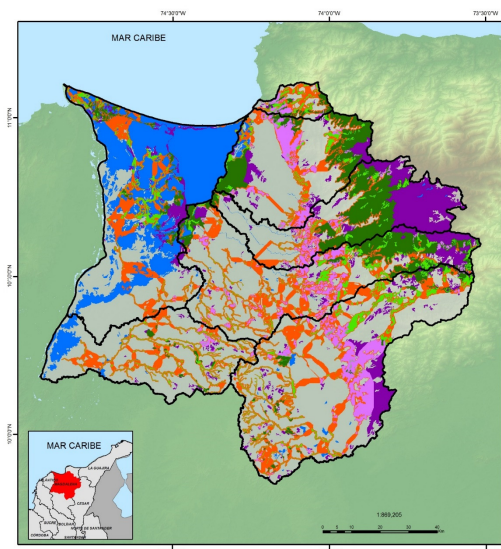
Two HCV Assessments at a landscape level



- This landscape analysis for HCVs 2, 3 and 4 (partial) benefits 21 mills in the Eastern region, and 9 in the Northern region
- These analyses optimize use of resources for HCV assessments
- Landscape HCV analyses can be a useful tool for countries with no HCV NI
- Lessons learned from this experience will be shared with HCVRN; they can help guide other landscape HCV assessments

GEF Project – Key Result 3

Potential areas for compensation based on ecosystem integrity and conectivity potential



- **Context:**
 - **Colombian Constitution:** Property has a social and ecological function
 - **National Biodiversity Policy:** Private sector has a key role in biodiversity conservation
- Areas in red and pink constitute potential corridors that oil palm companies can support as part of their compensation plans
- These areas will contribute to regional conservation goals
- Companies can even formalize them as **private reserves**, meeting specific conservation criteria and management commitments. These reserves would be part of Colombia's Protected Areas System
- Further discussion needed with the BHCVWG



Balancing spatial planning, sustainable biomass production and conservation: a practical multi-stakeholder approach to spatial planning for climate mitigation

Sulu (Sustainable Land Use)



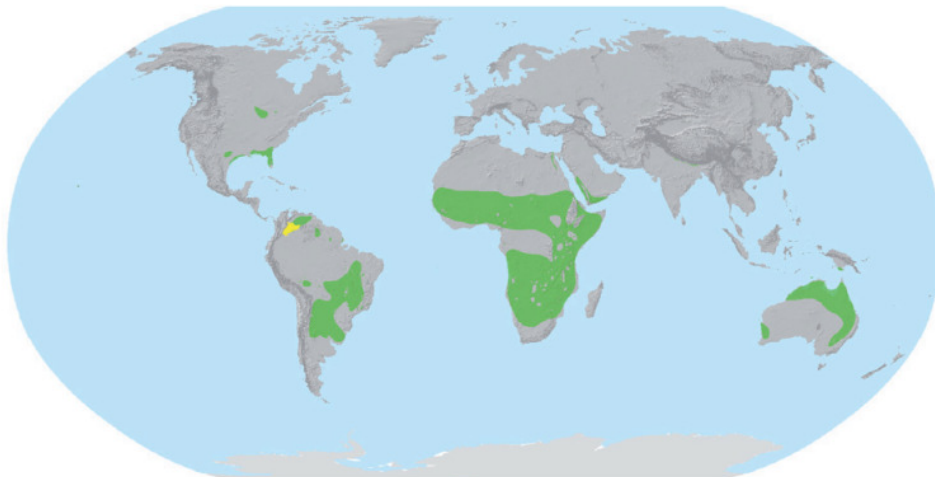
Objective: Reduction of GHG Emissions and loss of biodiversity due to land use change caused by unsustainable biomass production (EU RED 2009)

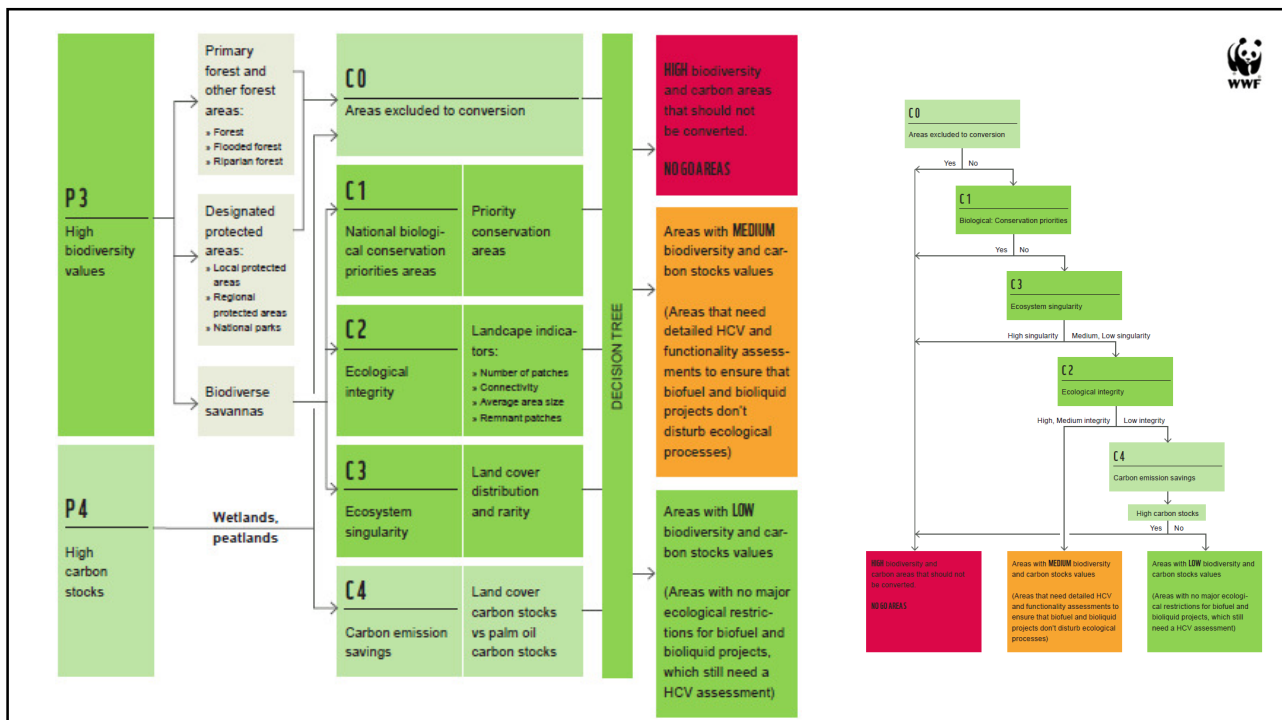
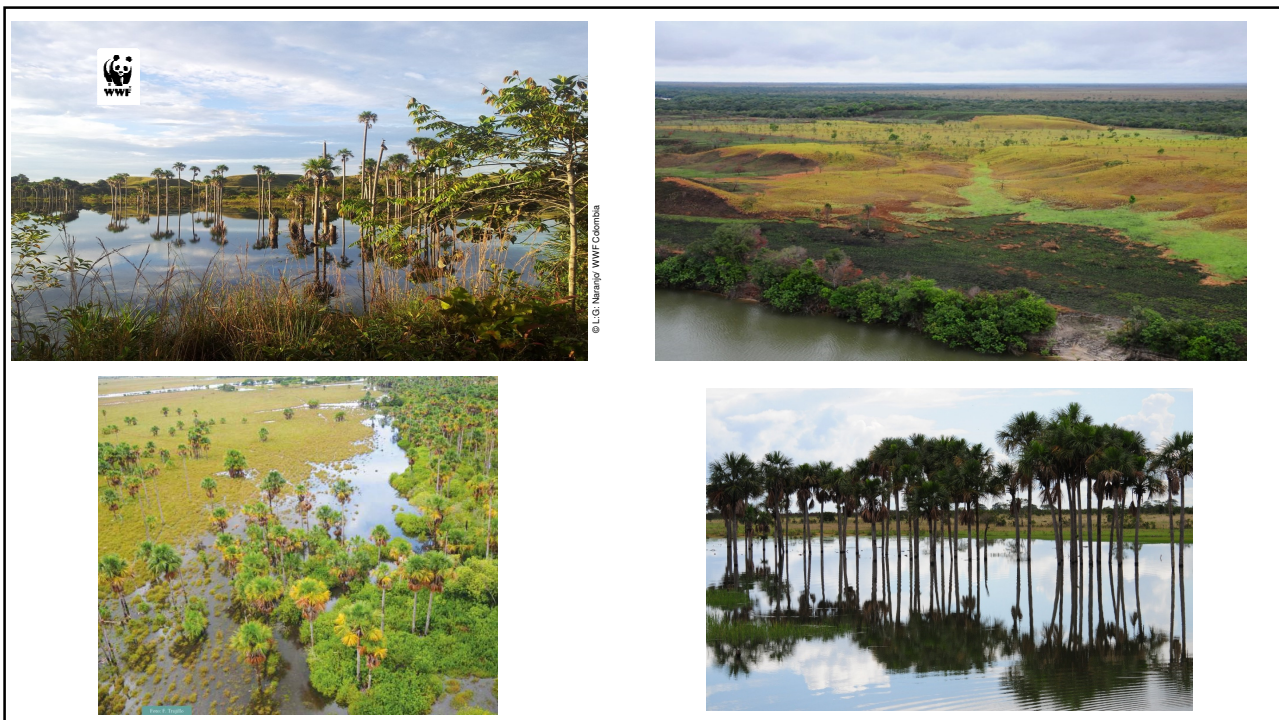
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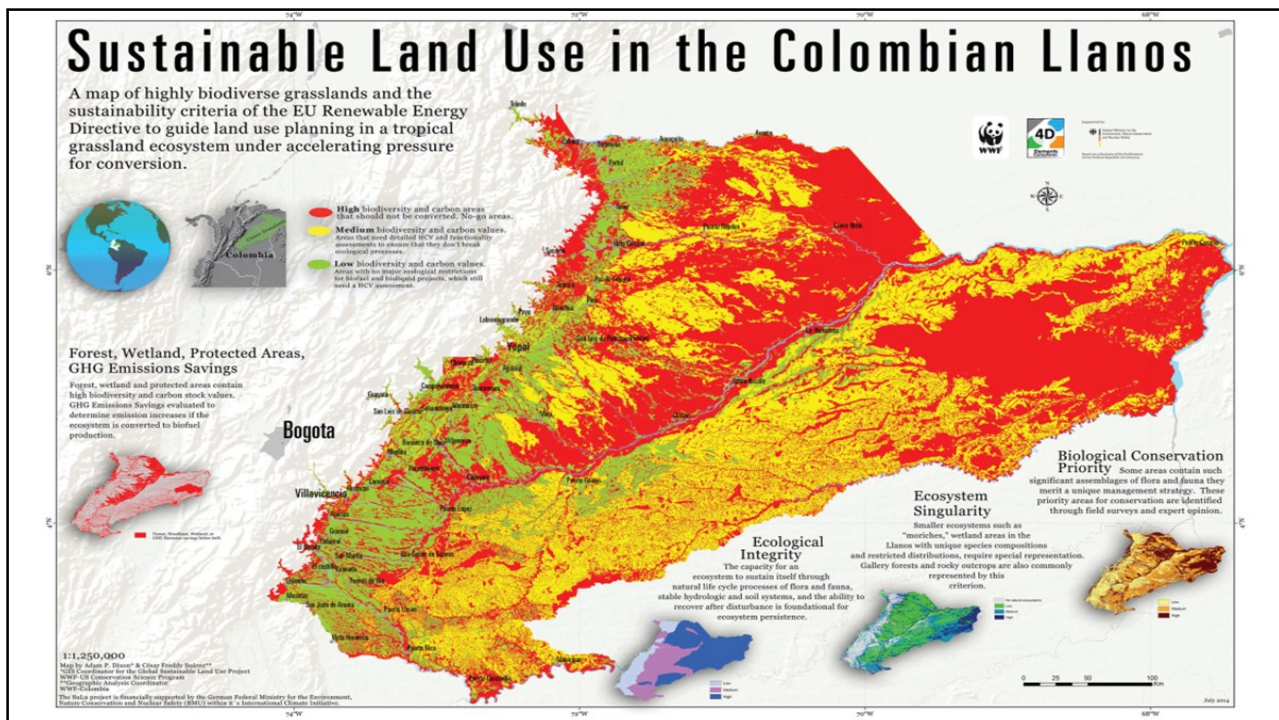
Foto: F. Trujillo



The Llanos ecoregion and the foothills of the Colombian Orinoco as defined by Olson et al. (2001), are part of the **great savanna biome** which covers about 15 million square kilometres worldwide and dominates half of the African continent, large parts of South America and Australia, and in smaller distributions in North America and Eurasia







Lessons from SuLu Project

- SuLu conceptual framework / results can inform discussion on vegetation cover coefficients for natural savannahs
- In countries like Colombia where most of expected expansion of oil palm plantations will occur in natural savannahs, it is important to recognize their biodiversity value and prevent potential impacts due to land use change
- More discussion needed with HCVRN and BHCVWG

Thank you!!

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