

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE



WHAT WE DO

PADF believes in caring for both people and planet. We support communities with their efforts to safeguard their ecosystems for current and future generations, and promote sustainable livelihoods. Critical efforts to create a cleaner, healthier planet while contributing to the fight against climate change include PADF's work to:

- Promote sustainable livelihoods in agriculture and forestry, adequate management of marine protected areas, as well as the circular economy and community recycling efforts.
- Help communities prepare for and recover from natural disasters – and adapt to climate change – through resilience-building and nature-based solutions.
- Advance environmental rights and justice, and seek institutional reforms that improve environmental protection.

IN 2020, PADF PROMOTED
SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS FOR

4,554 PEOPLE

AND HELPED

2,291 FAMILIES

ADOPT ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY BEHAVIORS.



PADF supported investment projects in Colombia, in urban and rural areas, resulting in the creation of conservation jobs, development of environmentally friendly community spaces, and greater environmental awareness in vulnerable communities.

In Laurel, a group of women formed a recycling association to collect and turn food waste into compost and use it as fertilizer in crops planted with native seeds, aimed at fighting deforestation. PADF provided training and funds for these entrepreneurial women to carry on this important work and feel empowered by their new role in the local economy while also protecting the environment.

A hemisphere of opportunity. For all.

FOCUS AREAS



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

PADF supports vulnerable populations to access livelihoods that have a positive impact on their environment and/or help address climate change. These livelihoods range from sustainable agroforestry and crafts made from climate-friendly materials to the full gamut of the circular economy, including empowerment of recyclers and alternative energy efforts. PADF promotes sustainable livelihoods through education and employability, social inclusion (e.g., women, vulnerable populations), and technological innovation.



RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season was the most active on record, with 30 tropical storms, including six major storms (Category 3+).

- **Nature-based solutions:** By implementing community-led risk reduction plans and promoting Nature-based Solutions – the strategic restoration, protection, or management of ecosystems to intentionally achieve development outcomes (Cohen-Shacham et al. 2016) – PADF helps communities adapt to climate change and be better prepared to withstand and recover from natural disasters.
- **Resilience to climate change:** Effectively preserving the region's vast natural wealth – key for combatting climate change – for future generations requires a bottom-up approach guided by science. Working with stakeholders in local communities to formalize and manage natural protected areas, PADF engages and strengthens vulnerable populations, including indigenous groups, while preserving key ecosystems such as seagrass and tropical rainforests.



ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

Transparency, accountability, access to justice, and strong democratic institutions are critical to protect the environment and its defenders. Through awareness raising and advocacy, PADF works to strengthen domestic laws and regulations and advance international frameworks – such as the Escazu Agreement and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) – that increase citizen participation on environmental issues.

ABOUT PADF

PADF believes in creating a hemisphere of opportunity, for all. We work across Latin America and the Caribbean to make our region stronger—more healthy, peaceful, just, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable for current and future generations. For nearly 60 years, we have served the most vulnerable communities, investing resources throughout the hemisphere. We partner with and enable civil society, governments, and the private sector for the greater good of the region.

CLIMATE ACTION

As a signatory of the NGO Climate Compact, PADF is taking steps to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from our internal operations by measuring our carbon footprint, which will allow us to identify our main sources of emissions and set ambitious GHG reduction targets.

STAY CONNECTED!

JOAQUÍN VALLEJO
Environment Practice Area Lead
jvallejo@padf.org

