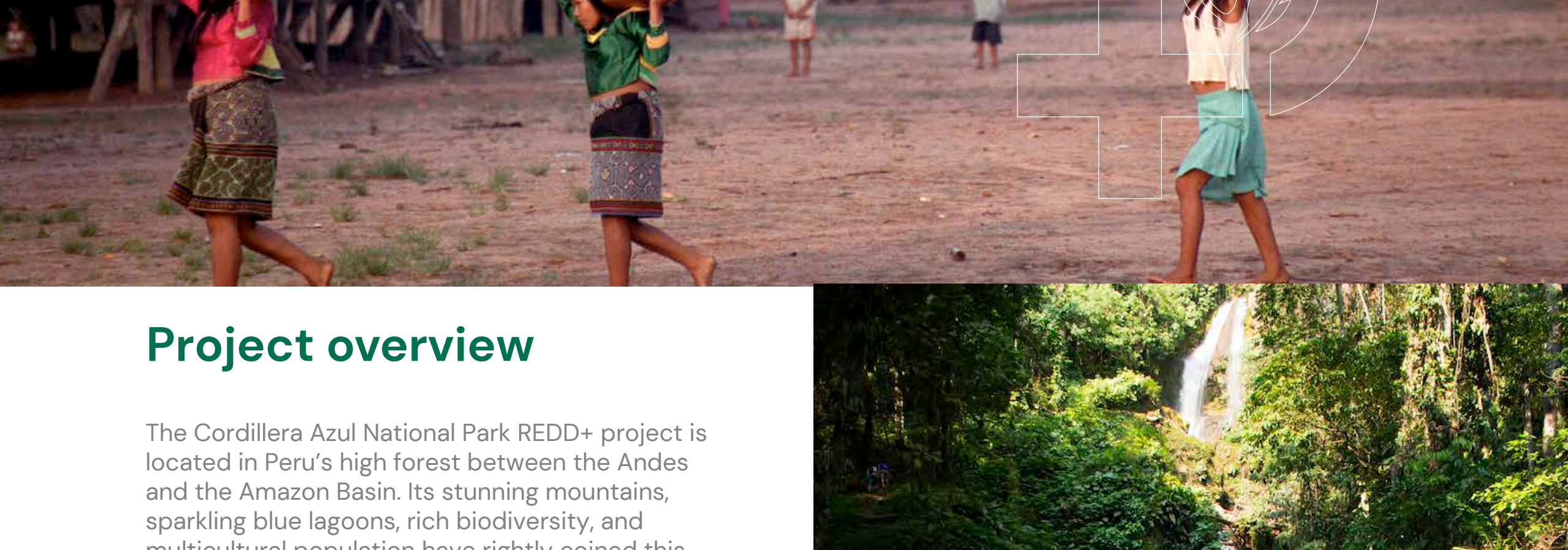


Cordillera Azul National Park Project

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES,
FOREST AND LAND-USE IN PERU

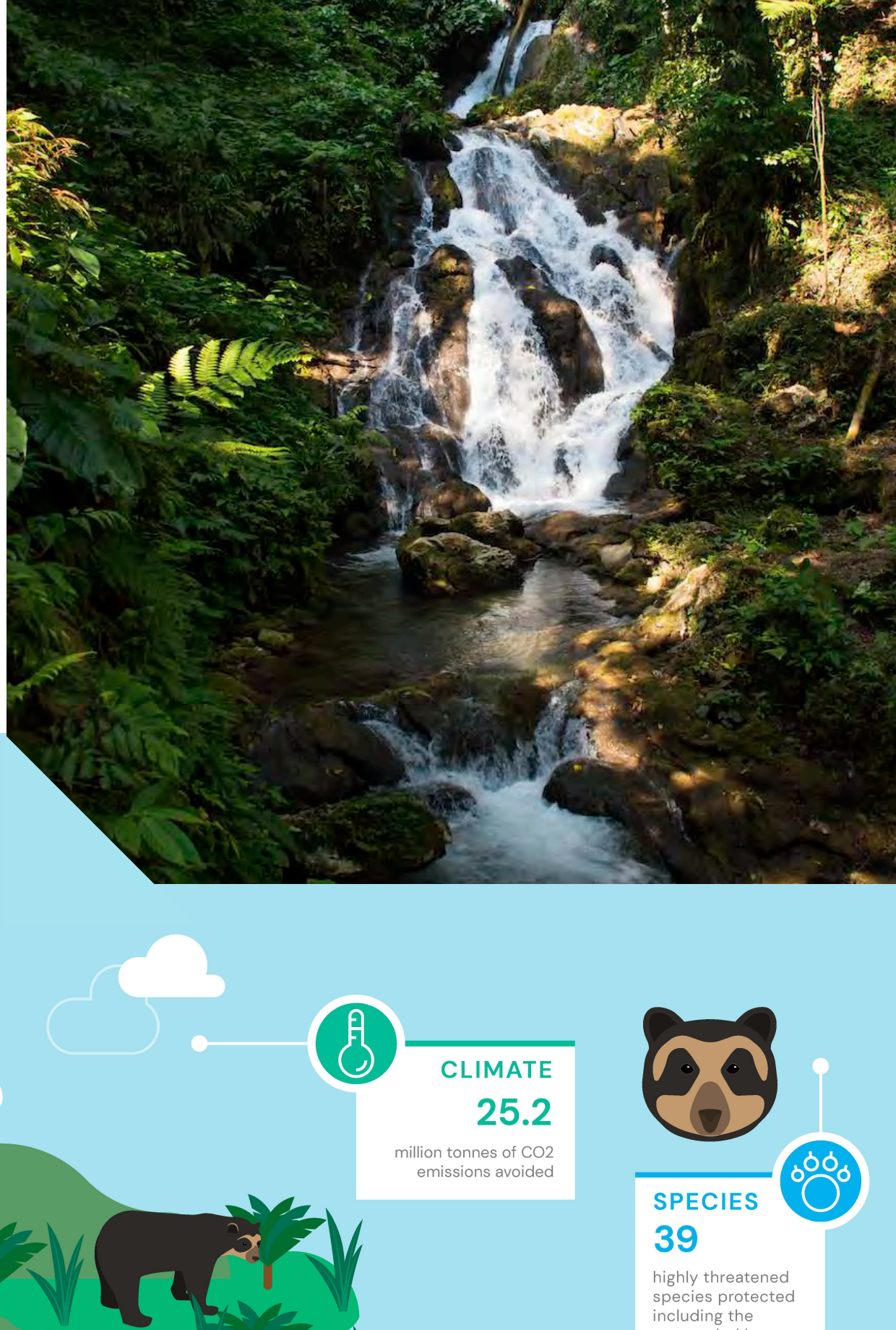


Project overview

The Cordillera Azul National Park REDD+ project is located in Peru's high forest between the Andes and the Amazon Basin. Its stunning mountains, sparkling blue lagoons, rich biodiversity, and multicultural population have rightly coined this area the 'jewel of the Peruvian Amazon'.

The project operates within a huge landscape of 3.7 million hectares to protect 1.3 million hectares of highly threatened forest by working with local and indigenous communities to transform land-use and drive sustainable and resilient revenue streams within the buffer zone of the National Park. In addition, a wide community-driven programme is empowering thousands with access to basic services such as sanitation, health care and education.

The Cordillera Azul National Park project was one of the early pioneering REDD+ projects and uses the sale of carbon credits as the vehicle to finance conservation activities that deliver transformative outcomes for climate, nature and local communities.



CORDILLERA AZUL

IMPACTS TO DATE

We require our project partners to measure the impact of their carbon projects across key criteria and then use performance indicators to track progress, ensuring they maximise their environmental and social impact.

LIVELIHOODS
688
jobs created or supported

SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE
28
sustainable businesses supported, such as a women's textile group using dyes from the forest to make bags & shirts through traditional techniques

INCLUSIVITY
39%
of jobs supported are held by women



CLIMATE
25.2
million tonnes of CO2 emissions avoided

SPECIES
39
highly threatened species protected including the spectacled bear, jaguar and harpy eagle

ECOSYSTEMS
1.3
million hectares of threatened forest protected

SUSTAINABLE COMMODITIES
Fair Trade & Organic fine, aromatic cacao and coffee and honey produced.

FAIR ECONOMIC RETURN
3,779,448 €
contributed to local economy

The project area

The Cordillera Azul National Park spans over 1.3 million hectares, making it one of the largest protected areas in Peru. Stretching across four regions, San Martín, Loreto, Huánuco and Ucayali, the park extends from mountainous cloud forests to lush Amazonian lowlands.

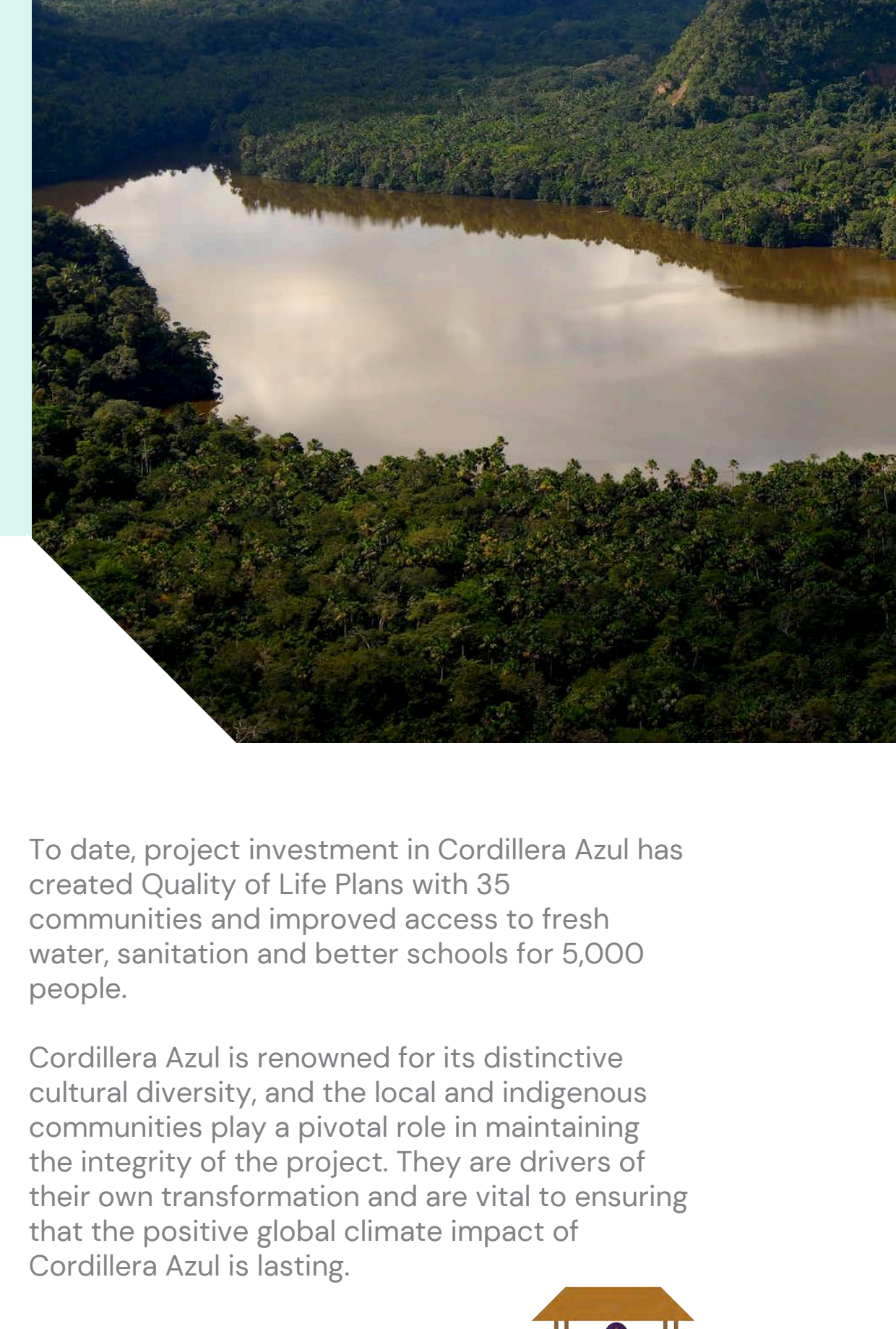
Its diverse ecosystems, which include mountain forest, hill forest, alluvial forest and wetlands, support the local communities' capacity to adapt to a rapidly changing climate. The Park is also the source of two of the Amazon River's major tributaries – the Ucayali and the Huallaga Rivers

– that feed 45 watersheds. These watersheds provide key ecosystem services such as flood and erosion protection to surrounding areas, in addition to supporting local agriculture.

Whilst there are no formal human settlements within the park, Cordillera Azul lies at the centre of a highly productive region with 520 rural villages and indigenous communities, all of which rely on local natural resources for their livelihoods. Cacao, coffee, and palm oil production drive the area's economic activity and migration into the area, causing deforestation and forest degradation. Illegal logging, cattle ranching, 'slash and burn' agriculture, illicit agriculture, and infrastructure development are also contributing to forest loss in the region.

Climate change mitigation

The Cordillera Azul National Park project addresses the drivers of deforestation in this region of Peru by financing conservation while supporting local communities in their transition to sustainable livelihoods. By properly valuing and paying for the carbon-storing service the forests provide, climate finance in the form of carbon credits changes the economic incentives by rewarding forest protection and providing education to local farmers to ensure a secure, commercially viable income stream through low-carbon land-use. To date, the project has reduced global emissions by 25.2 million tonnes of CO2 emissions – equivalent to taking over 5.4 million cars off the road for a year.



Supporting local communities

Community engagement is integral to ensuring the project is socially inclusive. CIMA, the project's implementation partner, has been working in the area since 2002 to strengthen local communities, build their capacity, and develop 'Quality of Life' plans which work to improve access to basic services and establish sustainable economic opportunities. These 'Quality of Life' plans are developed by and for communities and form a vision of what is hoped to be achieved within a decade, and the steps needed to do this.

To date, project investment in Cordillera Azul has created Quality of Life Plans with 35 communities and improved access to fresh water, sanitation and better schools for 5,000 people.

Cordillera Azul is renowned for its distinctive cultural diversity, and the local and indigenous communities play a pivotal role in maintaining the integrity of the project. They are drivers of their own transformation and are vital to ensuring that the positive global climate impact of Cordillera Azul is lasting.



The project works to drive inclusivity for women, with 39% of jobs supported held by women. Copyright: CIMA

Sustainable enterprises and commodities

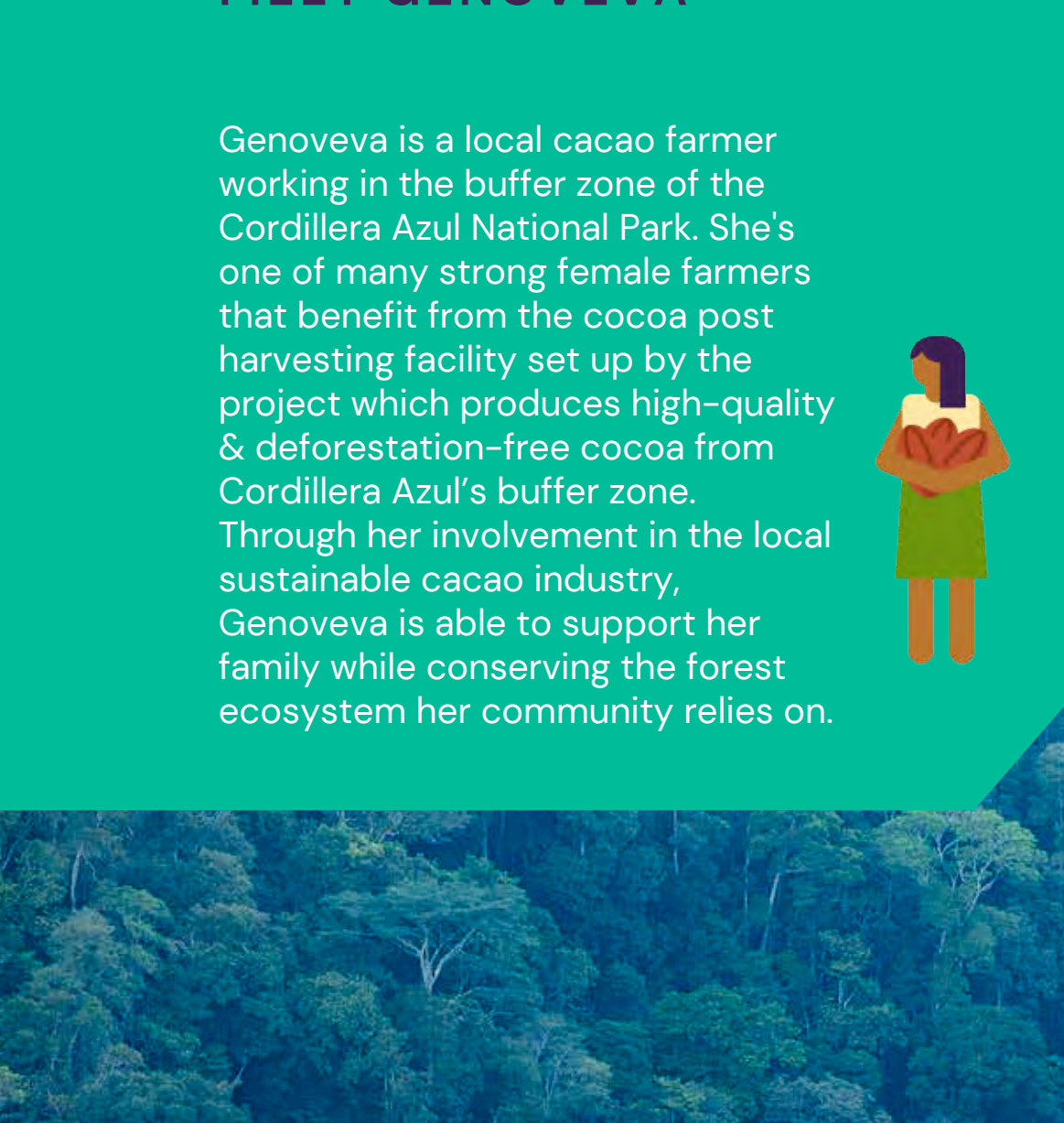
The Cordillera Azul project works to support resilient revenue streams for local communities based on sustainable enterprises and commodities. Using climate finance from the sale of carbon credits, the project supports 28 community-led enterprises, such as an ecotourism lodge and cocoa post-harvesting facility.

Ecotourism with indigenous communities

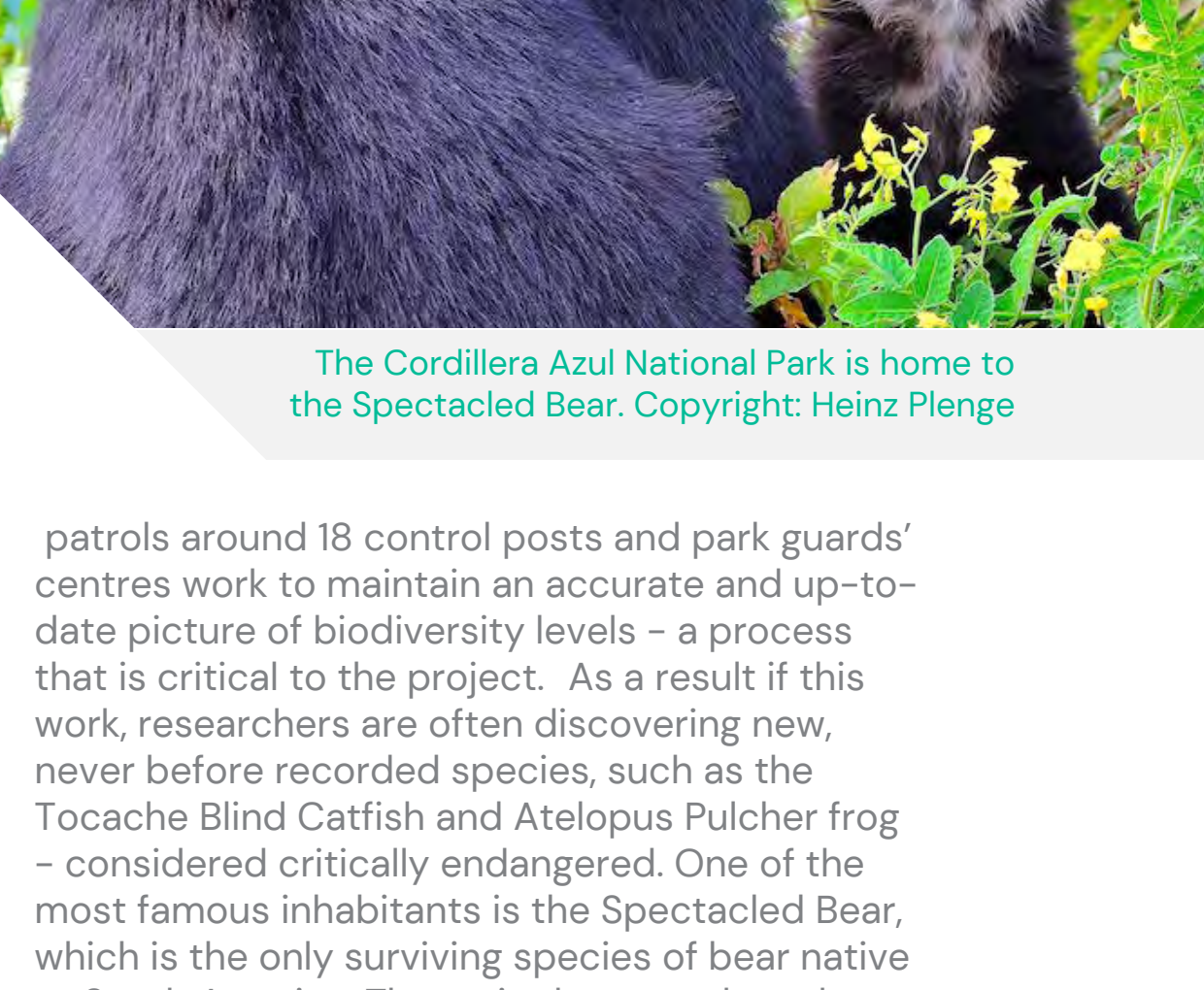
Partnering with the indigenous Yamino community, CIMA coordinated a project investment of more than \$100,000 into the development of an ecotourism lodge within the park's buffer zone. The lodge now supports job opportunities for more than 60 families in the Yamino community and which are centred around protecting the landscape and educating visitors on this unique landscape and the importance of its conservation.

A resilient, sustainable cacao industry

The region around Cordillera Azul is highly productive, which presents both opportunities and threats. A key focus of the project is driving the sustainable use of this land by local communities to prevent degradation of the landscape and encroachment into the park. Using climate finance from the sale of carbon credits, CIMA invested more than \$500,000 to establish a cacao post-harvest facility in the buffer zone for high-quality and deforestation-free cacao. The facility supports more than 220 cacao farmers and their families by providing technical assistance to increase their productivity, formalise their land tenure and offer a sustained purchase of cocoa at fair market prices in exchange for farmers committing to eliminate deforestation from the supply chain and the use of pesticides and chemicals.



Genoveva is a local cacao farmer working in the buffer zone of the Cordillera Azul National Park. She's one of many strong female farmers that benefit from the cocoa post-harvesting facility set up by the project which produces high-quality & deforestation-free cocoa from Cordillera Azul's buffer zone. Through her involvement in the local sustainable cacao industry, Genoveva is able to support her family while conserving the forest ecosystem her community relies on.



The Cordillera Azul National Park is home to the Spectacled Bear. Copyright: Heinz Plenge

A biodiversity hotspot

The Cordillera Azul National Park is an epicentre of biodiversity. Encompassing numerous unique habitats, the park is home to an estimated 6,000 species of plants, more than 80 large and medium sized mammals, about 180 fish species and over 600 bird species. This includes 39 threatened species, such as the spectacled bear, jaguar and harpy eagle.

Conservation activities inside the forest involve biological monitoring and scientific research, as well as surveillance and control of illegal human behaviours. Regular observations by park guards, either sightings or of tracks, along with routine

patrols around 18 control posts and park guards' centres work to maintain an accurate and up-to-date picture of biodiversity levels – a process that is critical to the project. As a result if this work, researchers are often discovering new, never before recorded species, such as the Tocache Blind Catfish and Atelopus Pulchre frog – considered critically endangered. One of the most famous inhabitants is the Spectacled Bear, which is the only surviving species of bear native to South America. The main threat to these bears is destruction and fragmentation of their habitat, making it difficult for them to travel through the forests to collect food such as ripe fruit, wild berries, cacti and honey. The project's work to conserve 1.3 million hectares of threatened forest safeguards these bears' habitat, allowing them to continue to roam the forests of Peru.



A HIGH-QUALITY, HIGH-IMPACT CARBON PROJECT

Strategic partnerships

The project is implemented by the Peruvian NGO, CIMA, an organisation committed to conserving, studying and managing protected areas. CIMA has a 20-year agreement with the National Authority for Protected Areas in Peru (SERNANP) for the daily management of the Cordillera Azul National Park.

CIMA's efforts in Cordillera Azul are internationally recognised for outstanding conservation outcomes through a collaborative, landscape approach with local, national and international partners.

Carbon credits fund the administration contract for the Cordillera Azul National Park, implemented by CIMA. SERNANP holds the ultimate authority for carbon credit sales.



Green List Award

The Cordillera Azul National Park project in Peru has been recognised by the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas. The IUCN Green List programme is an internationally recognised standard for how protected areas should be managed and aims to encourage, achieve and promote effective, equitable and successful protected areas by highlighting examples of excellent conservation of natural areas.

IUCN – Incubator for Nature Conservation

The IUCN – Incubator for nature conservation selected Cordillera Azul among 10 sites from different regions of the world, due to its innovative and feasible ideas for solving the long-term financing of the protected areas.

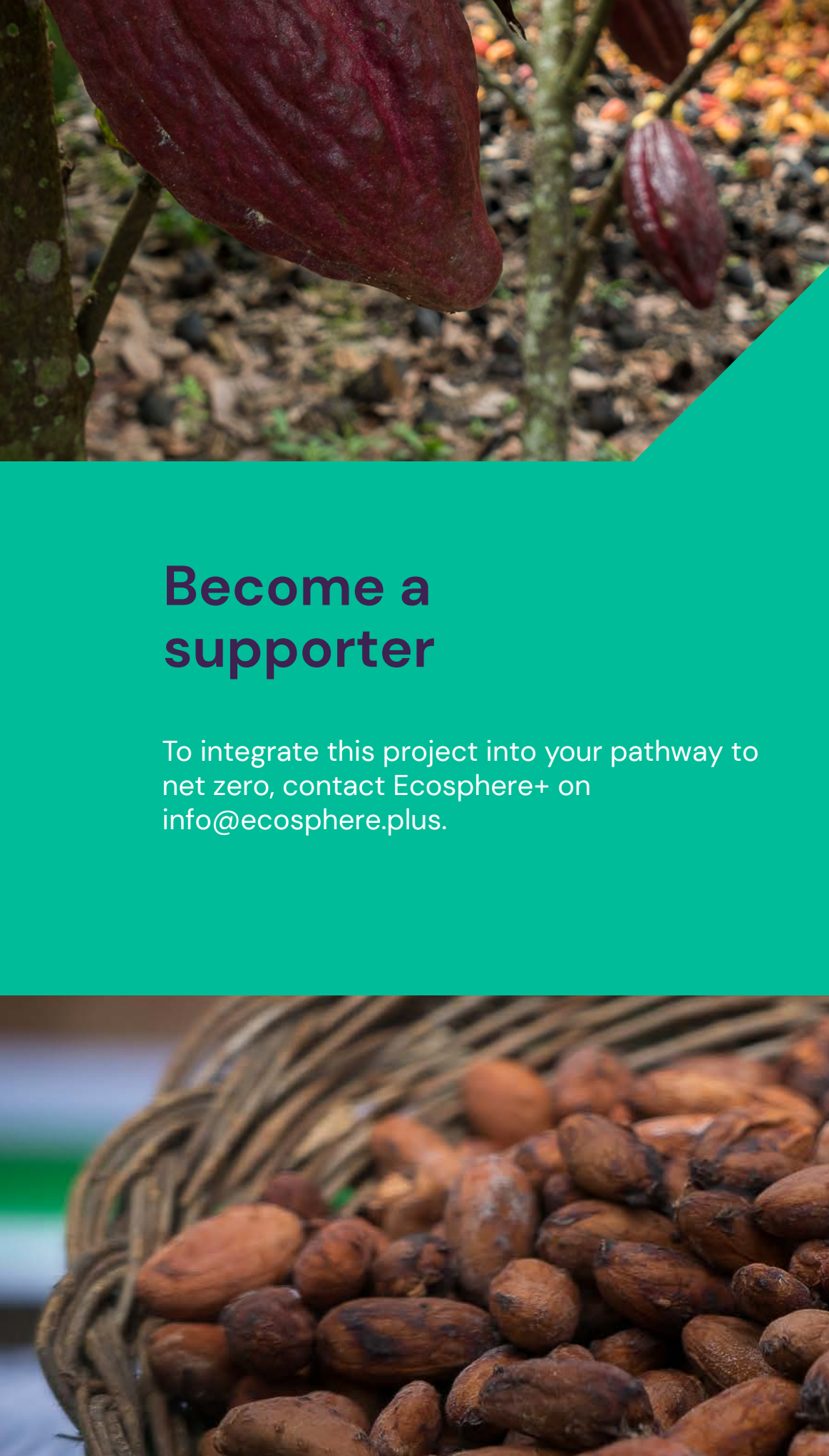
Through this initiative, the incubator provided technical expertise, guidance, advice and resources to design and implement innovative financing solutions in protected areas seeking to improve their business model and achieve financial sustainability.

External standards

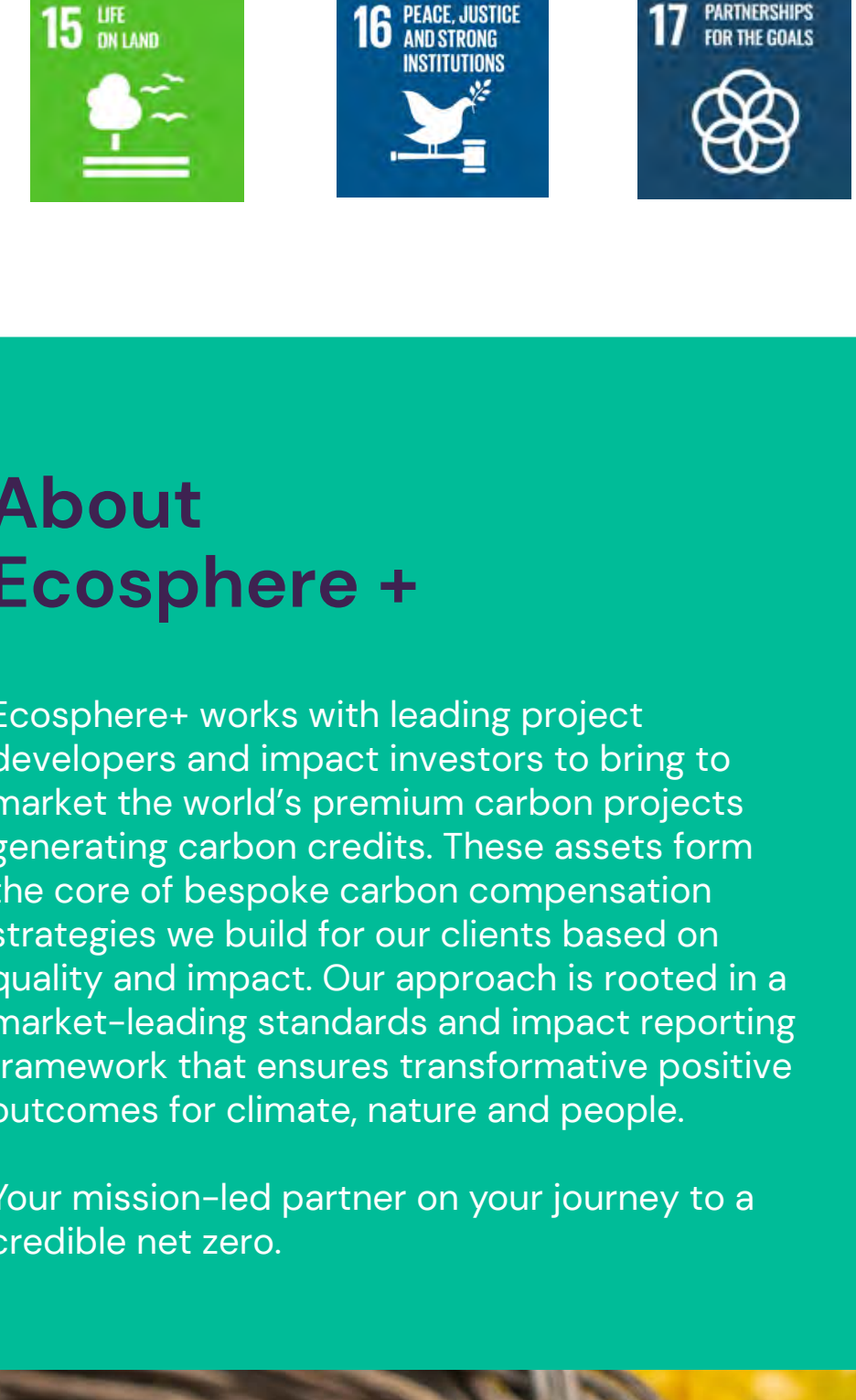
The Cordillera Azul project is validated by the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS project ID 985) and the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Standard (CCB) to the gold level for biodiversity.



A project funded post-harvesting facility provides high-quality & deforestation-free cocoa from Cordillera Azul's buffer zone. Copyright: CIMA



THIS PROJECT ADVANCES MANY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



About Ecosphere +

Ecosphere+ works with leading project developers and impact investors to bring to market the world's premium carbon projects generating carbon credits. These assets form the core of bespoke carbon compensation strategies we build for our clients based on quality and impact. Our approach is rooted in a market-leading standards and impact reporting framework that ensures transformative positive outcomes for climate, nature and people.

Your mission-led partner on your journey to a credible net zero.