



# **Management report**

# **2024**



**Impulso  
Verde**  
Kuaspue





# EDITORIAL

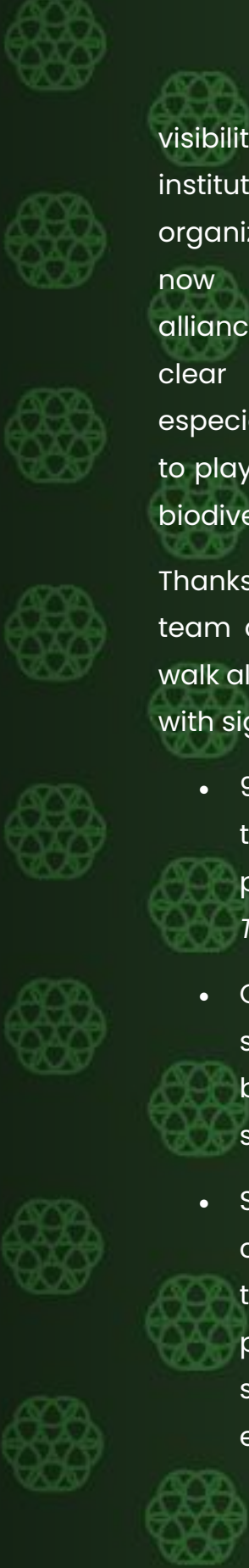
**Antoine G rign **



The year 2024 will be remembered as a turning point. COP16 on Biodiversity in Cali not only placed our city at the center

of the international stage, it also allowed us to demonstrate that development rooted in nature and communities is both possible and urgent. Over 12 days, we welcomed more than 14,000 visitors to our stand, sharing experiences, strengthening partnerships, and proudly spreading the message of conservation and climate action from the territories.

This collective effort solidified Impulso Verde's position as a key player in the environmental agenda. We achieved not only



visibility but also credibility with institutions, companies, and organizations with whom we are now building new strategic alliances. COP16 left us with a clear message: Colombia—and especially Cali—has a leading role to play in the protection of global biodiversity.

Thanks to the commitment of our team and the communities that walk alongside us, we closed 2024 with significant milestones:

- 9,000 children reached through our educational program *My Friends the Trees*.
- Over 40 hectares restored in strategic areas of Nariño, boosting ecological and social resilience.
- Strengthening of community nurseries and the creation of a pedagogical dome, a living space for environmental education.

We look toward 2025 with determination and a clear roadmap, based on three strategic pillars:

1. Scaling our community reforestation model to Valle del Cauca, ensuring broader territorial impact.
2. Incorporating agroecology and food sovereignty as a fourth line of action, to build sustainable and fair food systems.
3. Expanding our educational reach, integrating content on pollinators, soils, and biodiversity—because we know that education is the foundation of change.

Now more than ever, we reaffirm our mission: that every tree planted, every alliance built, and every child inspired is a seed of the future for our territories and for the planet.

Antoine Gérigné – Director,  
Impulso Verde Kuaspue  
Foundation





**Impulso  
Verde**  
Kuaspue

# FUNDACIÓN IMPULSO VERDE:



# WHO ARE WE?

Impulso Verde Kuaspue is a French-Colombian organization dedicated to the restoration of ecosystems in Valle del Cauca and Nariño, Colombia, through a model of environmental, social and economic development with local populations. Its action is divided into three strategic lines:

1. **The restoration of ecosystems**, through community reforestation on the one hand, with a network of 15 nurseries that has allowed the production and planting of more than 1,350,000 trees since 2016, and the implementation of silvopastoralism on the other hand, with 250 hectares established by the end of 2024 and more than 200 small milk producers trained in sustainable livestock practices in Nariño. Various projects are also carried out within the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park in Valle del Cauca, in particular through training in agroecology for the return of pollinators and the preservation of biodiversity.
2. **Development of green sectors with communities**, in order to ensure additional income from activities that preserve the environment. Among the initiatives developed are beekeeping and the cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plants with a view to their transformation into natural cosmetic products that are then commercialized, thus strengthening the autonomy of rural and indigenous communities. This year, this line of action has been consolidated with the creation of the Nativa brand to promote





products made by communities that protect biodiversity and forests.

3. **.Sensibilización environmental** protection among the general public and in particular among the younger generations, through an annual festival on biodiversity, the project "My friends the trees" for primary school students, or training and education workshops for individuals or companies. In Cali, on land donated by the Lycée Français Paul Valéry, Impulso Verde has its own facilities: a geodesic dome and an educational nursery. These raise awareness not only among students of the French institute and other schools in the department, but also among university students and employees of companies, addressing problems and solutions related to climate change or biodiversity loss, and discovering the plant world through interactive and original workshops such as plant music.

The Impulso Verde Kuaspue team is international, multicultural and multidisciplinary at the same time. Some members are from the same communities we work with, ensuring cultural and territorial roots and a deep understanding of local needs and challenges.



# THE MOST OUTSTANDING NEWS OF 2024

## COP 16 Biodiversity in Cali: a springboard for Impulso Verde



Ph. Vanessa Suarez

The 16th Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity (COP16) made Cali the global epicenter of reflections on biodiversity conservation in October 2024 and allowed the Impulso Verde Foundation to play a leading role in this event. For twelve days, the French-Colombian organization was able to share and highlight its actions of ecological restoration, development of sustainable economic alternatives and environmental education. COP16 also provided an opportunity to consolidate strategic alliances to strengthen their initiatives in Nariño and Valle del Cauca.

Date	Son	Description
October 19	Eco-Festival at the Dog Park	Presentation of awareness-raising projects and activities for children with the My Friends the Trees workshop and for everyone, the sensory experience to explore nature with the 5 senses
October 23-25	Los Almendros Sports Center	This event, organized by the Cali City Council, reached more than 700 people, including children, young people, parents and teachers from the city's public schools, through the "My Friends the Trees" experience.
October 27	Symbolic tree planting	Presentation of Impulso Verde's activities during a yoga, meditation and symbolic tree planting event, raising funds for a tree planting project in Terrón Coloreado (outskirts of Cali) on November 10, 2024.
Different days during COP16	Creation of 15 collective frescoes	Creation of murals with illustrations on biodiversity in Colombia, in which children, young people and adults participated.
During the 12 days of COP16	Stand Green Impulse on Boulevard del Río	The stand helped raise awareness among citizens and tourists about the importance of biodiversity conservation. Highlights included the Apis mellifera educational hive and the meliponine photo exhibition, which raised awareness among more than 2,000 people about the importance of pollinators; the sensory experience, where visitors could listen to the music of plants; and the sale of Nativa products, promoting responsible and sustainable consumption.

## Activities that inspire and raise awareness

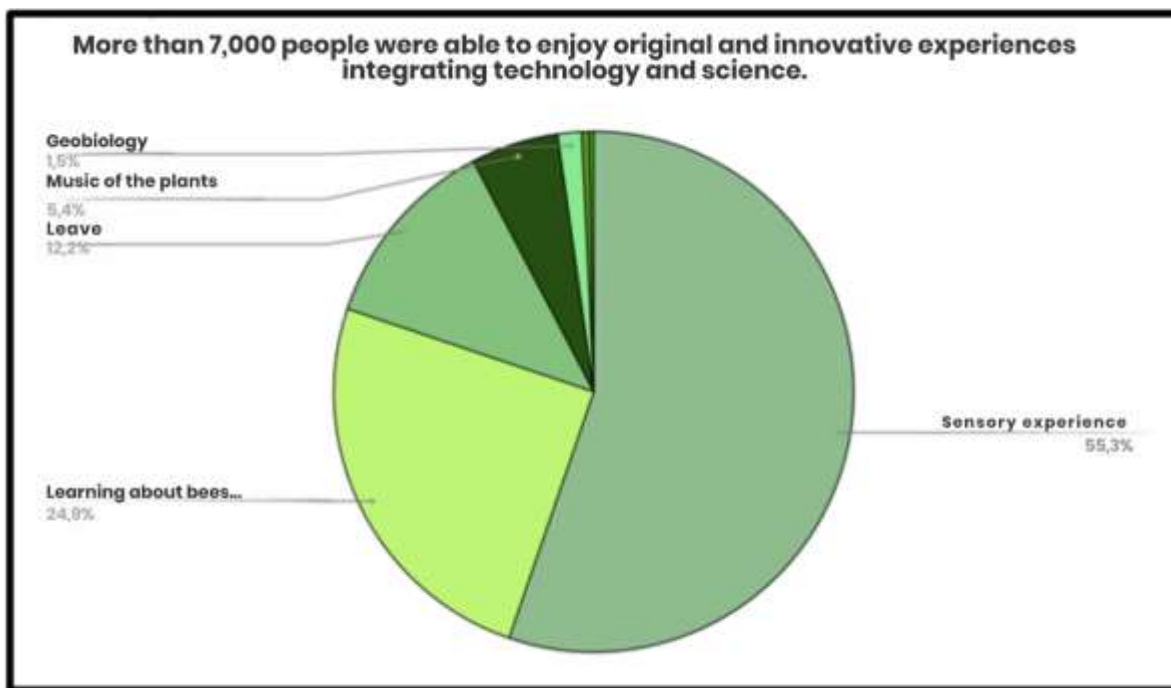
Several sensory and immersive experiences were one of the great attractions of Impulso Verde's participation in COP16, raising awareness among more than 18,000 people. On Boulevard del

Río, the Impulso Verde booth was filled during the two weeks of the event, with its exhibition of native trees, its beehive-school and its experience of the five senses, where visitors could listen to the music of the plants, smell and recognize natural aromas and explore the textures and flavors of the Andean ecosystem. Two conferences on electrophysiology and plant music were also organized in collaboration with the Clandestine Pergola.



These events, which brought together nearly 500 participants, amazed by the innovative interaction between technology and nature, allowed the public to discover the ability of plants to modify their electrical activity, and therefore the frequencies they emit, according to their environment. This awareness of the interaction between humans

and plants allows everyone to reconnect with the plant world in a deeper way. Finally, the educational workshop "My Friends the Trees" allowed more than 700 children, young people and teachers to participate in environmental awareness activities at the Los Almendros Sports Center.





# NATIVA<sup>®</sup>

• I M P U L S O   V E R D E •





## **Launch of the Nativa brand: promotion of products made by communities that preserve forests and biodiversity**

COP16 was also the scene of the official launch of Nativa, Impulso Verde's brand of sustainable products. The product range includes: moorland honey, herbal soaps, oils, creams and lip balms made from beeswax and natural extracts. By the end of 2024, Christmas hampers have also been designed as part of the diversification of the marketing strategy. The profits from the sale of these products are reinvested in community projects in the green sector, consolidating a circular economy model with an impact on the conservation of biodiversity.



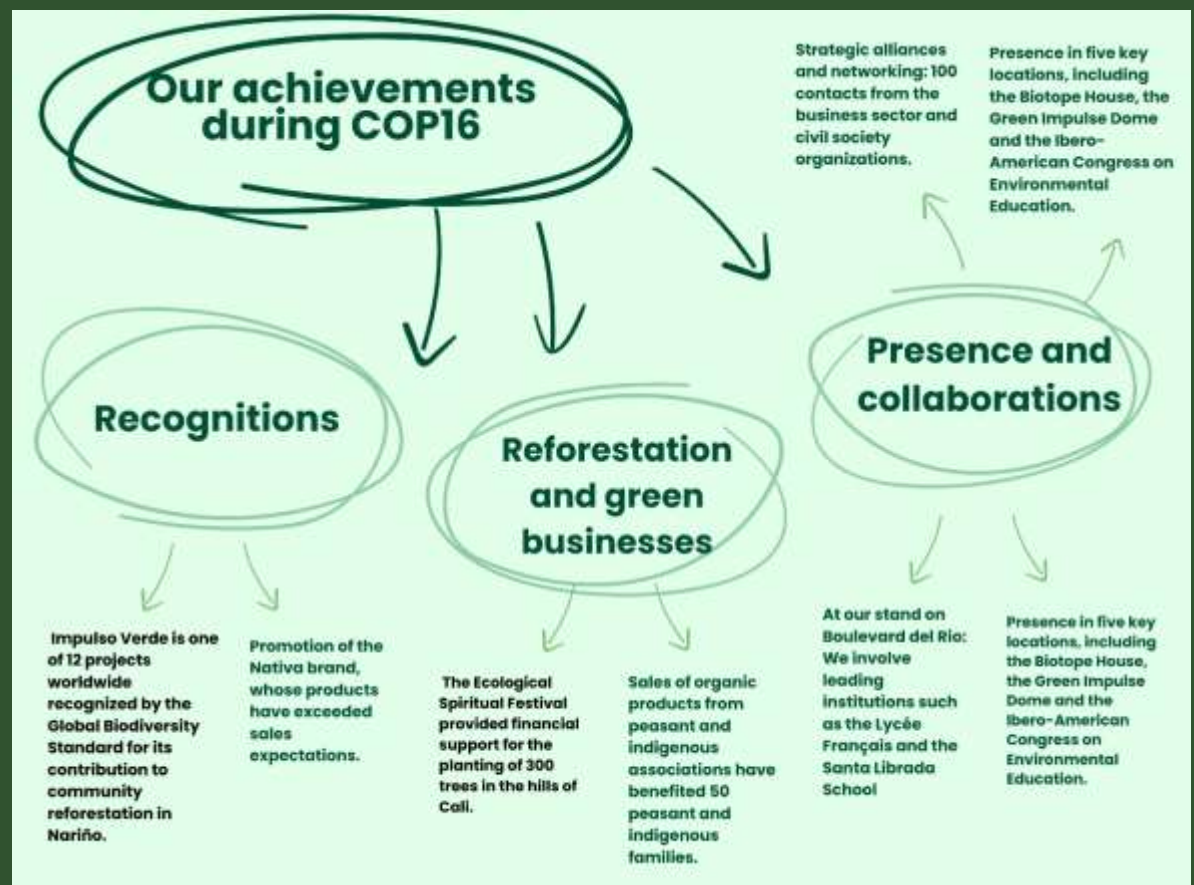
## **Partnerships for the Future**



Impulso Verde's participation in COP16 was a major step forward, with concrete and promising results. Collaboration ties were strengthened with a wide range of organizations, both national and international, from the public and private sectors. On this occasion, Impulso Verde highlighted its community reforestation program in the department of Nariño, made possible thanks to the work...

carried out since 2016 with the network of community nurseries for the production and planting of native trees. This initiative is part of a global approach that includes both the development of sustainable economic alternatives, in particular thanks to the support of the French Development Agency (AFD) since 2020, and environmental awareness actions.

**COP16 made it possible to draw clear guidelines: to intensify concrete actions in favor of biodiversity, strengthen territorial anchorage and amplify the impact at the national level.** In this way, Impulso Verde fully affirms its role: being an engine for the restoration of ecosystems in Colombia, together with the communities, reconciling the protection of Nature and economic development for them, and promoting environmental education.





**Obtaining one of the world's first Global Biodiversity Standard certifications:**

COP16 was also an opportunity for Impulso Verde and its partner Reforest'Action to receive one of the first Global Biodiversity Standard (TGBS) certifications as part of the community reforestation program in Nariño. This new standard, launched by several of the main international botanical gardens, evaluates and certifies the impact of reforestation programs around the world in terms of effective biodiversity restoration.

Obtaining the TGBS certificate by the Reforest'Action and Impulso Verde teams at COP16 in Cali - Oct. 2024



## **Organization of two round tables with the French committee of IUCN within the Impulso Verde Pedagogical Center:**

Impulso Verde hosted in its educational dome the event co-organized with the French Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN): "How to support civil society initiatives to preserve biodiversity in developing countries?". The event brought together the French actors present at COP16 around two round tables:

1. A first roundtable on financing and supporting civil society action, that provided an opportunity to discuss the main challenges of biodiversity partnerships, the most appropriate methods to support their actions, as well as their roles in the implementation of national strategies.
2. A second round table on the French experience at the service of international cooperation, which resumed the networking necessary to promote the richness and plurality of the French experience.

The event concluded with the discovery of plant music, thanks to the technology available at Impulso Verde, which allows the electrical activity of plants to be translated into musical notes.







## **Network of community nurseries in Nariño: a model to replicate for ecological restoration in Colombia**

The reforestation program, launched in 2016, began with the creation of the network by bringing together the first three community nurseries whose members had been trained in forest seedling production by SENA (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje – National Training Service)."

Since 2016, the network has grown from 3 to 15 nurseries, with more than 70% women and representing just under 200 families. This demonstrates the viability of this community-based model and its potential for replication, through the formation and gradual integration of an increasing number of communities into the network, as the reforestation program expands, thanks to new financial partners and their long-term commitment. Therefore, this model, which includes continuous support and training not only technical but also socio-organizational, is a real success, with new communities regularly applying to join the Green Impulse network to become reforestation actors in their geographical area of influence, most of the time to preserve water resources. In fact, this

process not only improves the skills of the communities, but also ensures their active participation in national ecosystem restoration policies.

Since its creation in 2016, more than 1,350,000 trees of native species have been produced and planted, with the aim of reaching 1.5 million by 2025. These actions have had a significant impact on the restoration of degraded ecosystems, the preservation of biodiversity, and the fight against climate change in the department of Nariño.”

Therefore, the replication capacity of Impulso Verde's community restoration model represents an important asset, not only for the department of Nariño, which has a considerable challenge in terms of reforestation for the coming years, but also at the national level. In this sense, the Network of Nurseries created by Impulso Verde in Nariño is recognized as a benchmark for community ecological restoration.

Key figures	Realization
Native trees planted since 2016	1 350 000
Managed Community Day Care Centers	15
Endogenous species produced	+130



A woman with dark hair, wearing a tan puffer jacket over a white lace top, smiles while holding a young tree sapling in a black plastic bag. The background shows a grassy field with trees in the distance under a blue sky with white clouds. The text 'CHAPTER 1' is in a green box at the top right.

**CHAPTER 1**

# **ECOSYSTEMS RESTORATION**

## CHAPTER I: ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Colombia, a country of mountains and exceptional biodiversity, is home to more than 50% of the world's páramo ecosystems. These strategic ecosystems, true water towers of the country, provide 70% of the water resource consumed by 85% of the Colombian population. Their conservation is not only an ecological necessity, but a priority to ensure the well-being of millions of people. The importance of protecting these vital spaces has been highlighted by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, since their degradation directly affects water security and the political stability of the territories. However, the pressure on these ecosystems, due to agricultural expansion, cattle ranching, mining, and climate change, makes it urgent to have a comprehensive and integrated restoration strategy that involves communities, institutions, the private sector, and environmental organizations.

With the aim of promoting the conservation of the moors and the high Andean forest and encouraging the adaptation of territories to climate change, Impulso Verde acts for the reforestation and restoration of landscapes and their ecosystem services. Through strategies such as **planting a wide variety of native species**, including endangered species (IUCN Red List) and implementing **sustainable practices** and nature-based solutions such as silvopastoralism, the Foundation contributes together with local communities to the return of biodiversity and the protection of water resources.



### 1.1. Community nurseries for the restoration of the high Andean forest and the preservation of the páramos in Nariño

The development of the Impulso Verde network of nurseries in the south of the country has made Nariño a regional benchmark in environmental conservation, recognized by **the Alexander von Humboldt Institute of Biological Research**. Beyond the reproduction of native species in general, the network particularly encourages the recovery of endangered native tree species (IUCN Red List), the promotion of agroecology, economic autonomy, the safeguarding of traditional knowledge and territorial rootedness through sustainable agricultural practices and economic activities. In 2024, the network made significant progress and addressed a variety of challenges, including some notable nurseries:

#### Nurseries profiles in 2024:

Nurseries	Localisation	Members	Minimal Production Capacity per year	Native species
Sinchimaki	Municipality of Cumbal	11 members (55% women, 45% men)	100.000 trees/year	40+
Tejiendo Caminos para el Buen Vivir	Hamlet de Yascual, Túquerres	2 active members	20.000 trees/year	40+
Las Iglesias	Corregimiento de Santa	6 persons (83% women, 17% men)	5.000 trees/year	6+

<b>Nurseries</b>	<b>Localisation</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Minimal Production Capacity per year</b>	<b>Native species</b>
	Bárbara, Pasto			
Chiltazol	Hamlet Maramba, Sapuyes	6 members (100% women)	25.000 trees/year	15
Pumamaki	Hamlet Guan Comunidad, Guachucal	24 members (54% women, 46% men)	60.000 trees/year	24
Manantial de Vida	Hamlet San Antonio, Potosí	11 members (64% women, 36% men)	20.000 trees/year	28
Ecoturagro	Hamlet El Jurado, Santa Bárbara	8 persons (75% women, 25% men)	20 000 plants/year	14
Mujeres Aldanenses Sembrando Vida	Municipality de Aldana	5 women (100% women)	20 000 plants/year	20+
El Chalgvar	Hamlet Inchuchala, Pupiales	11 members (73% women, 27% men)	20 000 plants/year	15



<b>Nurseries</b>	<b>Localisation</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Minimal Production Capacity per year</b>	<b>Native species</b>
Tulpas Ambientales	Municipality de Córdoba	2 members (100% men)	15 000 plants/year	19
Mujer Emprendedora	Hamlet La Boyera	45 persons (84% women, 16% men)	25 000 plants/year	20
La Tulpa	Hamlet San Rafael, Consacá	4 women (100% women )	5 000 plants/year	30+
AAEMA	Municipality de Ancuya	8 members (62,5% women, 37,5% men)	10 000 plants/year	12
Plantando Vida	Vereda Santa Isabel, lagune La Cocha, Pasto	11 members (54,5% women, 45,5% men)	20 000 plants/year	20
AsoProgresar	Hamlet San Antonio, Buesaco	15 members	45 000 plants/year	15

### **1.1.1 Training workshops and monitoring of the proper functioning of the nurseries.**

The technical training plan was developed and expanded over the years of the program's implementation and now includes **23 technical modules**. These modules address key aspects of agroecological production in nurseries such as the collection and processing of seeds of native tree species, the development of substrates, the production of biofertilizers, biols for disease control, the use of mycorrhizae and effective microorganisms. The main objective is to improve the quality of seedlings and increase the profitability of the nursery activity, through the adoption of economically viable, socially compatible and environmentally responsible production techniques. To this end, a training and technical support programme is defined with each nursery and is deployed continuously throughout the year. Production techniques integrate local and ancestral knowledge, as well as scientific and academic contributions.

In addition to technical training, a dozen socio-organizational and entrepreneurship modules are provided, in order to optimize the administrative management of the incubator, improve the governance of the organization and optimize the income of the association as such and of each of its members, contributing to the environmental and social well-being of the communities.

In 2024, 106 training workshops were held for the nurseries of the Nariño Nursery Network, based on a participatory diagnosis through social mapping.





## 1.2. Tree planting

Since 2016, the reforestation program has allowed the planting of more than 1,350,000 trees in the department of Nariño, thanks to the peasant and indigenous associations of the nursery network.

Each nursery is responsible, within its area of influence, for:

1. Identify beneficiaries, mainly smallholders who request trees to reforest their plots.
2. Make a preliminary visit to the site in order to define the number of trees and the most suitable species.
3. Deliver the trees free of charge to the beneficiaries in exchange for the signing of a deed of commitment.
4. Accompany the planting,
5. Geolocate the plots,
6. Monitor the plots for at least 3 years.

This year 2024, the impact of climate change and the "El Niño" phenomenon have delayed the planned planting by several months due to the lack of rainfall and drought.

However, the planting targets for 2024 were achieved with 149,843 trees planted within the network, with the following distribution by community nursery:

1. Sinchimaki, 19,880 arbres
2. Pumamaki, 10 000 arbres
3. Sala Vida, 10,197 trees
4. Mujeres Aldanenses Sembrando Vida, 10 130 trees
5. Enterprising Woman, 7,816 trees



6. Weaving Roads, 8,858 trees
7. Chiltazole 12,170 trees
8. El Chalgvar, 11,553 trees
9. Ecoturagro, 8 654 trees
10. AsoProgresar, 24,480 trees
11. Environmental tulpas, 7 008 trees
12. Las Iglesias, 1,258 trees
13. La Tulpa-Consaca, 2,897 trees
14. AAEMA Ancuya, 3,400 trees
15. Silvopastoral (managed directly by Impulso Verde), 11,544 trees

### **1.2.1. Coordination of the "Sembratones" (citizen planting days) with the Social Pastoral of Ipiales**

Since 2021, Impulso Verde and the Social Pastoral of Ipiales have organized 7 plantings, managing to plant more than 45,000 trees in 10 different municipalities with the participation of more than 2,500 citizens from rural and urban areas.

In 2024, two days were organized:

- June 22 (sixth planting): 9,461 trees planted at 23 planting sites and 300 participants.
- November 22 (seventh planting): 3,300 trees in 5 sites with 450 participants.

The coordination of these activities takes place in four key stages:

1. Official launch of the planting: *Pastoral Social* mobilizes key actors such as parishes, municipalities, and communities to identify beneficiaries interested in restoring their plots.



2. Land inspection visits and signing of the deed of commitment by tree beneficiaries: The evaluation of the land makes it possible to identify the existing ecosystem and the most suitable species for the area. The beneficiary is informed of his commitments—particularly regarding land preparation and the maintenance of the trees requested—and signs a deed of commitment. These field visits are carried out by Impulso Verde, *Pastoral Social*, and the nurseries of the network involved.
3. Transport and distribution of seedlings: Impulso Verde is responsible for distributing the seedlings, while *Pastoral Social* manages the logistics of the planting day itself.
4. Planting day: Participants are trained in planting techniques in advance to ensure proper planting, with particular attention given to the involvement of children.

By 2025, the alliance with *Pastoral Social* is expected to be strengthened through the signing of a partnership agreement to define commitments and ensure the continuity of the project.



### **1.2.2. Plantation tracking and geolocation**

Since 2020, Impulso Verde has geolocated all plantation plots. These are accessible online on the Impulso Verde geolocation platform.

Each association receives training on field data collection using applications such as KoBoToolbox and Wikiloc. The data collected is consolidated and verified by the plantation manager and tracked using mapping software before being uploaded to the online platform.

Impulso Verde carries out an annual monitoring of the plantations according to a methodology deployed with each association of the Nursery Network. This monitoring is essential to evaluate the success of the reforestation program and meet commitments to sponsors.

Data analysis, performed with Power BI, helps evaluate success factors and update the improvement strategy based on the needs of the field team.

Impulso Verde plans to launch a large project in 2025 to develop a geographic information system that facilitates the collection, verification, and analysis of cartographic data.

### **1.3. Multi-layered and multi-use silvopastoral systems for sustainable agriculture**

Silvopastoral Systems (SSPs) integrate trees, shrubs, grasses and livestock in the same space, promoting greener agricultural production. These systems improve soil quality, reduce erosion, capture carbon, and provide shelter and food for wildlife, contributing to the return and conservation of biodiversity. In addition, they optimize water use and decrease dependence on chemical inputs, benefiting both the environment and farmers' productivity.



Since 2021, Impulso Verde has been developing the implementation of silvopastoral systems with small dairy producers in Nariño. In total, more than 230 producers have been trained in the implementation and management of these innovative systems and 250 ha of SSP have been implemented.

In 2024, 30 hectares of SSP have been installed with 41 previously trained milk producers in 3 different municipalities (Buesaco, Tangua, Cumbal). In Buesaco, for example, Impulso Verde has partnered with the Portuguese NGO OIKOS to support 21 dairy farmers from the youth dairy association of Bordoncillo, San Ignacio.

### Key Results

Indicators	Results
Trees distributed and planted	11 400
Hectares with SSP implemented	30 ha
Number of dairy farmers benefited	38, of which 21 are young people (aged 18 to 25)
Geolocated plantations:	41

To ensure optimal and practical training for small milk producers, Impulso Verde has developed 5 training modules in collaboration with professors and experts from the University of Nariño and Agricultural and Veterinary Engineers Without Borders. The modules also include 3 visits to model silvopastoral farms, with more than 10 years of experience in order to motivate producers and demonstrate the economic viability of the model.



During the technical visits, producers have the opportunity to visit a community nursery where tree and shrub species are replicated as part of the implementation of the SSP. They discover the reproduction process of these native species and their environmental benefits. They also learn about its properties and use in terms of ethnoveterinary phytotherapy to be able to apply it to their livestock.





### **1.3.1. A new partner for research on silvopastoralism and its impacts: CIAT – Alliance Biodiversity International**

The dairy silvopastoral model developed by Impulso Verde has the particularity of integrating only native species of trees and shrubs, in contrast to most university models that often include exotic species such as acacia, species that are certainly of interest in terms of forage properties, for example, but are invasive.

As part of the **"Nature+"** and **"Sustainable Agrifood Colombia"** research programs, the International Center for Tropical Agronomy (CIAT), based in Palmira, Colombia, has asked Impulso Verde to start a new partnership. The objective is to implement the Impulso Verde silvopastoral model in 5 pilot farms and 1 silvopastoral research plot (SSP) in the municipalities of Cumbal and Guachucal in the department of Nariño. The first step is to characterize each farm before establishing the SSP to obtain the baseline scenario and then monitor various indicators over time to **study the impacts in terms of the farm's technical, economic, and environmental performance**. Thus, the indicators that will be monitored are, among others:

1. Milk production per cow
2. Animal load per hectare
3. The growth rate of grasses and planted trees and shrubs.
4. The evolution of soil fertility and organic matter content
5. The potential for carbon sequestration in trees and soil

It is also planned to install a prototype of cloud catchers, to recover water from the morning humidity through condensation.



### 1.3.2. Definition of a silvopastoral model for meat producers in the Juanambú Canyon, Buesaco

In 2024, Impulso Verde launched a pilot project with the ranchers of the Juanambú Canyon in the municipality of Buesaco.

The Juanambú Canyon, located north of Pasto and historically covered with pre-mountainous forest, is a canyon of 6000 ha that has been completely deforested for more than 50 years by the production of cereals and then by extensive cattle ranching. Today, cattle ranching occupies most of the land and has led to the desertification of this area due to overgrazing, loss of soil fertility, and severe soil erosion.

Based on this observation, Impulso Verde began working with pastoralists to develop a **regenerative livestock project** with the aim of **restoring more than 4000 ha of pasture**.



In 2024, a first pilot plot was established to test a first silvopastoral model and the species that were best adapted to the area. More than 700 trees and 1200 forage shrubs of 30 different species were planted on this plot during a planting day in which some thirty producers from the area participated.





#### **1.4. Agroecology in Nariño to strengthen food security and sovereignty**

The protection of the environment within the communities of Pasto is closely linked to their cultural identity and ancestral worldview, which considers nature as the central axis of development. Currently, Nariño has a rural population of 51.2%, of which 33.3% is recognized as indigenous (DANE, 2029). This territorial and cultural diversity is threatened by development models based solely on economic return, which have fostered land fragmentation, monoculture, inadequate production systems, forest fires, decreased water flows and the loss of native species, affecting food security and the ancestral consumption habits of communities.

For several years, the Impulso Verde Foundation has been working with communities in restoration and reforestation processes, identifying the need to strengthen food security and sovereignty. To this end, the shagra model is promoted, an ancestral practice of diversified production, which allows traditional knowledge to be preserved and the nutritional diversity of families to be improved, promoting a sustainable and reproducible production model.

##### **Objectives**

- Strengthen the food diversity of the families within the Impulso Verde Nursery Network
- Preserve cultural practices of sustainable production and consumption.
- Strengthen the gastronomic identity of the communities of Pasto.
- Develop a guiding document for the implementation of shagras as a tool for food security and food sovereignty.

##### **Resultados clave**

Indicators	Datas
Total participants	65
Men	11
Women (wives)	57
Young people (18-30 years)	7
Average plot size	400 m <sup>2</sup>
Status of the <i>shagras</i> at the end of 2024:	
Well established	8 people (9.4%)
Insufficient reinforcement	29 people (34.11%)
No systems established	27 people (31.76%)
Average number of crops per family:	<p>February 2024: 9 vegetable species (potato, lettuce, cabbage, Swiss chard, onion, maize, beans)</p> <p>December 2024: 30 vegetable species</p>

**Methodology:**

The project described is based on a methodological approach structured around three levels of shagra implementation (traditional agroecological systems): well-established, under development, or non-existent. Two productive models are distinguished: shagras for indigenous territories, focused on the conservation of ancestral knowledge, and organic gardens for rural communities.

Participatory social mapping was used to collect data through the active participation of communities, highlighting the worldview of the Pasto indigenous people and the importance of shagra as a source of traditional knowledge. Challenges such as lack of seeds or space were identified.

In a strengthening phase, indigenous seed kits were distributed, increasing crop diversity from 9 to 30 species in less than a year. At the same time, a soil analysis revealed high acidity and the presence of pathogens; solutions such as a mineral conditioner (Silival Powder®) and a biofertilizer were introduced. Training was also provided to the beneficiary associations.



An exchange fair in May 2024 brought together different organizations to share seeds, knowledge, and practices, including presentations, visits, discussions on the challenges of the agroecological transition, and a final exchange of products. The event strengthened community ties and promoted the conservation of ancestral agricultural practices.

In conclusion, the project has contributed to the preservation of traditional knowledge, agricultural diversification, and the empowerment of local communities, by valuing and strengthening indigenous culture. A socio-economic diagnosis is planned to assess the long-term impacts.

### **1.5. RESTORATION IN VALLE DEL CAUCA**

The department of Valle del Cauca has a great diversity of ecosystems, ranging from dry forest to Andean tropical forest. Faced with the degradation of certain environments, Impulso Verde acts to restore soils, enrich fragmented forests, and convert intensive agricultural plots to agroecological practices, using native species. Since 2022, the organization has been working on these issues with the communities of three hamlets in the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park, in collaboration with the park authorities. In addition, thanks to the creation of its educational nursery in 2023, Impulso Verde has produced more than 1,500 seedlings of native species, most of which were used to reforest several degraded plots in the vicinity of Cali.

In 2025, Impulso Verde plans to strengthen its restoration strategy by expanding land identification efforts and mapping existing community nurseries in the department of Valle del Cauca, in order to replicate the nursery network model successfully developed since 2016 in Nariño. The goal is also to involve as many local businesses as possible in the reforestation processes alongside Impulso Verde and the communities, thereby ensuring the program's expansion and long-term sustainability.

### 1.5.1. Plantations in the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park and in the peri-urban areas of Cali

In 2024, seven reforestation days were organized in the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park (PNNFC), the city of Cali and its surroundings.

#### Ubicación de las plantaciones 2024 – Valle del Cauca

Localisation	Date	Numbers of trees
Quebrada Honda	1 day (feb.)	27
Cárpato	3 days (March, May, December)	422
Cabuyal	2 days (May, dec.)	261
Vista Hermosa	1 day (Nov)	301
<b>Total</b>		<b>1011</b>





Thus, several landowners have committed to the restoration of their lands, contributing to the regeneration of local ecosystems.

### **1.5.2. Community strengthening**

The process of raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of small farmers in the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park is essential to ensure their participation in the medium and long term in the processes of ecosystem restoration and conservation. Thanks to the weekly presence of the Impulso Verde team through agroecological workshops and personalized technical monitoring throughout the year, most of the participants have adopted sustainable practices permanently.





**Community impacts:**

- 40 peasant families involved in conservation actions
- Weekly or bimonthly technical visits to each beneficiary to monitor and strengthen processes

**1.5.3. Establishment of agroecological gardens and beekeeping**

The project, completed at the end of 2023, has yielded promising results. Of the 49 farmers trained, just over two out of five have continued to cultivate their agroecological garden, despite the difficulties related to the drought periods of several months due to the El Niño phenomenon in 2024. By using techniques such as Bocashi and natural biols made from chili, garlic, onion, ginger and herbs, these families have been able to maintain continuous production throughout the year. An economic and social evaluation is planned for 2025 to measure the impact of the project on the quality of life of these 20 families.

For its part, the beekeeping project has made it possible to implement a new technique among the 12 beneficiary women, with the Palmer method. Each participating woman received a beehive with a mobile tent for honey collection. The training focused on beeswax recycling and biological control of varroa mites. These initiatives have strengthened their autonomy, safety, and the implementation of sustainable beekeeping practices. In addition, the beneficiaries planted honey species around their hives to ensure a food source during reduced flowering periods.



#### **1.5.4. Development of agroecological coffee crops in the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park**

In general, the Colombian Federation of Coffee Growers recommends the application of chemical solutions to deal with recurring problems in coffee cultivation, such as rust, cochineal and frost, factors that drastically affect production. However, the rising cost of chemical inputs in recent years has led many growers to cut back on fertilization and



conventional disease treatment. In addition, the lack of accessible bio-organic alternatives has also limited the adoption of sustainable practices. Faced with this situation, Impulso Verde launched a pilot project in 2022 for the production of agroecological coffee with small producers in the Farallones de Cali National Natural Park (PNNFC). The first two years consisted of training and supporting about fifty beneficiaries in the preparation and application of biofertilizers and biols on the surrounding food crops and then starting the coffee activities themselves.

In 2024, Impulso Verde helped re-establish dialogue between Park authorities and the Department's Coffee Federation, whose teams were not allowed to enter the Park to assist small producers due to their recommendations on the application of chemical inputs. This was the first rapprochement between the two entities after more than eight years of inactivity by the Federation in the PNNFC area.

This initiative was based on the new 4C standard – "Common Code for the Coffee Community", an internationally recognized sustainability standard that aims to strengthen sustainable practices in the coffee value chain, in particular "Zero Deforestation".

Thus, a pilot farm was selected, belonging to one of the small producers who demonstrated his conversion to agroecology through the aforementioned garden project. Their farm represents the first step in implementing a sustainable coffee production model in protected areas, laying the groundwork for future initiatives in the region.



**CHAPTER 2:**

**CHAIN DEVELOPMENT**

**GREEN VALUE**





## CHAPTER 2: DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN VALUE CHAINS IN NARIÑO

Green value chains represent a key opportunity to promote sustainable development within local communities, by offering economic alternatives based on the responsible use of natural resources. These production models not only generate income, but also strengthen biodiversity conservation and preserve ancestral knowledge about the environment.

*"Most of the members of the nursery network recognize plants as medicine for the body and soul, so the idea of developing a business structure that collects, preserves and transforms their knowledge into a cosmetic product is a success." Tatiana Hernández, Green Supply Chain Coordinator at Impulso Verde.*

In Nariño, the network of nurseries has integrated traditional knowledge into the creation of sustainable products, transforming the relationship of communities with their territory.

This vision reinforces the importance of green value chains as drivers of community development, promoting resilient economies in harmony with nature.

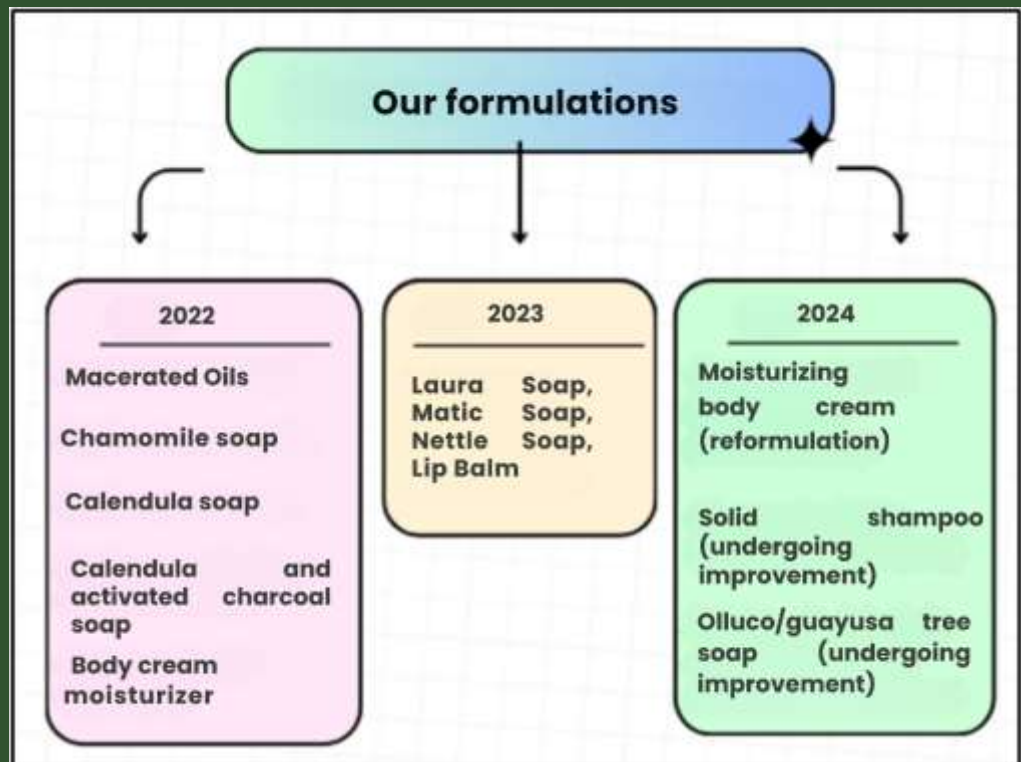
### 2.1. Processing of aromatic and medicinal plants

The indigenous and rural communities of the department of Nariño are deeply attached to the cultural practices inherited from past generations, the use of aromatic and medicinal plants in their daily lives is a striking example of this. Traditional medicine is based in particular on the harmonious relationship between human beings, the nature to which they belong and the spiritual world. When this relationship is interrupted, the body becomes ill, affecting both the individual and the family.

Oral tradition is the repository and transmitter of the knowledge accumulated from generation to generation. Over the years and under the influence of social networks, the legacy of preserving ancestral customs in terms of the use of plants to prevent or cure diseases is being

lost. The elderly notice the lack of interest of the new generations in learning. Still, the trend of taking care of the skin with natural products is booming, but it is clear that young people are more interested in products introduced by well-known brands that claim to contain natural extracts in their advertising. Therefore, this situation seems paradoxical.

Since 2022, Impulso Verde has been developing a project with the Sinchimaki Indigenous Agroecological Association, located in Cumbal in Nariño, to transform plants into cosmetic products. In the indigenous communities of Pasto, body care, according to traditional medicine, is mainly based on the plants that grow within the shagras. In 2024, the association was able to expand production to new formulations (moisturizing body cream and solid shampoo in particular) and started the construction of a small laboratory and a production unit.





### **2.1.1. Eco-construction of a unit for the transformation of medicinal plants into cosmetic products**

Within the framework of the project funded by the French Development Agency (AFD), the 12 members of the Sinchimaki association have started the construction of a cosmetics production unit. The objective is for the unit in question and the laboratory to be certified by INVIMA (National Institute for Drug and Food Surveillance), which establishes the health and quality standards that food, cosmetics, medicines and medical devices must meet for their production, marketing and consumption in the country.

After an analysis of different eco-construction techniques, Impulso Verde selected the company "Super Adobe Creativo" from Medellín to design the plans of the unit and train several members and project managers of the association in the use of materials and construction.

This joint commitment between Sinchimaki and Impulso Verde has allowed the development of an innovative infrastructure, essential for the production and processing of medicinal plants with a sustainable and community approach. Currently, construction is in the structural phase and is scheduled to be completed in mid-2025. This initiative not only strengthens local capacities in green construction, but also stimulates sustainable economic alternatives in the territory.

### **2.2. Recovery and processing of traditional cereals**

During the twentieth century, Colombia was an important producer of wheat and barley, but the opening of imports and free trade agreements reduced production by 94%, generating an economic crisis in the sector. The implementation of the "Green Revolution" has intensified the use of agrochemicals, affecting the quality of soils and ecosystems. However, the growing global demand for cereals and the environmental deterioration generated by conventional crops open the possibility of

revitalizing local production with a sustainable approach. It is, therefore, a matter of reactivating the production of traditional and small-scale varieties of cereals, as an economical alternative for families and responsible with the environment.

The project was requested in 2023 by the indigenous association "La Mujer Emprendedora", which has 42 beneficiaries and is also a member of the Impulso Verde network of community nurseries. Its objective is to re-promote the cultivation of maize, quinoa, barley and wheat in shagras in order to reduce the negative effects of intensive agriculture, promote agroecology and improve the living conditions of rural communities. This approach not only strengthens food autonomy, but also generates added value through processing, generating new development opportunities in the territory.

Thus, in 2024, 1,700 kg of dry barley grain were produced in pilot plots. Part of it was distributed to the families of the association and another was transformed into products such as flour, cookies, breads or pasta, strengthening food security and sovereignty and stimulating community work.

Para fortalecer el proceso de transformación en productos de mayor valor añadido y que puedan ser comercializados localmente, se han definido las siguientes acciones clave con las mujeres socias de la asociación:

- ✓ Market assessment to identify marketing opportunities.
- ✓ Product development, according to the standards of INVIMA (National Institute of Drug and Food Surveillance) in Colombia.
- ✓ GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) training to ensure quality standards.
- ✓ Design of the production unit and cereal processing processes.



✓ Creation and implementation of the business model, integrating marketing and commercialization strategies.

### **2.3. Community beekeeping**

The Impulso Verde community beekeeping project, started in 2019 in Nariño, continued in 2024 with four associations: El Chalgvar (Pupiales), Manantial de Vida (Potosí), Sinchimaki (Cumbal) and AgroTúktu (Puerres).

Impulso Verde has delivered various equipment and materials to the associations, such as beehives, road signs (necessary for certification), wax sheets, first aid kits and equipment for the control of the Varroa parasite.





The technical support led by beekeeper Javier Flores has made it possible to strengthen the management and professionalization of the associations, in particular through monthly visits for the already consolidated apiaries and fortnightly visits for the new apiaries. These visits assess the colony's health, food availability, queens' egg laying, and disease screening. By the end of 2024, the network has six active apiaries and a total of 65 hives.

Impulso Verde also organizes training courses with each association, in particular with the aim of obtaining certification in good beekeeping practices from the ICA (Colombian Institute of Agriculture).

In total, in 2024, the associations of Nariño produced 617 kg of honey.

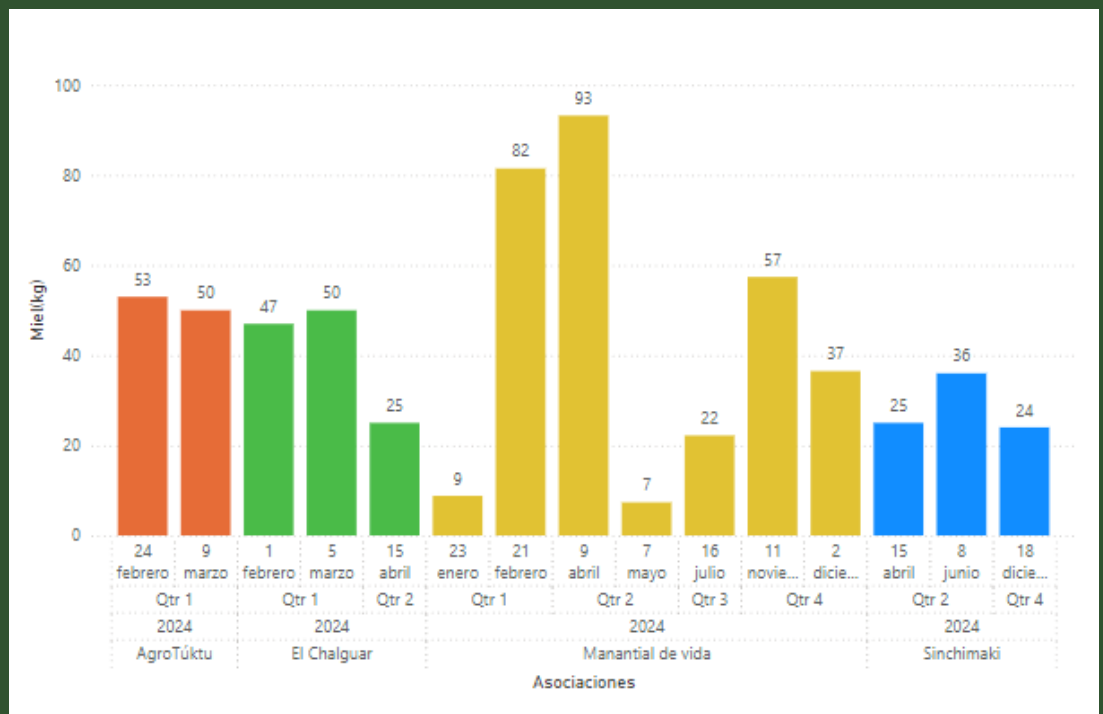
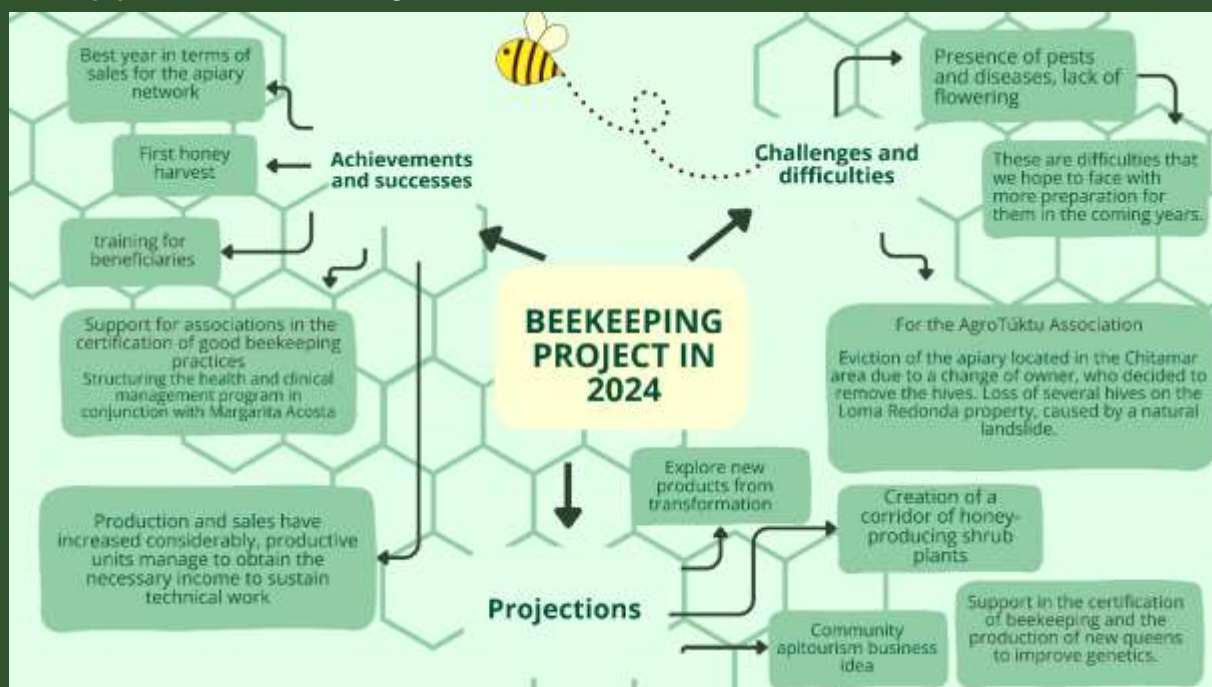




Figure 1. Honey production throughout 2024



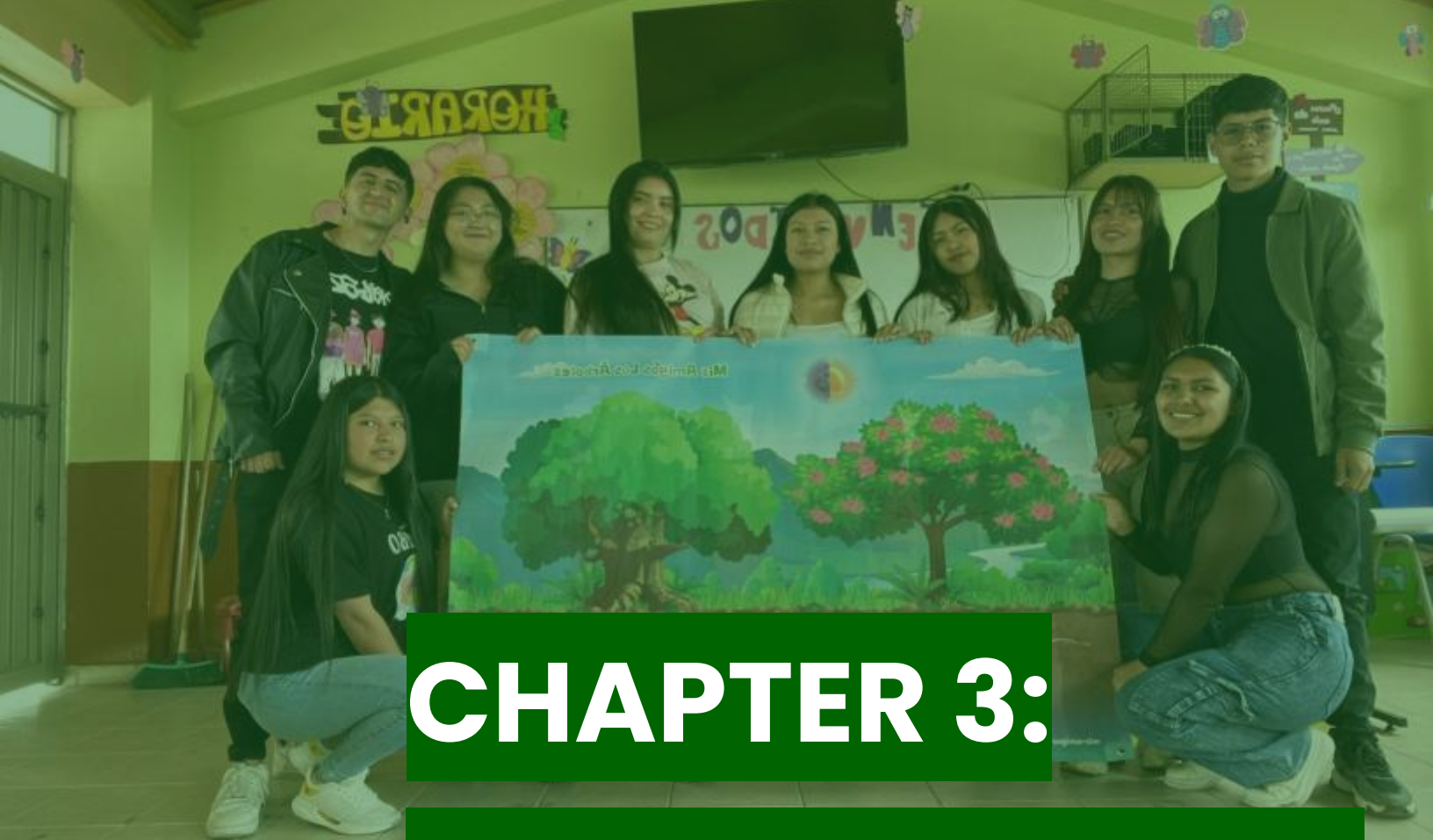
## Key challenges for the beekeeping program

Year-round **bee food availability** is a major issue for some areas. This has a direct impact on the production of honey and other bee products and sometimes it is necessary to feed the colonies, especially during the rainy season. This affects the productivity and profitability of apiaries, compounded by crop expansion and intensive farming practices that reduce food sources for bees. One solution is to sow and plant plants, shrubs, and honey trees.

The lack of commitment or internal cohesion in some associations is also an important issue in the development of the activity. The excessive delegation of responsibilities to one or two members and, at times, internal conflicts related in particular to the distribution of one-off costs and also of the income generated by beekeeping, have affected the management of some apiaries and have led to the loss of colonies.

These challenges underscore the need to implement strategies to improve honey vegetation cover, strengthen the group's governance, and establish contingency plans to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the program.





## CHAPTER 3:

## ENVIRONMENTAL

## EDUCATION



## CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In 2024, with the impact of COP16 Biodiversity in Cali, many young people mobilized to participate and carry out environmental education actions to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity.

### 3.1. Educational program "My Friends the Trees"

Between August and December 2024, more than 100 workshops were held in several municipalities of Nariño and Valle del Cauca. Thus, 3,496 children were sensitized about the conservation of forests and biodiversity. For example, the "My Friends the Trees" workshops held in primary schools in Ipiales, a city that suffered from water scarcity for several months in 2024, sensitized children about initiatives for the protection of the Guáitara River, highlighting the importance of reforesting watersheds and conserving forests as the main sources of water for the region.

Since its inception in 2020, the program has reached more than 8,000 children in schools in rural and urban areas of Nariño and Valle del Cauca, as well as in cities such as Bogotá and Pereira. The workshop, structured in three stages, begins with playful and interactive activities to understand the importance of trees and biodiversity. Children unleash their imagination by drawing a tree, then the illustrations are put online on the program's digital platform, forming a large forest of drawings (<https://mis-amigos-los-arboles.org/proyecto/>). Finally, when possible, each child participates in a planting day, or in a practical activity in contact with the soil and plants.

The "My Friends the Trees" program is based on the training of young local animators, who are then in charge of conducting educational workshops with the children, in pairs. In 2024, 15 educators from Nariño have become ambassadors of the program. At the end of the training and a series of workshops, they receive a certificate from the Impulso





Verde Foundation in order to enhance this experience in their academic and professional career.

Given the success of the programme, Impulso Verde has decided to extend it to other environmental issues related to the importance of soils or the world of bees and pollinators, and create new workshops in 2025.





## 3.2. New Impulso Verde Pedagogical Center



The partnership with the Lycée Français Paul Valéry in Cali has made it possible to build two educational spaces: the Geodesic Dome, in operation since December 2023, and the nursery, active since May 2024. These spaces aim to raise awareness among students from schools in the region, university students, company personnel or groups of people about environmental problems, and introduce them to the plant world, through conferences, sensory experiences and educational workshops. The nursery is a living classroom where students can reconnect with the earth and nature, through practical activities such as:



- Mix different types of substrates to prepare bags of soil.
- Transplanting trees or direct seeding in germination beds.
- Differentiate between tree species and recognize those that grow in the nursery.
- Know the water needs of each plant.
- Learn how to harvest fruits and collect seeds according to their type.
- Planting honey plants and creating a green wall

In 2024, 28 workshops were held in the incubator.

The nursery also aims to **produce seedlings**, and more particularly trees, honey flowers, aromatic plants, shrubs and succulents. These seedlings are intended for reforestation and ecological restoration activities, as well as for their commercialization, contributing to the strengthening of biodiversity in addition to providing an immersion space for environmental awareness. By the end of 2024, around 600 native trees had been produced, as well as various ornamental plants.

### **Key figures for 2024:**

At the end of the year, awareness sessions began for university students and company staff.

1. 84 workshops held in the Geodesic Dome, with an average of 20 students per group
2. Raising awareness among some 1,680 students of the French high school

3. Raising awareness of 115 adults: 90 university students + 25 company employees

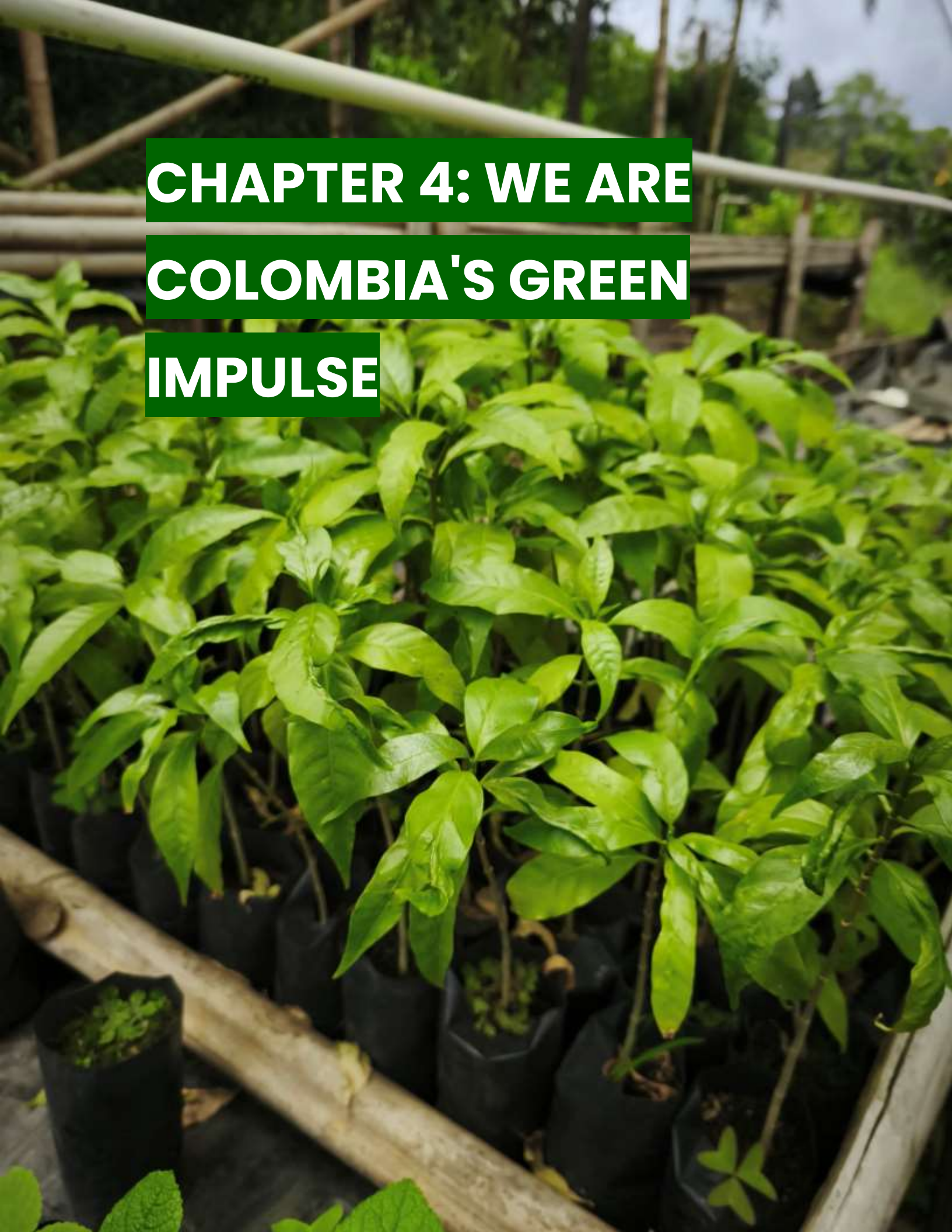
### **Cultural Week: Environmental Education and Awareness**

From March 18 to 22, 2024, within the framework of the Cultural Week for Terminale students, Impulso Verde held theoretical and practical workshops on seagrasses, meliponiculture (native stingless bees) and the fundamentals of floriculture. During this week, about 450 high school students participated in awareness-raising activities within the educational incubator. With this new space, learning about biodiversity and conservation comes to life, becoming a key tool for students' environmental education.





# **CHAPTER 4: WE ARE COLOMBIA'S GREEN IMPULSE**



## **CHAPTER 4: WE ARE COLOMBIA'S GREEN IMPULSE**

### **OUR INTERNAL NETWORK**

"Conserving and restoring biodiversity requires much more than good intentions: it requires a committed, interdisciplinary team prepared to face environmental challenges with creativity and rigor. At the Impulso Verde Foundation we believe in the power of collaboration to generate a real impact. From science to communication, from education to action on the ground, our team is at the heart of every initiative we undertake. "Words have power, but when they are woven into a web of wills and alliances, they become the engine of change that no individual could achieve alone." Antoine Gérigné, president and founder of Impulso Verde.

#### **4.1. Communication and media alliances**

Since August 2024, we have seen a significant improvement in the visibility and perception of our work in protecting biodiversity and promoting sustainability, strengthening our presence in both the digital and media spheres.

Key strategies such as Guardians of Biodiversity, Somos Impulso Verde and the strengthening of our relationships with local communities, as well as the consolidation of strategic alliances, have been key in this process. Through the field days, links with the communities were strengthened and strategic actors were identified, such as the Cali Environmental Film Festival, Nuestra Villa, the Lycée Français Paul Valéry, the Antonio José Camacho University Institution, among other key private and institutional actors, in order to strengthen our communication alliances.

The communication of Impulso Verde has been directed in an organic and self-managed way, covering several areas of action and profiles, and thanks to the structuring of this work, great results have been consolidated. The team integrates skills and experience in journalism, design, advertising and audiovisual production. This team designs and



executes strategies aligned with sustainability objectives, managing campaigns and events to strengthen the brand and its initiatives. Manage social media, website, and media presence, ensuring national and international visibility.

In addition, he builds strategic alliances, coordinates internal collaboration spaces, and manages corporate communications, including updating key organizational policies.

### **Regular content production**

- Newsletters were written for local media and three special notes for organizations such as Hummy and Tree For You.
- The activities and agenda of Impulso Verde at COP16 were made visible in different languages, in addition to consolidating a base of media allies of 360 contacts, including journalists and key allies.
- The Foundation has achieved a notable presence in local and international media, including: A special report in the media 'La República'.
- Four special notes for national and international television. Grande Sembratón de Nariño on the regional channel: Telepacífico. Experience during COP16 in national channels: Caracol TV (national), Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies of Colombia (national), Telemundo (international).
- Ten special interventions in local and national radio programs such as Caracol Radio, Carvajal Foundation, Radio Nacional and alternative stations such as the station of the Antonio José Camacho University Institution and digital programs such as Mañanas Verdes and Oye Cali.



## Management of the Digital Ecosystem: Social Networks of the Impulso Verde Foundation

On social networks, the Foundation has experienced significant growth. 114 posts were made on Instagram and Facebook, 7 on LinkedIn, and more than 300 stories were highlighted, resulting in a 23% increase in followers on Facebook and a 54% increase on Instagram. This growth reflects the success of communication and outreach strategies and the growing interest in the Foundation's initiatives.

Alliances have been strengthened, such as those developed with La Pérgola, the Cali Environmental Film Festival, the partners of the Partnership Fund for Critical Ecosystems – CEPF and the Lycée Français Paul Valéry.

### 4.2. Institutional alliances

The year 2024 was a key year for the Impulso Verde Foundation in its institutional strengthening and corporate management. While progress is largely based on its track record and experience in projects in Valle del Cauca and Nariño, participation in COP16 marked a turning point in interaction with the private sector in Colombia, opening up new opportunities for project financing and the consolidation of strategic alliances by 2025. At the event, Impulso Verde showed its leadership in environmental conservation, attracting the interest of important



companies such as Colombina, Rimax, Constructora Bolívar and Suramericana. The presence at the Green Zone Stand and in other activities has allowed it to expand its network of contacts and position itself as a relevant player in sustainability initiatives.

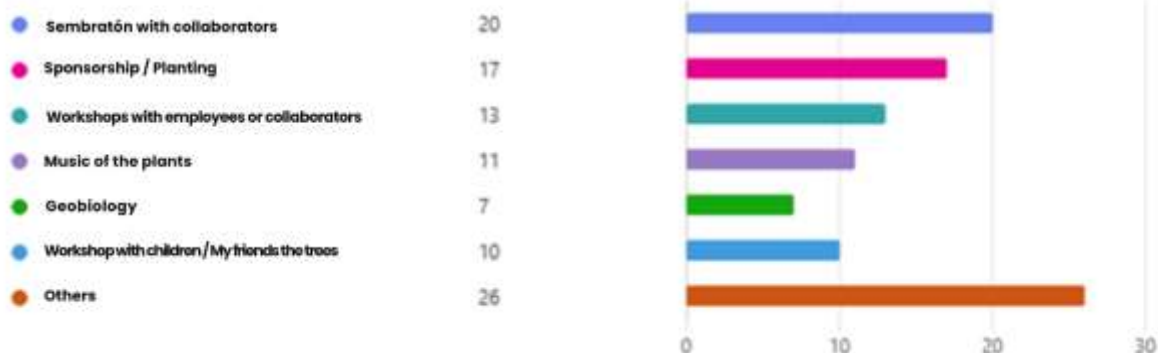
7. Which of the activities led by the Impulso Verde Foundation sparks interest in the individual, entity, or organization...

[Más detalles](#)



8. Which of the experience offerings offered by the Impulso Verde Foundation is the person, entity or... interested in?

[Más detalles](#)



## The results in numbers

- 110 contacts consolidated at COP16
- 38 procedures in progress
- 7 initiatives in the planning stage
- 10,000 trees are planned to be planted

Beyond the contacts and meetings that have been held, the challenge now is to consolidate positioning strategies that allow mobilizing concrete actions with the private sector. This involves not only identifying key companies and organizations, but also understanding market needs, political and legal context, and Impulso Verde's ability to respond to emerging opportunities.



**Impulso Verde has strengthened its collaboration network with educational institutions such as the Antonio José Camacho University Institution and the François Paul Valéry High School, as well as with strategic partners such as Emcali, Fundación Con Vida, Vice Ministry of Technology, Cali Chamber of Commerce, FundoCol and the Center for**



**Science, Art and Technology – YAWA. These alliances have broadened the scope of their initiatives and have consolidated spaces for business development.** In its mission of ecological restoration and sustainable development, the Foundation continues to work closely with technical and institutional partners, whose support is essential for the success of its projects.

#### **4.3. Local funds and organizations collaborating in projects led by Impulso Verde**

To achieve its goals of ecological restoration and sustainable development, Impulso Verde works closely with various technical and institutional partners, whose expertise and support are essential to the success of its initiatives.



#### **4.4. Impulso Verde Team**

The Impulso Verde team is made up of a multidisciplinary and multicultural group of professionals who share the same vision: to restore ecosystems, strengthen communities and promote sustainable development. Among its members are agronomists, biologists, communicators and experts in environmental management, who combine their knowledge to design and implement conservation strategies. Through its work in the field, in the laboratory, in community networks and on digital platforms, the Impulso Verde team manages to articulate science, education and collective action for biodiversity. Each project is the result of the joint effort of these professionals, who work with passion and commitment on a daily basis to be the Green Impulse of Colombia.

##### **Team Members:**

1. Antoine G rign  - President and Founder
2. Katherine Masso Mu oz - Director
3. Th o Tournebize - Technical Director
4. Kelly Vanessa Su rez J tiva - Communications Manager
5. Luisa Delgado Narv ez - Reforestation and Beekeeping Coordinator
6. Tatiana Hern ndez Chamorro - Green Business Coordinator
7. Adriana Ber nica Garreta - Coordinator of the Silvopastoral System
8. Jairo Mu oz - Coordinator of the Silvopastoral System
9. Laura Rubio Bernal - Coordinator of Projects and Environmental Education
10. Viviane Diep - Agroecology Coordinator



11. Margarita Acosta Muñoz – Socio-Environmental and Beekeeping Promoter
12. Edoardo Presti – Environmental Awareness Coordinator
13. Solène Happert – Carbon Manager
14. Yolmen Villegas – Accounting and Administrative Assistant
15. Jean-Gabriel Noze – Accounting and Administrative Assistant
16. Juan Diego Arias – Computer Systems
17. Javier Flores Peña – External Expert in Beekeeping
18. Lina Castaño – Alliances Coordinator

### **Strategic Committee**

1. Maikov Dumas – Referente técnico
2. Muttiah Yogananthan – Referente de "Ética"
3. Ingrid Limpens – Geobióloga e historiadora, miembro de la junta directiva
4. Oscar Nain Osorio Rivera – Experto-c

### **4.5. Financial Report (Kathe)**

#### **Editorial Credits**

##### **Publication Director**

Antoine Gérigné

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- Edwin Piarpuezan
- Jairo Muñoz
- Luisa Delgado
- Tatiana Hernández
- Viviane Deep
- Laura Rubio
- Edoardo Presti
- Kelly Vanessa Suárez
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- Katherine Masso

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