

## 2.2 Problem Analysis

The main problems to be addressed by this action include:

- (i) Overlaps between multiple instruments of territorial planning and management tools, especially regarding natural reserves, collective ethnic and smallholders' territories. Indigenous reserves cover an area of 32.5 million hectares, the National System of Protected Areas covers 23.16 million hectares, forest reserves cover 11.0 million hectares, councils of afro-Colombian communities cover 5.7 million hectares and established and projected Campesino Reserve Zones (ZRC) and other Campesino territorial models (e.g., TECAM) cover 1.7 million hectares.
- (ii) Socio-environmental land conflicts. Land use in Colombia grew by 25% between 1990 and 2015, with substantial problems over tenure and sustainability, especially in highly biodiverse areas. Issues of particular concern include: (i) poor spatial planning; (ii) extensive land-use change of natural areas for agriculture and urbanisation; (iii) the expansion of the agricultural frontier; (iv) the loss of strategic ecosystems, and (v) land tenure issues including collective land titling for ethnic communities. These issues, along with unregulated extensive livestock continue to fuel the conflict and impede access to climate finance and the sustainable use of biodiversity.
- (iii) Lack of gender equality. Despite efforts made in this area, according to figures from the National Land Agency (2018) women's access to land formalisation programs has been slow (only 5 women for every 8 men). Additionally, only 38% of the vacant territories allocated between September 2016 and August 2018 were granted to women. In this regard, while there are legal provisions that recognise women as the subject of rights on land, greater efforts are needed to ensure women's equity and their priority participation.
- (iv) The weak presence of the State in rural areas hampers public services delivery and results in large segments of the population living in conditions of informality and illegality, without little or no influence on local governance decisions, segmentation and little coordination among local actors, including international cooperation. Forest reserves, national parks and protected areas host the highest concentration of illegal armed groups in the country, and indigenous reserves (Resguardos) often are left to organise their own security and protections systems against them, according to their ancestral authorities and self-government.
- (v) The proliferation of illicit economic activities and underutilisation of the bio-economic potential in environmentally strategic areas (e.g., Amazon basin) where the State presence is weak and the presence of illegal armed groups is rampant. In particular: i) Coca production in protected areas increased by 21.5% between 2021 and 2022 and nearly 20% in their buffer zones, thereby expanding agricultural frontiers and causing a coca oversupply that escalates violence due to rivalries (49% of coca crops were found in these special management zones in 2022 that include collective territories and national parks). ii) Illegal extractive activities cause conflict due to the invasion of indigenous territories, environmental pollution, and illegal exploitation. iii) More sustainable models such as agroforestry or value chains related to non-timber forest products are not viable due to inefficiencies in the use of available land for agricultural activity. Local organisations lack access to credit, technical assistance, research and development, logistics that would enable sustainable production models aligned with the bio-economic potential of the territories.
- (vi) Lack of access to sustainable finance for climate action. The National Natural Parks System (PNNC) contributed 4.85% of the country's GDP in 2018 through ecosystem services such as the provision and regulation of water, and carbon storage. The income generated by these ecosystem services has significant potential, not only in terms of the financial sustainability of the PNNC system itself but also for the sustainable development of the surrounding