



PARTNERSHIPS THAT DELIVER

FINDING THE WAYS THAT WORK FOR SCALABLE CLIMATE IMPACT



Environmental
Defense
Fund



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INTRODUCTION

Finding the Ways that Work: EDF's Strategy for Scalable Climate Impact

Stabilizing the climate. Strengthening the resilience of communities and ecosystems. Supporting the health and well-being of people around the world. These are urgent, interconnected challenges — and they cannot be met by any one organization alone.

To meet the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, Environmental Defense Fund is centering partnerships at the heart of its global strategy. Instead of expanding its physical footprint, EDF is amplifying impact by collaborating with a growing network of trusted partners — governments, community leaders, researchers and businesses — who bring deep local knowledge and expertise and a shared commitment to action.



This shift reflects EDF's belief that durable solutions must be co-created. Across all regions and programs, we're investing in partnerships grounded in trust, evidence and long-term capacity building.

Currently, EDF partners with local and national organizations in more than 30 countries to

advance work across sectors ranging from agriculture and energy to fisheries, finance and air quality. In each case, the focus is the same: deliver measurable outcomes while strengthening the capacity of local partners and institutions. That includes:

- **Supporting the development of Brazil's first new national air quality standards** in more than 30 years.
- **Establishing Malaysia's first methane policy framework**, now serving as a regional model.
- **Partnering with Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities to create Ecuador's first participatory benefit-sharing road map** for allocating a \$30 million carbon finance agreement.
- **Scaling sustainable dairy and fertilizer practices in India** to cut agricultural emissions and improve livelihoods.
- **Expanding the Aquatic Blue Food Coalition** to more than 50 governments and institutions to elevate ocean-based nutrition and climate solutions.

These case studies illustrate EDF's approach:

We engage with diverse people and organizations, contribute scientific and technical expertise and work with local leadership to advance durable solutions. Through these partnerships, we aim to deliver results that are relevant, replicable and rooted in the places where they will have the most significant impact.



EDF aims to scale our impact not by planting flags in new countries, but by activating a network of capable, aligned partners. Our role is to provide technical support, strategic insight and ideas backed by strong science — while empowering others to lead.

Angela Churie Kallhauge

EDF Executive Vice President, Impact



EDF'S PARTNERSHIP MODEL:

A Framework for Strategic Collaboration

EDF's approach to partnership is both deliberate and evolving. To ensure that our work contributes meaningfully to systemic change, we have developed a framework that helps us align our resources, expertise, relationships and activities with long-term global outcomes.

Creating a vital Earth where people and nature thrive is possible — but it demands bold, coordinated action from every sector of society. Stabilizing the climate, strengthening resilience and protecting human health are ambitious goals central to EDF's mission. But we cannot achieve them alone. Real progress requires diverse partnerships that align science with policy, link

local action to global strategy and translate equity into large-scale impact.

To advance this vision, EDF has critically examined how we engage with partners, especially community groups in the Global South. **We've explored how to:**

- **Create partnerships** that generate shared value.
- **Build a culture of equitable, solutions-oriented partnership** across EDF.
- **Establish practical models** for cost-effective, community-driven collaboration.

The findings summarized in this report point the way toward a more strategic, systemic model of partnership — one that draws on the unique strengths of our collaborators to deliver lasting climate solutions.

At EDF, partnerships are a core strategy for delivering climate solutions at scale. They are trust-based, co-created relationships that align diverse strengths around shared goals — grounded in mutual benefit, local leadership and long-term impact.





VISION

A world in which diverse, effective partnerships accelerate climate action and support people and nature to thrive.

MISSION

To establish and sustain partnerships that extend EDF's reach and impact by linking policymaking with scientific and on-the-ground solutions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our partnerships are built on values that shape how we engage:

- **Impact orientation:** Joint outcomes should exceed what any party could achieve alone.
- **Durability:** We aim for long-term, structural change.
- **Co-design:** Partners are engaged from the outset.
- **Accountability:** Roles and expectations are clear to all sides.
- **Alignment:** The work aligns with EDF's strategy and values.
- **Commitment to learning:** We adapt based on evidence and experience.
- **Integrity:** We recognize all contributions and share credit transparently.

HOW WE PARTNER

EDF tailors its role according to context. In some cases, we serve as a technical advisor; in others, a convenor or facilitator. Across these roles, our **goal is to support solutions that:**

- Are **co-developed** with communities and institutions.
- **Can be tested locally**, then scaled appropriately.
- **Strengthen systems and governance** as much as technologies or practices.
- **Expand impact efficiently** without necessarily expanding EDF's physical institutional footprint.

HOW EDF ENGAGES: LEVELS OF PARTNERSHIP

- **Coalitions:** We join forces with global alliances to amplify collective action and shape high-level agendas. *Examples: Aquatic Blue Food Coalition, Global Methane Hub.*
- **Multipliers:** We collaborate with aggregators that have broad community networks to extend technical support and scale impact. *Examples: UN agencies, COP presidencies.*
- **Advocacy with Decision-Makers:** We engage directly with national and subnational governments to advance climate policy and secure commitments. *Examples: Brazil, Kenya, United Arab Emirates.*
- **Peer Organizations:** We partner with NGOs, universities and research institutions that have deep local knowledge and presence. *Examples: Regional NGOs, academic networks, think tanks.*
- **Local Groups:** We work directly with Indigenous peoples, community-based organizations and local institutions to co-create grounded, locally led solutions. *Examples: Tribal governments, local NGOs, municipal partners, universities.*



WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

EDF's long-term goal is to develop catalytic partnerships that empower others to lead, multiplying impact and accelerating the spread of innovative solutions. **By 2030, our goal is to:**

- **Expand systemic partnerships** across key sectors and geographies.
- **Institutionalize partnership practices** throughout EDF's work.
- **Demonstrate** that strategic collaboration can accelerate climate impact at scale.
- **Build lasting capacity with partners**, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

This report reflects our progress to date and our direction ahead. The partnerships highlighted here offer models of what is possible when scientific rigor, local leadership and shared goals come together. This report is also meant to inspire ideas, conversations and new partnership opportunities.

We look forward to continuing to work — alongside new and existing partners — toward a more stable climate and a more just and sustainable future.



CUBA

When Communities Lead, Ecosystems Thrive

For 25 years, EDF has been a trusted, science-based partner to Cuban communities and institutions, working together to protect Cuba's extraordinary biodiversity and build a more sustainable future. We began working in Cuba in 2000 at the request of local scientists working to map critical marine habitats and design a network of protected areas. This collaboration led to the region's most ambitious marine protected area network, now safeguarding more than 25% of Cuba's insular waters.

EDF is one of the few U.S.-based environmental organizations with long-standing programs in Cuba, rooted in community-led, long-term collaboration rather than top-down or short-term efforts. With this track record, EDF's Cuba program has become a model for how science-based, locally led partnerships can drive scalable change — even in complex political and environmental landscapes.

Over the past two years, new partnerships demonstrated how local leadership, scientific collaboration and green entrepreneurship can revive ecosystems, boost resilience and create jobs.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Community-led coastal restoration:** Working with [Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre](#), [Wildlife Conservation Society](#) and Cuban institutions, EDF wrapped up a three-year ecosystem-based adaptation project with:
 - 1,000+ coastal residents engaged in marine conservation and climate resilience.
 - Nine communities restoring and rehabilitating coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves with scientists and park rangers — affecting more than 1700 hectares.
 - Post-hurricane recovery at sites including Humboldt National Park. EDF worked with local partners to assess community and ecosystem impacts and needs and dedicated project resources to resilience and recovery efforts.
- **Cuba's first national multispecies fisheries plan:** In collaboration with the [Center for Fisheries Research](#) and Cuban scientists, EDF co-developed a fisheries plan covering 30+ species. The first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean, the plan aims to restore populations, improve food security and strengthen livelihoods.
- **Coral reef science and UNESCO recognition:** Based on data collected during the EDF-supported “Bojeo a Cuba” scientific

circumnavigation, Cuba banned Nassau grouper fishing and advanced the nomination of the Cuban Caribbean Reef System as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Early findings show that endangered corals are thriving in reef areas including Laguna de Maya, offering models of resilience and hope.

- **Green entrepreneurship and clean energy:** EDF and [Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez](#) fostered nature-based businesses such as [JoJo Aquaponics](#) and [Deshidratados Habana](#), which now mentor other entrepreneurs. On the Isle of Youth, EDF support led to:
 - Installation of clean-energy kits to foster energy autonomy and resilience after hurricane-related setbacks.
 - Environmental education and sustainable business promotion through the [Isla Verde International Film and Environment Festival](#). A prize-winning documentary co-produced by EDF showcased **Finca Costera**, a female-led mangrove and agrotourism initiative.



LOOKING AHEAD:

In collaboration with our partners, we aim to:

- **Scale restoration** to four additional protected areas and nine new communities.
- **Deepen aquaculture and clean energy pilot projects.**
- **Support sustainable fishing and coral reef conservation** across the Caribbean.



Our partnerships are proving that when communities lead, transformation follows. Whether it's clean energy, resilient reefs or climate-smart businesses, our work in Cuba is unlocking what's possible.

Daniel Whittle

EDF Associate Vice President, Resilient Caribbean Program



I think EDF has been above all a solidarity organization. Because it shares and facilitates collaboration between countries, which is very important for the work we do.

Dr. Rafael Puga Millán

Senior Researcher, Center for Fisheries Research

MALAYSIA

Building Southeast Asia's First Methane Movement

In Malaysia, EDF is helping local organizations catalyze a national response to one of the most urgent and overlooked climate threats: methane pollution. Since 2021, our growing network of local partners has transformed awareness into action, turning methane from an invisible issue into a climate solution. The partnerships forged here prove that locally rooted collaboration can yield globally significant climate wins.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas that heats the planet much faster than carbon dioxide — more than 80 times as potent over a 20-year span. Cutting methane emissions is one of the fastest, most effective ways to slow global warming.

EDF began working to reduce methane emissions in Malaysia during the COVID-19 pandemic, partnering with the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) to launch a series of virtual trainings for government agencies and national oil companies. That early effort laid the foundation for a broader campaign aimed at deepening local understanding and fostering collaboration across government, civil society and the private sector.

Our approach in Malaysia has prioritized trust-building and cultural fluency. The EDF team worked through respected local partners, investing in capacity-building and co-creating solutions. That strategy has paid off — not only in policy and corporate progress, but also in the emergence of a durable network of Malaysian experts, advocates and institutions that can sustain methane action.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS AND ACHIEVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- [Centre for Environment, Technology and Development Malaysia \(CETDEM\)](#): As one of Malaysia's oldest and most respected environmental NGOs, CETDEM became an early and trusted partner. The organization's deep expertise in navigating government systems and shaping national climate policy has made it a valuable collaborator. Today, our partnership has grown: CETDEM now co-leads EDF-supported research on maritime decarbonization, marking a strategic shift beyond the oil and gas sector.
- [Swinburne University \(Sarawak Campus\)](#): This academic partnership led to Malaysia's first independent analysis of the most cost-effective ways to reduce methane emissions. Located in Malaysia's top hydrocarbon-producing state, Swinburne has become a strategic partner in building government engagement, and with port and liquid natural gas terminal officials in Sarawak.

- [Institute of Strategic & International Studies](#): As a policy think tank reporting directly to the Prime Minister's Office, the institute has helped to influence national decision-making. This partnership played a key role in elevating methane on Malaysia's climate agenda, including the Prime Minister's public references to methane and national commitments to action.
- [PETRONAS](#): In 2023, At COP28, Malaysia's national oil company committed to a 50% reduction in methane emissions from its Malaysian gas operations by 2025. It joined the [Oil and Gas Methane Partnership](#) and received the United Nations Environment Programme Gold Standard designation for its methane data strategy. In July 2025, the company reported that it had achieved a 62% reduction in methane emissions from its natural gas value chain, exceeding its target.
- Malaysia's updated National Climate Change Policy in 2024 included explicit language calling for methane emissions reductions in the oil and gas, waste and agriculture sectors.



LOOKING AHEAD:

With Malaysia now serving as a model for scalable methane action, **EDF is helping new partners expand their impact in Thailand and other Southeast Asian countries.** These initiatives are poised to deliver even greater impact in 2026 and beyond.



Cutting methane offers fast climate relief within our lifetimes. It's hard to rally action around something you can't see, but our experience demonstrates how partnerships in Malaysia can help to turn invisible emissions into visible solutions.

Dr. Shareen Yawanarajah

EDF Senior Director,
Energy Transition



EDF's collaborative, agile and solutions-driven approach makes them an invaluable long-term partner in the region's efforts to reduce emissions and achieve climate goals. Their commitment to the bigger picture continues to inspire meaningful change.

Dr. Viknesh Andiappan

Swinburne University
of Technology Sarawak
Campus, Associate
Professor and Associate
Director

ECUADOR

From Forest Roots to Global Reach

Ecuador holds 6.1% of the world's known species, making it the most biodiverse country per square kilometer. Its cultural wealth is just as striking, with 14 Indigenous nationalities and a vibrant Afro-Ecuadorian population together making up nearly 30% of the population.

Now, Indigenous, local and Afro-descendant communities are forging a new model of climate leadership. Across the country, these groups are working together to shape a more inclusive climate agenda. They're pushing for recognition not just as beneficiaries but as full partners with government and international actors.

In 2024, EDF focused on strengthening the capacity of Indigenous peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant organizations (IPLCs and ADs) to engage in emerging financial mechanisms such as the [LEAF Coalition](#). This voluntary carbon market initiative enables Ecuador to earn funding for reducing deforestation while ensuring that communities receive direct and indirect benefits.

EDF provided training, technical assistance and support for IPLC and AD leaders to speak out on global platforms such as COP29. These efforts helped to ensure that their voices reached key decision-makers in government, business and civil society.

EDF is also backing local Indigenous initiatives like [Wiñak](#), an association of Kichwa cacao and tea producers in the Amazon. Support includes technical assistance and regional peer learning to strengthen bioeconomy strategies and increase income from sustainable agroforestry systems.

THIS FOUNDATION OF TRUST, BUILT OVER YEARS, IS DELIVERING RESULTS:

- In 2024, Ecuador signed a historic \$30 million results-based agreement under the LEAF Coalition — co-founded by EDF — to receive payment for 3 million tons of verified emissions reductions. That's equivalent to taking more than half a million cars off the road for a year.
- EDF played a key behind-the-scenes role, helping mediate between government and community partners. These included [CONFENIAE](#), representing Amazonian Indigenous organizations, and Afro-descendant networks including [CANE](#) and [REDAUMSLEA](#), which protect Ecuador's remaining mangrove forests.
- In 2023 and 2024, EDF and partners convened 12 participatory workshops with more than 230 representatives from 35 organizations and 14 nationalities. The result: a benefit-sharing plan grounded in local needs and realities.
- Since early 2025, EDF has supported this work with **WCS Ecuador, Climate Law and Policy and funding from the UK government.**



Over the past two years, EDF's support has been key for our Comarca of Northern Esmeraldas to effectively participate in Ecuador's REDD+ process. This collaboration has allowed us to bring our voices and proposals into the Benefit Sharing Plan, ensuring better outcomes for our Afro-descendant communities.

Inés Morales

Palenquera Mayor
of CANE



LOOKING AHEAD:

Ecuador's participatory approach to carbon finance is emerging as a regional model and EDF is helping it scale. A final benefit-sharing plan is expected in 2026.



INDIA

Partnership-Driven Innovation to Catalyze Agricultural Transformation

India's agriculture sector is both a lifeline and a challenge in the fight against climate change. With 140 million households depending on farming for income and food security, the sector contributes roughly 19% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Over the past two years, our partners across India have advanced practical, science-based solutions to cut emissions, boost yields and protect livelihoods.



Working closely with Indian innovators, we are helping to scale approaches that align environmental and economic outcomes. Our goal: to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions while improving water quality, livelihoods and nutrition security for millions.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS AND RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- **Smarter fertilizer use for resilient agriculture:** With partners including [Bihar Agricultural University](#) and local community-development organization [Samagra Shikshan Evam Vikas Sansthan](#), we conducted a trial with more than 4,000 farmers in Bihar state to reduce fertilizer use by 15%. Participating farmers successfully maintained yields while saving money, cutting emissions and protecting groundwater. EDF also began a new partnership with [ITC Limited](#), the nation's largest food company, to conduct fertilizer optimization trials for maize and wheat crops — demonstrating the value that effective fertilizer application can have for both the environment and farmers' livelihoods.
- **Scaling sustainable dairy practices:** India's dairy sector is the world's largest, yet productivity per cow is low. Indian farmers are adopting more sustainable practices that can boost efficiency, raise incomes and cut methane emissions — delivering a “triple win” of higher yields, better livelihoods and lower climate impacts.
- In the state of Tamil Nadu, EDF and [Kumaraguru Group](#) helped launch India's first cohort of climate-smart dairy entrepreneurs. Supported by the state government and dairy cooperative **Aavin**, these 120 individuals are now training thousands of farmers in science-based livestock practices. A new partnership with **Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited** will scale this model across ten states using microfinance strategies to give farmers access to biogas systems that convert animal waste into renewable energy — enhancing farmers' income while reducing pollution.

These initiatives reflect EDF's conviction that climate solutions can and must also strengthen communities. As the world's most populous country, India faces a growing environmental footprint from its food systems — one that will continue to expand unless action is taken now. EDF's agriculture partnerships help ensure that the country's development pathways can support both economic security and climate stability.



LOOKING AHEAD:

EDF will scale its partnerships, supporting fertilizer optimization for hundreds of thousands of farmers. Other planned collaborations will deepen our work on measurement, reporting and verification of agricultural emissions, helping India track progress toward its climate goals. With the right support, these innovations can benefit millions more farmers while safeguarding the planet we all share.



In India, our collaborations with local innovators, from Bihar Agricultural University to dairy cooperatives like Aavin, prove that when we combine forces, we can address climate change while improving livelihoods for millions. These partnerships are essential because they ensure our environmental work is grounded in economic reality and community needs.

Hisham Mundol
EDF Chief Advisor, India



India is at a transitional moment when traditional practices, modern interventions and demography, together with the global realities of climate change, are all at interplay.

Shankar Vanavarayar
President, Kumaraguru Institutions

USA

Catalyzing Sustainable Agricultural Finance

For years, sustainability in U.S. agriculture was driven by forward-looking farmers, food companies and federal programs. But agricultural finance institutions — the lenders moving billions through the sector — have lagged. As climate risks grow and demand for sustainable practices rises, aligning finance with conservation has become critical. Sustainability-linked loans offer a way forward, allowing farmers and agricultural cooperatives to share the initial costs and long-term value of adopting climate-smart practices with their lenders.

EDF and partners are helping to accelerate this shift through a landmark partnership with [CoBank](#), one of the country's largest agricultural lenders. The collaboration resulted in CoBank's first sustainability-linked loan, a breakthrough for the \$500 billion U.S. agriculture finance market. The initiative reflects a new wave of innovation and collaboration aimed at embedding conservation into everyday business through the agriculture sector. In Iowa, the partnership is delivering measurable gains in water quality and soil health.

The initiative is anchored by [Heartland Co-op](#), a farmer-owned agricultural cooperative that buys grain and sells farm supplies at more than 70 locations across Iowa, Nebraska and Texas. With EDF support, Heartland secured a sustainability-linked loan package from CoBank that offers an interest rate reduction if participating farmers meet clear conservation targets that improve water quality and soil health.

These include increasing cover crop acreage to 98,000 acres (a 33% increase) and boosting farmer participation in sustainability programs by 39%. More than 200 edge-of-field filtration systems will be installed. These include saturated buffers, which redirect tile drainage through vegetated strips to absorb nutrients, and bioreactors, which use woodchips or other carbon sources to filter nitrate from runoff.



The [Great Outdoors Foundation](#) collaborated on the project and contributed critical grant funding to amplify Heartland's impact. Heartland used these funds and its loan savings to hire an additional conservation agronomist, helping to scale services and directly assist more farmers in adopting conservation practices.

This initiative shows how lenders can make sustainability more accessible by sharing risk and offering financial incentives for conservation. Over the long-term, expanded conservation will reduce risk to farmers and their business partners, such as Heartland and CoBank. The goal: to reshape the flow of capital in food and agriculture, making conservation both viable and bankable.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- **For the environment:** Sustainable agriculture practices reduce nutrient runoff, improve soil health and enhance crops' resilience to extreme weather.
- **For farmers:** Access to support for soil and water conservation through trusted business relationships lowers costs and complexity.
- **For Iowa communities:** Cleaner water and healthier landscapes reduce flood risks and protect drinking water supplies.

LOOKING AHEAD:

CoBank plans to expand this model to more agricultural retail cooperatives across Iowa and beyond. Meanwhile, EDF is **deepening its collaborations with agricultural finance institutions to offer loan products** that deliver climate and environmental benefits at scale, embedding sustainability into mainstream agriculture finance.



This loan program shows how financial institutions can support farmers in capturing the market value of sustainable agriculture. It integrates conservation into everyday business — not as an add-on, but as a core part of how ag retailers and lenders operate.

Maggie Monast
EDF Senior Director,
Climate-Smart
Agriculture



Our customers' sustainability efforts can improve the financial health and resilience of their business, and we are grateful to have navigated this complex process with a great set of partners as we pilot our sustainability-linked loan product.

Steve Wittbecker
CoBank Chief
Sustainability Officer

LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN

Partnering to Advance Clean Air for Health and Climate

In Latin America and the Caribbean — where more than 80% of people live in cities — air pollution is a growing public health and climate crisis. Yet it also offers a powerful opportunity to improve health, reduce emissions, advance urban sustainability and promote environmental justice.

Cities including Mexico City, Medellín, Bogotá and Santiago have made progress through cleaner transport, stronger regulations and better monitoring. Still, pollution remains dangerously high, especially in underserved communities. The urgent task now is to expand and sustain clean air and climate solutions, bringing them to scale across the region.

Clean air remains one of Latin America and the Caribbean's most underfunded challenges — receiving less than 1% of global development aid, with only a fraction of that reaching the region. EDF and partners are helping to close this gap by supporting the design of practical, fundable programs that pinpoint pollution sources, inform policy and empower communities to push for change. These efforts are gaining momentum, proving that cleaner air is not only essential, but entirely within reach.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDE:

- At the invitation of Brazil's National Secretary of Urban Environment, EDF is helping to drive the most significant clean air policy reform in more than 30 years. Since 2023, EDF has supported key milestones, including the **2024 National Air Quality Policy Law** and new standards aligned with WHO guidelines. Now, EDF and Brazilian partners are designing a long-term, science-based national program to improve air quality, safeguard public health and advance climate goals for the next two decades.
- In partnership with subnational governments in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, EDF has deployed **Air Tracker**, a real-time pollution-detection tool developed with [Carnegie Mellon's CREATE Lab](#), the [University of Utah](#) and the [University of Washington](#). The tool helps to identify pollution sources, enabling targeted interventions. More than 10 million urban residents in Brazil now benefit from enhanced air quality insights via Air Tracker.
- EDF co-organized regional workshops with 15 countries, helping to identify air pollution mitigation strategies in sectors such as transport, waste, agriculture and fires — resulting in a pipeline of project proposals.



LOOKING AHEAD:

EDF is scaling its air-quality partnerships in the region, bringing more partners on board to pursue:

- **Smarter monitoring for cleaner air:** Brazil is launching a national air quality monitoring and data management system that integrates traditional methods with next-generation technologies for more accurate, real-time data.
- **Unlocking sustainable funding:** EDF is helping governments design long-term financing mechanisms for clean air, drawing on global models such as pollution-based trust funds and blended finance. These approaches combine revenues from pollution fines, climate finance and concessional loans — and may include tools such as public guarantees and low-interest loans to reduce investment risk and attract private capital for air quality projects.
- **Momentum in Mexico:** With new national leadership in place, we are helping Mexico take advantage of a pivotal opportunity to scale up efforts that tackle methane emissions, improve air quality and protect public health. National priorities are shifting to actively link methane, air quality and health — driving action on monitoring, mitigation and measurable public health impact.



“Latin America is tackling one of the world's most over-looked crises — air pollution — by turning data into action and partnerships into progress. We're seeing cities and countries step up with bold solutions that protect people's health and the climate.”

Sarah Vogel

EDF Senior Vice
President, Healthy
Communities



“The data provided by Air Tracker enables the analysis of critical air contamination episodes from a new perspective, filling gaps in the interpretation of data from the monitoring network and enabling the development of more targeted actions.”

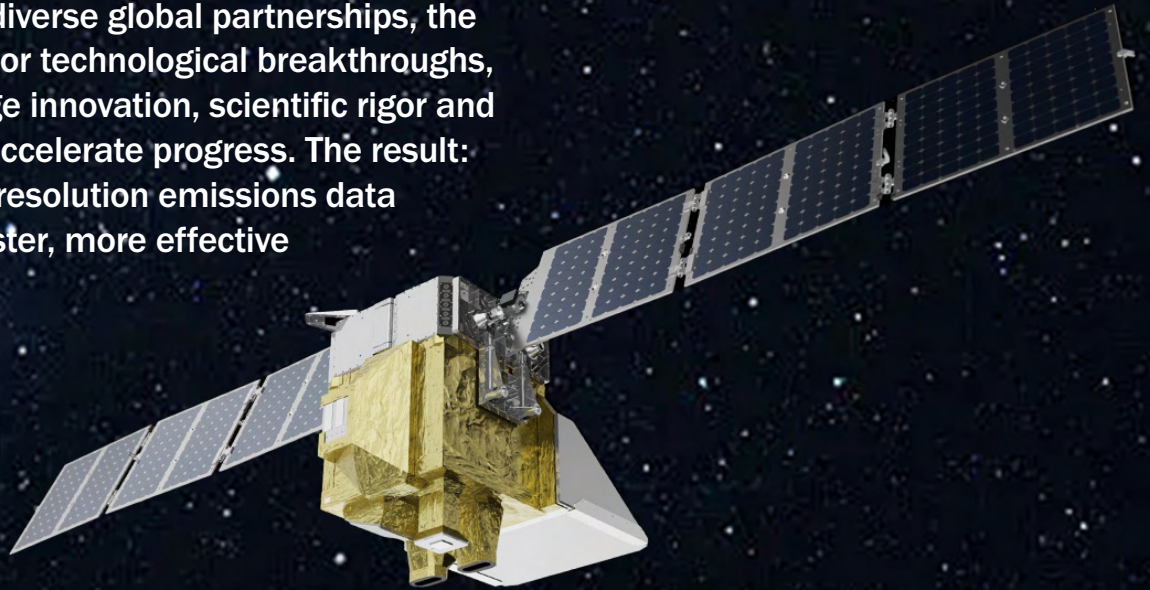
Rafael Campos

State Environmental
Institute of Rio de Janeiro
Air Quality Manager

METHANESAT

A New Era of Collaboration for Climate Accountability

In 2024, EDF launched [MethaneSAT](#) — a bold satellite initiative that significantly advanced our ability to measure greenhouse gas emissions from space. Developed through diverse global partnerships, the project required major technological breakthroughs, blending cutting-edge innovation, scientific rigor and policy relevance to accelerate progress. The result: high-precision, high-resolution emissions data designed to drive faster, more effective climate action.



MethaneSAT was the centerpiece of a much broader effort. EDF worked with hundreds of scientists in dozens of countries to produce the world's leading body of methane science — peer-reviewed studies, cross-sectoral data collaborations and policymaker-ready insights that have shaped regulation and industry behavior from the U.S. to the EU to major oil-producing nations. These partnerships, which include dozens of universities, research organizations and the UN Environment Programme, represent the most comprehensive collaboration in EDF's history.

Although MethaneSAT stopped transmitting data in June 2025, after a year of operation, the mission proved it could deliver high-precision greenhouse gas emissions data — providing a major advance in our ability to track emissions from space. Designed to produce the world's most accurate information on methane emissions from oil and gas production, the satellite pushed the boundaries of what was thought possible, especially for a nonprofit-led space mission.

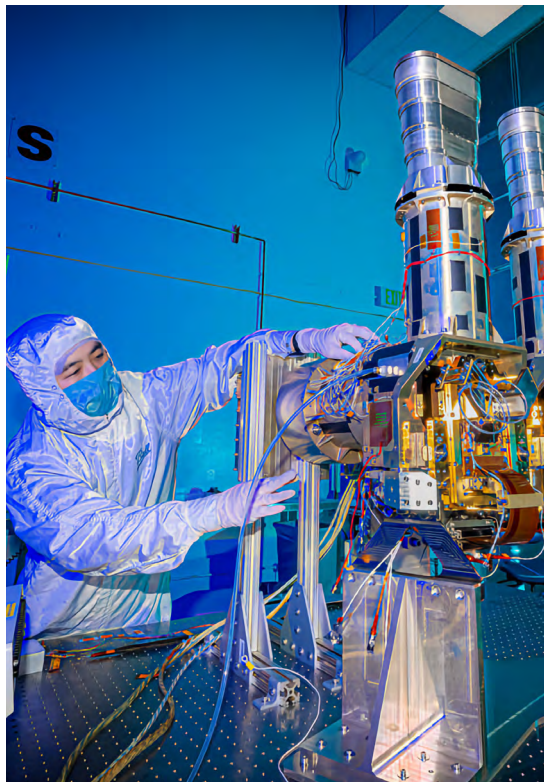
The scientific groundwork behind MethaneSAT — 14 years of collaboration with dozens of institutions around the world and hundreds of scientists — was critical to its success. That work had already begun to reshape our understanding of methane emissions across oil and gas supply chains.

MethaneSAT provides a clear signal that ambitious, science-driven climate action can — and must — be driven by all sectors, including civil society. The idea behind MethaneSAT was developed by scientists at [EDF](#) and [Harvard University](#), and the maturation of that idea was aided by experts at the [Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory](#) as well as engineers at Ball Aerospace, now [BAE Systems](#), which built the high-precision instrument.

Many other institutions and individuals from commercial and public sectors played key roles in the mission, including the [UN Environment Programme International Methane Emissions Observatory](#) and [Google](#), which provided cloud computing and mapping platforms to process and publicly share emissions data.

PRECISION SCIENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE POLLUTION

The mission helped catalyze a new model of transparency and accountability in methane emissions. Even before launch, MethaneSAT inspired national governments and major energy companies to take methane more seriously — demonstrating how credible, independent data can shift norms and spur emissions reductions.



LOOKING AHEAD:

The mission continues on the ground and in the air:

- [MethaneAIR](#), EDF's aircraft-based sister project to MethaneSAT, collected data in the summer and fall of 2025, with flights over North American oil- and gas-producing regions
- EDF and partners are driving international methane policy, supporting implementation of the [Global Methane Pledge](#) and working with industry leaders to reduce emissions.



My colleagues and I have worked with the EDF Science Team for more than a decade, enabling us to do the most effective and innovative research to improve the environment. Together we built MethaneSAT and MethaneAIR, providing data on methane emissions across the globe.

Dr. Steven C. Wofsy

Abbott Lawrence
Rotch Professor of
Atmospheric and
Environmental Science,
Harvard University

AQUATIC BLUE FOOD COALITION

Scaling Ocean-Based Solutions for Climate and Nutrition

Aquatic foods support food and nutrition security for more than 3 billion people worldwide. Over the past two years, EDF has deepened its leadership in the global push to elevate aquatic foods as a cornerstone of sustainable food systems. As co-founder of the [Aquatic Blue Food Coalition](#), we have helped to build one of the most promising international partnerships to combat climate change, improve nutrition and enhance livelihoods — especially for vulnerable coastal communities.

Formed at the **2021 UN Food Systems Summit** and launched at the **2022 UN Ocean Conference**, the coalition has since grown from 20 to 60 members. Coalition members include [Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions](#), [WorldFish](#), [African Union Development Agency](#), the [Pacific Community](#), [Oceana](#) and the [European Bureau for Conservation and Development](#). The Coalition includes 15 governments, including the [Government of Iceland](#), which chairs the Secretariat.

Blue foods — including fish, shellfish, plants and algae captured or harvested in fresh and marine waters — offer a low-carbon, nutrient-rich alternative to terrestrial animal proteins. They provide a vital safety net for millions of people, particularly in coastal and island communities, supplying essential nutrition for one in five individuals globally and livelihoods for more than 800 million people worldwide. By promoting sustainable practices, we can support climate goals while simultaneously improving food access and strengthening local economies.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPACTS:

- **Four new governments joined the coalition** at the **2025 UN Ocean Conference**: Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico and Sierra Leone.
- EDF and coalition partners published policy guidelines for integrating aquatic foods into **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs), accelerating their role in climate mitigation and adaptation plans. We are

collaborating with four nations — Indonesia, Brazil, Ghana and Mexico — to integrate blue foods into their national climate and/or food strategies.

- Brazil and seven other countries launched national **Blue NDC Challenges**, calling for countries to integrate ocean-based climate solutions into plans for achieving the Paris Agreement.
- **Indonesia is completing a national blue food assessment**, which will be integrated into its five-year development strategy. Coalition partners are helping to introduce seaweed and small fish into a nationwide school meals program, to combat high rates of malnutrition and child stunting.
- **Coalition partners hosted more than 60 international events** to raise awareness and build technical capacity across regions.

LOOKING AHEAD:

EDF and its partners are focused on scaling our impact, via initiatives that include:

- **Expanding the coalition's membership in the global south**, with an emphasis on Africa and the Pacific Islands.
- **Working with the Brazilian COP30 presidency team** to ensure that aquatic foods are integrated into the COP30 Action Agenda.
- **Delivering technical expertise** to countries incorporating blue foods into national policies and initiatives, such as NDCs and Sustainable Ocean Plans.



The coalition is proving that with the right partners, it's possible to build climate resilience, enhance nutrition and protect marine ecosystems — all at the same time.

Karly Kelso

EDF Acting Senior
Director, Global Ocean
Initiatives



In just a few years, the coalition has created powerful momentum behind blue food solutions. By collaborating with EDF and other coalition members, we can help decision makers access the science, tools and networks they need to integrate these foods into climate, nutrition and development strategies.

Laura Anderson

Stanford Center
for Ocean Solutions
Engagement Project
Manager



FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP

Deepening Partnerships with Communities Worldwide

As the climate crisis deepens, EDF is expanding the global impact of our partnerships by strengthening collaboration with those on the front lines — Indigenous peoples, local communities and civil society leaders. This work is rooted in long-term engagement and a commitment to ensuring that global climate strategies include — and are shaped by — those most directly impacted.

From coastal fisheries in Mexico to forests in Brazil, we're working hand in hand with communities to co-create solutions grounded in equity and local leadership. Across Africa, our growing partnerships reflect a deep, long-term commitment to community-driven strategies that connect climate action with health and development.

Via our collaboration with the [Frontline Resources Institute](#), we are helping to amplify the priorities of community leaders through policy engagement, capacity-building and peer-to-peer exchange. Together, we're advancing locally led approaches that elevate Indigenous and frontline voices in global climate action.

SUPPORTING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ACROSS AFRICA

As we look to the future, Africa is a region of growing engagement. In a context where climate impacts are accelerating and development priorities remain urgent, EDF is laying the groundwork for long-term collaboration across five key areas: air quality, fisheries, agriculture, forests and energy transition.

- We have entered into a new partnership with [Africa Practice](#), a respected mission-led strategic consulting firm operating across the continent. Together, we are developing a methane advocacy campaign informed by EDF's scientific expertise and implemented through Africa Practice's established networks. The partnership reflects a shared vision: advancing climate action in ways that also support public health and economic opportunity.
- In **Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya**, we are working with national institutions and civil society groups working at the interface of sustainability, equity and development.
- In **Kenya**, our work with [IMPACT Kenya](#) and [MPIDO](#) aims to bridge the gap between community knowledge and national policy frameworks — particularly in the rapidly evolving carbon-finance landscape.

These are initial steps, but they are aligned with a long-term strategy to collaborate with African partners leading the design and delivery of climate solutions tailored to regional contexts.

DEEPENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

EDF's long-standing work with Indigenous peoples and local communities is gaining renewed momentum, as we deepen these partnerships across anchor regions and new geographies. This reflects a recognition that frontline communities are not only disproportionately affected by climate change — they are also essential leaders in protecting ecosystems and driving just, durable solutions.

- In Brazil, EDF is partnering with [Instituto Socioambiental](#) to support Indigenous-led monitoring and advocacy in areas threatened by illegal mining and deforestation.
- In the USA, EDF collaborates with California's [Karuk Tribe](#), supporting their successful advocacy for legislation that restores tribal sovereignty over cultural burning — a proven method to manage wildfire risk and revitalize ancestral forest practices.
- In the Philippines EDF partnered with the **Lipanto Womens, Fisherfolk and Farmers Association** to co-design a seaweed and mussel aquaculture initiative that restores marine ecosystems while boosting local food security and incomes.

In Indonesia and Mexico, EDF works with partners including [MDPI](#), [Reef Check Indonesia](#), and [Comunidad y Biodiversidad](#) to support small-scale fishing communities in restoring coastal ecosystems and strengthening livelihoods through science-based, community-driven fisheries management.



One of the most complex challenges for Africa is climate change and we have found an amazing partner in EDF, with whom we have worked on designing and implementing advocacy campaigns on the reduction of African methane emissions and the promotion of appropriate interventions to drive green hydrogen production on the continent. Through our dynamic partnership, EDF's impact in Africa is evolving to include initiatives on reducing the cost of capital related to the energy transition and new work on carbon markets.

Richard Kiplagat

Africa Hydrogen Task Force Chairman, and Africa Practice Partner and East Africa Managing Director



CONCLUSION

A Shared Path Forward

A Concluding Message from EDF Executive Director Amanda Leland

EDF's global partnerships demonstrate how effective partnerships can translate ambition into tangible progress. From the Amazon basin to South Asia's agricultural heartlands, from methane policy reforms to financing climate-resilient farms, these efforts reflect a clear throughline: durable climate solutions emerge when local leadership, scientific expertise and shared accountability align.

The examples highlighted in this report demonstrate the power of collaboration to support meaningful progress on multiple fronts. In Brazil, we contributed to the country's most significant clean air reform in a generation, while helping cities like São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro adopt real-time tools for decision-making. In Ecuador, we teamed with Indigenous and Afro-descendant organizations as they shaped one of the most inclusive carbon finance agreements to date. In Southeast Asia, Malaysia's progress on methane emissions policy, supported by EDF and partners, is now influencing regional approaches. These and other outcomes underscore a consistent strategy: focus on impact, invest in trust and support local systems that can carry solutions forward.



AN INVITATION TO COLLABORATE

EDF's approach to partnership is both practical and hopeful. We anchor in evidence, design for long-term results and adapt to the needs of those we work with. We pursue scale by aligning with capable mission-driven partners to deliver outcomes that are locally grounded yet globally significant.

As you assess the ways in which collaboration could enhance your impact — whether by expanding reach, adding technical expertise or building capacity — we invite you to consider how EDF's approach might align with your mission. If you are advancing climate solutions and environmental justice, I invite you to connect with us. If you are a donor or investor in systemic change, we offer a tested model for scalable partnership grounded in science and built for measurable impact.

I look forward to what we can achieve together.

Contact us: globalpartnerships@edf.org



“Being practical and engaging with a wide range of partners isn't just a strategy for us — it's part of our DNA. Our most impactful victories come from bringing together diverse voices and engaging in partnerships that can spark transformative change.”

Amanda Leland
EDF Executive Director

