

ACELERADORES POR NATURALEZA



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**Training the next generation of
conservation leaders in Latin America**

Aceleradores por Naturaleza is more than a course — it's a launchpad for young conservation leaders across Latin America. We equip them with the tools, confidence, and networks they need to turn bold ideas into real impact for the land- and seascapes they protect, and the communities they serve.

www.conservamos.org/aceleradores





THE CHALLENGE

**committed young leaders
face systemic barriers**


Across Latin America, thousands of young people are already taking action to protect their seas, rivers, forests and communities.

They bring talent, creativity, and deep commitment to conservation — but often face structural barriers that limit their impact.

Most lack access to holistic, hands-on training in conservation management tailored to their local contexts. Opportunities for funding, visibility, and mentorship are rare. Many feel isolated, without networks or guidance to grow their ideas into sustainable initiatives.

And most conservation training programs are expensive, only offered in English, or disconnected from the realities of conservation in Latin America.

Aceleradores por Naturaleza (AxN) exists to bring holistic conservation management training to early-career Latin American changemakers.






OUR SOLUTION

Aceleradores por Naturaleza (AxN) is a free, online, Spanish-language course that empowers young conservationists to transform their ideas into real, impactful projects.

In a holistic course that combines conservation management tools with key soft skills, participants receive hands-on training, mentoring and access to a growing community of peers across the region. The intensive program spans 15 weeks, with all modules taught live, covering both theory and practical components.

In 2025, a comprehensive impact assessment showed that the course has a transformative impact on the professional development of early-career conservationists.





“You can clearly see the care with which it was designed. It’s not just something done for the sake of it — it’s genuine.”
— **Fellow from Peru, 2022**



OUR STRATEGY

We envision a community of empowered young changemakers driving lasting conservation impact across Latin America. Our approach is based in three pillars:

1. Practical skills for real-world impact

We equip early-career professionals with the tools they need to turn ideas into action.


2. A growing community of changemakers

We build a connected network of peers who inspire and support each other.

3. Mentoring that empowers and guide

We facilitate one-on-one intergenerational exchange rooted in trust, purpose, and direction.



A photograph of several dolphins leaping from the water. The dolphins are dark grey or black, and their bodies are curved as they move through the air. The water is a deep blue, and there are white splashes where the dolphins entered the water. The background shows a clear blue sky.

“Honestly, it exceeded all expectations. I didn’t even know a course like this existed for people working in conservation in Latin America.”
— **Fellow from Ecuador, 2022**

1.

PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR REAL-WORLD IMPACT

Young leaders often enter the conservation field full of passion, but without the technical tools to plan, implement, and communicate their initiatives effectively. **AxN fills that gap through a comprehensive curriculum that blends theory with practice.**

What participants learn:

- **Understand** conservation challenges through a systems thinking lens, including situational analyses, gender and intercultural contexts, and policy
- **Design** impactful solutions using Theory of Change, SMART goals, and logical frameworks
- **Implement** projects with real-world tools: budgeting, leadership, and conflict resolution using non-violent communication
- **Communicate** effectively through strategy, storytelling, and public speaking



A woman with glasses and a cap is smiling and hugging a large tree trunk in a lush green forest. She is wearing a plaid shirt and a black bag strap is visible. The background is filled with dense foliage and sunlight filtering through the leaves.

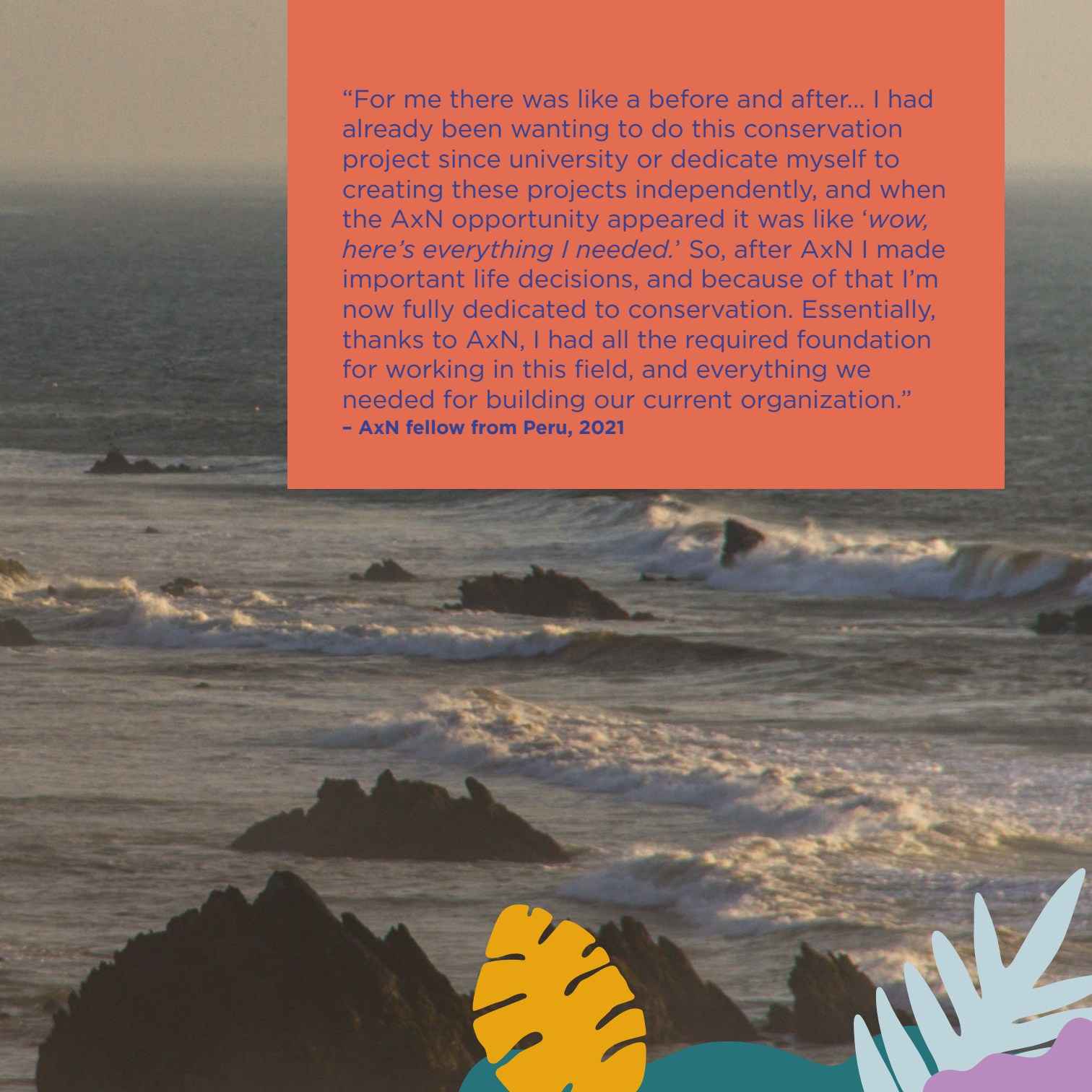
86%
of alumni

now work in conservation

Fellows show **significant improvement** in project management, leadership, and communication skills







“For me there was like a before and after... I had already been wanting to do this conservation project since university or dedicate myself to creating these projects independently, and when the AxN opportunity appeared it was like ‘wow, *here’s everything I needed.*’ So, after AxN I made important life decisions, and because of that I’m now fully dedicated to conservation. Essentially, thanks to AxN, I had all the required foundation for working in this field, and everything we needed for building our current organization.”

- AxN fellow from Peru, 2021



2.

A GROWING COMMUNITY OF CHANGEMAKERS

Learning is stronger when it's shared.
We believe conservation requires
not only knowledge, but connection.

**AxN fosters a regional community
of young leaders who support one
another, collaborate, and grow
together beyond the course.**

Through our alumni network, we:

- Host virtual events on soft skills and leadership
- Share funding, job, and scholarship opportunities
- Provide a platform for exchange on project ideas and conservation challenges.
- Maintain ongoing support from the CxN team





10 countries
represented in the network

Alumni events in 2024 engaged
over 60%
of past participants

“It helped me realize I’m not alone. There are others out there in Latin America pushing for the same changes. That gave me strength.”

— Fellow from Mexico, 2022

3. MENTORSHIP THAT EMPOWERS AND GUIDES

Growth takes more than content — early-career conservation professionals need role models from Latin America that inspire and guide.

Our voluntary mentorship program connects fellows with **experienced conservation professionals who offer technical guidance and professional support.**

What we offer:

- At least three personalized sessions with a mentor during the course
- Feedback on project design, pitches, and professional development
- Intergenerational exchange that fosters learning and inspiration for both mentee and mentor.





+35 mentors

from 8 countries have
participated to date

**90% of
mentored
fellows**

say it boosted their motivation
and clarity of purpose

“AxN came at a moment
when I was about to give
up on environmental
work. It helped me
see that if I can’t find
opportunities, I can create
them. That changed
everything for me.”

— Fellow from Peru, 2022

A POWERFUL IMPACT

AxN fellows are currently leading their own projects and initiatives, empowered by the course.

- **Melissa Ramos – Peru**

After the course, Melissa led a community-based initiative that supports six farming communities in San Martín in protecting over 7,000 hectares of forest. Her team promotes ecotourism, monitoring, and water access, benefiting more than 6,500 people.

- **Sarai Cortez – Peru**

Sarai co-founded Proyecto Cetáceos Perú to promote sustainable whale watching. With her course project, she trains tour operators in conservation practices and data collection to protect humpback whales and boost local livelihoods.

- **Rocío Contreras – Chile**

Rocío works to protect the endangered Darwin's fox in southern Chile. Through her project, developed during the course, she engages dog owners near protected areas to reduce threats and safeguard the species' habitat.





100 participants

trained across 4 editions (2021-2024)

**11 countries
represented:**

Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Cuba,
Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru,
Uruguay, and Venezuela

**Diverse
professional
backgrounds**

including conservation science,
environmental and forestry
engineering, law, communications,
geography, and more

86%

currently working
in conservation

**50+ active
mentors**

supporting participants



PERUVIAN SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

We defend nature and our right to a healthy environment

The **Peruvian Society for Environmental Law** is a nonprofit civil organization founded in 1986. Its mission is educational and scientific, focused on the protection of the environment, the promotion of the right to a healthy environment, and the sustainable use of natural resources for their conservation, proper management, and improvement.

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