

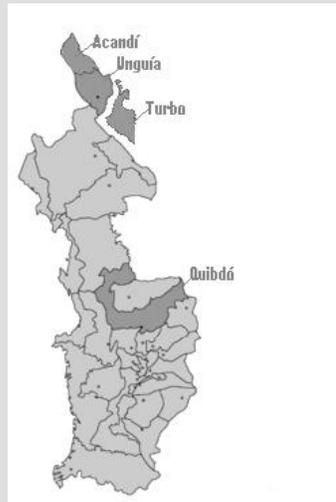
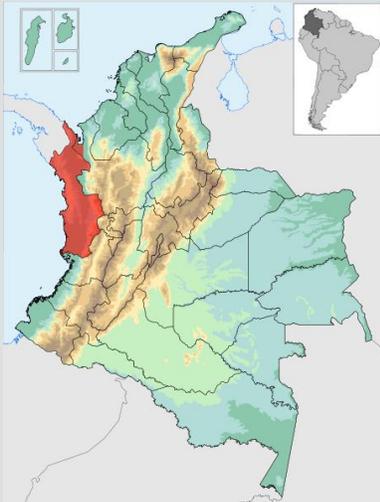


USAID CMM APS #M/OAA/DCHA/DOFDA-10-390

## Project – “Resolution of Land and Natural Resources Conflicts in Colombia”

### QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

1 October – 31 December, 2012



Submitted by

**MERCY CORPS COLOMBIA (Primary Applicant)**  
in partnership with  
**FUNDACIÓN DARIÉN & COCOMACIA (Sub-grantees)**

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## Acronyms

<b>ADR</b>	Alternative Dispute Resolution
<b>ASOREWA</b>	Association of Indigenous Emberá, Waunaan, Katío, Chamí & Tule Communities
<b>CCL</b>	Local Community Council
<b>CMM</b>	Conflict Management & Mitigation Office, USAID
<b>COCOMABOCAS</b>	Community Council of Bocas de Atrato & Leoncito
<b>COCOMACIA</b>	Community Council of the Integrated Farmers Association of the Atrato
<b>COCOMASUR</b>	Community Council of Tolo River, Southern Coastal Zone of Acandí
<b>COCOMAUNGUÍA</b>	Community Council of the Lower Atrato of Unguía
<b>FEDEOREWA</b>	Federation of Indigenous Communities
<b>INCODER</b>	Colombian Institute for Rural Development
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross / Red Crescent
<b>ICORA</b>	Colombian Institute for Agrarian Reform
<b>INGEOMINAS</b>	Colombian Institute for Geology and Mines
<b>MC</b>	Mercy Corps
<b>OIA</b>	Indigenous Organization of Antioquia
<b>OREWA</b>	Association of Indigenous Communities of Choco

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## 1. Executive Summary & Implementation

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During this reporting period of October- December 2012, Mercy Corps and its partners implemented the following activities in the collective territories of Quibdó and the Darien Chocoano:

### Alternative Dispute Resolution & Ethnic Rights Training

- i) Four training sessions in three local councils of COCOMASUR were held, two of which covered ethnic rights and the remaining two focused on the basic usage of GPS.
- ii) Conflict management and resolution was employed to resolve 37 land conflicts in COCOMAUNGUIA and 37 family land titles were granted inside the collective territories.
- iii) COCOMABOCAS, COCOMAUNGUIA and the National INCODER made progress on the clarifying resolution agreements in regards to the exclusive management of the mangroves at the mouth of the Atrato River.
- iv) INCODER and COCOMASUR developed a work plan to move forward with the land entitlement process in areas populated by Afro-descendants in seven Local Councils of the Greater Council.
- v) Moreover, new approximations were made with Corpouraba in order to start agreements reached in the Previous Consultation between Corpouraba, COCOMAUNGUIA, and COCOMABOCAS for the protection of the mangroves.
- vi) Agreements and compromises were brought to the Tanela community and COCOMAUNGUIA in search of clarity on the boundaries between these communities and the use of the natural resources.
- vii) During this period, a live video conference was held on RedTierras. Leaders and technicians from Colombia (Darien and Middle Atrato) Guatemala and Bolivia participated.

### COCOMASUR trainings

The trainings were conducted in three Local Councils (Peñalosa, San Francisco y Titiza) in the municipality of Acandí. A total of 77 people participated (43 women and 34 men).



### Reception and management of 37 land conflicts in COCOMAUNGUIA

The Greater Council made significant progress towards the implementation of the Methodological Roadmap to resolve land conflicts inside the Collective Territories in the Local Council of Puerto. A woman who was trained during the first year of the project was the coordinator and leader of this process.

Thirty-seven cases were identified in Unguia's Mediation Center, 21 were brought forward by men and 16 by women. During this first part of the project, a management plan was established with the community that begins with the reception of the case, followed by the demarcation of properties, the socialization of field work, and finally, with the agreement between the parties. Throughout this process, the mediation strategy offered an alternative that prevents conflict and organizes the local councils' territories.

It is important to highlight that the demarcation field work was led by community promoters from the Local Council of Puerto who were trained as part of the project's framework. However, in the making of the cartographic diagrams, a professional topographer assisted the technical process as part of the technical team of the local partners. Through this experience, the community promoters received reinforcement on their use and knowledge of the technical characteristics of the project.

During the demarcation activity previously conceptualized during a communitarian assembly, community members were assigned to participate in field visits. In fact, those who were interested assumed the responsibility to have the roads ready for the promoter to do the topographic work, the identification of the points and coordinates, and the parceling out of land.



Men and women established work days to create roads for the areas of family land use using GPS and cartographic equipment. Twenty women participated in the activity and later the field work results were presented to the Local Council's assembly. During the meeting, the community located the properties in the Local Council's general map, finalized the zoning of the area while taking into consideration the areas identified for family land uses as well as the already existing boundaries of familial property.

The social and environmental agreements of families with land uses conflicts were presented and the agreements were made in an individual manner with each one of the parties considering the internal rules and the statutes in terms of the use, management, and better use of the land within the Law 70 of 1993 and its respective decrees. In this manner, the agreements were signed establishing a yearly assistance by the Council to determine whether or not they are grantees of the land use certification document.

### **Political Advocacy: Approaching the National INCODER**

Two meetings were held with the National INCODER the first of which reestablished alliances with the institution taking into consideration the presence of a new Sub-manager of Promotion and Ethnic Issues. At the same time, it intended to review the agreements made between the INCODER and the Greater Councils of the Darien as part of the project's framework. The meeting took place in November, in Bogotá; the Legal Representatives of the three Communitarian Councils were present. In this regard:

- a. COCOMASUR established a request based on the agreements and is now working on a historical, socio-cultural and economic memory recollection of its communities.
- b. COCOMABOCAS invited the Board of Directors and later called for an Assembly to review the Clarifying Resolution of the Collective Title draft and communication supporting and clarifying issues in the Resolution. The document was later presented to the National INCODER.
- c. COCOMAUNGUIA reviewed the Clarifying Resolution of the Collective Title draft during the Assembly and it was analyzed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors sent a communication to the National INCODER supporting the Resolution and the document was submitted and filed during the third week of December.

## Approaching the Tanela Community

The situation in the Tanela community remains complex as they have not yet been able to clarify their borders with the Local Council. Additionally, they need to move forward with the process of the land tenancy security. During this reporting period, a meeting was held with the Tanela leaders to identify a solution to the conflict with the Communitarian Council. This issue was later presented to the National INCODER in order to get more institutional support to create the official borders.

Following the verification process completed by in October 2011, the INCODER confirmed COCOMAUNGUIA's boundary coordinates. The INCODER suggested that the same procedure be used with the Hacienda Tanela in order to expedite the Government's actions on the issue. The project will move forward with the studies of the titles and the making of the plots of the Hacienda Tanela, the execution of field expeditions with the farmers around the boundaries of the Communitarian Councils and the total land area of the Hacienda. The goal is that the communities will present the INCODER with a document detailing the precise conflicts and the possible solutions to eventually sign the agreements. In this regard, the INCODER will do a verification and consequently clarify the resolutions.



A study of the titles, plots, and a field verification of the Hacienda Tanela and the occupied properties of the collective territories has been planned. Each one of the stages will be carried out by the parties, and a document will be presented with the results to the INCODER. The Hacienda Tanela and the Council's delegates are expected to participate in this process which is planned for January and March 2013.

### The following activities took place in Quibdó:

1. An analysis of the land boundary conflicts between the CCL of Montañío and Mesopotamia was conducted.
2. A Pre-consultation meeting with the CCL of San Francisco de Ichó was held. Two members of the Ministry of Interior participated in the meeting who were on the board of the previous consultation. Other participants included the Greater Board of Directors, the disciplinary committee for the commission of land and autonomy, the gender commission, 60 representatives of the communitarian councils from Zones One and Two and the representatives of the *Volador Colombia* company.
3. A Consultation and mining processes workshop was held with goal of training the COCOMACIAS staff about the previous consultation processes and the proposed law for the mining legal code in Colombia. During the workshop the government's projections regarding mining issues in the country were explained and implications of the mining processes on the Afro-Colombian communities were highlighted and addressed.

4. An introductory workshop of the land ordering process in the Local Council of Baudocito was conducted. The workshop's goal was to inform the Local Communitarian Council of Baudocito about the project between COCOMACIA and Mercy Corps as well as the Land Ordering Proposal. An agreement act was signed, and a diagnosis was made about the community's land conflicts using social cartography. A map of the use of the soil was created with the defined housing areas, communal forests, and farms. Rivers, creeks, swamps, and natural pools belonging to the jurisdiction of the Local Communitarian Council of Baudocito were geo-referenced.
5. A theoretical and practical workshop on new technologies and communication was organized with the goal of measuring the knowledge of the workshops' participants and to introduce the gender commissioners and the members of the board of directors to topics related with Communication Technologies. All of the workshops had a practical component and evaluations of the information acquired during the first stage have been made.

## 1. Indicators

**Table 1: Achievements to October - December 2012**

Indicator	Indicator Description	Indicator type	Desagregation by sex	Year 1	Goal Year 1	% Goal Achieve Y1	Year 2 QR1 13	Goal Year 2	% Goal Achieve Y2	LoP Goal	% LoP Achieved
1	Number of previously existing land and natural resources conflicts resolved in areas receiving USG assistance for mitigation of land conflicts.	CMM		133	80	166%	37	40	93%	120	141,7%
2	# of people participating in USG-assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Direct beneficiaries of resolved conflict cases )	CMM	Hombre	85	110	105%	12	40	68%	150	95,3%
			Mujer	31			15				
3	# of people participating in USG-assisted reconciliation activities conducted and completed with the participation of two or more of the conflict parties. (Participation in training, local exchanges)	CMM	Hombre	1.083	400	457%	68	110	148%	510	390,0%
			Mujer	743			95				
4	# of regional exchanges concerning conflicts over land and natural resources between technical teams, staff members, and leaders of Colombia and Guatemala.	MC		2	2	100%	0	1	0%	3	66,7%
5	Number of households that have obtained property rights as a result of USG assistance.	MC	Hogares	48	30	160%	0	15	0%	45	106,7%
			Mujeres	48	n/a		0		n/a	n/a	
6	# of peace building structures established or strengthened with USG assistance that engages conflict-affected citizens affected in peace and reconciliation processes	CMM		4	4	100%	0	0	0%	4	100,0%
7	# of land and natural resource guides with a gender focus distributed to Afro-Colombian Community Councils	MC		0	0	0%	0	137	0%	137	0,0%
8	# of users in the RedTierras disaggregated	MC		171	150	114%	47	150	31%	300	72,7%
9	# of local women participating in a substantive role or position in a peacebuilding process supported with USG assistance	CMM	Mujer	0	0	0%	33	15	220%	15	220,0%

## 2. Activities & Results

**Objective 1: Strengthen the capacity of Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities to peacefully manage conflict within and between communities in the Darién region and Quibdó, Colombia.**

**R.1.1 Community leaders in the Darién and Quibdó are applying ADR, and People to People principles to resolve conflicts encountered in the communities.**

**Activity 1.1:** Train 550 community leaders on ADR with a Person to Person approach to resolve land conflicts and promote good governance and reconciliation.

**R. 1.2 Women in El Darién and Quibdó have more equitable access to the land.**

**Activity 1.2:** Train 110 Afro-Colombian and indigenous community members on Global Positioning Systems (GPS) use and interpretation, satellite image interpretation and other land measurement skills as a means of preventing and managing conflicts over land and natural resources.

During this reporting period, COCOMASUR trained 77 people on land and ethnic rights, and GPS usage in Acandí. Of the participants, 43 were women and 34 were men.

In Quibdó, 66 community leaders have been trained in conflict mediation and alternative dispute resolution of whom 24 were women and 42 were men. In addition, 59 female and male leaders of the Local Councils have been trained in ethnic legislation and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; 15 of them were women and 44 of them were men.

**Activity 1.3:** Women participate in land conflict mediation activities that result in their increased land access and land tenure security.

COCOMASUR aims to have women participate in leadership training to increase their participation in the community, to give them skills and abilities in mediation and MARC, and to ensure their participation in peaceful resolutions of land conflicts as well as family and communitarian conciliations. COCOMASUR promotes women’s participation in administrative and organizational areas and promotes their productivity in the fields and their access to the land.

Participation by women on the Council is as follows:

Community Mediation Promoters	<u>3</u>
Community Demarcation Promoters	<u>2</u>
Women on the Local Council Board	<u>3</u>
Women on the Greater Council Board	<u>2</u>
Women on the Administrative Area	<u>6</u>
Women Leading Other Processes *	<u>3</u>
Women’s Committee	<u>14</u>

TOTAL	33
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\*Other processes refer to the many activities presented in the Local Councils.

The board of directors for COCOMAUNGUIA changed during their assembly in December. Five women are now representing their Local Councils which means that five of the six Local Councils of COCOMAUNGUIA are being represented by women.

**Activity 1.4:** Work with INCODER and other government agencies to build awareness of field staff to assure inclusion of women as owners of land titles and other instruments of land ownership.

A meeting was held in the first week of December with Unguía’s Municipal Mayor, the female Director of Choco’s Territorial and the COCOMAUNGUIA’s legal representative with the goal of reviewing the roadmap to give land titles to the farmers of

the municipality's rural areas outside of the Collective Territory. The following agreements were made as a result of the meeting:

1. Beneficiaries List.

- a) A list of applications for titles of the years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 to the INCODER is now at hand.
- b) A verification of the list needs to be completed - with the people who have made payments to the general list - in order to organize and edit the beneficiaries' list.
- c) 165 titles of women with one hectare property were prioritized which was added as an annexed to the agreement.

2. The Communitarian Council reviewed the general listings and requested the revocation of seven titles through the National and Regional INCODER.

3. The Council gave the green light to proceed with the titling of 165 prioritized women's titles.

4. The Regional INCODER facilitated copies of the titles which were taken to the Local Government Rentals Office in order to move forward with the liquidation paperwork. There are also copies of such titles in Unguía's Mediation Center.

5. The INCODER agrees to monitor the process between the Rentals Office and Public Instruments Office to guarantee the arrival of the documents to the Public Instruments Office so they can move forward with the pending paperwork to develop the Tradition and Liberty certifications.

6. The INCODER agrees to have the original documents ready by the due date (Title, Plots, and Notary and Registry Certification).

7. The Project subsidized 165 notary rights for the selected properties. The proof of these payments is in the INCODER's Regional Directive Office.

8. Unguía's Mayor's Office agrees to have budget availability for the rental payments and to continue giving the 340 remaining titles.

9. A protocol act will be planned when the Public Instruments Office gives away the certificates for each one of the titles.

10. COCOMAUNGUIA conducted a survey with 20% of the female beneficiaries and is now doing a qualitative analysis of their socio-economic characterization.

**R. 1.3 Women's and men's attitudes on gender, masculinity, and women's rights in relation to conflict are changed in a positive way in the Darien and Quibdó regions.**

**Activity 1.5: Conduct workshops and "attitude-change campaigns" on gender and masculinity which are based on the results of focus groups that have revealed biases and barriers to women's participation.**

No activities to report this quarter.

**Objective 2: Build sustainability and ensure local ownership of land and natural resource conflict mediation.**

**R. 2.1 Two additional conflict mediation centers are operating in the municipalities Turbo and Quibdó.**

**Activity 2.1 Set up and staff two new mediation centers for the peaceful resolution of land and natural resource disputes linked to the Turbo and Quibdó municipal governments.**

No activities to report this quarter.

**R. 2.2 Existing mediation centers in Acandí and Unguía are strengthened in terms of community acceptance, technical capacity, and financial self-sufficiency to improve sustainability and resolve land and natural resource conflicts.**

**Activity 2.2 Provide assessments and technical support for existing mediation centers in Acandí and Unguía, according to needs and sustainability plans.**

The male and female leaders of COCOMASUR in Acandí and COCOMAUNGUIA in Unguía have offered mediation and demarcation services to their Local Councils. With these actions they have strengthened their organizational process and have advanced in the land ordering process.

During this quarter, COCOMASUR has directed its efforts towards consolidating the Local Council of San Francisco by replicating training workshops on Mediation, Collective Rights and Basic GPS Usage. These workshops ensure that local representatives are presenting their own proposals for the collective titling of properties occupied by Afro-Colombian communities.

COCOMAUNGUIA has directed its efforts to identify areas of family land use in the Local Council of Puerto. The project has implemented a plan to manage the cases with the goal of starting a process to use mediation as a strategy to organize the collective territory for conflict prevention. As a result, 37 families were identified and agreements were made in terms of responsibility, acknowledgment of ancestral authority, adequate use and management of the land and natural resources.

The Communitarian Council of Bocas de Atrato is working hand in hand with COCOMAUNGUIA and is taking cases from Unguía's Mediation Center. During this reporting period, the case of the previous consultation about the protection of the mangrove forest with Corpouraba was prioritized.

**R. 2.3 Best practices to resolve land and natural resource conflicts are identified, evaluated for effectiveness, and documented for future use in other areas of Colombia.**

It was decided that COCOMACIA and the Darien Community Council members will document the land use planning processes for the Middle Atrato. They will then replicate the process with COCOMASUR, COMAUNGUIA, and COCOMABOCAS during the regional exchanges in Unguía and Acandí. The first exchange will be held in in the town of Peñaloza, Acandí in March with COCOMASUR as a host.

**R. 2.4 Methodologies for natural resources conflict resolution are defined and successfully applied in the mediation centers.**

During this reporting period, COCOMAUNGUIA applied the methodological guide to 37 cases that were identified under the "request to access to the land" typology. The agreements made with the Hacienda Las Vegas marked the beginning of this process. After 25 years, the black communities have achieved, through mediation, access to the lands that ancestrally belonged to them and that were recognized in the collective titling in 2003.

Once the land was recovered, the community of Puerto enters to define the areas of land use and the conditions to access them. It is possible to identify the beneficiary families that registered their requests in the Mediation Center - and have the technical teams accompany them during field work, publicized the results, given lands to their respective plots, and sign the appropriate agreements.

The fact that the Councils started to autonomously implement the methodology inside their territories to resolve conflicts as well as to organize them guarantees the sustainability of the process. As such, the mediation centers have become spaces to gather and negotiate, inform the communities' processes and provide a dialogue that makes the process more dynamic.

The challenge remains to establish the real cost of the plan and ways to subsidized it in order for the implementation of the strategy to become sustainable and initiated by the community.

**Activity 2.3: Development of a land conflict management guide, incorporating best practices from Guatemala and Colombia.**

No activities to report during this quarter.

**R. 2.5 Local partner, Fundación Darien, has the capacity to support beneficiaries of resolved land conflicts with economic development based on the sustainable use of natural resources.**

**Activity 2.4: Training and technical support to identify, categorize, and resolve natural resource conflicts using ADR.**

The Project team has been offering technical support to community mediators; in particular, they have supported the managing of the matrix and analyzing the steps in the mediation route which has taken days of reviewing archives and analyzing cases. COCOMAUNGUIA's work has increased due to the amount of cases that were handled during the trimester.

**Activity 2.5 and Activity 2.6: Strengthen the capacity of Fundación Darién and COCOMACIA to develop community based land and natural resource management plans that take into account sustainable income generation and livelihoods.**

No activities to report during this quarter.

**Objective 3: To increase participation of women, Afro-Colombians and indigenous persons in the development of policies that address the root causes of land and natural resource conflict.**

**R. 3.1 A virtual network (RedTierras) was created, whose participants include women, Afro-Colombian and indigenous persons, that advocates for land and natural resources conflict policies in Colombia.**

**Activity 3.1 Organize and hold events to develop proposals for policy changes that mitigate land and natural resource conflicts.**

No activities to report this quarter.

**R. 3.2 Links are established between networks in Colombia and Guatemala that address land and natural resource conflicts between ethnic groups taking into account gender equality.**

**Activity 3.2: Cross-regional visits and forums to share strategies on improving land and natural resource policy.**

No activities to report this quarter

**R. 3.3 Best practices for land and natural resources conflict resolution that promote participation of marginalized groups are shared.**

In November, a virtual encounter took place among the operation teams of the Project in Colombia, Bolivia, and Guatemala. It was transmitted from the Mercy Corps Colombia office in Bogotá and it had the participation of more than 40 people on line for three hours.

This technical and technological activity was a challenge for Red Tierra's coordination team. The participation of the communities, in particular, of the community leaders, was a greater challenge. For that reason the number of users that registered during the broadcast was a great achievement. Having the big screens in the mediation centers allowed the participation of 15 leaders.

The broadcast allowed for the sharing of experiences and challenges of ethnic groups in Bolivia and Guatemala as it relates to land access and land conflict resolution. In the Darien, these experiences generated a space to reflect and evaluate the advantages and possibilities that are happening as part of the project's framework in the region with the support of a legislation that guarantees the right of a collective territory.

**Activity 3.3 Seminars and other events for presenting and sharing best practices in land and natural resource conflict resolution.**

No activities to report this quarter.

**3. Monitoring and Evaluation**

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This quarter, the Mercy Corps Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DM&E) team provided continuous technical support to implementing partners, in particular the COCOMACIA technical team. Technical support included data quality reviews, consolidating monthly indicator reports in Project databases and overseeing the collection of information during the implementation of activities.

The M&E Coordinator and the COP met with the USAID M&E contractor DevTech to review indicator information and update indicator data in the Monitor System. All data is complete and up to date. Registration information was also updated for TraiNet in order to upload training and exchange activity information for participants. Lastly, meetings were held with the AOR to review indicators for the upcoming cooperative agreement modification to include the Women's Leadership initiative fund.

## Annex 1. Success Story

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### *We Grow and Opportunities Grow*

Success Story

December 2012

By: German Córdoba and Nelly Machado, COCOMAUNGUIA Representatives



Since the previous visit from the INCORA in 2002, an initial decision was been made for the adjudication of the Collective Title. After the adjudication (July 23, 2003), the communities have not had the opportunity to hold a formal recognition of the titled territory. Today, after an identification process of the Collective Territory made by Mercy Corps through the Tierra's Project, the members of the Council have access to the land.

This has allowed the Local Councils and their communities to become interested in the process of the Afro-Colombian communities and their internal organization in order to feel like part of a community and a territory. On the other hand, the implementation of the

Methodological Guide as a strategy for the territorial ordering is being assimilated as part of the traditions and customs of our towns.

As a Council, we are interested in the methodology proposed by Mercy Corps, not only as a route to resolve conflicts inside the collective territory, but also as a strategy to advance in the ordering of the same, to disseminate and sensitize the members of COCOMAUNGUIA's community in terms of the use, management, and utilization of the Collective Territory. The sustainability of the mediation strategy proposed by the project is intended as part of the processes that COCOMAUNGUIA is doing and will do in its Local Councils.



An important physical space for the Council is the Mediation Center that is used by the Council as part of the alliance with Mercy Corps. The Mediation Center in Unguía has become a space that guarantees and supports the development of the Mediation Strategy. It is a space that facilitates the cohesion of community members and offers support, accompaniment, as well as technical and professional orientation to manage situations inside and outside the Territory.

The dynamic facilitated by the Project and the Mediation Center is crucial for the strengthening of our autonomy and governability of our Titled Territory. New Challenges are approaching: the ordering of the territory, the demarcation of the coordinates that define our boundaries and the gender based ethno-development plan; these will allow our women to lead their own processes, to make decisions about their territory, and guarantee the permanency of our communities, and the prolongation of our culture.



## *First Red Tierras live broadcast, a success that involves new challenges*

Success Story

November 2012

BY: Yolanda Pinzón Uribe and Samara Casallas

On Tuesday November 6, 2012, the Red Tierras teams of the Project in Colombia, Bolivia, and Guatemala met virtually. The broadcast was transmitted from the office of Mercy Corps Colombia in Bogotá, with the participation of more than 40 people who were following the event on line for more than three hours.

Thanks to this activity, the leaders were able to get to know experiences from the Project for Peaceful Resolution of Land Conflicts that is being implemented in neighboring countries with ethnic groups that have much less legal and formal conditions to access to the land than Colombian ethnic groups.



The impact on the field was clear, even though sometimes the signal failed and the communication seemed to take a bad turn, the leaders did not move from being in front of the screen, instead, they were surprised by the images presented and the stories told about the livelihoods and subsistence of other towns that shared with them their aims to reestablish their ethnic rights and the struggles to achieve them.

*“It is like being there”*, assertively said some of the leaders thanks to the magic of the new technologies that gave them the possibility to feel very close, but also to be part of the life stories that are being created in this virtual space. The big challenge for Red Tierras is the need to include the communities in the constructions of new narratives. It is clear that our communities are more graphic and audio-visual than readers, and that there are large difficulties to accessing technology. However, this broadcast showed that the platform can offer services and virtual spaces to promote new connections that are larger than geographic distances and that can facilitate equal knowledge exchanges.

Therefore, in order to measure the participation in our network, we need to overcome the idea that we can achieve this just by acquiring computers, instead, we need to consider the accessibility with the one computer we now have. Even more so, now that we have heard about the way the other communities have been resourceful and organized in order to obtain greater access to the information.