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Iniciativa para la Conservación
en la Amazonía Andina - ICAA

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Indigenous Landscapes First Quarterly Report FY 2013 - QR1

(January, 2013)

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. (USAID). Prepared by: ICAA II- Indigenous Landscapes.

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The Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon - ICAA is being implemented by a consortium of companies and organizations such as: *Federación Indígena de la Nacionalidad Cofán del Ecuador (FEINCE)*; *La Coordinadora Indígenas de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)*; *Fundación Sobrevivencia Cofán (FSC)*; *Instituto del Bien Común (IBC)*; y *Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF)*.

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Indigenous Landscapes

1.1 NAME OF THE PROJECT :

Indigenous Landscapes

1.2. DATE

Agreement /contract finish:

Thursday, 29 September, 2016

Agreement /contract start:

Friday, 30 September, 2011

Report period start:

Monday, 1 October, 2012

Report period finish:

Monday, 31 December, 2012

1.3 Prime Partner:

The Nature Conservancy

1.4 NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER

Phone number Program Manager:

+593 2 3341701 ext. 111

E-mail Program Manager:

mguevara@tnc.org

Name Program Manager:

Marcelo Guevara

1.5. NAME OF USAID AGREEMENT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (AOR) OR CONTRACT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (COR) :

Mónica Suquilanda

1.6. Name of alternate AOR or COR:

Constance E. Campbell

1.7. USAID Mechanism Number:

AID-OAA-A-11-00019

1.8. Overall Program Description:

The ICAA II landscape-level project ‘Indigenous Landscapes’ is implemented by the following six organizations: The Nature Conservancy (TNC, prime); Instituto del Bien Común, Peru (IBC), Fundación para la Supervivencia del Pueblo Cofán, Ecuador (FSC), Federación Indígena de la Nacionalidad Cofán del Ecuador (FEINCE), Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA), and Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF). We are working on landscape-level issues in tandem with focused efforts at core sites. To ensure long-term conservation and sustainable use of the landscape’s natural resources, our project prioritizes areas for conservation, restoration, and natural resource use. This three-pronged approach will ensure species conservation while protecting important headwaters and mitigating climate change. The core sites of our landscapes are the indigenous territories we work on. The core beneficiaries are the indigenous populations we work with. Our Vision is that by 2020, our indigenous partner organizations in Peru and Ecuador will have the capacity to influence decisions about investments that affect their lands and surrounding areas, to support natural resource management in their communities, and to address threats that affect their livelihoods, thus contributing significantly to biodiversity conservation, livelihood diversity, and sustainable development in the landscapes. We are working in Peru in the North Central Selva and in Ecuador in Sucumbíos. Our Overall Objective is to conserve critical biodiversity found on indigenous lands and in surrounding areas that are also vital to ensure ecosystem functioning and continuity, as well as the sustainability of indigenous livelihoods. Gender is considered cross-cutting to all our activities. Our three Specific Objectives are: 1. Strengthen Andean Amazon indigenous organizations in areas which they themselves have identified as strategically vital. 2. Reduce priority threats to indigenous lands and important biodiversity areas by ensuring the organizations’ capacity to effectively manage their lands and by engaging other stakeholders to contribute to this management. 3. Establish sustainability mechanisms to give continuity to natural resource management and conservation actions.

2.1.1 IR1 – Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably:

COICA participated in the CBD COP 11, where it supported the POWPA Action Plan's measures to strengthen protected natural areas, and in the COP 18 in Qatar, where it reached informal agreements with various cooperation organizations and government delegations to support the Amazon Indigenous REDD+ (RIA) proposal. It has also begun to outline the Strategy to Protect and Conserve Indigenous Territories in the Amazon Basin, which will address biodiversity conservation work in indigenous territories. COICA proposes to present the strategy at the next World Parks Congress in Australia in November 2014 and will begin preparing for its participation in this event by attending preparatory meetings in the months leading up to the Congress.

In Peru, within the framework of Ucayali's Ecological-Economic Zoning process, TNC succeeded in getting the Ucayali Regional Government's Department of Environmental Management and Natural Resources to use the MINAM's methodology to prepare a deforestation map for the Department of Ucayali. This achievement was supported by the holding of a workshop on the "Department of Ucayali Historical Deforestation Map," organized by the Regional Government with TNC's support.

In the Sierra del Divisor landscape, FECONAU was supported in developing its Land and Natural Resource Management Plan with the participation of its grassroots communities. The plan will be implemented in 2013-2014. We have also been working in partnership with ORAU and Perú Bosques creating five community forest observatories. Additionally, IBC has supported the formalization and operation of two fisheries surveillance committees in the district of Honoría, helping to strengthen community capacity for monitoring and sustainable management of aquatic resources in the landscape of lower Pachitea.

Also in the Lower Pachitea landscape, we have achieved that the Municipal Environmental Commission of the Provincial Municipality of Puerto Inca develops and validates an Action Plan to combat deforestation in Puerto Inca Province and the communities surrounding the El Sira Communal Reserve in a participatory manner.

In the Cacataibo landscape, located around the Cordillera Azul National Park, a deforestation monitoring and action strategy was developed and incorporated into FENACOCA's 2013 Operational Plan. For its part, ACONAMAC held its Annual Congress and developed an action plan for the physical and legal regularization of its communities' lands.

In Ecuador, FSC has continued to protect over 1 million acres (over 400,000 ha) of biodiverse forest through the work of Cofan rangers. To date, FSC has, with ICAA funds, held 15 meetings for Cofan rangers in the FSC office in Lago Agrio. These meetings include all rangers entering and leaving the field, as well as FEINCE members, MAE representatives, and Cofan community representatives, depending on the meeting. During the meetings, rangers leaving the field report on threats in Cofan territories and actions taken against these threats. FSC, MAE Sucumbíos and the Cuyabeno Reserve administration signed an agreement committing to sign a future agreement for cooperation between FEINCE and MAE in the management of the Sábalo territory in Cuyabeno. We began coordinating with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to hold a ranger training in the third quarter of FY 2013.

As for the incorporation of a gender perspective, there have been two workshops, one in

Lima and one in Quito, and have conducted interviews with representatives from each partner organization. The final report is being reviewed.

2.1.2 IR2 - Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes :

Together with CEDISA, TNC has managed to define the technical, legal and institutional strategies to strengthen the water management of the Cumbaza basin by organizing a “Workshop to present tools for the conservation of the Cumbaza River watershed: Water Fund” in Tarapoto. As part of the implementation of the 2013-2014 Work Plan for the GOREU-TNC agreement, TNC supported the participation of four GOREU officials in a workshop to provide a point of reference for the future Environmental Services Platform in Ucayali.

The layout of the Transport Ministry’s Pucallpa – Cruzeiro do Sul road project was changed in response to and with support from the Regional Group for Monitoring Megaprojects in Ucayali and a series of advocacy activities. The new layout avoids going through the Sierra del Divisor Reserved Area and the Isconahua Territorial Reserve for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation. IBC and TNC supported the GRMMU in developing its 2013-2014 Work Plan and have agreements to support the implementation of priority activities. Likewise, both institutions supported the preparation and publication of a statement about the unsustainability of the Pucallpa – Cruzeiro do Sul road connection project, as well as the preparation and review of a matrix profiling the main observations from the pre-investment study. Also, agreements were reached between FECONAU and the GRMMU thanks to TNC’s support in holding a “Land and Natural Resources Management” workshop at which the road project was presented to the communities that may be affected.

A meeting was organized by TNC and DOI, with participation of Colombia’s governmental representatives and Peru’s civil society, to share experiences with learning, planning, monitoring and follow-up among the stakeholders involved in the Pasto Mocoa road project in Colombia and the stakeholders in the Pucallpa - Cruzeiro do Sul road project in Peru. The exchange workshop, which was co-organized by the United States Department of the Interior and TNC, was held in Lima with participants from Colombia and Pucallpa. A Work Plan was established with the Directorate for Inclusion of Ancestral Knowledge at the Peruvian Vice-Ministry of Interculturality to support the implementation of activities related to issues of indigenous institutionality in 2013 in the departments of Ucayali and San Martín.

In the Lower Pachitea landscape, IBC strengthened the local environmental management system of Puerto Inca Province through the Municipal Environmental Commission, and supported a workshop at which the results and progress made on the 2012 Environmental Agenda were presented.

IBC has supported and promoted the participation of indigenous organizations in the process of creating a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Ucayali region. This activity is being led by the Ucayali Regional Government through its Regional Environmental Commission in partnership with the Ministry of Environment.

In December, in partnership and with the support of IBC, Chirapaq and Flora Tristán, FECONAPIA held the 5th Meeting of Women 2012, at which women and men from

FECONAPIA's member communities came together to reflect on gender issues and evaluate the role played by women in community development. The meeting involved the development of a gender action plan that will be incorporated into the women and family segment of FECONAPIA's Operational Plan for 2013.

We have initiated the process of incorporating a gender perspective into the consortium's activities by hiring a gender consultant. Two workshops have been held, one in Lima and the other in Quito, which were attended by representatives from each partner institution in the consortium. In addition, interviews have been conducted with people involved in gender matters at each partner institution.

In Ecuador, FSC helped coordinate and achieve an agreement between MAE and the government of Sucumbíos to strengthen the management of the La Bonita Cofanes Chingual Municipal Reserve and include it in SNAP. As part of this agreement, the German development bank KfW will help fund conservation activities in the area. During the past year, FSC continued its meetings with representatives of the municipal governments in Carchi and Imbabura, MAE and other local stakeholders in order to create a conservation zone that complements the Rio Cofanes territory and the La Bonita Municipal Reserve.

FSC was named as a representative of the socio-cultural sector for Imbabura province for the "Diálogos del Buen Vivir," coordinated by the National Office of Planning and Development (SENPLADES). This forum serves as a way for representatives from various sectors of society to collaborate on creating and recommending policies to the Ecuadorian government – in our case, policies concerning conservation, the environment and indigenous territorial issues.

With support from the provincial government of Sucumbíos, we have been working for several months on updating and reviewing the Life Plan of the Cofan people, and the first copies are now being printed.

We are negotiating with SENPLADES and CAF regarding a proposal for SENPLADES to develop a planning tool incorporating the threat software that was developed with them four years ago. The aim is to update the software and incorporate other modules such as education, health and production on a national level.

Progress has been made in negotiations with NEWVI and we will soon begin working on the contract to develop threat software for Sucumbíos Province.

All basic mapping of the Cofan's ancestral territories has been completed and we continue to work on thematic mapping of these lands. We received the social report on the ancestral territories of the Cofan. An expert validation workshop will be held in January, followed by an event to disseminate the results.

2.1.3 IR3 – Increased Capacity to Utilize PES-like and other Economic Incentive Programs :

FSC has made progress in getting more Cofan territories included in the Ecuadorian government's Socio Bosque program. In a meeting with Socio Bosque representatives on October 31, FSC planned a November 21 meeting with communities in Cofan Bermejo at which Socio Bosque technicians would explain the program to community members. An additional meeting was planned for November 22 for the same Socio Bosque group to visit the community of Sinangoe to begin working on including this community in the program.

These meetings were held by FEINCE and, based on the information they gathered, FSC will continue with activities in Quito to complete the required plans and other documents. Once the folder for Cofan Bermejo is complete, the Socio Bosque technicians will pass it on to the MAE Director of Biodiversity for her approval.

In Ecuador, FEINCE met with the managers of the Socio Bosque program in Quito to discuss the inclusion of the Cofan Bermejo Reserve in this program. The meeting was attended by leaders of FEINCE, FSC and the Socio Bosque program, and agreement was reached to carry out a number of activities, including holding a meeting in Chandia Na'en and continuing to gather the necessary documentation.

A commitment now exists to include the Cofan Bermejo Reserve in this program in March of this year. This will facilitate managing and administering this area that is constantly threatened by the extraction of renewable and non-renewable resources. In Ecuador, FEINCE met with the community of Chandia Na'en to inform them about the Socio Bosque program. Representatives of the program attended the meeting to explain to the community the requirements to participate in and benefit from this program. The community is in full agreement and is committed to carrying out the necessary management actions together with FEINCE.

We completed the pre-feasibility study for a water fund for Sucumbíos Province. The final recommendation was not to proceed with this mechanism, so we are analysing alternative ways of conserving and restoring watersheds to ensure water quality and quantity, as well as to regulate the flow of water in the province. We will be aided in this effort by another study completed this quarter, involving the development of a portfolio of hydrographic units that are a priority for freshwater biodiversity conservation in the Napo river basin district (which includes the provinces of Sucumbíos, Napo, Orellana, and c. 40% of Pastaza). The information generated in the second study will help us to, among other things, develop a viable water conservation strategy for Sucumbíos.

Work on the portfolio of priority freshwater sites has been completed. A presentation was made to SENAGUA at TNC's offices and a final workshop was held in Lago Agrio to present the results. EcoCiencia presented the final product and the consultancy came to an end. In January, an expert workshop will be held to validate the results and make the necessary adjustments.

2.1.4 IR4 – Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental Issues :

In December, IBC presented the Atlas 'Amazonia under Pressure,' produced by the Amazon Network of Geo-referenced Socio-environmental Information (RAISG), which brings together civil society institutions from the eight countries that share the Amazon basin. This atlas contains extensive cartographic, statistical and photographic information on a series of pressures and threats to the Amazon basin over the last decade: road construction, oil and gas exploitation, hydroelectric plants, mining, hot spots and deforestation. Based on this information, IBC has developed deforestation action plans for the provinces of Puerto Inca and Padre Abad and they are being implemented as part of the strategy to combat deforestation in the Ucayali and Huánuco regions. They are also being used in the development of climate change adaptation strategies for these regions. Conservation Strategy Fund will conduct studies on the opportunity cost of conservation in

Ucayali, and a cost-benefit analysis of the road and railway connection project between Pucallpa and Cruzeiro do Sul. The terms of reference for this work were prepared and presented for feedback by members of the GRMMU.

CSF prepared a presentation of the activities and methodology to be used in a workshop in Pucallpa, but unfortunately it had to be rescheduled due to a sanitary alert (dengue) announced by the regional government.

TNC began the process of hiring a consultant to conduct a “Qualitative analysis of historic land use in the area of influence of the Pucallpa – Cruzeiro do Sul project”. This process included issuing a call for bids, evaluating proposals, and conducting interviews.

Intense efforts are being focused on training. Our greatest achievement is having motivated and involved the communities to participate in the training sessions, as this has improved their capacity to have an impact in different institutions on different levels.

On November 5, Carolina Celi joined our team as the Communications Specialist for the Amazonia Program. In December, Peri Dias travelled to Ecuador to work with Carolina.

2.1.5 Support Unit Services :

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8. SUMMARY

8.1 Achievements:

We succeeded in getting the Transport Ministry’s Pucallpa – Cruzeiro do Sul road construction project proposal to change the layout of the road to avoid going through the Sierra del Divisor Reserved Area and the Isconahua Territorial Reserve for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation.

The 5th Meeting of Women 2012 was held with women and men from FECONAPIA’s member communities to develop a Gender Action Plan that will be incorporated into FECONAPIA’s Operational Plan for 2013.

We completed the pre-feasibility study for a water fund for Sucumbíos Province.

8.2 Challenges and Adjustments :

The events planned in Ucayali for after November 15 had to be postponed because of the red alert that was announced due to the dengue outbreak in the region. All of these events have been rescheduled.

The representatives of the main indigenous organizations we work with (ORAU, FECONAU and FECONAPIA) have changed. We supported and participated in the events at which the new directors were elected. Coordination with the new leaders is very good. The pre-feasibility study for a water fund for Sucumbíos Province recommended not to proceed with this mechanism, so we are now analysing alternative ways to conserve water in the province.

