



CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE PROGRAM  
CONSERVATION OF DRY FOREST ECOSYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN  
**QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

1. PROJECT FACT SHEET

NAME OF THE PROJECT:

1.1. Conservation Landscapes Program - CLP Dry Ecosystem  
Conservation in the Caribbean.

1.2. DATES (START/FINISH)

AGREEMENT/CONTRACT

4/12/2013 TO 9/12/2015

REPORT PERIOD

01/07/2014 TO 09/30/2014

1.3. PRIME

1.4. NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER: INÉS CAVELIER

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1.5. NAME OF USAID AGREEMENT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE  
(AOR): Ximena García

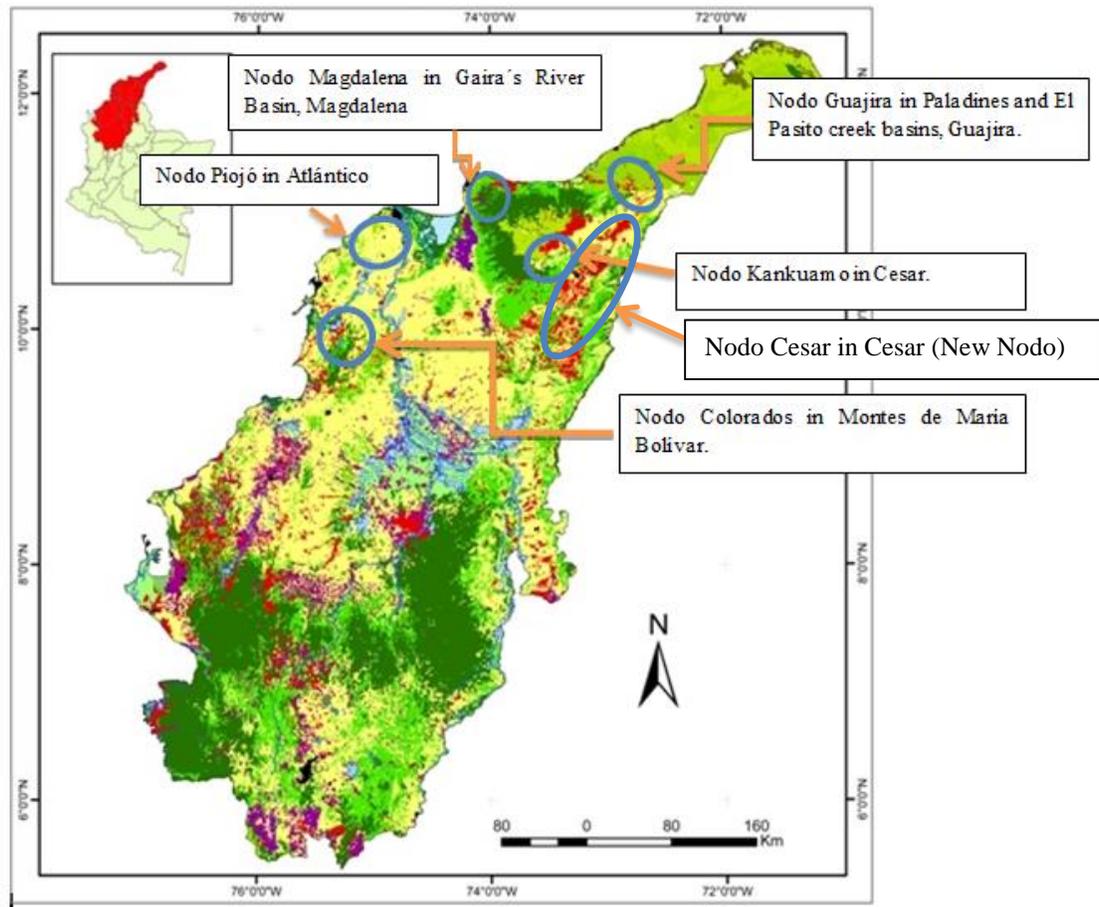
1.6. NAME OF ALTERNATE AOR: Christopher Abrams

1.7. USAID MECHANISM NUMBER: AID-514-A-09-00004

1.8. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Caribbean region (13 million hectares), encompasses more than six million ha. of tropical dry forest ecosystem (TDFE) in Colombia, of which 82% has been affected by deforestation. TDFE conservation is a priority for USAID and Colombia, thus, the CLP objective is improving TDFE's governance, biodiversity and the preservation of natural resources in the Caribbean region and strengthening environmentally sustainable livelihoods for the associated communities. Remaining forest patches coupled with existing protected areas and communities will be the center of conservation efforts. The focus will be to implement land use management tools at the landscape level, restoring connectivity with a biodiversity-friendly productive matrix and ecological corridors. Improved smallholder agroforestry practices, installing connectivity tools in larger agricultural areas, implementing silvo-pastoral systems and sustainable use of natural resources will guarantee ecological integrity by enhancing connectivity, covering soils to prevent erosion, promoting watershed protection and maintaining species diversity. GOC's regional environmental authorities will be strengthened through the Regional Protected Area System - SIRAP Caribe. Main beneficiaries are the indigenous, campesino communities and local organizations associated with the target areas. NGO's will develop proposals combining economic, environmental and social components, addressing the main threats on TDFE with community participation and capacity-building. Public/private alliances will be fostered for sustainable production and other public stakeholders will be engaged for better decision-making related to TDFE conservation. Caribbean TDFE will benefit from improved management of protected areas and especially from connectivity strategies to counter fragmentation as main tools for conservation. Improved access to water and production systems' management seek to enhance productivity and livelihoods, especially for women in charge of obtaining water for daily use. Involving the private sector through off-setting mechanisms, Social Corporate Responsibility programs or green economy measures will benefit TDFE conservation by protecting ecosystem services.

## 2. ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW

This quarter two new agreements were signed for the development of the production-conservation strategy. The first agreement was signed in Nodo Píojó for the development of agricultural production centered on better soil management to fight against desertification of the zone. This will be done with the help of universities and the community. The second agreement was signed to start operations in a new Nodo, called Nodo Cesar, in the department of Cesar (map 1). The objective of this agreement is to create new civil society reserves and develop sustainable production practices focusing on silvo-pastoral systems. Additionally, implementation activities and corridor isolation are in progress in Nodo Guajira, Nodo Píojó, Nodo Kankuamo, Nodo Magdalena and Nodo Colorados. It is important to highlight the signature of 55 conservation agreements in Nodo Colorados and the progress of isolation of the corridors in Nodo Guajira, Nodo Kankuamo, and Nodo Colorados.



Map 1. Locations of the programs Nodos.

Regarding the work with promissory TDF Caribbean palms, Universidad Nacional continued with the investigation to develop the management plans of corozo and amarga palms and schedule is on track to deliver these management plans (including sará and estera palms) at the beginning of 2015. It is important to highlight the work that has been done to invigorate the corozo palm value chain. The search and evaluation of companies to sell corozo has been done and on October a business model will be created between the indigenous community of El Cabildo Menor de San Antonio, the restaurant chain Wok, the pulp and ice-cream maker and trader Selva Nevada, and the phyto-pharmaceutical Labfarve.

Finally, given the underdevelopment of the clean cook stoves sector in Colombia compared with other Latin-American Countries, one of the main strategies of the program is to stimulate policy making in this sector. To address this problem an agreement with the Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves for USD 40.000 was signed in order to make a workshop with the purpose of showing Latin-American experiences to law makers.

The main challenge in this reporting period (July to September 2014) was the delay of implementation of the agricultural activities due to an exceptionally dry first half of the year, coupled with the prediction of high probabilities of El Niño for the second half. With the success of the crops diminished on the first half of the year and an evident lack of water the prediction of El Niño made the project rethink schedules and activities. Activities have restarted with the beginning of the rains and it is expected all of the production activities will be back on track.

## 2.1. COMPONENTS

### 2.1.1. Component 1 –Improved licit and Sustainable Livelihoods

Production-conservation corridors are the main conservation strategy of the program; it uses production and improved livelihoods as an incentive to free space for conservation, resulting in pressure reduction to the ecosystem. Actually, there are six locations where the development of production-conservation corridors is taking place: Nodo Colorados, Nodo Guajira, Nodo Kankuamos, Nodo Piojón, Nodo Magdalena, and Nodo Cesar. Last quarter conservation agreements were signed in most of the Nodos and implementation activities continued. This quarter new agreements were signed: one for Nodo Cesar and the other one to develop the production strategy in Nodo Piojón .

Two new agreements were signed for the development of the production-conservation strategy. On September 25 a new agreement was signed with Fundación Carboandes for COP 151.717.400 for the creation of Civil Society Reserves and Sustainable Production Activities in five municipalities of the

Cesar department. The end of this agreement is expected for August 2015. Another agreement was signed beginning on July 30 and finishing on August 30 2015 for COP\$267.823.206 with Fundación FES. The objective of this agreement is to develop production practices with soil recovery potential in alliance with Colombian universities with the beneficiaries that have started isolation of the connectivity corridors with Fundación Ecosistemas Secos de Colombia in the surrounding areas of Palomar Forest Reserve. Finally, significant advances were made to sign a new agreement with Fundación Semana for the creation of production-conservation corridors in the municipality of El Salado, Department of Bolivar. The agreement is expected to be signed on next quarter.

This quarter, in Nodo Colorados, where a grant has been approved to connect Los Colorados Fauna and Flora Sanctuary with Cerro Maco in the department of Bolivar, 55 conservation agreements were signed in a ceremony with the beneficiaries of the project, regional authorities, and the Local System of Protected Areas (Figure 2). Additionally, 3930 lineal meters have been isolated to date, and 18 beneficiaries received materials for isolation. The main issue was that some of the plants given in the first semester of the year died due to the drought of the first semester of the year.



Figure 2. Pictures of conservation agreements signed in Nodo Colorados.

In Nodo Guajira, where an agreement has signed to increase the connectivity of forest patches in the Paladines and Pasito river micro-basins, an amendment to the agreement was made for the addition of three months and 14 days of time finishing now in May 2015. Given the prediction of El Niño for the second

semester of 2014 it was agreed with Fundación Cerrejon Agua to start silvo-pastoral activities with the first rainy season of 2015 (March, April, May) to minimize the risks of tree dying. In this reporting period two new reservoirs and seven water harvesting systems with 2000 liter tanks were built. Finally 5.900 meters have been isolated on this period getting to a total of 7.700 meters isolated. Consequent

In Nodo Kankuamos, where an agreement was signed to link El Santuario de Vida Silvestre Besotes with the region of Murillo, 5.900 lineal meters of isolation were made, and all the farm plans were completed. In addition to this, a pre-agreement at the community level was signed to guarantee the best production practices and also for the conservation of an additional 28 hectares. An amendment for the addition of one month of time was made, ending now on November 28, 2014 and a reduction of funds of COP 20'635.549. This addition of time responds to the delay in activities and additional time needed for the installation of water tanks and irrigation systems. Given this delay in activities it was decided to change agroforestry activities for the installation of water tanks with its consequent reduction in funds.

At Nodo Piojó, in a project which pursues to link the forest reserve El Palomar with the regions of Guaybana and Macondal, an amendment to the agreement signed with Fundación Ecosistemas Seco was signed for the addition of time and funds. The agreement added 2 months, finishing now on November 17, 2014 and COP\$17.580.000. This addition of time and resources was granted since tree planting activities on the first half of the year were stopped to keep the trees under the irrigation system of the tree nursery due to the unusual drought. Furthermore, to accelerate the implementation activities and the lost time, additional funds were granted to hire additional staff to plant the trees and finish the isolation activities. This quarter all the material for the isolation of the corridors and the construction of henhouses for the twelve beneficiaries of the project was delivered. Additionally, the plant nursery has 7.403 trees ready for plantation on the corridors, from this 76% are rare wood species (see list 1) and 24% are fruit species. The experience on the nursery showed success growing this rare tree species, showing a great opportunity to propagate these species through the Caribbean TDF. The agreement with Fundación Ecosistemas Secos will finish with the isolation of the corridors and planting the nursery trees, the production systems will be implemented with Fundación FES as an incentive for the beneficiaries' conservation efforts (including planting additional 6.000 trees from the plant nursery). Additionally, the agreement with FES will evaluate the soil conditions in connectivity corridors, forest in el Palomar Reserve, and production arrangements, with the objective of evaluating soil erosion or

recovery in these systems (picture 1). This is expected to allow better decision making from the beneficiaries and the environmental authorities.



Picture 10. Desertification conditions of Pioj6 (picture taken in rainy season).

Finally, at Nodo Magdalena an agreement to develop another production-conservation corridor in Gaira River's middle basin was signed, the main achievement has been to construct and start to grow plant material in the permanent and transitory plant nurseries. Additionally, 16 out of 35 farm plans have been done. Harvesting time in the zone caused some absenteeism in community gatherings.

The search of an inclusive business model for the corozo palm with Minka-Dev finished the third of six phases in which the potential partner companies are attracted and evaluated. Out of six companies, one food investigation center, and one cluster of companies that applied in the platform Labfarve, Wok, and Selva Nevada were selected to continue the process. On the next quarter the business model will be co-created between these companies and indigenous people from the Cabildo Menor de San Antonio, and delivered.

The main challenge in most of the nodos was the time lost during the first time of the year due to the drought. This caused delays in the implementation activities that included field plant material. These delays had to be compensated on this reported period. On the other hand, the prediction of El Niño made the program, Fundación Cerrejon Agua, and Fundación Carboandes agree on changing the implementation date of the silvo-pastoral systems from the second half of the year 2014 to the first rainy season of March to May 2015.

### **2.1.2. Component 2- Institutional Strengthening and Governance**

Following the palm usage strategy, Universidad Nacional continued the biological studies of the corozo (*Bactris guineensis*) and amarga palm (*Sabal mauritiiformis*), and finished complete characterization of the market. This market characterization is an important part of the national management plan of these palms. The national management plan will provide guidelines of best practices for harvesters and environmental authorities, allowing the correct use, use permit issuance, and hopefully propagation of these palms through the Caribbean TDF. Other management plans are specific for one area, the advantage of this management plan is that it sets the basic rules for the use of this palms at a wider national level, allowing permit issuance and use in all of the Caribbean TDF. Additionally, communication videos with stories of the harvesters and other campesino people in the value chain for the amarga, corozo, sará, and estera palms have been made. Efforts to promote these videos for the view of wider audiences will be made. These actions are expected to improve the governance and public awareness of these palms.

As part of the clean cook stoves strategy, awareness and involvement of public institutions is critical to achieve critical mass for the escalation of this technology through the Caribbean and other regions of the country. This reporting period an agreement for USD 40.000 was signed with the Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves for the development of a workshop that has the objective of invigorating the efficient cook stove sector in Colombia (Figure 2). Different ministries, public sector institutions, ONG on the subject

are invited to this workshop were the experiences of other Latin-American countries will be shown in order to learn from their success stories and lesson learned. The workshop will take place on October 8, 9, and 10.



Figure 3. Image of the clean cook stove workshop.

### 2.1.3. Component 3 – Social Capital and Community Participation

Community participation is at the heart of the program since territorial and farm planning, conservation strategies, monitoring activities and the clean cook stoves strategies are built with local communities.

An additional component of the conservation strategy taking place in the Nodos, is the monitoring strategy linked with community participation. Besides the program's indicators, parallel monitoring activities have been developed to supply important additional information (Annex 2 and 3). One of these activities is community monitoring of the projects. This activity is providing important qualitative data from the communities of the benefits and progress of each project, while strengthening their ability to monitor and communicate environmental and social issues. As tools for this activity, cameras with GPS and training in photography, software management and

success story writing have been given to key community people, allowing them to register pictures or videos with geographical localization of species, progress, farms etc., and finding and communicating the story behind it (Pictures 1 and 2, Figure 4 and Annex 3). All this information about wildlife in the corridors (a picture of an species that was not usual in an area before the connectivity corridor), and success stories will be published on the programs web page that will be developed on the next year with the help of Agenda del Mar. Additional monitoring of biological information of the corridors is being developed with Instituto Alexander Von Humboldt, for a program that it is expected to start the next year, it is important to mention that for the launch of the Colombian Dry Forest book a video with images taken by the program was used.

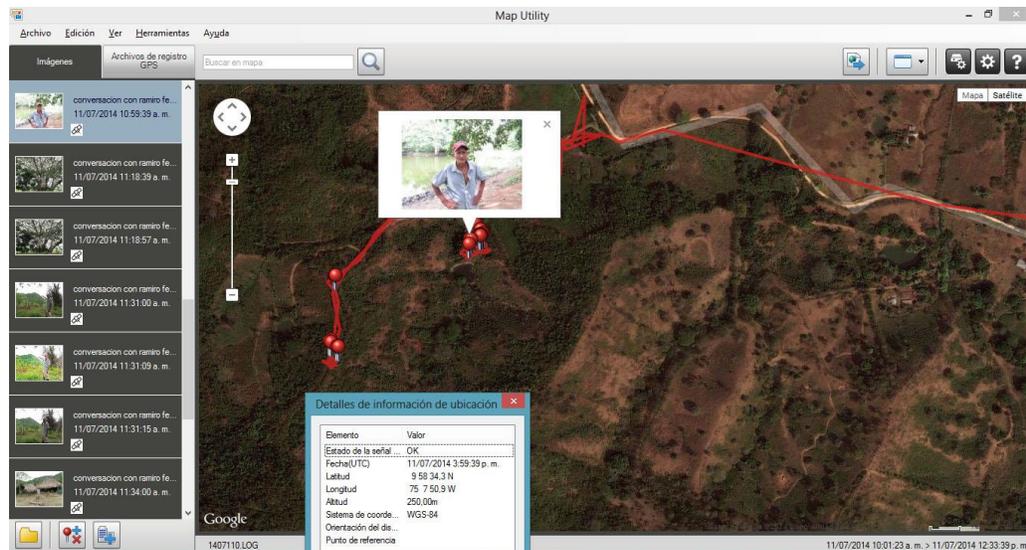
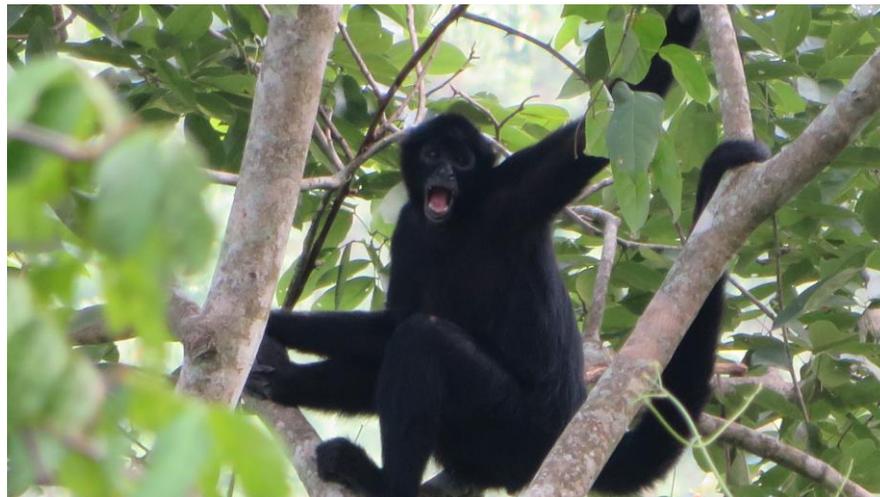


Figure 4. Example of how a route from a local promoter is visualized in the software Canon Map Utility.





Pictures 2 and 3. Pictures of endangered white-faced (below) and spider monkey (above) in Nodo Colorado's corridors taken by a local promoter with the community monitoring program.

Another important community based project of the program is the clean cook stoves project. The idea is to create a clean cook stove, and inclusive business model based on the necessities of the program's beneficiaries. The final prototype of the stove model has been tested in the field with beneficiaries from Nodo Colorado and it has been widely accepted. The next step is to test the prototype in laboratories with certification possibilities like SENSICO in Peru, and develop an inclusive business model. For the latter, companies like Corona, Argos and other potential providers of stove materials are being addressed to participate in the business model as part of their Social Corporate Responsibility Plans. Related to the clean cook stoves project and its influence on agro-diversity plantation of beneficiary farms, Fundación Leonor Espinosa made its last gastronomic laboratory in San Juan Nepomuceno. In all four gastronomic laboratories 83 people participated and constructed in a participatory manner 29 recipes. This exercise strengthened people's relation with local agro-biodiversity, furthermore an event with local chefs, mainly from Cartagena (date still pending) will be done in order to show the laboratory results and the potential of agro-biodiversity ingredients. The agreement with Funleo will end on October 20 with the delivery of at least 20 recipes adapted from classical recipes from the region (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Pictures of the gastronomic laboratory and reinterpreted local recipes with Fundación Leonor Espinosa.

### 3. SUMMARY

#### 3.1. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sign two new agreements. The first one, for the development of production-conservation projects in el Cesar department, and the second one for the implementation of soil protecting production strategies in Nodo Piojó.
- Signing an agreement with the Global Alliance for Clean Cook stoves for USD 40.000 to invigorate the sector in Colombia.
- Choosing Lavfarve, Wok and Selva Nevada to stimulate the corozo palm chain value in Colombia.

#### 3.2. CHALLENGES AND ADJUSTMENTS

The main challenge in most of the nodos was the time lost during the first time of the year due to the drought. This caused delays in the implementation activities that included field plant material. These delays had to be compensated on this reported period. On the other hand, the prediction of El Niño made the program, Fundación Cerrejon Agua, and Fundación Carboandes agree on changing the implementation date of the silvo-pastoral systems from the second half of the year 2014 to the first rainy season of March to May 2015.

#### 4. LIST OF ANNEXES

- 1) Program indicator progress.
- 2) Monitor Report.
- 3) Success stories.

Annex 1: Program indicator progress.

Indicator	Advance 1st.Q	Advance 2nd.Q	Advance 3rd. Q	Advance 4th. Q	Total Advance	% accum. advance	Total goal
<b>DO4-001</b> Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance (F4.8.1-26)		10,08	553,15	1312,21	1875,44	23,15	8.100
<b>DO4-012</b> Number of communities and other stakeholders adopting sustainable practices to improve biodiversity conservation.				6	6	17,14	35
<b>F 4.8.1-29</b> Number of person hour of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance.	480	908	2317	726	4431	40,28	11.000

