



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

10/01/2013 TO 31/12/2013

1.3. PRIME

1.4. NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER: INÉS CAVELIER

E-MAIL: icavelier@patrimonionatural.org.co

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

Given the early stage of the program, our main achievements consist in preparing and coordinating all components of the projects, in order to start implementation activities next quarter. After the participatory diagnostics on production systems were made in the prior reporting period, implementation partners were found, agreements were signed, and preparation activities started in four of the locations, specifically Kankuamos, Colorados, Paladines and Pasito, and El Palomar. Additionally, with regards to the project SIRAP Caribe, workshops and cartographic information started, and initial information has been gathered, allowing decision making. Moreover, the strategies for implementing clean cook stoves and the Corozo Palm usage were structured and are expected to start next quarter. Finally, los Flamencos National Park infrastructure was improved by constructing a waste water treatment plant that allows water recycling for non-potable purposes.

An external evaluation of the project Conservation Landscape Program (CLP) is being done by Enlaza. They started the documentation review on December 2013 and field evaluations are expected to start the following quarter.

The main challenges have surged from the definition of the objectives and activities for the productive projects in each of the communities. This is being addressed by integrating the teams of all the stakeholders to the project. Also, finding partners for Piedras call has been difficult. Next quarter there will be an important focus to define if we are going to move forward with this project, and if so to find a partner.



Figure 1. Los flamencos National Park waste water treatment

2.1. COMPONENTS

2.1.1. Component 1 –Improved licit and Sustainable Livelihoods

Agreements were signed with local partners for Kankuamos territory, Colorados zone of influence, Paladines and Pasito creeks, and the zone of influence of El Palomar. Operating partners were strengthened through training workshops in USAID's environmental monitoring and quarterly reporting. Implementation and monitoring mechanisms were agreed with the technical teams from the operating organizations. Finally, the Environmental Management Plan was adjusted to the social and environmental characteristics of each zone.

Preparation of implementation activities were made in Kankuamos, Colorados, and Paladines and Barrancas locations. This included a hands-on workshop for the characterization, territorial planning of the locations and socialization meetings with the local communities.

As described on the Work Plan the expected production-conservation corridors planned in the previous locations will contribute Tropical Dry Forest Ecosystem (TDFE) connectivity while improving the livelihoods of the affected communities. Piedras and Gaira rivers calls were slow and just one

proponent applied for Gaira. Gaira's agreement is expected to be signed next quarter, while more effort or a new approach will have to be done in order to find a proponent for Piedras River, once we define if the project continues.

Cooking stoves strategic planning phase has been completed. Based on the fact that Colombia is behind countries like Peru, and Mexico, our approach consists on making alliances with institutions on these countries that will speed up the process in Colombia by sharing their experiences and backing up our program with national and international financiers. Initial conversations have taken place with institutions in Peru and Mexico, and national ministries in Colombia. By implementing cooking stoves there will be an expected wood reduction of 30%50% lowering the pressure on TDFE wood species.

After an initial diagnostic work was done on promissory TDFE Caribbean palms conservation plans began with Corozo palm for its potential for food products. The conservation plan has two main activities: 1) investigation on the management of the Corozo palm, 2) and innovation on its value chain to increase recollection and consumption. These two actions are expected to help Corozo palm conservation by increasing its offer and demand, while improving the livelihoods of Corozo Palm harvesters.

2.1.2. Component 2- Institutional Strengthening and Governance

An agreement has been signed to update TDFE cartography in the Caribbean. The new maps will include information given by the Colombian Ministry of Environment and other cooperation projects in the zone. This new information is expected to be an essential input to define strategies to optimize efforts for the conservation of forest in the zone, especially TDFE.

As a result from the first mapping efforts, a corridor between the Perijá Mountain range and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta through the Cesar Valley has been proposed. These two regions contain the best preserved forest in the area, therefore the importance of the corridor. More research about the corridor and its possibilities will be done in the next quarter.

Additionally, the first section of a training program in biodiversity management for the Caribbean SIRAP members was completed, however only 6 of the 14 participants advanced over 50% in the program contents. Calls to the students have been made to promote their participation. Furthermore, the lack of attendance to this program has led to a change in

the strategy to improve technical capacity. The new strategy will rely on short courses in alliance with the US Forest Service in Colombia. With this modification, we expect better participation rate and more interaction between participants.

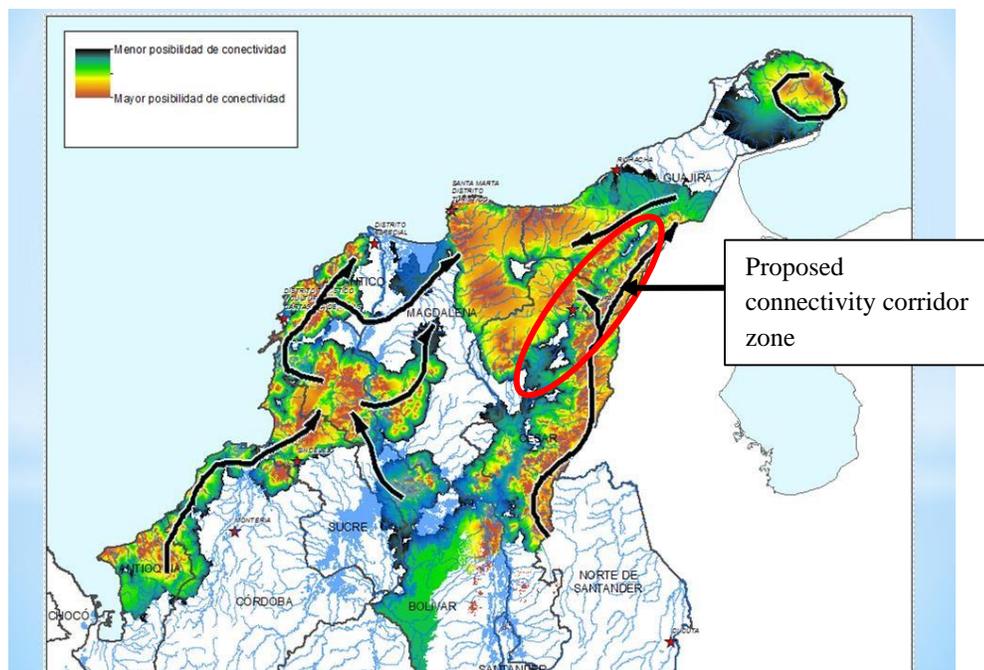


Figure 2. Map depicting least effort connectivity corridors. Brown represents a better possibility of connectivity.

ESTUDIANTES		
Nombres	Apellidos	% Avance Contenidos
Elizabeth	Ortiz Vaquero	72,6%
Adela Patricia	Castro Moreno	18,5%
Jairo Marciano	García Nuñez	66,7%
Joe	García Quiñonez	0,0%
Luis Alfredo	Calero Hernández	65,2%
Neiver	Obando Mosquera	3,0%
Jenny Johana	Puerto Fula	74,1%
Maria	Danies Silva	20,0%
Gregoria	Fonseca Lindao	0,0%
Luis Eduardo	Pérez Barrios	100,0%
Wilson Román	Marques Daza	54,1%
Fernando	Prieto	32,6%
Alejandro	Zamora Guzmán	11,1%
Vladimir Eduardo	Lemus Osorio	17,8%

Table 1. Table of advance in biodiversity program.

2.1.3. Component 3 – Social Capital and Community Participation

Each operating partner has made its implementation plan with the participation of the local community and social organizations. In Los Colorados a wide arrange of organizations are participating in the production-conservation corridor.

3. SUMMARY

3.1. ACHIEVEMENTS

- Signing agreements, preparing and starting implementation activities in four of the chosen zones of the work plan.
- Strategies for the conservation of Corozo palms and improved cook stoves have been planned and started implementation.
- The new cartography of the Caribbean has led to a new proposed connectivity corridor in el Cesar valley.

3.2. CHALLENGES AND ADJUSTMENTS

- Piedras and Gaira rivers call had low participation. Gaira got one participant and it is expected to start on the next quarter. Piedras river call did not have any proponent. This will require more effort in the next quarter or a change in the strategy if the project moves forward.
- Participation in the biodiversity program with SIRAP Caribe members has been low. New technical improved methods will be used in the next quarter involving short courses in alliance with US Forest Service.