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Fondo para la Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas

# USAID/COLOMBIA FUNDED CONSERVATION LANDSCAPES PROGRAM

## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

AID-514-A-09-004

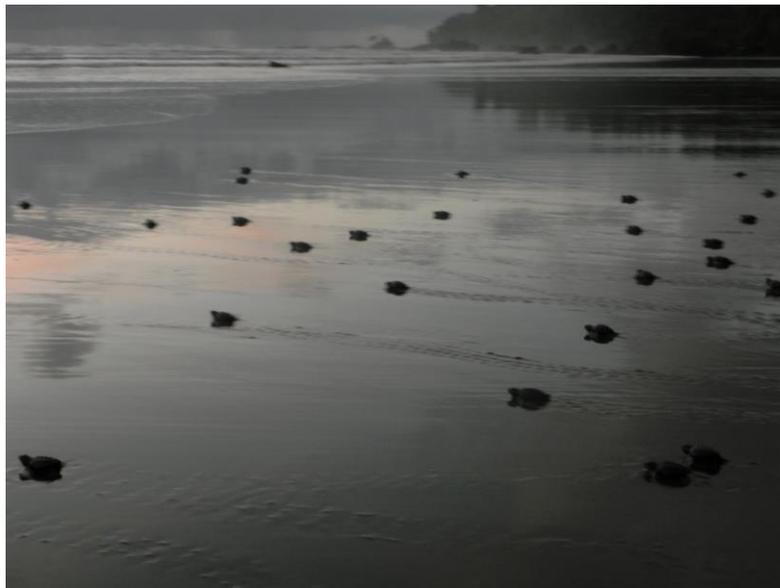


Photo: Ximena Galeano, CLP communications specialist / El Valle, Utría NNP/ Turtle hatchlings head for the ocean

### Fifth Quarterly Report (July – September, 2010) October 2010

This report was produced by *Patrimonio Natural – Fondo para la Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas*, for review by the United States Agency for International Development



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### **DISCLAIMER**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| AATIS      | Traditional Indigenous Authorities Association                                    |
| AECID      | Spanish International Cooperation and Development Agency                          |
| AEMAPPS    | Analysis of Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas with Social Participation |
| ARD        | Associates in Rural Development, Inc.   |
| ASOCARS    | Colombian Association of Environmental Authorities                                |
| CA         | Cooperative Agreement   |
| CAR        | Regional Environmental Authority  |
| CC         | Community Council   |
| CDB        | Convention on Biological Diversity  |
| CIPAV      | Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems Research Center                       |
| CLP        | Conservation Landscapes Program   |
| COP        | Chief Of Party  |
| CTC        | Technical Consulting Committee  |
| FPN        | Patrimonio Natural - Fondo para la Biodiversidad y las Áreas Protegidas           |
| GEF        | Global Environmental Facility   |
| GHF        | Global Heritage Fund  |
| GIS        | Geographic Information System   |
| IAVH       | Instituto Alexander von Humboldt  |
| ICANH      | Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia                                   |
| IDEAM      | Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies Institute                        |
| INCODER    | Colombian Rural Development Institute   |
| INVEMAR    | Jose Benito Vives de Andreis Marine and Coastal Research Institute                |
| MAVDT      | Ministerio de Ambiente, Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial                         |
| MoU        | Memorandum of Understanding   |
| NGO        | Non Governmental Organization   |
| PA – SINAP | SINAP Action Plan   |
| PAU        | Project Advisory Unit   |
| PIU        | Project Implementation Unit   |
| PMP        | Performance Monitoring Plan   |
| NNP        | National Natural Park   |
| NPU        | National Parks Unit   |
| NPS        | National Park Service (U.S.)  |
| POA        | Annual Operative Plan   |
| PMP        | Performance Monitoring Plan   |
| REM        | Special Management Regime   |
| RFA        | Request for Appraisal   |
| RFFRA      | Request for Final Revised Application   |
| RESNATUR   | Colombian Association of Civil Society Reserves                                   |
| SIAC       | Colombian Environmental Information System  |
| SIDAP      | Departmental Protected Areas System   |
| SILAP      | Local Protected Areas System  |
| SINA       | National Environmental System   |
| SINAP      | Sistema Nacional de Areas Protegidas  |
| SIRAP      | Sistema Regional de Areas Protegidas  |
| SNSM       | Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta  |
| STTA       | Short term technical assistance   |
| ToR        | Terms of Reference  |
| UAESPNN    | Unidad Administrativa Especial del Sistema de Parques Nacionales Naturales        |
| USFS       | United States Forest Service  |
| USG        | United States Government  |
| WB         | World Bank  |



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report is the initial one for the second year of the program. During the period July-September the NPU increased its activities, because the formerly inactive Katíos park included additional technicians to carry out diagnostics and characterizations in the region, while continuing its evaluation of conflicts in the borders of the park, mainly in the southern limits. The Fragua, Utría, Catatumbo and Cocuy parks are carrying out actions in the main lines of work, such as sustainable production systems, ecological restoration, control and surveillance, research and monitoring, environmental education and some training exercises. The cross-cutting line in which the NPU's central office is working continued supporting many of the parks in the sustainable production systems strategy and community participation in this period. The communications team also conducted some capacity-building with communities, and the professional working on research related to management plans finished most of the assessments of the state of the art in several parks.

Several terms of reference were released for infrastructure construction. These processes, which had been in preparation for some months before, were published during a month, receiving several proposals. A joint committee for their evaluation was established with the technicians in the NPU and the CLP team.

Proposals from local operators formerly presented for the Utría, Catatumbo and Cocuy regions were evaluated and presented to the CTC for approval on two sessions. After these approvals, the team continued adjustments of the proposals in three main subjects: identifying the targets related to the Program's indicators and establishing their feasibility and means of verification, budget revisions to obtain cost-benefit activities and results, and finally establishing the products and schedule of activities and reporting. The PARD-PAS studies were completed or were in process for some of the organizations involved.

A section is dedicated to reporting on the Program's targets according to the PMP indicators. Main achievements are also reported, as well as challenges and constraints. A detailed description of actions implemented during the period and expected activities for the next quarter is included. In the communications section, success stories have been compiled.



## **2. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD**

### **2.1. Advances in NPU activities**

Substantial advance was achieved on the main strategic lines of the NPU during this quarter, of which a detailed explanation is included below. The activities which had the most important progress were the Research and Monitoring Plan, Environmental education and Special Management Strategies (for overlapped areas with indigenous communities). The former has been examining the plans for each park with the relevant technicians, so that at the end of the year a thorough revision will be available and the plans updated. As to environmental education, a workshop allowed to compile the status and needs for each protected area. The special management strategies were mainly focused on the Uramba agreement with black communities of the pacific.

### **2.2 Declaration of Bahía Málaga as a new National Park**

The declaration of Bahía Málaga in August 2010 came as a surprise to the environmental sector, as it had been a difficult process with opposition from the entrepreneurial sector in the pacific region. A few days before leaving office, the Minister of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development, Carlos Costa, announced the creation of Park number 56. The official launching of this Park was in September, with the participation of the Community Councils and environmental authorities. The Uramba-Bahía Málaga Park process for declaration was one of the CLP targets, along with the Playona Acandí and the Bosques de Cúcuta potential areas. For the latter the process has continued with further studies and GPS readings in the area.

## **3. CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS**

### **3.1 Challenges met during the reporting period**

The number of applications for carrying out activities by the NPU increased during this period, but the Katíos park has only slowly been submitting such applications for hiring the necessary technicians.

### **3.2 Challenges expected for the next quarter**

1. Monitoring the local operators' activities for expected results and their delivery on a timely basis.
2. Increase substantially the payments for local operators thus improving the overall execution of the program.
3. Begin local operators' activities in Katíos and assure relevant information circulating among institutions within the alliance and with the NPU's own plans for this World Heritage (Unesco) site.



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4. Make an assessment of results obtained so far with the NPU technical sub-direction for strategic results and assure their impact at every relevant level in the NPU.
5. Analyze possible common or relevant actions and consolidate agreements with other allies such as Acción Social and Acdi-Voca for joint or complementary activities in selected areas.



## 4. DETAILED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES DURING REPORTING PERIOD

### 4.2 Grants process for local operators

The evaluation, approval and further adjustment of proposals for the Utría, Cocuy, and Catatumbo NNP cluster areas proceeded during this period. For Utría Park a total of three proposals, comprising local community initiatives, was approved. The topics covered by these projects are for a strong ecotourism value chain combined with the management of natural resources; strengthening of governance with the local and regional community councils and promoting enforcement of management plans for their territories; improving administrative skills and general capacity building; recovering food security and traditional practice; monitoring and managing fisheries; establishing marine area use and close season agreements; encourage sustainable management of mangrove areas; and enhancing responsible fishing by providing better market access for community fishers as an incentive.

For the Catatumbo region, five proposals were presented, four of them were put forward for consideration by the CTC and one is pending. The Committee demanded to fix some aspects of these projects, so this process was undertaken; by the end of the period one of the projects was ready for signing the contract and two were still adjusting some aspects. These projects are aimed to improve the livelihoods of campesino and indigenous communities while promoting conservation of natural resources. This objective will be attained enhancing sustainable production systems for food security, installing silvo-pastoral systems and rehabilitating cocoa plantations and other agro-forestry components to promote productivity.

One of the projects was rejected because the area selected for implementation was in the indigenous reservation but full authorization from the local Assembly was not obtained. Furthermore, the objectives of the project were not consistent with the traditional indigenous practice for cocoa plantings as a mixed agro-forestry system, rather than a monoculture plantation as presented in the proposal. The CLP technical evaluation also recommended agro-forestry systems for this area within the Indian reservation overlapping with the Park.

A total of eight projects were received when the Cocuy region APS was due by mid-August. A technical and financial evaluation was made and they were presented to the CTC.

### 4.3 Implementation of activities by NPU

The liaison officer and the CLP coordinator made the revision of a total of 119 applications for activities from the NPU during this quarter. Of these, 109 were applications for workshops, meetings, technical field trips, technical committees and similar matters, involving both the cross-cutting area and the parks, while 10 were contracts for professionals, laborers or technical assistants for the different parks in the clusters and some strategic lines of action based in the central NPU office. Now the advances in activities between the different parks are similar, although the Katios Park is still lagging behind.



### **4.3.1 Implementation of activities by NPU – Cross-Cutting matrix**

Organizational strengthening for the NPU has been accomplished through the main strategic lines identified by the Unit for inclusion in the CLP work plan. Many of these activities are also contained in the local operators' proposals for the influence zone of each park, so methodological advances will be useful for this surrounding area as well. The main advances are described below for each topic.

#### Training and advisory in eco-tourism planning and management

An exercise to apply the carrying capacity methodology in SFF Flamencos was made in the Arranchaderos path, to be applied later to the other visitor areas and to the tourism services chain, while the work plan with the consultant for planning ecotourism services was adjusted. Guidance was given to design a platform for flamingo observation, and the topics to be included in the visitors profile study and their level of satisfaction with services provided. A preliminary document is now available for carrying capacity in the main visitors attractions and advances in updating the diagnostics for the Ecotourism Plan.

A methodology for carrying capacity analysis was selected for the Cocuy Park and applied with local service providers in the Ritacubas path. A meeting was held with the consultant on ecotourism planning for guidance on the diagnostic activities. The Ritacubas and Lagunillas paths have been analyzed so far, with their camping sites and impact monitoring to review and apply the regulations with the local tourism operators.

Similar activities were carried out by the central office technicians in the Utría NNP with the relevant consultants to adjust the ecotourism planning document, diagnostics of the current status, monitoring and carrying capacity methodologies and indicators, evaluation of the management capacity in the local operators, field visits to the main tourist attraction areas, identifying appropriate locations for the sediment traps.

A workshop for Ecotourism Planning basic methodology was carried out in the Caribe Territorial Direction, with participants from Vía Parque Isla Salamanca, SFF Ciénaga, PNN Tayrona, PNN Corales and SFF Flamencos. Each area representative presented the advances in each process and requirements for support.

#### Restoration, sustainable production systems and landuse planning

Work sessions on this topic were carried out between the Technical subdirection professionals and the teams from Fragua, Catatumbo and Flamencos protected areas, in order to design the main activities and technical issues on active and passive restoration techniques, both in land and marine areas. The Ciénaga Navio Quebrado in Flamencos was examined and recommendations given, especially regarding the aquatic ecosystems.

A methodology devised by Fundación CIPAV for Sustainable Production Systems farm planning process was analyzed; as it has weak conservation guidelines, this part must be supplied by the technicians in the Fragua Park. The development of production systems in the Catatumbo, Cocuy, Utría and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Parks were also oriented by the Technical subdirection professionals, by reviewing the SIGA formats.

The draft on the National Plan for Ecological Restoration was distributed with its technical guide for review by the territorial directors, park managers and relevant technicians to send feedback to the Ecosystems Direction in the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development.



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### Control and surveillance

A workshop for reviewing theoretical and methodological issues was prepared and carried out for the Cueva de los Guacharos NNP, with the technical team and Park Manager, with support for legal aspects and project assessment. An action plan for control and surveillance in the area will be completed in 2011.

### Research and Monitoring Plan

The National Strategy for NPU Research and Monitoring was presented to the Fragua Park team, along with the general structure to be applied in this area. The main lines and programs were discussed and priorities identified. A similar activity was done with the Catatumbo Park team and adjustments were made to the draft document. In the Flamencos protected area the visit allowed to socialize the route for designing the research plan based on the knowledge requirements for management as identified with the professionals in the area. A plan for developing this document was drafted. For the Utría, Tayrona and Complejo Volcánico Doña Juana Cascabel Parks the research plans were reviewed and recommendations made.

The Participative Monitoring and Research workshop was carried out with 30 participants from the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Cocuy, Alto Fragua, Utria, Catatumbo. The activity was supported by WWF and two experts were invited for this workshop: Wendy Townsend and Carlos Rodríguez.

A draft has been completed for terms of reference on the interinstitutional agreement with Colciencias in order to design a research line for Parks Management and the National System of Protected Areas, which will provide funding for projects in these topics.

### AEMAPPS

The final document reporting on the Effectiveness of Management in Protected Areas Analysis was finished.

### Environmental education

Aimed towards the strengthening of the pedagogic capacity in the Parks' technical teams, a workshop was designed and carried out with 18 participants from 10 parks, four territorial directions and the NPU's central office. Methodological and theoretical aspects were disseminated in order to initiate implementation of the National Strategy for Environmental Education with the Local Action Plans. Agreements were obtained to design these plans that include identification and characterization of stakeholders from the educational perspective, interpretation plans, and course of action for the systematization of the educational experiences. Work plans are in the process of drafting for the follow-up and implementation of the tools proposed.

### Management plans updating

The document obtained over the last two quarters, along with the checklist and instructions for application, was sent to the Territorial Directions for its application in the selected areas. Criteria and other issues were discussed in different committees and priorities have been outlined.

### Special Management Strategies (for overlapped areas with indigenous communities)

A unified regional scenario for consensus building with the local black communities in the pacific region was established within the Uramba Agreement. A Technical and Operative Committee and a Regional Table enabled discussions to advance in common interest topics for communities and the NPU, defining Action Plans for the implementation of agreements and a course of action for drafting a macro-project which may fund priority actions. These comprise strengthening local tables and regional topics such as mining and illicit crop fumigations which have impacts in the region.



Watershed planning, buffer zones and consolidation of the SIRAP – Pacífico were also discussed. Strengthening regional consensus building efforts with black communities is an important approach to achieve a common view on the territory and define actions with this strategic stakeholder for conservation of the protected areas in the pacific region. The advances accomplished so far in the Uramba Agreement have demonstrated that it is possible to establish agreements between communities and the institutional state representatives; these agreements are effective strategies for complying with the state functions of these institutions and also to protect and guarantee the rights of the people.

Support in the process of establishing new protected areas

A local presentation of the new park Uramba Bahía Málaga was carried out with authorities and local community representatives in Juanchaco-Ladrilleros in September. Other meetings were planned for October with Community Councils to proceed in the declaration process for Playona Acandí. The other selected area in this process of declaration is Bosques Secos de Cúcuta, where some fieldwork was carried out to take some GPS readings for the possible limits of the future protected area.

Strengthening of the SINAP Action Plan has proceeded mainly with the Sirap Pacífico initiative, with a second Technical Committee in Medellín, with the objective of developing the thematic lines as established in a previous work plan, by establishing the possible road maps and methodologies by each of the participants.

The guidelines for attaining the accordance of previous categories for protected areas with the new categories established by the Decreto 2372, dated 1 July 2010, and with the Conpes document 3680, covering the regulations for the consolidation of the Sinap, were the subject of a meeting with CORANTIOQUIA. These new rules were socialized also with the Norandina Territorial Office, in order to review the theoretical aspects and feedback for implementation of this new regulation, especially concerning the harmonization process of the new categories with previous ones.

The team assigned for adjustment of the Sistema Departamental de Areas Protegidas de Risaralda has been working under the direction of Carder and the NPU, to find accordance and re-categorize the 17 protected areas in this region. The action plans and schedule for their implementation have been developed.

Establishment and strengthening of a SINAP information system

In this period a requirements analysis was made and the technical team recommended that this Information System should be linked to the Sistema de Información para la Biodiversidad - SIB, administered by Instituto Humboldt. This institution should be in charge of developing the application, in order to establish the appropriate linkages. Several meetings with the Instituto Humboldt were held in order to design the main lines for the contract. The CLP coordination will review the terms of reference and devise a request for application.

Planning and evaluation

With the purpose of strengthening capacity and efforts to research and data gathering that aid decision making, the planning and evaluation team at the NPU examined the options for improving their satellite imaging and cartography for eight priority Park areas. Careful evaluation was done for obtaining these images from different providers to guarantee quality and scale issues



### **4.3.2 Implementation of activities by NPU – Fragua, Utría, Catatumbo, Cocuy and Katíos NNPs.**

#### **Fragua NNP**

##### Establishment and strengthening licit economic alternatives

The second Local Coordination Committee was held in September with stakeholders: ACT Colombia, WWF, Fundación Esawá and the Territorial Direction for Amazonia. The socialization phase was finished for the five “veredas” in the middle basin area of the Sarabando river (veredas Cristalina, Bellavista, Alto San Juan, Alto Sarabando and Sarabando Medio). This sector was prioritized for implementing restoration and sustainable production systems. A first phase of characterization of the families was made and activities selected were the following: cocoa, plantains and pineapple plots, hedgerow borders and division for pasture areas, home gardens, enclosures for water sources and fish ponds. This information was the basis for completing the SIGA forms and obtaining the relevant environmental revision. Also, exercises to build capacity for a local Committee for Development and Conservation of the Fragueta river basin were carried out with support from WWF.

##### Sustainable production systems and restoration

Restoration activities have been examined for priorities, alongside the productive systems initiatives. Socialization of these plans and identification with 45 families as beneficiaries in five “veredas” of the Sarabando river watershed area was finished. The total area of these farms is 2390 ha., in which landuse planning and agreements for sustainable management will be signed. The activities include enclosures for water sources and river borders.

A total of 24 farms were characterized in the “veredas” of Palmeras, Cafetales, Mirador and Monterrey, in the Fragua river watershed. Validation of additional data with field visits in 21 farms was completed for the Pescado river watershed in the “veredas” Bellavista, Cristalina, Alto San Juan and la Estrella.

##### Monitoring and research

A first technical proposal was built on Special Restoration Strategies with the Park’s Technical Subdirection and the Geco research team from Universidad del Cauca. This methodology was applied in September in the Resguardo el Portal as a pilot to prepare similar activities in the Fragua Chorroso river watershed. The characterization of environmental goods and services in the Park and its influence area was supported by WWF; the monitoring technician was trained and improved his knowledge on the program used to analyze these topics.

##### Landuse planning and zoning

In preparation for the landuse planning activities that will be undertaken mainly by a professional that shall be hired in October, the Park’s technicians participated as members of the Joint Commission in the watershed planning for the Fragua Chorroso River with the team from Universidad de la Amazonía, a consultant to design the POMCA. Project profiles were presented with the ACT team as priorities to include in the portfolio for this Watershed Plan.



Meetings were carried out with the Interinstitutional round table, with participants from the “veredas” in Belén de los Andakíes and San José del Fragua. Additionally, talks were undertaken with the Alto Caqueta table, where stakeholders related with the protected areas topics and with the Fragua Park develop common topics according to their needs and priorities.

A workshop on landuse planning of the Park and its influence area, supported by WWF was carried out. Different processes were analyzed with the Parks Unit Technical Subdirection, the Territorial Office, CORPOAMAZONIA, representatives from the Council at San José del Fragua, Fundación Esawá, Fundación Tierra Viva and the Cueva de los Guácharos, Orito and Fragua Parks’ teams.

Governance strengthening in protected areas and indigenous reservations

A second diagnostic for updating information was carried out regarding the La Cerinda indigenous reservation, where the agricultural section of the mayor’s office at Belén de los Andaquíes supported activities for animal husbandry practices. A meeting was conducted with the La Esperanza reservation for an agreement on activities and developing a work plan; nonetheless, internal conflict in the reservation and communication problems with the Park’s officials led to their refusal to cooperate or agree on any joint activities. A similar situation with the Asociación Tandachiridú Inganokuna has prevented any agreement or even a meeting for reaching them, although during 2009 a commitment was made towards advancing in the cultural traditions and joining efforts for landuse planning with the Park’s representatives.

The El Portal reservation was supported with activities for establishing sustainable production systems with WWF funding, and a workshop for landuse planning in the Resguardo area, with the Paez indigenous authorities. A participative approach has enabled a road map to be designed for the Life Plan and support for improving organization and managerial aspects. This Resguardo has a representative in the Committee for Development and Conservation of the Fragueta river watershed and this organization has also been strengthened.

**Utría NNP**

Establishment and strengthening of economic alternatives

Characterization of traditional practices and agro-ecological models for productive systems has been carried out in the Puerto Indio, La Loma and Jurubidá indigenous communities included in the Resguardo Jurubidá - Chori -Alto Baudó. A total of 16 hectares were identified for sustainable production and restoration (natural regeneration) activities.

Establishment and strengthening public-private alliances, concessions and agreements on ecotourism with local communities

A workshop was conducted with local tourism operators, to socialize the rules on public use contained in the land-use and ecotourism planning. The local El Cedro Community Council supported these exercises, aimed towards strengthening local operators to serve efficiently and comply with regulations, reactivating the local Tourism Committee, a group in charge of overseeing the compliance of regulations. This group will analyze the local value chain in ecotourism to lower pressures on particular areas, disseminate the regulations among all relevant stakeholders, involve the community for the protection of conservation values in the park, positioning the tourist



attractions inside the protected area and specify the rules governing these areas. Zoning and the respective uses of these areas have been defined and the relevant rules have been defined for each area and ecotourism activity. Other activities related to ecotourism are the talks for visitors in the Park; environmental interpretation guidance has been given to all park's officers with their commitment for their application in relation with ecotourism. Local communication workshops have been carried out with the Community Councils of El Cedro and Los Delfines, in which the local and regional positioning of the Utría Park and its conservation value has been disseminated.

#### Training and support for ecotourism planning and management.

Adjustments, commentaries and complements have been made to a former ecotourism planning document (Gamba et al 2008), and further feedback will be incorporated along the process with technicians and the local operators in the Utría Park cabins.

Carrying capacity indicators for ecotourism in the Utría area were examined on the theoretical and practical aspects, based on the data base for 2010. Some problems were identified, such as uneven sampling methods, lack of continuity in data gathering and specific reports for each use zone. This situation means that it is impossible to ascertain the visitor's impact on particular zones. The method will be adjusted for better measurements and consequently for decision-making on specific impacts that must be avoided. Also, a method for complementing and updating the ecotourism planning document was outlined by officers from the Technical Subdirection and the Utría technical team.

#### Ecotourism infrastructure improvement

The terms of reference were finished and the process of evaluating the proposals presented for installation of photovoltaic systems has begun.

#### Management plan updating

Some adjustments were made to the area of the Utría NNP in the official cartography. The Territorial Office and the Technical subdirection participated to define and take GPS readings on some points such as the Playa La Cueva sector. A census of the properties was made, and it was established that these farms have not been bought by the Park. Other properties owned by Lázaro Carvajal and Alejandro Munevar in the Ensenada de Utría area were also measured, as they have offered to sell this land to the park. Some additional GPS points were taken in the Quebradas la Playita and the Fondeadero Jurubidá to adjust the maps. A workshop was done to socialize the zoning criteria for the Utría Park.

#### Definition of buffer zones

Meetings were attended on the Departmental System of Protected Areas SIDAP Pacífico and the Action Plan for the Sistema Departamental de Áreas Protegidas PEGAR in the Chocó department. The buffer zone was also a topic for discussion, for it must be defined with the respective environmental authority, in this case with Codechocó. The Territorial Director and staff were also there to help establish the criteria and possible extent of the area that must be characterized and delimited.



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The process of consensus building with indigenous authorities from the three indigenous reservations overlapping with this Park has been difficult. After a meeting in the El Brazo community on September 28, the Alto Río Valle Resguardo concluded that they are not interested in the Special Management Strategy process with the Park. Although a workshop was held with the Santa María de Condoto community, in which some topics such as the socio-economic characterization and the monitoring strategy were examined and some advance was made, a final agreement was not possible either with this community.

Strengthening governance with the communities in priority areas is important to guarantee that natural resources are protected and used sustainably. The Aciokendo indigenous association participated in a workshop for the Life Plan. A conflict between the Jagua community and the Collective Territory assigned to the black people is still present. Notice has been given by the NPU to the Ministry of the Interior, but they have not yet answered this requirement.

### Environmental education

Several actions have been developed to enhance community involvement at the local level, mainly with talks related to the special management strategies. In the El Valle Corregimiento and the Nuquí municipality, a festival featuring the migratory species was organized. Children and youngsters participated in the activities, supported by the CLP, Fundación Natura, WWF, Aviatur and Fundación Eduardoño, as main donors (see success story on this topic).

### **Catatumbo NNP**

#### Sustainable production systems

Environmentally friendly technologies were identified and promoted by a diagnostic made to maintain agricultural units, for the propagation of ancestral plant species and for restoration activities in the Shubacbarina and Batroctora sectors. Besides the purely agricultural characterization, some areas were identified in Yera for enclosures that will protect and promote regeneration of native forests. Some information about this process was disseminated by booklets. Participative Restoration and sustainable production systems were evaluated in a workshop focused on the Bridikayra and Culebritas sectors, where 84 families will be participating in the activities. The agricultural units, cocoa agroforestry systems and recruitment of native plantlets for restoration were defined to be established through a diagnostic. Fertility, weed control and new crops to be established were identified in Bridikayra, and the plots for food security were determined with the community members. The traditional species that will be propagated were defined according to their traditional use. A tracking system and forms to be filled to describe the restoration actions was developed and socialized with the community, according to the methodology developed by the Norandina Territorial Direction. A characterization of the current status of cocoa plantations was done in the Bridikayra, Corronkayra and Culebritas sector, in order to define the agricultural management techniques and production systems, and practices applied for rehabilitation of cocoa plantations. The species for native plant recruitment were identified in Bridikayra and young indigenous people participated.



### Monitoring and research

These activities have also begun in Catatumbo, with the participation of their technicians in the Workshop organized by the Central Office in the Otún Quimbaya Park, where participative monitoring and research was presented and the relevant methodologies discussed. This was especially relevant for the parks that overlap with indigenous reservations, such as Catatumbo, where some of these methodologies are being applied.

### Buffer zones

The definition of this special area surrounding the park began by reviewing the available cartography for the Tibú municipality with the professionals in the Territorial Direction Office. Then, the National Workshop for the Buffer Zones policy and procedures was held, in which several land-use topics were discussed to enhance the buffering function of this area around the parks.

A meeting with several institutions, such as Ecopetrol, was held to discuss limits of the park and the laws applying to the protected areas. This information is related to the rules and regulations that must be enforced by the Park manager and officers.

Processes of consensus building between indigenous chiefs, their communities and the Park's authorities began with the "Asamblea de Caciques", where the CLP workplan was socialized.

A meeting of the Bari people where cultural and territorial values were enhanced was useful to consolidate the indigenous views on their territory and traditional knowledge.

A workshop was carried out for the transfer of knowledge to the Bari people on three topics: guarantees given by the State for their governance, the landuse plan of the Tibú municipality, and advances on the process of land clearance in the Bari territory.

## **Cocuy NNP**

### Sustainable production systems

Productive activities were characterized in the Bachira sector, in which indigenous people live, to identify with this people the areas where sustainable systems can be implemented and to determine the kind of crops that can be included.

### Ecotourism

Special training and advisory in eco-tourism planning and management was sought for this area. A workshop was held to discuss and evaluate the best methodologies to determine the carrying capacity in the areas defined for visitors in the Park. This exercise will help to advance in the consolidation of an ecotourism plan for the Sierra Nevada, focused on three paths, rules and zoning.

### Research and monitoring

With the purpose of strengthening capacity for research and data gathering that aid decision making, two monitoring expeditions were carried out in the Cocuy Park. One was targeted to the characteristic Páramo plant the "frailejón", in which two species were selected for monitoring: *Espeletia curialensis* and *Espeletia cleffi*. Growth and phenology data were taken, as well as recruiting of new individuals of the two species in plots marked for the purpose.



Another expedition in three different areas of the Cocuy Park, namely the Ritak u'wa blanco, Ritak u'wa negro and cerros de La Plaza sectors, was carried out for monitoring glaciers, as these ice masses have reduced, losing depth and length. This monitoring will provide important data that help to evaluate climate change impacts in the tropical region mountain glaciers.

### Special Management Strategies

The process has begun for consensus building between National Parks and indigenous authorities for the implementation of special management strategies, with a workshop to socialize the Park's strategy for sustainable production systems in the Bachira area, inhabited by indigenous U'wa people.

### **Katíos NNP**

The Management Plan for this park has to be updated, so the manager attended a workshop in Geographic Information Systems in order to apply this knowledge to the current work to ascertain the borders of the Park, especially in the southern part, and to define zoning and land-use.

In September, the terms of reference for some of the NPU infrastructure and equipment were received and published. At the end of September some proposals had been received while other calls for proposals were declared void. For the latter, an alternate course of action was taken by getting price listings and searching for local workers for this construction. Meanwhile, the evaluation in terms of financial and technical aspects was in process for the control and surveillance cabins' repairs and for the photovoltaic systems installation and equipment.

## **4.4 Communications activities and cooperation with NPU**

The web page contents were released in their first version for approval by USAID communications officers. A final version of the branding and marking manual in Spanish was prepared and sent to these officers and the AOTR towards the end of the period, but they asked for an English version, and although the translation was sent, a complete mirror version was not possible to complete in the available time, so this will be finished afterwards for its approval and dissemination to local operators and the NPU.

The communications strategy containing the role of the CLP and FPN team was adjusted as required by USAID and included in the workplan for the second year.

The workshops carried out by the NPU in the pacific region and Doña Juana, related to radio journalism with community organizations have continued. A set of radio programs prepared on the Doña Juana area are now available and were sent to USAID for their revision.

A total of 14 radio programs have been prepared so far by the NPU communications team and are being broadcasted weekly by the university radio network. Some changes have been included in the scripts in order to secure its comprehension by a wider audience. A communications committee was held and some suggestions were made to include other local programs.



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## 4.5 Communications activities: Success stories

### Uramba-Bahía Málaga es el Parque Nacional Natural número 56 de Colombia

Bogotá- Colombia. La Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID, por su sigla en inglés) celebra la reciente declaratoria del Parque Nacional Natural número 56 en la zona de Bahía Málaga, al suroccidente del país.

El anuncio realizado el pasado jueves por el ministro de medio ambiente, Carlos Costa, puso fin al debate entre la construcción de un puerto de aguas profundas para buques de gran calado, o la declaratoria de un área protegida en esta importante zona del pacífico colombiano.

La nueva área protegida es una de las pocas de carácter marino y pretende conservar los valores naturales y culturales de esta región ubicada a 40 minutos de Buenaventura y cerca de Base Naval del Pacífico.

“Celebramos la decisión del gobierno de proteger un área estratégica para la conservación de especies emblemáticas como la ballena yubarta (*Banaleoptera novanglie*), además de ser fuente de bienes y servicios vitales para las comunidades afrodescendientes e indígenas de la región”, expresó Julia Gorricho, asesora ambiental para USAID.

El Parque Nacional Natural Uramba Bahía Málaga tiene una extensión de 47.094 hectáreas y de acuerdo a PNN, alberga una inmensa diversidad de especies de fauna y flora, continental y marina, que la inscribe como parte de los "Hot Spots" (sitio de alta concentración de biodiversidad amenazada) de la conservación de naturaleza a escala planetaria.

USAID ha apoyado a la Subdirección Técnica de PNN a través de su línea estratégica de Creación de Nuevas Áreas Protegidas, la cual lideró el proceso de la declaratoria del nuevo Parque Nacional Natural.

Parques Nacionales Naturales publicó en su página web que en hasta el momento se han reportado para el área 1, 396 especies en 9 grupos de de animales y vegetales, plantas vasculares (300), moluscos (254), peces marinos y/o estuarinos (240), crustáceos (237), aves (107), poliquetos (68), algas (37), equinodermos (28), mamíferos costeros (30), esponjas (18), cnidarios (18), mamíferos acuáticos (12) y otros grupos menores de animales marinos (6). Otros grupos de animales costeros también fueron reportados, tales como: peces dulceacuícolas (14), reptiles (17), anfibios (10) y algunos individuos de hongos e insectos.



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## **Una finca que produce y alarga la vida de sus suelos**

Don Darío Aldana es reconocido en la vereda Las Palmeras, en el municipio de San José del Fragua, Caquetá, por ser una de las personas que más trabaja para disminuir el impacto ambiental de la ganadería en los suelos.

Anteriormente él manejaba una hectárea de potrero por cabeza de ganado, hoy después de haberse vinculado desde hace más de dos años al trabajo con ACT Colombia, ha disminuido notablemente tratando de llegar a dos cabezas por hectárea. Él nos cuenta que realizando bancos de forraje con botón de oro, nacedero, cachimbo, caña forrajera, pringamoza, yarumo, morera, matarratón y ramio, “las mejores son las plantas nativas”, comenta don Darío.

Con el apoyo de su esposa Nelly Soache, sus hijas Liliana, Paola y Johana, trabaja para sacar adelante el sueño de llegar a tener una granja con una ganadería que cause el menor impacto negativo, debido a la compactación a los suelos; quiere entonces aumentar la reserva natural y mejorar la producción de agua.

Hoy su finca se ha convertido en modelo para la región y hasta se han realizado encuentros comunitarios para intercambio de semillas en su predio.

La familia Aldana Soache sigue aumentando su prole con cría de piscos (patos), gallinas, cerdos y patos y lo más importante, aislando las fuentes de agua.; “La idea es que aumente mucho el agua, pues el sueño de mi familia es tener una pelton (planta eléctrica) que ilumine la finca, permita tener una picadora de pasto y la separación de potreros con cerca eléctrica”, agrega Darío.

Los suelos de la finca están recuperando su fertilidad, los visitantes son testigos, la familia Aldana Soache seguirá apostándole a la producción sostenible y protegiendo los recursos naturales que tiene en su predio y en los alrededores.

Una historia producida por ACT en el marco del Programa Paisajes de Conservación, financiado por la Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID).



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## Adiós a la coca y bienvenido el Cacao

“Allá detrás de esa montaña es el Mirador”, comentó Jairo Quintero, técnico de ACT Colombia. “Allá está la finca de Don Roberto Monroy y doña Marina Rodríguez”.

Después de dejar atrás la carretera destapada en medio de grandes potreros, del olor a tierra fresca mezclado con arazá y maraco, dejamos la moto cerca al broche, una parte del camino que marca el inicio de la troca, para comenzar a subir el cañón que rodea el paisaje de la quebrada La Lunita, con grandes bejucos que la atraviesan y con el sonido del agua cristalina, encantan al caminante que tiene la fortuna de cruzarla.

Después de *medio tabaco*, expresión usada por los campesinos para marcar el tiempo de las caminatas, de camino se divisa la finca de Roberto, al pie de un bosque primario y rodeada de árboles de guayaba, mangos y palmas de coco, allí se encuentra empotrada la casa de madera.

Al fondo se escucha el ladrido del perro, mientras el pisco sale con su canturreo *Bururu ruru*, a defender su territorio con una camada de diez pollitos, unos huevitos de gallina criolla que Doña Marina le endosó a mamá pisca como hijos adoptivos.

Desde la ventana de la cocina, doña Marina nos atisba, mientras amasa las arepas y bate el cacao para el desayuno; Roberto saluda al equipo de Conservación de La Amazonía que visitaba su finca para el seguimiento que se le hace al cultivo de cacao desde hace dos años.

Roberto es un campesino de hacha y machete, enseñado a ganarse la vida en el campo jornaleando y en cierta etapa de su vida, la necesidad económica lo llevó a cultivar coca; sin embargo la experiencia le enseñó que este cultivo ilícito sólo le traía problemas.

### Un campesino de hacha y machete

Antes de entrar a hacer parte del proceso con ACT Colombia, dice el mismo Roberto, “yo le echaba machete a todo, llegaba a los nacimientos y era feliz viendo como quedaba el corte todo parejito”.

Sin embargo, ahora es consciente que su finca vale realmente es porque tiene cinco nacimientos de agua, y los protege como la niña de sus ojos, les siembra nacedero y toda clase de plantas para que el agua aumente y nunca le falte en su finca.

Hace sólo tres años que Roberto compró su tierrita en la vereda el Mirador, ubicada a 620 mts de altura. Antes era un lote donde cultivaban coca y después se convirtió en un rastrojero de pasto peluda; hoy la ha transformado en una verdadera finca productiva y con proyección a volverse autosostenible.

Mientras nos contaba como sembró las dos mil primeras matas de plátano, arrancaba un palo de yuca de unos 20 kilos, y nos daba consejos de lo importante que era tener unas



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30 ó 40 matas de yuca en la finca para que no falte en el sancocho y sudada, que no debe sembrarse mucha porque puede afectar el cultivo de cacao.

Mirando así a golpe de ojo uno puede encontrar variedad en su finca, hay plátano quindiano muy bueno; pildoro, guayabos, guanábanos, papaya, mango y naranjos, cebolla, cilantro y tomate. Roberto tiene claro que una finca debe tener comida, eso es muy importante y por eso Marina trata de mantener su huerta bien encerrada para que las gallinas y los piscos no le vayan a hacer fiesta y le acaben con las verduras y hortalizas.

### **Y del cacao qué?**

Cuando le preguntamos a Roberto como hizo para que el cultivo de cacao le saliera tan bonito y productivo nos explicó que “hay que saber manejar las distancias tanto en la largura como la anchura, primero se cultiva el plátano para que sirva de sombrío y cuando esté grandecito se siembra el cacao a 3, 70 mts de distancia una mata de la otra”.

El cacao que sembró Roberto es un cruce entre una semilla nativa y otra mejorada. Para realizar esta acción, él contó con el acompañamiento y apoyo de los técnicos de ACT Colombia. De esta forma se convirtió en todo un investigador porque observando descubrió el momento más óptimo para hacer el injerto, cuando la planta inicial está echando la primera mesita ya en el cultivo, esto le ha dado tan buen resultado que los técnicos del programa están pensando en adoptar su estrategia.

### **Hay que manejar la paciencia**

Roberto cuenta cómo han sido estos dos años esperando la primera cosecha, “a mí mucha gente me desanimaba, que no me pusiera a esperar tanto tiempo, que mejor sembrara otra cosa, sin embargo yo maneje la paciencia, y mire ya estoy recogiendo mis primeros frutos”.

Mientras el cacao comenzaba a dar los frutos, Roberto le ha sacado partido a sus 4 mil matas de plátano que sembró para dar sombra al cacao mientras crece; cuenta que hay semanas en las que saca hasta 50 racimos muy buenos, y que se los pagan entre 6 mil y ocho mil pesos; y dice orgulloso que racimo que baja para el pueblo es racimo vendido, por su calidad y tamaño.

La finca de Roberto tiene 6 y media hectáreas de las cuales, cinco las ha dedicado al cacao, son cuatro mil árboles que van a empezar a producir por muy largo tiempo, además en el medio de este cultivo tiene unos árboles de nogal, los cuales son un ahorro para el futuro.

Con este cultivo de cacao la familia está conectando la finca con el bosque nativo y así se mejora el ecosistema para las especies nativas y en peligro de extinción, gran diversidad de pájaros se escuchan cantando en la finca, el suelo está protegido con muy buena capa de hojas y cantidad de materia orgánica, también con el cultivo de cacao Roberto está generando una cantidad considerable de oxígeno



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Marina acompaña a Roberto a recorrer el cacaotal, en medio del canto de los pájaros encaramados en los nogales empiezan a cosechar los frutos de su esfuerzo colectivo, y una vez terminada la faena, los técnicos de ACT Colombia se despiden no sin antes cargar sus morrales con manotadas de cilantro de monte que van dejando regado el olor por la falda abajo de la quebrada Lunita.

Mientras el sol comienza a esconderse entre las montañas, Marina calienta un café y Roberto toma la guitarra para despedirse del día y entre acordes componer estrofas de canciones que hablan de amor y protección de la naturaleza.

Una historia producida por ACT en el marco del Programa Paisajes de Conservación, financiado por la Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID).



## El Parque Nacional Natural Utría

### Destino ideal para las viajeras sin maletas

*Ballenas, tortugas, aves y peces migratorios concurren entre junio y noviembre en la Costa Pacífica colombiana para dar a luz, desovar, alimentarse y reproducirse en uno de los escenarios de mayor riqueza natural y paisajística de Colombia: el Chocó Biogeográfico.*

Son las nueve de la mañana en el corregimiento El Valle, ubicado a 40 minutos, por tierra, de Bahía Solano (Chocó). La caseta de reuniones del Consejo Mayor Los Delfines (gobierno local) empieza a llenarse de gente de todas las edades.

Al fondo, hay un grupo de niños entre los 10 y 14 años vestidos con camisetas amarillas y azules,



PPC / Parque Utría / Ma. Ximena Galeano  
Cerca de 150 niños hicieron parte del Retorno de las Viajeras sin Maleta.

que combinan con el color de la soleada mañana. Son estudiantes de la Escuela Mayor Santa Teresita, quienes serán los protagonistas de un encuentro de cuatro días alrededor de las especies migratorias, que año tras año visitan su territorio.

En medio de las voces y de la alegría de los niños, una mujer nos da la bienvenida al Retorno de las Viajeras sin Maleta. Se trata de Clara Solano, subdirectora de la Fundación Natura, quien con marcado entusiasmo anuncia el inicio del Festival de Especies Migratorias en las comunidades de Nuquí, Bahía Solano y El Valle,

corregimientos que hacen parte de la zona de amortiguamiento del Parque Nacional Natural Utría.

Esta iniciativa de educación ambiental se remonta a la década de los noventa, cuando la Asociación Calidris, la Fundación Yubarta, WWF y la Fundación Natura unieron sus competencias para apostar por un encuentro con el cual se promueve el intercambio de saberes entre biólogos y comunidades para favorecer a las especies migratorias y a los ecosistemas asociados a ellas.

Casi diez años después, los consejos comunitarios, las organizaciones locales, el gobierno nacional a través de Parques Nacionales Naturales, la Fundación Natura, la Asociación Calidris y la Fundación Yubarta, con el apoyo del Programa Paisajes de Conservación, se reencuentran en esta zona del Chocó para retomar el Festival y motivar a la comunidad a seguir adelante con la participación en procesos de conservación de las especies migratorias y sus ecosistemas estratégicos de la región.



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Después de la bienvenida, los miembros de la Fundación Eduardoño organizan los grupos de niños y lideran la caminata hacia la Playa El Almejal, en donde se realizará la primera jornada de limpieza.

Patricia Falk, bióloga de Calidris nos cuenta que “cerca de 120 niños se sumaron esta actividad del Festival, además contamos con el apoyo de diferentes organizaciones y de la Escuela Normal Santa Teresita y el Instituto Técnico Agropecuario (ITA), y las comunidades de los corregimientos Nuquí, Bahía Solano y El Valle”.

Al son de las olas del mar, hombres, mujeres y niños locales, y visitantes se dedicaron a limpiar una de las playas más extensas del Valle. Al final de la tarde se habían recogido y clasificado 1.5 toneladas de residuos sólidos, que posteriormente fueron transportadas a Bahía Solano.

### **Mientras los niños duermen**

En la noche, un grupo de voluntarios de la Asociación local Caguama patrulla las playas sin descanso. No buscan fugitivos ni peligros... Este grupo de expertos locales busca toparse con alguna tortuga marina de las que usualmente escoge este paisaje para desovar.

Las tortugas Caguama, Baula y Carey son algunas de las especies que frecuentan este ecosistema. Todas tienen con algún grado de amenaza, de acuerdo con la Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza (UICN), razón por la cual este patrullaje aporta a su conservación mundial, pues estas importantes especies son consideradas indicadores del estado de salud de los océanos.

Isidro Alvarado, líder de la Asociación Caguama, va al frente de la operación, que esta noche de luna llena, cuenta con varios visitantes quienes por primera vez tienen la oportunidad de ser testigos de esta increíble experiencia. Por celular le anuncian la llegada de una tortuga. Apresurados caminamos para alcanzar a ver el fenómeno de desove. Son las 11 de la noche y hemos recorrido casi tres kilómetros.

“Debemos guardar silencio, no encender linternas y mantener una distancia prudente para que el animal no se estrese en el momento del desove”, nos explica Alvarado mientras avanzamos.

Seguimos el rastro evidente de la tortuga en la arena y casi 6 metros después el corazón se acelera cuando comprobamos que este gigantesco animal está desovando frente a nosotros.



PPC/Parque Utría/Ma. Ximena Galeano. La Asociación Caguama patrulla voluntariamente las playas del Valle para conservar las tortugas marinas

Durante unos minutos la vemos cavar un hoyo de cerca de 40 centímetros de profundidad. Se acomoda y empiezan a caer uno a uno, como pelotitas de ping pong. Contamos cerca de 80 huevos. Luego, con fuerza y sigilo, los tapa por completo sin dejar ninguna huella. Entonces, el grupo local de expertos, acompañado por Parques Nacionales Naturales mide al ejemplar, lo marca y ayuda a volver al mar, donde en menos de un parpadeo se confunde con la espuma de las olas.

Nos quedamos en silencio sorprendidos por la suerte de haber sido testigos de

un fenómeno natural tan conmovedor. El Guardaparques Voluntario del Parque Utría, Oscar Cañón, toma la palabra: “Hemos presenciado el desove de una tortuga Caguama (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) de más de 30 años de edad y con un caparazón de 50 centímetros de largo. Los huevos serán trasladados por los expertos locales a la Estación Septiembre, un espacio entregado por la Fundación Natura a Caguama para avanzar en la investigación y protección de estas especies. Al cabo de 30 días, los neonatos serán liberados en esta misma playa”.

Esta iniciativa de conservación contará además con el apoyo del Programa Paisajes de Conservación, respaldado por la Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID), Parques Nacionales Naturales y Patrimonio Natural- Fondo para la Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas.

### **Un sendero en el bosque húmedo muy tropical**

El amanecer viene acompañado de un estruendoso aguacero propio de la región. Sin embargo, el clima no merma el entusiasmo de los niños reunidos desde las ocho de la mañana para dar inicio a la actividad de observación en el sendero del Parque Utría, que conduce a la Estación Septiembre a lo largo de siete kilómetros.



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Fue un juego de cinco estaciones donde los niños tenían que elaborar coplas, armar una sopa de letras y aprender sobre la importancia de este ecosistema para su vida diaria. Después de la segunda pista, los niños llegan a un claro del bosque visiblemente afectado por la tala. Ricardo Ariza, funcionario del Parque Utría, aprovecha el escenario para reflexionar sobre las principales amenazas que afectan a estas especies, como la tala indiscriminada del bosque.



PPC / Parque Utría / Ximena Galeano.  
El Retorno de las Viajeras sin Maleta integró a niños y adultos alrededor de un mensaje de conservación.

Raúl Medina, de 10 años de edad afirma: “Nosotros mismos acabamos el ecosistema, y si acabamos con el ecosistema se acaba el agua, y sin agua no hay árboles para sacar madera y construir nuestras casas...hasta nos moriríamos de hambre porque los frutos también se acabarían”.

Al cabo de casi cuatro horas de caminata, juego y cantos se escucha el mar y los niños se alegran, pues es la señal esperada para llegar a la estación y disfrutar de un merecido almuerzo. Luego vino un descanso y el retorno al

Valle, esta vez por la playa.

### Arrullos y currulao despiden el Festival

La riqueza natural del Pacífico colombiano está acompañada por la riqueza cultural de sus habitantes, por esta razón para el cierre del Festival los niños se toman las calles del corregimiento El Valle para cantar al ritmo de currulaos, bundes y chirimías los mensajes de conservación que aprendieron en el retorno de las viajeras sin maleta.

“Cada vez que la basura vota usted  
tiene que saberlo muy bien  
que está contaminando.  
Su ambiente natural  
hay que cuidar  
se va a acabar  
esta vida es un carnaval  
y la estamos contaminando  
se va acabar”.

Las letras de las canciones se confunden con los tambores y con las risas de los espectadores, que en el desfile ven carteles y disfraces que resaltan el valor de conservar a las ballenas, las aves, los peces y las tortugas.



El entusiasmo es contagioso y el mensaje que queda en el aire es: “seguiremos trabajando de manera conjunta y vamos por la siguiente versión actividades este Festival, cada vez con mayor participación de las comunidades y con el respaldo de las organizaciones que desde hace mucho tiempo le han apostado a la conservación de esta importante región del país”.

Los visitantes nos llevamos por una parte el conocimiento adquirido sobre la importancia de estas especies y de estos ecosistemas, y por otra, la convicción de que la comunidad está lista para liderar iniciativas que permitan la visibilización de importantes procesos de conservación y desarrollo sostenible, las cuales además le apuntan al mejoramiento de la calidad de vida de las poblaciones y cuentan con el respaldo de organizaciones de gran trayectoria y experiencia.



PPC / Parque Utría / Ximena Galeano.

El cierre del festival dejó las puertas abiertas a una nueva versión de este encuentro.

**Destacados:**

- En 1999 el Festival de Especies Migratorias sólo se realizó en el departamento del Chocó y su principal objetivo fue divulgar información acerca de las tres especies que llegan al Pacífico colombiano. Las instituciones participantes fueron la Fundación Yubarta, Asociación Calidris, Fundación Natura y el Fondo Mundial para la Naturaleza (WWF). El Festival se celebró hasta el 2005 en el Chocó y se hicieron dos versiones más organizadas por los líderes comunitarios de Nuquí y El Valle.
- En el marco este festival también se realizó un taller de construcción ecológica de muros y una actividad de pintura colectiva para la realización de un mural alusivo al fenómeno de la migración.
- Se conoce como *migración* a los cambios de hábitat periódicos que realizan algunos animales, con el propósito de asegurar condiciones ambientales óptimas para la sobrevivencia de la especie durante todo el año.
- El Parque Ensenada de Utría está ubicado en el departamento del Chocó, sobre la Costa Pacífica, en jurisdicción de los municipios Nuquí, Bahía Solano, Alto Baudó y Bojayá. Las 54.300 hectáreas de bosque húmedo tropical de esta área protegida encierran cuatro de los ecosistemas más productivos y a la vez más frágiles del planeta: formaciones coralinas, manglares, selva húmeda tropical y el ecosistema marino.



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- El Programa Paisajes de Conservación, financiado por la Agencia de Estados Unidos para el Desarrollo Internacional (USAID), es una iniciativa de cooperación técnica y financiera liderada en Colombia por Parques Nacionales Naturales y Patrimonio Natural, Fondo para la Biodiversidad y Áreas Protegidas; que apoya la implementación de actividades lícitas sostenibles en ecosistemas de gran biodiversidad como las montañas de los Andes, el Chocó Biogeográfico, el Piedemonte Andino Amazónico y la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.



## 4.6 PMP report on CLP activities

The PMP's August 2010 version is the basis for the measurement on activities performed by the NPU and a local operator (Amazon Conservation Team) in the first year of the program. The activities reported, as it was explained before, pertain approximately to an eight month period in 2010, from February to September.

| Program Indicator  | Target July 2012 | First Year Target | First Year Achievement |
|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Number of families benefitted with sustainable productive systems | 680              | 50                | 0                      |

There has been no progress in this target, but for the NNP Catatumbo and Alto Fragua there has been the identification and diagnostic of the families to be benefitted with sustainable production activities (45 in Alto Fragua and 89 in Catatumbo)

| Program Indicator   | Target ay July 2012 | First Year Target | First Year Achievement |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 2. Number of micro-enterprises, cooperatives, associations and other community organization supported | 29                  | 7                 | 22                     |

No advances have been reported for the period July-September regarding this indicator.

| Program Indicator   | Target ay July 2012 | First Year Target | First Year Achievement |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 3. Number of hectares with sustainable production processes | 8500                | 850               | 0                      |

No advances have been reported for the period July-September regarding this indicator, but the Catatumbo NNP has identified 40 Has for the implementation of sustainable cocoa production.

| Program Indicator   | Target July 2012  | First Year Target  | First Year Achievement  |
|---|---|--|---|
| 4. Progress in the implementation of the National Parks Unit strategic plan | 16 points (80% advance in the implementation of strategic programs in the cluster areas' Parks) | 1 point (5% advance in the implementation of strategic programs in the cluster areas' Parks) | 3 points (5% advance in the implementation of strategic programs in the cluster areas' Parks) |

Indicator 4: no changes for the period. Although the way of measuring this target does not allow reporting advances, there are many activities that will shortly allow such report. Four main strategic



lines had activities, such as control and surveillance, monitoring and research, special management strategies (for overlapped areas) and ecotourism planning:

- Workshop for research and participative monitoring.
- Workshop for carrying capacity and ecotourism planning in the Tayrona NNP, with participation of 6 protected areas technicians and professionals, two territorial directions, the Tourism Vice-ministry delegates and the USFS.
- Meetings with local stakeholders related with ecotourism in the Utria and Cocuy NNPs.
- Meetings with traditional indigenous authorities of the Bari communities living in the Catatumbo Park.

| Program Indicator   | Target at July 2012         | First Year Target          | First Year Achievement    |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 5. Number of monitoring processes of conservation objects implemented in the 6 prioritized national parks | 24 new monitoring processes | 2 new monitoring processes | 1 new monitoring process. |

There are no changes for the period.

The first year achievement is the implementation of the monitoring program for hunting activity as a joint action of the Utria National park and the Jurubira - Chori - Alto Baudo indigenous Resguardo.

| Program Indicator  | Target at July 2012   | First Year Target   | First Year Achievement |
|--|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| 6. Percentage of improvement in the management of protected areas according to the AEMAPPS index | Increase of short term effectiveness index according to AEMAPPS methodology | Set up of base line | Set up of base line    |

The measurement of this indicator will be done again in 2012.

| Program Indicator   | Target at July 2012                       | First Year Target | First Year Achievement             |
|---|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7. Variation of the percentage of ecosystems represented in the SINAP | Increase of the current percentage (52%). | Not specified     | Increase of the current percentage |

There has been no further advance since the declaration of Bahía Málaga Park. Still, the actual measurement by the NPU of the percentage of increase in ecosystems represented in the Sinap is pending.



| Program Indicator   | Target at July 2012   | First Year Target   | First Year Achievement  |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8. Participation of local communities in biodiversity conservation activities | 80% (From 500 to 900 people from different local organizations are strengthened to represent the interests of the community and to participate in planning processes and agreements for biodiversity conservation.<br>AND<br>From 500 to 900 people from different local organizations are qualified in the different thematic components of NPU planning | Less than 500 people from different local organizations are qualified or strengthened to represent the interests of the community and to participate in planning processes and agreements on biodiversity conservation.<br>OR<br>Less than 500 people from different local organizations are qualified in the different thematic components of NPU planning | 124 people from 19 local organizations are qualified in the different thematic components of NPU planning with CLP support. |

8: No advances for this period.

| Program Indicator   | Target at July 2012 | First Year Target | First Year Achievement | This period |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 9. Percentage of efficient management of the program's budget | 100%                | 50%               | 25%                    | 40%         |

There was an increase in the execution of the budget in the reported period, although it is still lower than expected. Meanwhile, the obligated funds are higher, due to the subscription of contracts for technical officers in the parks, and with local operators.

| Program Indicator  | Target at July 2012 | First Year Target | First Year Achievement |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| F (1) indicator: Number of hectares under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance | 83000               | 8300              | 47094                  |



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F1: No advances were reported for this indicator in the period.

| Program Indicator   | Target at July 2012 | First Year Target | First Year Achievement | This period |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| F (2) indicator: Number of people receiving USG supported training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation | 6500                | 650               | 486                    | 310 persons |

F2: the total numbers of persons trained until the end of September was 796, so that 310 persons were supported during this period by the CLP in training for better of natural resources management and conservation.



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## 5. LESSONS LEARNED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

The most important lessons learned during this period are as follows:

1. Continuous engagement of the NPU technical personnel by the CLP team regarding topics such as restoration and sustainable production systems, management plans, ecotourism, communications and monitoring and research, have proved effective to obtain better results in these strategic lines.
2. Changes in government have meant also changes at NPU, requiring meetings with the technical sub-direction to establish status of the different activities; the same procedure has been followed with the new territorial offices and directors. Adaptation to this situation means renewing links and circulating relevant information.
3. The communications processes related to the activities executed have enabled the NPU, the local operators and the associated communities to have a better knowledge of the program and their respective roles in its activities and results. The base line as to expectations regarding the program has been established in some cases, leading to the compilation and systematization of the program's development process.
4. The preparation of environmental assessment files for the SIGA system with local operators is an iterative activity of learning-by-doing, that notwithstanding its high level of effort, will deliver a better comprehension of the goals and the ways of attaining them, while assuring the close monitoring of activities, mitigation plans and effective results.



## 6. LOOKING FORWARD: PROGRAM ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT QUARTER

Table No. 1 - Schedule of activities (October–December 2010)

| <b>CLP - SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES</b> |   |   |   |                       |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| OCTOBER -DECEMBER 2010              |   |   |   |                       |
| No.                                 | AREA  | ACTIVITY  | PRODUCT   | DATE                  |
| 1                                   | PIU team                                      | 1.1. Hire one regional administrative professional  | One regional administrative professional hired  | November              |
| 2                                   | NPU implementation of activities in workplans | 2.1. Prepare with the respective officers the terms of reference for NPU's acquisitions of equipment and infrastructure   | TOR's ready and released  | October to December   |
|                                     |   | 2.2. Contracts and acquisitions processes for cross-cutting activities and Parks under way  | NPU contracts signed and in implementation  | October to December   |
|                                     |   | 2.3. Report preparation for NPU activities  | Officials in charge of reporting preparing and delivering reports   | December              |
|                                     |   | 2.4. Operative committee meeting with NPU for revision of results and management issues   | Results and management issues examined and actions planned for application  | Monthly               |
|                                     |   | 2.5. Assisting the NPU, grantees and local operators for compliance of environmental regulations (training and assistance for filling in SIGA environmental revision forms) | NPU's relevant officers, and local operators trained and supported for environmental requirements procedures and approval | October to December   |
|                                     |   | 2.6. Environmental requirements prepared and approved by MEO  | SIGA files included and approved by MEO   | October to December   |
| 3                                   | Local operators' grants allocation process    | 3.1. Evaluating technical and financial relevance and requiring adjustments for proposals from local operators: Utría, Cocuy, Catatumbo, Sierra                             | Proposals evaluated in technical and financial terms, approved by CTC, adjusted according to recommendations              | October to December   |
|                                     |   | 3.2. Present proposals for approval by the CTC  | Proposals considered and grants conferred by CTC  | November and December |
|                                     |   | 3.3. Receive and evaluate reports for initial products from local operators   | Reports evaluated and payments approved   | October to December   |
|                                     |   | 3.4. Environmental requirements prepared and approved by MEO and PAS conducted for potential local operators  | Environmental requirements fulfilled and approved by MEO. PAS conducted for local operators signing contracts             | October to December   |
|                                     |   | 3.5. Prepare statements for local operators in Katíos and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta  | Statements prepared and issued  | October to December   |
|                                     |   | 3.6. Reception and evaluation of proposals for Katíos, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta   | Proposals received and evaluated  | November and December |



|   |  |   |   |                      |
|---|--|---|---|----------------------|
|   |  | 3.7. Meetings with local operators for proposals' adjustments and explanation of procedures for grants                          | Meetings held, questions cleared and proposals adjusted according to requirements                     | October to December  |
|   |  | 3.8. Preparation of grant documents for local operators contracts in Utría, Cocuy, Catatumbo and Sierra Nevada                  | Local operators contracts signed and in operation   | October to December  |
| 4 | Performance Monitoring Plan adjustments and implementation | 4.1. Compiling data related to targets and results analysis.  | Report of activities on PMP implementation.   | October and December |
|   |  | 4.2. Support the grant evaluation process by assessing potential targets for grant proposals submitted for appraisal by the CLP | Potential targets estimated according to technical and financial options contained in grant proposals | October to December  |
| 5 | Communications strategy implementation                     | 5.1. Adjustment to web page contents according to M&B manual  | Web page adjusted and reviewed by USAID   | October to December  |
|   |  | 5.2. Adjust the Spanish and English versions of the branding and marking manual and seek USAID's approval                       | Branding and marking manual completed and approved by USAID   | October to December  |
|   |  | 5.3. Print the branding and marking manual and disseminate with concerned public  | Branding and marking manual printed, distributed and known for its application by relevant audience   | December             |
|   |  | 5.4. Revision and approval process for radio programs with the NPU  | Broadcasting of radio programs by the university radio network  | Weekly               |
|   |  | 5.5. Obtain and distribute information on CLP's processes and results by different media  | Information on the CLP disseminated by outreach materials to the general public                       | October to December  |
| 6 | SoW amendment  | 6.1. Prepare a document for an amendment related to the branding and marking manual, as required by USAID                       | Delivery of document for amendment approval process by USAID  | December             |
| 7 | Programming mid-term audit                                 | 8.1. Organize the procedures and timetable for CLP's mid-term audit   | Course of action for audit ready and responsible team informed  | November             |
|   |  | 8.2. Training for FPN's CLP team and officers in procedures for compliance according to USAID regulations                       | Relevant teams apprised and ready for verification of USAID's regulations in preparation for audit    | October to December  |

**Table No. 2: Local Operators Schedule for Proposal Evaluation/Approval**

| PARK/CLUSTER                 | Type instrument/ number                            | Release    | Place and date Meeting with operators          | Deadline APS/RFA due | Proposals submitted | Evaluation and CTC approval | Adjusted proposals ready | Agreement signed |
|------------------------------|--|------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Katíos                       | CLP-RFA-005-2010                                   | October    | Bogotá October 15                              | October 15           | October 15          | November 16                 | Dec. 6                   | Dec. 30          |
| Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta | CLP-RFA-006-2010 (indigenous communities)          | 10 Sept 10 | Sta. Marta Sept.; Valledupar Sept. And October | October              | 20 Oct 10           | November 16                 | 16 Nov.10                | 22 Nov.10        |
| Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta | CLP-RFA-007-2010 (Ciudad Perdida - Buritaca river) | 20 Oct. 10 | Bogotá, 21 Oct.10                              | 5 Nov.10             | 5 Nov.10            | 11 Nov.10                   | 30 Nov. 10               | 15 Dec. 10       |



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|                              |  |           |                        |            |            |           |           |           |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                              | basin)                                   |           |                        |            |            |           |           |           |
| Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta | CLP-APS-007-2010 (campesino communities) | 16 Nov.10 | Valledupar, 17 Nov. 10 | 16 Feb. 11 | 16 Feb. 11 | 20 Feb.11 | 15 Mar.11 | 20 Mar.11 |



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