



Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Andean Amazon

Quarterly Report Quarter 1 FY 2012



Rainforest Alliance
Alianza para Bosques

Submitted:
January 31, 2012

INITIATIVE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON

Advancing Sustainable
Landscapes in the Andean
Amazon

Quarterly Report Quarter 1
OCTOBER 2011 – DECEMBER 2011

Under Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-11-00055

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| CONTENTS | III |
| LIST OF ACRONYMS | IV |
| 1 APPROACH TO COLLABORATION | - 1 - |
| 2 START-UP PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES | - 2 - |
| 3 GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT | - 3 - |
| 4 INTERMEDIATE RESULTS CHALLENGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS | - 5 - |
| 4.1 Sucumbíos Landscape, Ecuador | - 5 - |
| 4.2 Madre de Dios/Cusco Landscape, Perú | - 7 - |

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|---|
| ACCA | Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica |
| AFIMAD | Asociación Forestal Indígena de Madre de Dios |
| AIDER | Asociación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo Integral |
| ASCART | Asociación de Castañeros de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata |
| AO | Agreement Officer |
| AOR | Agreement Officer's Representative |
| CISAS | Sucumbíos Research Center for the Agropecuary Sector |
| CWR | Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve |
| DOI | Department of Interior |
| Ecolex | Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental |
| FY | Fiscal Year |
| IMA | Water Management Institute (Instituto de Manejo de Agua y Medio Ambiente) |
| INDACO | Industrias alimentarias de la Convención S.A. |
| IR | Intermediate Result |
| MAE | Environmental Ministry Ecuador (Ministerio de Ambiente) |
| NGO | Non Governmental Organization |
| PMP | Performance Management Plan |
| SENASA | National Service for Sanitary Agriculture Peru (Servicio Nacional de Sanidad Agraria) |
| SERNANP | National Service for Protected Natural Areas Peru (Servicio Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas) |
| TNC | The Nature Conservancy |
| WWF | World Wildlife Fund |

1 APPROACH TO COLLABORATION

Our landscapes' approach to collaborating with other ICAA II participant and other stakeholders working within the landscapes is to align our strategies and actions with those of the other stakeholders to ensure we take advantage of potential synergies, compliment efforts, and avoid duplication. We believe this will increase our overall impact in conserving the Amazonian Andes, in addition to the long term sustainability of our actions. To accomplish this we will share our yearly work plans with relevant stakeholders in the two landscapes including government ministries, provincial governance bodies, and municipal governments, ICAA II landscape partners, including the ICAA II secretariat, NGOs, and projects, and where possible develop joint action plans. Where similar activities with differing beneficiaries are identified we will strive to share implementation tools and materials as well as experiences and lessons learned. To monitor progress, we will hold periodic meetings with stakeholders to review actions plans and agreements, and identify new potential opportunities for collaboration. These collaborative activities will maximize our ability to leverage resources, expand learning, and contribute to program and/or region-wide conservation impacts.

Most of the actions and accomplishments described in this first quarterly report pertain to our landscapes' collaboration efforts. As such, examples of our approach to collaboration with other ICAA II participants and stakeholders are found throughout the Quarter 1 FY2012 Quarterly Report.

2 START-UP PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

Work Plan

Progress

- We held a successful planning workshop in November in Quito with a heavy focus on understanding and planning activities around the threats based landscape conceptual frameworks.
- We collected a substantial amount of additional contextual information through field visits and meetings with regional, national, and local government and civil society stakeholders that was used to refine activities in both landscapes.
- We submitted the draft work plan and Performance Management Plan (PMP); as of the end of the reporting period were awaiting comments from USAID.

Challenges

- Delay in implementing activities has created some uncertainty on the part of Project stakeholders.

Personnel and office support structure

Progress

- We made progress in consolidating our landscape teams; hired a new Forestry Manager in Ecuador, Christian Velasco; contracted Javier Arce, Deputy Program Manager.
- We established a new office in Quito; have begun identifying potential office space in Lima and Quillabamba, Peru, and Lago Agrio, Ecuador.

Challenges

- The proposed Policy Advisor, Patricio Hernandez, accepted a job as an advisor to the Ecuadorian government during the period before the Project was approved. We identified a potential candidate to replaced Mr. Hernandez that is currently being evaluated. If she is chosen, we will request approval from USAID for her candidature.

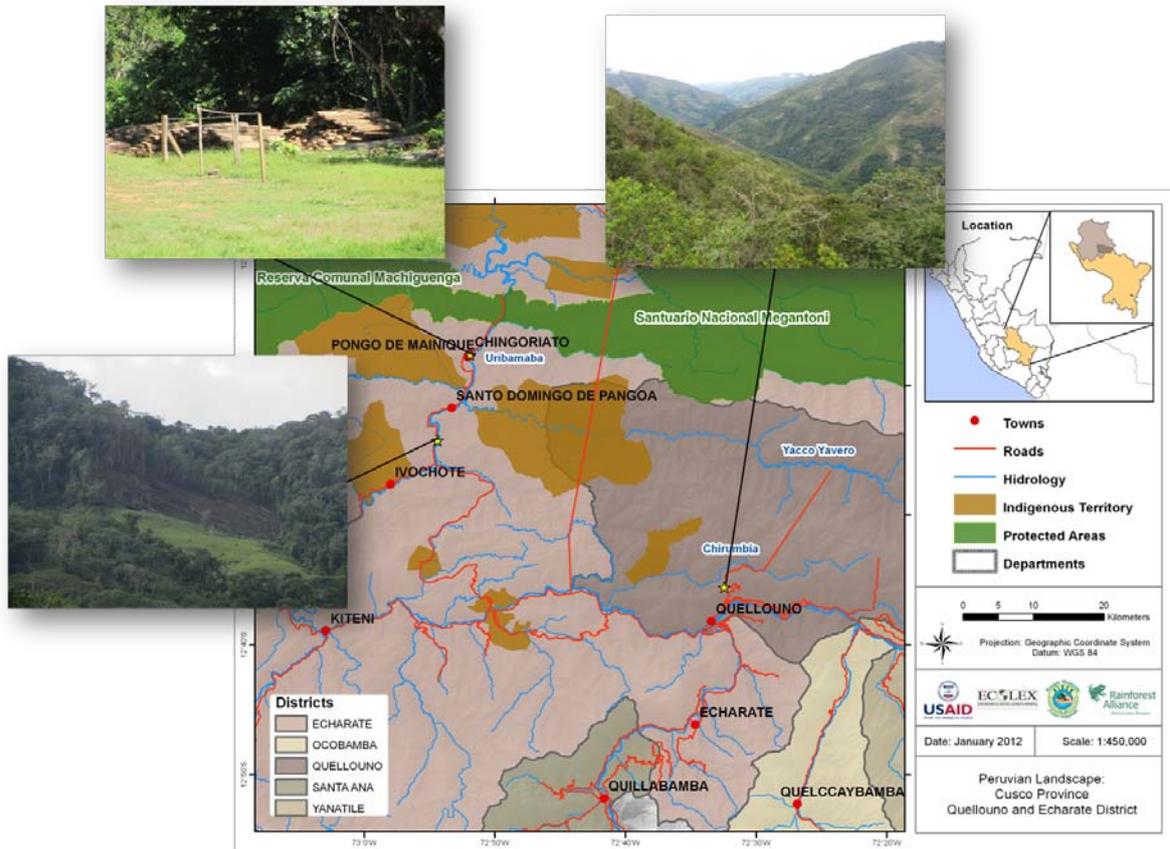
Sub agreements and contracts

- To comply with the substantial involvement clause (A.10) of the cooperative agreement that requires USAID approval of sub grant and consultant agreement templates, on November 21st we submitted the respective templates to our AOR and AO for approval. At the end of the period approval was still pending.
- We received sub grantee pre award administrative and financial assessments from the two proposed implementing partners, AIDER and Ecolex, and are arranging visits to their field offices to review their operational procedures prior to signing the project implementation agreements.

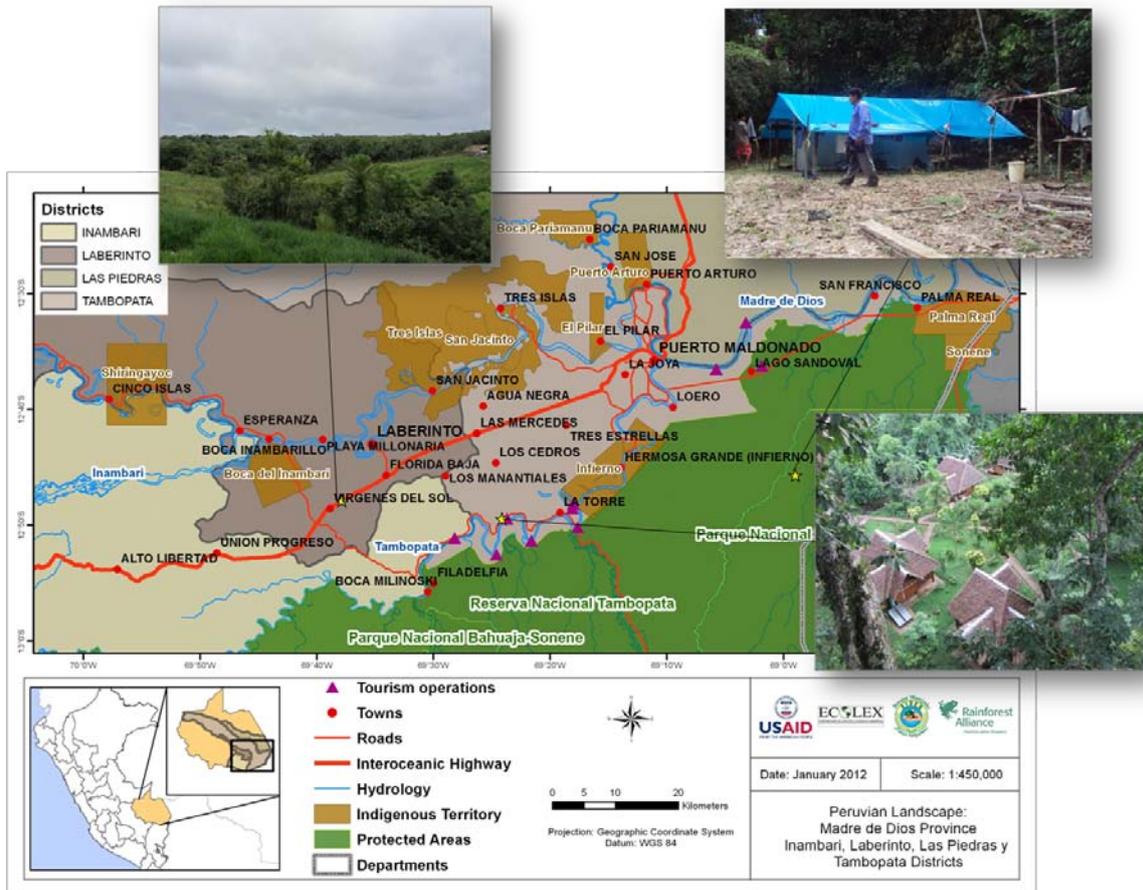
3 GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

Madre de Dios/Cusco Landscape

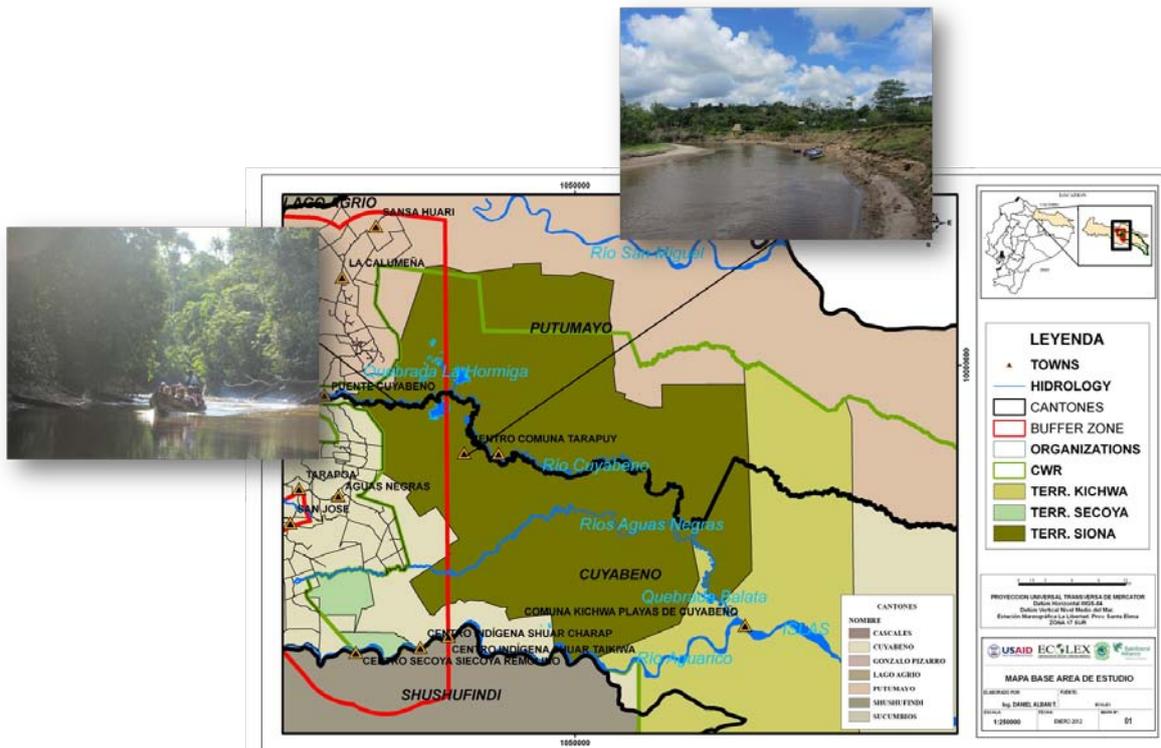
Cusco Region, Peru Map



Madre de Dios, Peru



Sucumbíos Landscape



4 INTERMEDIATE RESULTS CHALLENGES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Based on the ICAA II Results Framework, the preliminary shared indicators for ICAA II, and the proposed landscape indicators, the majority of our work will fall under IR 1: Selected landscapes sustainably managed and IR 2 Key Elements of Natural Resource Governance Functioning in Critical locations, while our work linking project stakeholders with payment for environmental services schemes in Ecuador for example will fall under IR 3. Since just about all of the Intermediate Results challenges and accomplishments reported in this period are applicable to all three of the relevant IRs, to simplify the report, we elected not to disaggregate them by individual IR. However, the specific activities carried out are disaggregated by landscape.

The main accomplishments during the period for both landscapes were related to refining project activities through gaining an improved understanding of the landscape contexts, while also strengthening collaboration with government, NGO, and other stakeholders working in the areas. The activities carried out to achieve this are outlined in the landscape sections below.

4.1 Sucumbíos Landscape, Ecuador

Government ministries

We participated in a breakfast presentation for the MAE and other relevant ministries on October 31, 2011, hosted by USAID, where we presented the project objectives and received positive feedback from the vice minister of MAE and members of the climate change division. Several members of MAE expressed their concern that both landscape implementers ensure close collaboration with MAE.

During a field visit in the month of October, we met with members of the Sucumbíos regional MAE office to discuss project objectives, and also visited tourism operations and Puerto Bolivar, a Siona community within the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve (CWR) together with the deputy director of the CWR.

To continue coordinating actions with the Ministry of Environment, on November 26, 2011, we were invited to one of the tourism lodges within the CWR to present the draft landscape work plan to the Dr. Mercy Borbor, the MAE vice minister, the Sucumbíos representatives of MAE and the management of the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve. The MAE representatives responded positively and were in agreement that the proposed activities were in line with their forest governance model and National REDD+ Program within the National Climate Change Strategy.

Subsequently, upon MAE's request, we assisted a workshop on December 14, 2011 to present our work plan together with the other initiatives working in and around the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve to ensure the projects were in line with MAE's lines of action and that there is collaboration and not duplication between initiatives. Participants in the meeting included representatives from the regional arm of the MAE, representatives from the Putumayo Tres Fronteras Project, Tri-national Program Support Project, Conservation of the Aguila Arpia Project, and Wildlife Conservation Society. A follow-up meeting is

proposed for February to continue the process of systematically planning collaboration between initiatives and the MAE.

On November 29, we participated in a focal group organized by the management of the CWR to analyze the updated of the CWR management plan. Participants in the meeting included representatives from the Siona and Secoya indigenous nationalities, firefighters, the mayor of the municipality of Cuyabeno, Andes Petroleum, the provincial entity of the MAE, among others.

We also participated in a coordination meeting with the MAE regarding the Financial Sustainability of the National System of Protected Areas Project to identify tourism activities related to CWR. A direct result of the meeting was that the Putumayo Tres Fronteras Project will carry out an evaluation of tourism activities in CWR with an emphasis on transportation and guiding activities. The results will be used to support the development of tourism regulations within CWR.

Finally, we met with the Sucumbíos provincial representative of the Ministry of Tourism to identify potential areas of collaboration.

Sucumbíos Provincial Government

Several meetings were also held with the Sucumbíos Provincial Government, including with the Prefect together with USAID, the department in charge of the territorial land-use and development plan, and the tourism and forestry divisions. Areas of collaboration were identified and the provincial government will be a key ally in helping ensure the project meets its objectives.

We also had several meeting with Sucumbíos Research Center for the Agropecuary Sector (CISAS) to identify areas of collaboration. We are currently analyzing the option of utilizing one of their field technicians to support our agriculture work in the landscape.

We met with the mayors of both of the municipalities found within the project intervention areas, Cuyabeno and Putumayo to discuss the project. Both were supportive of the project working within their jurisdictions.

Other ICAA partners

Several meetings were held with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to identify potential areas of collaboration between ICAA and Net Zero Deforestation Zones projects.

Two meetings were held with the Department of Interior (DOI) on October 13 and November 28 to coordinate actions in CWR. Several areas of collaboration related to addressing threats to biodiversity from tourism within the CWR were identified, including clean technology adapted to the CWR ecosystems, tourism signage, water transportation regulation, and development of a more inclusive tourism model. Next steps include a field visit by experts from the DOI to assess the areas mentioned above and subsequently develop an action plan. One such visit occurred in December, where an expert from the DOI carried out an impact study on tourism within the main tourism areas of CWR.

We met with the ICAA Support Unit to share draft work plan lines of action. In addition, we met with Luis Roman, the indigenous group leader for the Support Unit to discuss planned indigenous activities in Sucumbíos.

Other initiatives and stakeholders in Sucumbíos

On December 18, we met with the USAID Red Productiva Project to identify areas of collaboration. The outcome is that the project will support the strengthening of business and organizational capacity of tourism operations working in CWR.

We carried out a several field visits to analyze the forestry and agriculture interventions principally in the CWR buffer zone to identify potential pre cooperatives to participate in the project. Approximately 30 groups were visited, out of which we will work with ten. Selection criteria include level of organization, forest cover, and land use.

The main challenge faced during the reporting period was ensuring that proposed activities are in line with both local, regional, and national government initiatives, and other donor initiatives, including USAID, in the project intervention areas. We are working toward overcoming this challenge by implementing the coordination and collaboration efforts mentioned above.

4.2 Madre de Dios/Cusco Landscape, Perú

Other ICAA partners

- We participated in meetings with USAID and representatives from ICAA consortia in Lima and Puerto Maldonado to coordinate interventions in the Madre de Dios region. As a result, a “Hoja de Ruta” was developed for initiatives in Region.
- We also participated in meetings with other consortia with interventions in the Madre de Dios landscape in order to create a matrix of activities by components and responsible organizations, and to define coordination mechanisms.

Government and NGO

- We developed an agreement with the management of the Tambopata National Reserve to strengthen the capacities of the owners and workers with holding concessions in the Reserve for the sustainable extraction of Brazil nut. Training will focus on the regulations in the Brazil nut management plans.
- We met with ACCA and WWF to discuss collaboration toward helping two native communities located within the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve, Sonene and Palma Real, to maintain their organic certification, and obtain fair trade certification in the future.
- Other meetings held include:
 - We met with Sandro Chavez Head of the National Service for Protected Natural Areas (SERNANP) during the period, and agreed to collaborate in the buffer zones of Tambopota and Megatoni projected areas.
 - Head of the Megantoni National Sanctuary, Vladimir Ramirez.
 - Mayor Feliciano Vargas, and Fernando Durand, head of economic development of the Quellouno Municipality in Cusco.
 - Carlos Rodriguez, head of the National Service for Sanitary Agriculture (SENASA) in Quillabamba.
 - Representatives of the La Convencion Provincial Municipality Reunion.
 - Water Management Institute (IMA), from the Regional Government of Cusco, responsible for land zoning proposal in the La Convencion Province.
 - Municipality of Ivochote, located in the Echarate District, and closely linked with the Santuario Megantoni, Cusco.
 - Tambopata National Reserve Head, Jhon Sanchez.

- Regional government of Madre de Dios Natural Resources and Environment, and Planning divisions

Potential stakeholders and private sector partners

- We met with potential stakeholders in the Madre de Dios region including the association of producers in Filadelfia, the native community Infierno, tourism providers, and the Maderera Lazo forestry concession.
- In Quillabamba, Cusco, we met with representatives from several agriculture cooperatives, including Central COCLA, BIOAZUL, HVC, AICASA, and Cooperativa Jose Olaya. The meetings led to an agreement to work with around 700 producers located in the Megantoni National Sanctuary buffer zone.
- We also held meeting with the following stakeholders:

Cusco

- President and Manager of CAC Jose Olaya.
- Alejandro Peralta, representative of ECOM GROUP (international cocoa and coffee buyer).
- President of the Yoquiri Native Community.
- President of INDACO, cocoa business.
- Manager of Rainforest Trading, cocoa and coffee business.
- Programa Sierra Exportadora, supporting cocoa and coffee in Quillabamba.

Madre de Dios

- Asociación de Castañeros de la Reserva de Tambopata (ASCART).
- President of the local Committee of the Tambopata National Reserve– Victor Zambrano.
- Comunidad Nativa de Infierno, Madre de Dios.
- Comunidad Nativa de Puerto Arturo, Madre de Dios.
- Asociación de Albergues de Madre de Dios, Rolando Soto, President.
- Asociación Forestal Indígena de Madre de Dios (AFIMAD), Martin Huaypuna, President.
- Comunidad Nativa Palma Real, Lucio Yojaje Chaeta, Chief, community associated with AFIMAD, and potential beneficiary for ICAA II.