



INITIATIVE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON FY 2014 QUATERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

FONDO PARA LA ACCION AMBIENTAL Y LA NIÑEZ

1. PROJECT COVER SHEET

1.1. NAME OF THE PROJECT: CAQUETÁ: MAINTAINING AND RESTORING CONNECTIONS WITHIN ANDEAN AND AMAZONIAN SOCIAL AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

1.2. DATES (START/FINISH)

AGREEMENT/CONTRACT

7/30/2013 TO 7/29/2017

REPORT PERIOD

4/1/2014 TO 6/30/2014

1.3. PRIME PARTNER: FONDO ACCIÓN

1.4. NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

1.5. NAME OF USAID AGREEMENT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (AOR) OR CONTRACT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (COR): Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

1.6. NAME OF ALTERNATE AOR OR COR: Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

1.7. USAID MECHANISM NUMBER OF AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT:
AID 530-A-13-00005

1.8. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This project seeks to restore forest continuity and sustainably manage existing forest remnants by contributing to the consolidation of a bio-cultural corridor in the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont and to the configuration of reduced deforestation belt in the Caquetá municipality of Solano, gateway to the Amazonian lowlands. We propose developing strategies that include generating the enabling conditions that guarantee the project's success by creating greater access to relevant information and developing conservation portfolios and landscape transformation strategies, which in turn will guide the development of participatory sustainable management models and conservation benefit mechanisms for indigenous and small farmer populations. Synergistically, the project will support key policy opportunities at the local, state, and national levels and provide the necessary capacity building for communities and project partners. This goal will be achieved through a detailed design of activities tailored for two selected landscapes (piedmont and lowlands), taking into account the cultural diversity of the two priority areas and ensuring a gender perspective throughout the project. Although the project focuses on maintaining and restoring forest connectivity within two priority areas, it will refine strategies, strengthen partnerships and facilitate policy frameworks for the future implementation of its successful models in the area of highest deforestation separating the two prioritized ecosystems, consequently contributing to restoring continuity between these Andean and Amazonian social and natural systems. The project will focus on two key areas: (1) the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont bio-cultural corridor comprised of the Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Park (Caquetá state) and the Churumbelos National Park (Cauca State) and their area of influence, where Inga indigenous communities and neighboring small farmers will be prioritized; and (2) the Uitoto and Coreguaje territories and neighboring small farms located in Caquetá's municipality of Solano, a critical transition area to the Amazonian lowlands, an area that is associated with the La Paya National Park and Chiribiquete National Park protected areas. The project focuses on four key components: Enabling conditions, Landscape transformation

through sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, Local policy transformation and Capacity building

2. ACHIEVEMENTS OVERVIEW

2.1. ICAA INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

2.1.1 IR1 – Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably

Q3 was critical in introducing CL program at village level. As planned for activities CL-IR-012 and CL-ICA-002, CL conducted during April, May and June visits to those villages and indigenous reserves that after the initial general awareness and consensus building sessions (undertaken during Q2) stated their willingness to receive further information about the program. These second phase visits at village and indigenous reserves level were intended to further explain the program to a wider local audience and to identify concrete CL beneficiaries (families). During this quarter, CL visited 8 villages (6 in Belén de los Andaqués and 2 in San José del Fragua) and 3 indigenous reserves (San Miguel, Yurayaco and Brisas del Fragua). In total, 296 persons joined the sessions, and out of these, 102 families confirmed their interest and willingness to be part of CL. Program registration for these families was validated through a list of criteria previously established by CL team (see Annex B). Out of the 102 families registered by the end of June, 60 have indicated their property area, which accounts for 1839,5 ha. The 42 families remaining are still pending of facilitating this information, although CL estimates those families will cover an approximated area of 1320 ha. CL expects to finish second phase introduction and program registration sessions in all Fragua-Churumbelos corridor during July as indicated in the introduction sessions plan included as Annex C. Detailed information about village level introduction sessions and CL's family registration is shown in Annex D.

In order to continue Fragua-Churumbelos corridor intervention, ACT enlarged its local team. During Q3, two new technicians were hired to undertake social and agroecology related activities. Likewise, all local ACT team participated in an introductory training session on administrative and financial requirements within CL and USAID framework. With the support of an enlarged team, ACT also kept on gathering socioeconomic, environmental and cartographic (forest cover loss timeline 2001 - 2012) secondary information useful to steer coming landscape transformation plans, property level planning and technical implementation solutions in Fragua-Churumbelos. Such information also brings details about other projects (PCI and Corpoamazonia) being carried out simultaneously in some of the villages as well as families being supported by them.

In accordance with activity CL-IR1-013, CL progressed on bringing together PNNALIW and Tandachiridu Inganokuna Association to facilitate a dialogue regarding National Natural Park co-management. To do so, a first discussion workshop was

proposed together with a joint development of content that enables the teams of both organizations to revive the collaborative management process. The workshop was scheduled for July and will follow this content: 1) Awareness-building regarding prior experiences in establishing relationships between protected areas and indigenous communities, 2) Land use zoning by indigenous communities, 3) Processes of land use zoning / land management at the regional level, 4) Development of a joint work plan between the Alto Fragua Indiwasi National Park and the Tandachiridu Inganokuna indigenous association. All actions developed under activity CL-IR-013 aim at facilitating a dialogue process and not at guaranteeing the resolution of all conflicting differences.

As part of ecological connectivity efforts, ACT worked together with INCODER to expand San Miguel and Yurayaco Indigenous Reserves. The expansion envisaged will connect Yurayaco with PNNAFIW while bringing San Miguel reserve closer to neighboring Inga Reserves. During Q3, specific actions undertaken by ACT were directed to gather ethnohistorical and sociocultural information and to complete topographic and legal data. Actions related to this expansion are performed as part of activity CL-IR1-012. Although such actions were not fully foreseen during FY2014 annual planning, they became prominent once the updating process of Indigenous Reserve Management Plans started. Management Plans updating is fully intertwined with the process of reserves enlargement. FY2015 annual planning will incorporate more clearly these actions.

Finally, in order to initiate “on the ground” activities in Solano, a consultant/local expert was hired to facilitate CL entrance in this municipality (CI-IR4-011). With his support, CL activities for Solano will be reshaped in order to align them with local political, social, environmental and economic current circumstances. Likewise, his expertise will shed light on the strategy CL will undertake to achieve programmatic goals in Solano, which will include a preliminary list of potential intervention sites and beneficiary organizations. Local expert services for the aforementioned purposes will be provided during three months.

2.1.2 IR2 – Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes.

CL worked jointly with Corpoamazonia to further elaborate the tripartite agreement mentioned in Q2FY2014 report. Through this agreement, CL is expected to strengthen, via environmental determinants, the POTs from San José del Fragua, Belén de los Andaquíes and Solano. Although Corpoamazonia agreement was planned to be signed during Q3, it was not possible due to unexpected administrative delays from local environmental authority and restrictions on state-contracting due to presidential elections. In the meantime, CL moved forward in getting to know environmental determinants work route in order to get prepared beforehand to initiate activities and contract experts.

During Q3, CL also deployed efforts to achieve organizational and institutional strengthening goals aiming at enhancing local and regional natural resources governance (CL-IR3-015, CL-IR4-018 and CL-IR4-019). The inclusion of a social technician in ACT local team was one of the main actions. With his support, during May and June, CL elaborated a preliminary list of organizations and strengthening needs (see Annex E), which will partly serve as basis for the construction of a thorough strengthening strategy expected to be concluded during Q4. As part of quarter's results, ACT agreed upon mutual collaboration with Tierra Viva Foundation, a local community-based organization responsible for managing the network of nine (9) local reserves and municipal protected areas of Belén de los Andaquíes. Such close coordination will bring strengthening possibilities for Tierra Viva and also alternatives for CL to expand ecological connectivity strategies to areas outside villages and indigenous reserves prioritized initially in Fragua – Churumbelos corridor.

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

No progress to report in this period

Haga clic aquí para escribir texto.

2.1.4 IR4 – Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental

As a result of the open call for proposal for EA (CL-IR4-005), 8 proposals were received during April. Through an evaluation process, in which a technical committee made up by all CL consortium members was fundamental, all applications were assessed. Out of the initial 8 proposals, 3 were prioritized provided its high scores. Based on a final assessment, the proposal selected was that delivered by The Nature Conservancy.

Immediately after EA selection was made, CL started a negotiation process with TNC, mainly focused on three components: a) Fine tuning of products and deliverables, b) Budget, and c) Property rights. During the negotiation phase, specific boundaries of the landscape analysis (CL-IR4-004) were jointly defined. Based on negotiations achieved, the contract elaboration was initiated. Contract signing and EA start is expected for Q4FY2014. Progress related to activities CL-IR4-006 and CL-IR4-007 is subjected to EA start.

As first activity within EA action plan, CL scheduled a meeting with TNC, ACT and FA. This meeting, to be held on August, aims at exploring alternatives to minimize the impact of EA delay on the program, particularly on activities CL-IR4-009 and CL-IR4-012. The idea is to find short term alternatives to deliver technical outcomes that enable the participatory construction of Landscape Transformation Plans (CI-IR4-008). EA

contract delay has been created due to the long consultation spans between TNC Colombia and its headquarters.

CL also advanced during Q3 on activity CL-IR4-009. In June, after a selection process, a consultant was hired for three months. Together with ACT, the consultant constructed an action plan aiming at designing a local trade model for bringing together productive alternatives and food sovereignty. Additionally, he started the review of existing value chain information previously gathered by ACT team. As mentioned in Q2, for Fragua-Churumbelos corridor sufficient value chain studies are available, particularly for cocoa, dairy products, rubber and plantain. Therefore, this activity is changing slightly its scope: Instead of diagnosing current value chain conditions, efforts will be directed to design concrete trading strategies, creating this way specific solutions to achieve sustainability in productive arrangements.

As part of activity CL-IR4-010, CL conceived and outlined during Q3 an introductory event for the departmental GIS Platform (SIG Caquetá). This platform -administered by Gobernación de Caquetá- is expected to become a crucial instrument for decision making related to land planning and management in Caquetá. CL designed an event made by two main moments. First, there will be a launching session to formally introduce SIG Caquetá platform to its potential users and bringing together notions, concept and experiences about GIS and Land Planning. The second session will be a training workshop intended to guarantee platform usage. CL intention is to replicate training sessions as much as needed in order to expand SIG Caquetá users. The main participants of the event are Caquetá's municipalities, local environmental authorities, Universidad de la Amazonia and Gobernación del Caquetá's secretariats, among others. The event will be held during two days in the month of August.

Regarding activity CL-IR4-011, FA signed an agreement with TNC to share technical information produced about Solano more specifically that obtained out of the municipality's ecoregional analysis undertaken within NZD framework. Based on this agreement, FA held coordinating meetings with TNC to get to know recent outcomes from the analysis. Although during Q3 such outcomes were too preliminary to draw sufficient conclusions about where to focus CL intervention (at site level), it brought some insight about current ecological conditions in the municipality. During Q4, with more detailed and updated data, CL expects to use TNC's ecoregional analysis in Solano as an input to decide where to concentrate actions.

As a result of an ongoing agreement between ACT and Digital Globe, new high quality imagery from Fragua – Churumbelos Corridor was obtained. All imagery covers an area of 1586Km² (158,600ha) including all villages and indigenous reserve prioritized throughout the whole corridor. (See annex F). CL expects to use this imagery as complement and backstopping during EA.

In order to tackle activities CL-IR4-018 and CL-IR-019, CL developed during Q3 a training strategy draft document for the entire program. Such strategy is being constructed with the sub-awardee and has implied several meeting to come to agreements on technical and programmatic matters and training

approaches/frameworks. Although very general, this draft document will be the basis to construct a thorough and detailed training strategy during Q4. Such training strategy will target also those training needs resulting from the organizational/institutional strengthening strategy as mentioned in the IR2 item. Despite of having both strategies under construction, CL decided during Q3 to take advantage of some training opportunities and coordinated for Corpoamazonia the access for two of its employees to the course “Integrated Watershed Management in XXI Century”. This is a virtual course offered and run by Instituto Tecnológico del Medio Ambiente - ITMA, training organization based on Huancayo, Perú. Training sessions started in June and are expected to finish in November 2014. This course is crucial on improving an explicit lack of capacity on Watershed Management.

Likewise, during Q3 CL worked jointly with HED-PUJ and DOI in the design of a training course (diploma) for fieldworkers of governmental and nongovernmental organizations in Caquetá that are developing sustainable production and conservation projects, with particular relevance to CL geographies. The training course will train them in methodologies for developing participatory diagnostics and territorial planning with a gender focus. Initial meetings resulted in deciding main audiences and course themes. During Q4, CL via ACT will design a curriculum from which further coordinating and implementing actions will be drawn. The course is estimated to occur either during Q1 or Q2 FY2015. These efforts are aimed at activity CL-IR4-018.

2.1.5 Support Unit Services

Not applicable

2.2 CROSS-CUTTING THEMES AND USAID KEY ISSUES

2.2.1 Improve Policies and Policy Implementation

Not apply for the period reported.

2.2.2 Increase Gender Awareness and Gender-related Program Outcomes

Not apply for the period reported

2.2.3 Strengthening of Selected Regional Organizations and Institutions

Not apply for the period reported

2.2.4 Improve Region-wide Capacity for Conservation Through Training

Not apply for the period reported

2.2.5 Increase Indigenous Peoples' Participation

Not apply for the period reported

During this period we worked with the following indigenous groups in the Andean Amazon:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Amahuaca	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cashinahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cacataibo
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culina	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yanesha
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mastanahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Siona
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piro	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cofán
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sharanahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ese' ejja
<input type="checkbox"/>	Asháninka	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amarakaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yaminahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Arazaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Harakmbut	<input type="checkbox"/>	Huachipaeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Machiguenga	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sapitieri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shipibo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toyoeri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Isconahua	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pukirieri
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shuar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quechua, Aymara
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kichwa	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Secoya	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shipibo
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Otros

2.2.6 Climate Change - Adaptation

Not apply for the period reported

2.2.7 Climate Change (Sustainable Landscapes, REDD+)

Not apply for the period reported

3. NETWORKING AND SYNERGY

3.1. ANDEAN AMAZON LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported

3.2. NATIONAL LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported

3.3. SUB NATIONAL LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported.

3.4. LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Not apply for the period reported.

3.5. OTHERS

Not apply for the period reported.

4. IMPACT OF LEVERAGED RESOURCES

Not apply for the period reported

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Not apply for the period reported

6. SUCCESS STORIES

Not apply for the period reported

7. ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

Not apply for the period reported

8. SUMMARY

8.1 ACHIEVEMENTS

The main achievements reached during the period reported are:

- Successful registration of 102 families both indigenous and peasants as part of Connected Landscapes in Caquetá in Fragua-Churumbelos Corridor.
- Formal initiation of activities in Solano aiming at fine tuning CL strategy to current local conditions and selecting preliminarily intervention's sites and organizations.
- Successful registration of two public servants from Corpoamazonia in the international course Integrated Watershed Management in XXI Century, which ultimately will contribute to strengthen Caquetá's Watershed management capacity.

8.2 CHALLENGES AND ADJUSTMENTS

The main challenges encountered were:

- To continue on introducing CL at site level in Fragua – Churumbelos in spite of the instability and uncertainty created by presidential elections during the month of April and May. While other organizations stopped their work, CL kept on its registration and introductory session.
- To come to agreements with the Sub regarding a joined and unified strategy and approach on capacity building, organization/institutional strengthening, communications and networking and synergies. Provided the fact that the sub-awardee implements various projects in Caquetá besides CL, and that some of them have similar goals, efforts have been needed to coordinate activities, avoid redundancies and synchronize interests and work approaches.

9. ANNEXES

9.1 Annex A – List of Acronyms

9.2 Annex B- CL Registration Criteria

9.3 Annex C – Village and Indigenous Reserves introduction session schedule.

9.4 Annex D - Village and Indigenous Reserves introduction sessions details

9.5 Annex E – Organization and Institution / Strengthening Matrix

9.6 Annex F – Digital Globe Imagery