



REPORT Q1FY2015

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the Project	Caqueta: Maintaining and Restoring Connections within Andean and Amazonian Social and Natural Systems
Dates (start/finish) Agreement	30/07/2013 to 29/07/2017
Dates (start/finish)	01/10/2014 to 31/12/14
Prime Partner	Fondo Acción
Name of Program Manager	
E-mail	
Phone number	
Name of USAID AOR	
Name of alternate AOR	TBD
Mechanism Number (No. of Agreement)	AID 530-A-13-00005

2. 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 a 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, local organizations, governmental authorities and project partners among other stakeholders. 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. The project 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, contributing to restoring continuity between Andean and Amazonian social and natural systems. The project will focus on two key areas: 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 the Uitoto and Coreguaje territories and neighboring small farms located in Caquetá's municipality of Solano, a critical transition area to the Amazonian lowlands. The project will focus on four key components: Enabling conditions, Landscape transformation through sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, Local policy transformation and Capacity building.



3. STRATEGY OVERVIEW

3.1. Component 1 (C1). Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably

During Q1FY2015, the Ecosystem Analysis (CL-1-003) contract with TNC was signed and initiated. The corresponding action plan was proposed, adjusted and approved. Based on the latter, imagery interpretation to construct both the departmental and landscape *landcover maps* were started. In order to synchronize CL (Ecosystem Analysis) and C&G scientific-based actions, a shared meeting was held on November 21th with all pertinent team members. Out of such meeting, a collaboration route was outlined stressing the following key issues: a) Landcover maps construction, b) Taxonomic characterization, c) Environmental threats and risks, and d) Monitoring. Ecosystem Analysis results and products are expected for Q2FY2015.

As part of activity CL-1-012, CL progressed on designing and updating LMPs for small farmers (property level) and indigenous reserves. In total, 53 new property level LMPs were elaborated (See Annex D). Such plans cover an area of 1423.3ha distributed in five villages (Belen de los Andaquies: San Luis, La Pradera, Los Aletones, Los Tendidos; San José del Fragua: Sinai). Out of abovementioned hectares, 332.8ha are entitled to women and 1090.5ha to men. As byproduct of property level LMPs actions, five *Village Community Agreements for the Transformation of the Fragua-Churumbelos Landscape Corridor* were prepared and signed (See Annex D). These agreements are the basis for the construction of Municipal Transformation Plans (CL-1-008). As for Indigenous Reserves, LMP's preparatory exercises were finished, and four *diagnosis/characterization workshops* were carried out. The latter ones resulted in three main outputs, namely: a) Existent LMPs reviewed and assessed, b) Indigenous Reserves characterized, and c) LMPs updating action plans elaborated. Indigenous Reserve LMPs updating actions are taking place in San Miguel, Yurayaco and Brisas Reserves and are expected to finish during Q3FY2015. Based on LMP's current advancement, during Q2FY2015 Sustainable Natural Resources Schemes design will start.

During Q1FY2015, actions related with prioritized value chains continued. An inventory on Kakay and Asai was carried out throughout Fragua – Churumbelos corridor to establish the number of productive individuals and their specific locations (See Annex D). Likewise, a workshop on Trade and Use Potential for Kakay was organized by ACT and Kahai. S.A.S to raise awareness about this product's potential and outline coming commercialization efforts. Strengthening activities for the Small Farmer Market of Belen were also conducted, namely a strategic planning exercise and a workshop on vegetable production. An initial selection of vegetable producers to be assisted onwards was made.

As for Solano (CL-1-011), during Q1 a final site-specific intervention strategy and action plan was elaborated and fine-tuned with regional and local stakeholders. This included synchronizing the strategy with the ongoing Environmental Agenda process led by TNC and establishing CAPAS (Environment and Production Committee of Solano) as community-based focal point. Terms of references for CL's team members in Solano were also produced and Solano's Local Facilitator's contract prepared. Intervention execution will initiate during Q2FY2015. For details refer to Annex D.

As planned for activities CL-1-014 and CL-1-024, during Q1FY2015 CL identified community-based monitoring and research topics, locations and allies for Fragua – Churumbelos corridor. Monitoring will evolve around birds, amphibian and water resources. Priority locations selected are San Luis and Las Minas villages in Belen de los Andaquies, and El Sinai and Yurayaco villages in San José del Fragua. Tierra Viva Foundation and Yachaicuri Indigenous School were selected as local research and monitoring partners. CL will now start working on establishing specific action plans, methodologies, and preparing local monitors and researchers.



3.2. Component 2 (C2). Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance

As part of activity CL-2-010, CL sponsored and supported *SIG Caquetá Launching and Introductory* event held on November the 21th. As part of such support, CL produced dissemination material (video and brochure), provided logistic assistance and covered accommodation and travel expenses for key speakers. The event was attended by 75 people from public regional entities and other institutions. Twenty two public servants were trained in SIG Caquetá utilities.

During Q1, and as part of activity CI- 2-013, CL organized the *2nd Technical Tandachiridu – PNNAFIW Committee*. Through this committee, created to advance in Tandachiridi Association – PNNAFIW conflict resolution, stakeholders reviewed and shared talk's progress and agreed upon a 2015 action plan (See Annex D). As a result of CL's effort, the committee was joined by representatives of all indigenous reserves associated around Tanda Association (Brisas, Yurayaco, San Miguel, Niñeras and Cusumbe).

As for activity CL-2-025, CL arranged the participation of CODIC, Belén de los Andaquíes and San José del Fragua representatives in the departmental meeting of municipal committees on food and nutrition security held within the framework of CANUTSA (Programa Departamental Caquetá Nutrido y Saludable). Such participation reinforced CL's role (and that of CODIC and the two municipalities) on the departmental discussion on food sovereignty, providing therefore further significance to CL's construction of a *Food Sovereignty for indigenous people policy guideline*. Additionally, the first module (workshops aimed at constructing the policy guideline) was jointly designed (CODIC&CL) and programmed. Such workshop – first out of three- will be held during Q2FY2015 in Peneya Indigenous Reserve.

Gender related actions were also tackled during Q1 (CL-2-016). CL kept on exploring regional and local platforms to bring to ground gender efforts. To do so, CL participated in the forum "Women Weave Peace and Un-Weave Violence" led by Corpomanigua, joined the Regional Interinstitutional Table for Gender Issues and also held meetings with Caquetá's Government. Based on the latter, and as departmental gender policy focuses on violence against women, CL decided to mainly concentrate coming gender policy actions in Belen and San Jose del Fragua. To start, CL proposed to both municipal councils the inclusion of gender perspective within local policies and environmental instruments. Further working meeting will be scheduled. As a spinoff, CL managed to integrate CODIC's Women and Family Coordinator to the Departmental Gender Equity Committee (specifically to the Transitional Committee for Caqueta's Gender Policy), opening therefore a window for increasing indigenous women participation in departmental gender discussions.

As part of activity CL-2-022, during Q1 CL prioritized actions on Cattle Ranching in Caquetá. To do so, it joined efforts with EII and C&G to prepare, arrange and carried out a Forum on Cattle Ranching in Caquetá aimed at feeding regional development debate and policy advocacy. As forum preparation, and through field visits and local working sessions with institutions, local authorities and cattle ranchers, CL started a regional characterization and diagnosis of cattle ranching schemes in Caquetá (See Annex D). As a complementary effort, C&G started a policy analysis about regional policy and sectorial instrument. Both assessment served to produce a first Cattle Ranching Problem Map in Caquetá (See Annex D), which is serving to establish the Forum agenda and methodology. Forum preparation actions, including an additional characterization field visit, will continue during Q2FY2015.



Twenty four capacity building sessions were carried out during Q1 (CL-2-018 / CL-2-019). In total 491 community members and 97 staff from local authorities, research centers, key civil society organizations and networks were trained (238 women and 350 men). Capacity building workshops carried out addressed the following umbrella themes: 1) Sustainable Value Chains, 2) Environmental Management and Good Production Practices, and 3) Land Management Plan and GIS. For capacity building details see Annex D.

CL did not have explicit progress on activities CL-2-023 and CL-2-015.

3.3. Component 3 (C3). PES and other Economic Incentive Programs

CL is not carrying out activities related with EPIC's component 3 during FY2015.

3.4. Cross-cutting Themes

3.4.1. Increase Gender Awareness and Gender-related Program Outcomes

Gender related actions were also tackled during Q1 (CL-2-016). CL kept on exploring regional and local platforms to bring to ground gender efforts. To do so, CL participated in the forum "Women Weave Peace and Un-Weave Violence" led by Corpomanigua, joined the Regional Interinstitutional Table for Gender Issues and also held meetings with Caquetá's Government. Based on the latter, and as departmental gender policy focuses on violence against women, CL decided to mainly concentrate coming gender policy actions in Belen and San Jose del Fragua. To start, CL proposed to both municipal councils the inclusion of gender perspective within local policies and environmental instruments. Further working meeting will be scheduled. As a spinoff, CL managed to integrate CODIC's Women and Family Coordinator to the Departmental Gender Equity Committee (specifically to the Transitional Committee for Caqueta's Gender Policy), opening therefore a window for increasing indigenous women participation in departmental gender discussions. Finally, CL continued monitoring programs indicators in a disaggregated manner. Resulting information is being consolidated to steer both Gender related policy advocacy and the sustainable natural resources management schemes design.

3.4.2. Climate Change

Through LMP updating and design actions carried out, CL initiated the design of biocultural corridors throughout Fragua – Churumbelos geography. Such corridors are so far concentrated on Las Minas, Los Aletones, La Pradera, Los Tendidos, San Luis and Sinai Villages. Through Ecosystem Analysis outputs, corridors will be refined during Q2 and Q3. Connectivity corridors proposed add to reduce vulnerability to climate change and ensure food security under changing climatic conditions. During Q1, CL also effectively integrated the LERD (Low Emission Rural Development) conceptual framework into Solano's intervention strategy, guaranteeing this way a climate change approach in this location.

3.5. Networking and Synergy

CL boosted synergies with C&G. It joined efforts with FPN to synchronize scientific-based actions along Fragua – Churumbelos corridor, and activated a joint technical committee to arrange and carry out the Cattle Ranching in Caqueta Forum during Q2FY2015. CL was also active putting forward regional and local networking. In Solano, CAPAS agreed to serve as the program's community-based focal point. Arrangements were also made to bring CL closer to the governmental CANUTSA program, widening the scope of action of



CL's food sovereignty endeavors. Regarding value chains efforts, contacts were made with Kahai. S.A.S, Agrocampo, Agrosolidaria and Corporamazonia to strengthen the Small Farmer Market of Belen, and Kakai and Acai production and trade. Concrete trade arrangements were secured with Kahai S.A.S. Explorative contacts with SENA were made to develop a *Train for Trainers* program on Agroecology and Sustainable Natural Resource Management Schemes.

3.6. Impact of Leveraged Resources

Concrete progress was reached on widening Solano's intervention scope. CL jointly worked with Fondo Accion Childhood Program to allocate leveraged economic resources and technical actions in Solano. A first exploratory visit to Florencia was made by the Childhood Program coordinator and potential actions were drawn. During Q2, Fondo Accion Childhood Program will visit Solano to further precise childhood oriented actions in this geography. Such actions will be carried within CL's framework.

3.7. M&E

During Q1, CL progressed on four concrete PMP indicators, namely: FON-005, FON-006, FON-011 and DO4-001. During the period reported, under indicator FON-005 *491 persons were trained*, under indicator FON-006 *53 property level LMP were elaborated*, under indicator FON-001 *97 persons were trained*, and under indicator DO4-001 *1423.3 ha in areas of natural resource importance were incorporated under improved management*. For detail refer to annex B.

During Q1, the PMP did not have any modification. Indicator targets, definitions, unit of measure, etc., remain the same.

4. ANNEXES

Annex A – List of Acronyms

Annex B – M&E

Annex C – Activity Description

Annex D – **POR DEFINIR**