



REPORT Q4FY2015

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the Project	Environmental Peace Initiative for Colombia - FAAN
Dates (start/finish) Agreement	30/07/2013 to 31/07/2020
Dates (start/finish)	01/10/2014 to 30/09/15
Prime Partner	FAAN - Fondo Acción
Name of Program Manager	
E-mail	
Phone number	
Name of USAID AOR	
Name of alternate AOR	
Mechanism Number (No. of Agreement)	AID 530-A-13-00005

2. OVERALL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This project seeks to address deforestation and forest degradation agents and drivers in two distinct geographies, Caquetá and the Pacific region. In Caqueta, the project intends to contribute to the consolidation of bio-cultural corridors in the Andean-Amazonian Piedmont (Belen de los Andaquies and San Jose del Fragua) and to establish reduced deforestation belts in the municipalities of Solano and Cartagena de Chaira (CdCH), gateways to the Amazonian lowlands. To do so, the project seeks to implement community-based, sustainable income generation strategies, improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of rural communities and support communal and public governance arrangements, which altogether effectively reduce deforestation rates of Amazon forests in a strategic, biodiverse and highly threatened area in the department of Caquetá. It additionally aims at carrying out readiness activities to prepare local communities and grassroots organizations for potential performance-based incentives and payment mechanisms. In the Pacific, the project intends to complete milestones associated to verification of eight REDD+ projects. The project will support communal governance arrangements, strengthen and empower leaders and teams in 19 local Afro Colombian and indigenous organizations and complete specific landmarks that lead to verification of REDD+ projects in the BioREDD+ Pacifico portfolio to effectively reduce deforestation and degradation rates of tropical rainforests in key areas along Pacific region. The project as a whole will work with peasants and indigenous communities (Inga and Misak) in the department of Caqueta, and 18 Afro Colombian community councils and one



indigenous reserve (Cabildo Mayor Mutatá – embera communities) in the Pacific region. The project will focus on three key strategies: 1) Promote alternative, profitable, environmentally-sound, low-carbon economic options, food sovereignty and sustainable livelihoods for rural and forest-dwelling communities, 2) Strengthen and empower local civil society and local/regional governments and, 3) Create enabling conditions for performance-based incentive and payment mechanisms.

3. STRATEGY OVERVIEW

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

Caqueta Chapter

CL finished two *landscape transformation plans* (CL-1-008) at municipal level for the municipalities of San Jose del Fragua and Belen de los Andaquies (Annex D.1). Such plans are the result of 17 *village landscape transformation agreements* prepared and signed for each village community council. In line with this, CL continued local planning exercises (CL-1-012), completing during FY2015 17 *village/reserve characterizations*, 250 *property-level plans*, and 3 *indigenous reserves management plans* (Yurayaco, Las Brisas and San Miguel reserves) in the Fragua-Churumbelos corridor (For details see Annex D.2, Annex D.3, Annex D.4). During FY2015, 270 families were part of property level and indigenous reserves planning, whereas 7307 hectares were provided with improved natural resource management, totalizing as a whole 8125,2 hectares (For details see Annex D.2). Property planning exercises were not carried out in La Gallineta village (San Jose) because of local conflicting expectations that arose due to an EU funded project offering labor payment schemes. CL decided to halt activities in this village until understanding is reached. In the meantime, however, CL progressed on exploring alternative intervention opportunities in La Quisalla village (Belen de los Andaquies). Thus, if La Gallineta situation is not sorted out during Q1FY2016, CL will redirect its efforts to La Quisalla, where communities are willing to join the program.

Based on planning exercises, 203 family projects in 13 villages and 3 indigenous reserves were designed and initiated (CL-1-012) in a participatory way (For details see annex D.2). Projects proposed evolved around water protection, agroforestry, food sovereignty, sustainable cattle ranching and plot fencing, among others. Within the framework of such projects, 3261m of productive trails were implemented, 60m of live fences were established, 13895m of water streams and 975 of water springs were protected, 7 water intake systems were isolated, 41,5ha of agroforestry systems based on cocoa were improved, 3 native plants nurseries were settled, 19 food family gardens were strengthened and 0.5ha of fruit trees were



planted. For detail Annex D.2. As part of activity CL-1-012, local commercialization model for Cacay was initiated, selling community collected production (51,5kilos) during the Q2FY2015 to Kahai S.A.S. Cacay inventory have been progressively updated throughout the year (reaching 81 cacay tree individuals) to widen local supply capacity during collection months (January – March). For details refer to Annex D.5. Buying agreement with Kahai S.A.S was kept (Annex D.6). Regarding Belen de los Andaquies Campesino Local Market, CL enhanced 19 vegetable gardens to produce tomato, spinach, coriander and green peas. Registration of product´s trading statistics are included in Annex D.7.

As for Solano, on the ground work was initiated. As part of this, three campesino areas (nucleos campesinos) were prioritized as CL´s intervention sites: Hericha, Las Mercedes and Mononguete (see annex D.8) (CL-1-020). Within such location (known locally as Entrerios), and using Sevilla and Niñeras water catchments as natural connectivity routes, 16 villages were further selected (see annex D.8) for developing LERD implementations. On those villages selected, territorial reconnaissance and empowerment transects were carried out. Such transects, completed during three long field trips, were used to develop a detailed baseline of small farmers (CL-1-011), which managed to cover 169 farms (see annex D.9). Together with local community councils, criteria to select CL´s on-site beneficiaries was defined. Built on such criteria, a preliminary selection of beneficiaries was made (see annex D.10). Although LERD intervention were expected to start in Solano during FY2015, CL was unable to bring them forward due to local social constraints that slowed down project´s progress on the field (CL-1-021). Main constraints related to lack of trust from local communities and a widespread hesitation to allow Fondo Accion presence on far-flung rural areas in Solano. Such circumstance was largely triggered by the influence and territorial control of illegal armed groups over the area. Nevertheless, during territorial transects a preliminary list of LERD related projects was raised together with local inhabitant. Main interventions identified are agroforestry schemes, productive trails, silvopastoral schemes, food sovereignty strategies (family food gardens), dendroenergy forests, water protection, dairy product technologies and panela cane processing, among others.

During FY2015 the ecosystem analysis (CL-1-003) was concluded for both the departmental and landscape (Fragua-churumbelos corridor) components. Main outcomes are related to the definition of conservation and natural resources portfolios and prioritized connectivity macro corridors (see annex D.11). The EA will be used during FY2016 to steer conservation and rural development policy dialogues in Caqueta and to fine-tune ongoing on-site technical interventions in San Jose del Fragua, Belen de los Andaquies and Solano municipalities.

CL also developed a participatory monitoring process in the piedmont to empower local indigenous groups and small farmers to permanently assess whether landscape transformation strategies are being effective or not (CL-1-024). Main results are the



conformation of two monitoring groups working in three prioritized monitoring spots (La Danta and Las Lajas in Belen de los Andaquies and Yachaicuri School in San José del Fragua), the completion of six monitoring field trips and trainings and the systematization of the first batch of results (for details see annex D.12). Monitoring activities are carried out around three prioritized elements: amphibian, birds, and water macroinvertebrates. Regarding activity CL-1-014, CL developed a community-based research strategy (For details see annex D.13), which during FY2015 was brought to ground via the initiation of a local research on fisheries.

Main challenges encountered during FY2015 are related to social constraints and unrests in Solano, which showed to be determinant in slowing down CL's progress. Main constraints were lack of trust from local communities and a widespread hesitation to allow Fondo Accion full presence on the field. Such circumstance was largely triggered by the influence and territorial control of illegal armed groups over the area. To deal with it, the program patiently crafted local key relationships that finally allowed the project's presence in far-flung areas where implementation was intended to occur. Gobernación del Caqueta instability also hindered expected progress. In the absence of key contacts within Gobernación (Planning Secretariat, GIS coordinator and Governor), CL directed all coordinating efforts to the Agriculture Secretariat.

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

Caquetá Chapter

Due to Caqueta government instability and lack of personnel in charge, CL was unable to deploy lasting efforts to support SIG Caqueta (CL-2-010). The only specific activities held were the production of a SIG Caqueta guiding video and the coordination of a training workshop for public servants, both carried out during Q1FY2015. Nonetheless, provided lack of support from Caqueta regional government, CL declined to keep on aiming strengthening effort to it. Activity CL-2-010 was shut down in FY2016 workplan due to its demonstrated inadequacy. Governmental instability also hindered progress on activity CL-2-015, and consequently it was shut down in FY2016workplan.

During FY2015, CL continued its capacity building strategy (CL-1-018 & CL-1-019). In total, 1542 people were trained, out of which 1291 were community members and 251 staff members. Main topics relate to planning exercises, technical on-site implementations, cattle ranching good practices, gender and conservation, food sovereignty, cocoa plantations maintenance, vegetable production and strategic organizational planning, among others. For details regarding Capacity Building themes and statistics please refer to annex D.14.



Additionally, and also as part of activities CL-1-018 and CL-1-019, CL kicked off organizational strengthening actions. To do so, it focused its efforts in five organization, namely: Tierra Viva Foundation, Escuela Audiovisual de Belen de los Andaquies, CODIC, Tandachiridiu Inganokuna Association and Belen de los Andaquies Campesino markets. In all cases, an entry assessment was conducted to define and prioritize strengthening needs (see annex D.15). Strengthening actions deployed relate to the provision of key operation equipment, strategic planning exercises, monitoring training sessions and other tailor- made trainings. In FY2015 two organizations achieved their strengthening targets: Tierra Viva and Escuela Audiovisual de Belen de los Andaquies. For details see annex D.16. Additionally, during Q4FY2015 CL held the course *Climate Change: conceptual frameworks and territorial approaches* aimed at sharing national, regional and local knowledge about climate change phenomena and stimulating civil society actions to mitigate and adapt to CC. The course accounted for 1472 hours – person of training

Within the framework of CL's policy work, the project progressed importantly on three products, as follows: a) Together with CODIC, a departmental guiding policy document on food sovereignty for indigenous communities was finished and is currently pending of final approval from indigenous authorities (consulta previa) (CL-2-025) b) Coordinating efforts (CL-2-013) exerted by CL to reestablish co-management dialogues and strategies for Alto Fragua Indi Wasi National Park between National Natural Parks Unit and Tandachiridiu Inganokuna Indigenous Association succeeded. As a result, a common work plan was agreed between parties in conflicts (see annex D.17) and the first *general technical co-management official* committee was convoked after nine year (see annex D.18), c) CL together with FPN and EII produced a preliminary policy paper (CL-2-022) on Sustainable Cattle Ranching in Caquetá built on the aftermath of the workshop *Cattle Ranching, Sustainability and Deforestation Reduction: Models and Perspective* held in April/2015. (See Annex D.19). Such paper is intended to be used in policy advocacy during FY2016. Additionally, although not yet attaining concrete results (CL-2-016), CL progressed on bringing forward actions to incorporate a Gender and Conservation perspective into local policies. To do so, it sustained diverse meetings with key stakeholders as Corpomanigua, Water and Life Protection Council from Belen de los Andaquies and San Jose del Fragua Municipality. to define specific strategies, one of which relate to the development of a short course on gender and conservation that enables a policy guiding document on the issue, the strengthening of municipal environmental agendas and the potential joint work with Gobernación to construct a departmental policy on gender.

Regarding activity CL-2-023, CL prioritized work on Belen de los Andaquies and San Jose del Fragua. In these municipalities an assessment was performed to determine EOT's strengthening needs (See annex D.20). Based on the results, actions prioritized were: capacity



building to public servants on GIS, updating of property-level cartography and improvement of municipal mapping. Provided change in municipal governments, CL slowed down strengthening efforts to fully implement them once new elected authorities are in charge from January 2016 onwards.

Main challenges encountered dealt with lack of governance from Gobernación del Caqueta and the municipalities of Belen de los Andaquies and Solano. As mentioned before, in the case of Gobernación, CL strengthened its common agenda with the Agriculture Secretariat that showed to have more continuation. In the case of Solano and Belen de los Andaquies, CL re-aimed its coordinating efforts to the UMATA and the Government Secretariat.

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

CL did not develop 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

During FY2015, CL continued carrying out the program's Gender Plan. As part of this effort, CL stimulated women participation in Capacity Building sessions, which reached 30% of total attendees. Likewise, CL staff was trained on Gender and Conservation capacities via USAID short course "*Fundamentos teórico-prácticos para la incorporación del enfoque de género en los proyectos de conservación de la diversidad biológica y cultural de la Amazonia Colombiana*". Such training was useful to guide gender related issues, particularly for Fragua – Churumbelos team, and to trigger the need to develop a gender oriented farmer's baseline to steer technical implementations and gather key information for gender rural policies in Belen and San Jose. In the same line of action, technical implementations during FY2015 were designed taking into account the female role within families. Therefore, several of the family projects dealt with food gardens, plant nurseries and minor animal species. Regarding gender policy advocacy, CL undertook the following actions: a) Joining the transitional group for Caqueta Gender Rights led by *Gobernación de Caquetá*. B) Generating contact with CIDEA San Jose and Belen Water and Culture Protection Council to identify opportunities for influencing local environmental agendas with gender perspectives, and c) Participating in a Gender oriented workshop with candidates running for Caqueta's government. During FY2015, all baselines developed and monitor and evaluation exercises were performed using a disaggregated approach (women/men). Challenges ahead relate to effectively taking advantage of disaggregated data when designing property level technical implementations



and carrying out the small grant strategy. A crucial challenge is to step forward from the gender debate developed during FY2015 to a concrete product that enables the inclusion of gender and conservation perspective into municipal policies.

3.4.2. Climate Change

CL's approach to mitigate and adapt to CC relies on the fact of reconnecting patches of forest via bio-cultural corridors and conservation belts. Thru step by step actions intended to restore forest connections and simultaneously improve agricultural systems, CL is reducing Caqueta vulnerability to climatic conditions and ensuring its food sovereignty. FY2015 was very positive in reaching out bio-cultural corridor establishment. During the reported year, 203 family projects were designed and initiated. Therefore, 3157m of productive trails were implemented, 60m of live fences were established, 13895m of water streams and 975 of water springs were protected, 7 water intake systems were isolated, 41,5ha of agroforestry systems based on cocoa were improved, 3 native plants nurseries were settled, 19 food family gardens were strengthened and 0.5ha of fruit trees were planted. All these specific actions contribute to reduce the risks associated to extreme weather conditions as heavy rain and landslides, increase local population resilience to food shortages, minimize carbon emissions from agricultural systems while enlarging carbon stocks, and enable species circulation throughout the areas, among others. Additionally, during Q4FY2015 CL held the course *Climate Change: conceptual frameworks and territorial approaches* aimed at sharing national, regional and local knowledge about climate change phenomena and stimulating civil society actions to mitigate and adapt to CC. The course accounted for 1472 hours – person of training.

3.5. Networking and Synergy

CL established a cooperative agreement with Universidad de la Amazonia to support childhood activities in Solano as a complement to CL actions and also to foster environmental cooperation. During FY2015, CL joined an inter-cooperation round table with GIZ, FPN, ONUREDD and Vision Amazonia 2020 to bring to ground specific coordinating activities related with technical on-site implementation, policy advocacy and capacity building strategies, among others. Joint work with EII and FPN regarding Sustainable Cattle Ranching continued, producing by the end of FY2016 a preliminary policy paper on the matter. Thorough coordination efforts were kept with C&G program to synchronize activities particularly in Fragua-Churumbelos corridor. Such efforts dealt with property-level plans and EA information exchange. CL also contributed to disseminate and support NTP small grants program in Solano, activity that led to two local organization being selected for granting.



During FY2015, CL and FA also joined a pull of stakeholder led by MADS to formulate a national project proposal for GEF6 Amazonia-Colombia, application that was recently granted.

3.6. Impact of Leveraged Resources

During FY2015, CL managed to leverage the following resources:

- Coordinated joint efforts with Fondo Accion Childhood Strategy in Solano shaped a scholarship initiative in Early Infants Care and a Grant Program for High Impact Projects in Education. Both initiative accounted for COP\$307,000,000.00
- In order to develop a public policy on food sovereignty for indigenous people and strengthen CODIC as grassroot organization, CL agreed common activities with Gobernación del Caquetá. These activities were backed up by Gobernación with financial resources accounting for \$COP722,363,980. These resources were certified by an official signed letter and are distributed as follows: a) COP\$500,000,000 / initial committed cost share from Gobernacion, b) COP\$222,363,980 / additional leveraged resources (For details see Annex D.21).
- CL managed to agree leverage resources from local communities as beneficiaries match to project activities. Local communities leveraged resources totalize COP\$529,579,125.00.

3.7. M&E

During FY2015 progress was achieved in various indicators as it is detailed in Annex B, uploaded in MONITOR and briefly explained in this section:

- a. Indicator DO4-005a (F4.8.2-28): CL reached FY2015 target as expected. One plan/agreement was achieved between Tandachiridu Inganokuna Association and National Natural Park Unit.
- b. Indicator DO4-020 (F4.8.2-6): CL surpassed FY2015 target of 1200 hour/person of training in Climate Change. In total 1472 hours/person were achieved.
- c. Indicator DO4-017 (F 4.8.1-27): CL surpassed FY2015 target of 435 persons trained. In total 1291 person were trained in Natural Resources Management and/or biodiversity conservation.
- d. Indicator DO4-001 (F4.8.1.26) : CL surpassed FY2015 target of 2000ha. In total 7307,1 ha were incorporated under improved natural resource management.
- e. Indicator FON-006: Cl elaborated/updated 250 property level management plans out of 280 set as FY2015 target.



- f. Indicator FON-003: FY2015 target was accomplished as expected. Two landscape transformations plans were produced, one in Belen de los Andaquies and one in San Jose del Fragua.
- g. Indicator FON-002: FY2015 target was accomplished as expected. Two Ecosystem Analysis were produced, one for Fragua –Churumbelos landscape and one for the Department of Caquetá.
- h. Indicator FON-011: CL surpassed FY2015 target (50people). In total, 251 leaders, staff members, public servants were trained in Natural Resource Management.
- i. Indicator FON-010: FY2015 was accomplished as expected. Two organization were strengthened with key capacities incremented.
- j. Indicator FON-008: CL surpassed FY2015 target (1). In total 9 dialogue activities were held.
- k. Indicator FON-009: CL surpassed FY2015 target (88people). In total 240 persons joined dialogue activities.
- l. Indicator FON-001: CL did not accomplished FY2015 target. FY2016 target was modified accordingly.

4. ANNEXES

Annex A – List of Acronyms

Annex B – M&E

Annex C – Activity Description

Annex D.1 – Landscape Transformation Plans.

Annex D.2 – Landscape Transformation Statistics.

Annex D.3 – Property Level Plans.

Annex D.4 – Indigenous Reserves Management Plans.

Annex D.5 – Cacay inventory and selling data.

Annex D.6 – Kahai S.A.S Trade Agreement.

Annex D.7 – Local Campesino Market.

Annex D.8 – Prioritized Campesino Locations/Solano.

Annex D.9 – Solano´s Small Framers Baseline.

Annex D.10 – Preliminary selection of beneficiaries.

Annex D.11 – Ecosystem Analysis.

Annex D.12 – Monitoring preliminary results.

Annex D.13 – Community-based Research Strategy.

Annex D.14 – Capacity Building Statistics.

Annex D.15 – Entry assessment results.

Annex D.16 – Second assessment results.

Annex D.17 – Tanda – PNN WorkPlan.



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- Annex D.18 - General Technical co-management committee invitation letter.
- Annex D.19 – Sustainable Cattle Ranching policy paper.
- Annex D.20 - EOT Strengthening entry assessment.