



REPORT Q3FY2015

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)	01/04/2015 to 30/06/15
Prime Partner	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 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

Although the Ecosystem Analysis - EA (CL-1-003) was finished during Q2, some extra fine tuning actions were undertaken during Q3. Amendments were made to connectivity scenarios and maps (particularly within *Fragua-Churumbelos corridor* analysis window) and to technical written documents. During Q4FY2015 and Q1FY2016, once such adjustments are finished, EA dissemination sessions will be scheduled.

As part of activity CL-1-008, one new Village Community Agreement for the Transformation¹ of Fragua – Churumbelos Corridor was prepared and signed in Los Angeles (Belen de los Andaquies), while three draft Landscape Transformation Agreements were constructed for Yurayaco, San Miguel and Brisas indigenous reserves. In total, 13 Village Community Agreements have been signed so far. These agreements are the basis for two Municipal Transformation Plans to be prepared during Q4FY2015. Likewise and as part of activity CL-1-012, during Q3 sixty new property LMPs², covering an area of 1986ha, were elaborated. Up to June 2015, 218 LMP- representing a total area of 7484.2 ha- had been prepared. Additionally, 5 new Village Landscape Transformation Projects³ were arranged including 72 family projects⁴. In total 12 Village Landscape Transformation Projects and 149 family level projects have been formulated. Such projects are intended, among others, to reduce vulnerability to climate change, ensure food security under changing climatic conditions and connect disrupted landscapes. During Q3, families were provided with supplies and commodities to carry out their property level projects. Initial implementations are aimed at protecting 42065 meters of water springs and streams, establishing 7083 meters of productive pathways, creating 10340 meters of living fences and strengthening 97 ha of agroforestry systems. As for indigenous reserves, LMP updating process continued according to schedule. During Q3, draft LMPs for San Miguel and Yurayaco were produced. Final versions, including those of Las Brisas and El Aguila indigenous

¹ Agreement document through which village members commit to transform their territory. This document includes the signatures of village members.

² Land planning document for each property that characterizes the farm and defines productive, conservation and food sovereignty zones. This document outlines potential farm improvements.

³ It is a consolidated village project document that aggregates all family projects from the village. It determines, among others, how activities will be monitored and the total cost of all individual family interventions per village.

⁴ Individual project document per family. It results partly out of LMPs. This project document includes detailed farm improvement activities, supplies to be purchased and costs. Since LMPs are developed before individual projects per family, these two numbers not necessarily coincide during this quarter. LMP process is ahead of family project formulation.



reserve, will be completed during Q4FY2015. For details related with activities CL-1-008 and 012 refer to annex D.1.

As for Solano (CL-1-011, CL-1-020, CL-1-021), CL initiated field activities at village and farm level in areas prioritized during Q2 (Las Mercedes, Hericha and Mononguete Campesino Locations (nucleos campesinos). During Q3, field visits were made to Las Mercedes and Hericha. Throughout such visits, CL brought forward three specific activities, namely: a) Program's further explanation and introduction at village and farm levels, b) Development of detailed baseline for small farmers in Solano, and c) Communal Development Plans updating startup (For field visits details see Annex D.2 and page 4 Annex D.1). Villages visited were Bajo Sevilla, La Cristalina, La Reina, Sacrificio, El Vergel, La Esmeralda, Cabañita, Potrereros and El Carmen. Field visits to Mononguete will occur during Q4. Once these three initial activities are undertaken in all prioritized campesino locations, CL -together with Local Communal Councils- will select beneficiary families.

During Q3 and due to security reason, CL decided to adjust its intervention geography in Fragua – Churumbelos corridor. As a result, program's intervention efforts (particularly related with activity CL-1-012) were halted in four villages (San Jose de Fragua: La Esmeralda, Alto San Isidro, Triunfo San Pedro and La Cristalina) and initiated in two (La Gallineta/San José del Fragua and El Porvenir/Belen de los Andaquies). This new circumstance neither affects CL's total targets nor upsets CL/G&C agreement related with village distribution. For program's geography details refer to Annex D.3

As part of activities CL-1-014/CL-1-024, monitoring actions were initiated. A series of training session for monitors from Yachaicury Indigenous School on macroinvertebrates water sampling as means for determining water quality was carried out. Likewise, a community based research plan for Fragua – Churumbelos intervention area was developed (See Annex D.9)

Based on the progress reported and results attained during Q3, CL expects to achieve C1 yearly targets in accordance to plan.

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

During Q3 main results were related with activities CL-2-025 and CL-2-022. As part of the first one, CL carried out two *Food Sovereignty for Indigenous people* modules (For details see Annex D.4) together with CODIC. Through these modules, CL progressed on constructing the *Food Sovereignty Policy Guideline Document*, expected to be ready once the third and last module is undertaken between Q4FY2015 and Q1FY2016. As part of cooperative actions agreed upon with “Gobernación del Caquetá”, CANUTSA program representatives joined all workshops held. These efforts are aimed at including food safety and sovereignty guidelines for indigenous people into CANUTSA program. As for the second activity, CL successfully carried out the workshop and policy dialogue “Cattle Ranching, Sustainability and Deforestation Reduction: Models and Perspectives”. Such workshop, held on April 16th & 17th and attended by more than 100 participants, was carried out in partnership with Fondo Patrimonio Natural (PN) and the Earth Innovation Institute (EII). It aims to produce a policy paper, which will steer further program's actions (For detail see Annex D.5).



Q3 was also key in bringing forward activities CL-2-018 and CL-2-019. Fourteen workshops reaching 277 participants (219 community members, 58 staff members) were carried out (For details see D.6). Topics covered are related with community based research and monitoring, land planning, project design and strategic organizational planning, among others. A cocoa tailored made course was also held with the support of ECOCAO (San Vicente del Chucurí, Santander). Such course was aimed at farmers from San Jose and Belen and included the following themes: agroecological techniques, plagues and diseases, cultural practices, organic production (fertilizers and fungicides) and eco-labeling, among others.

Progress was also made on CL's organizational strengthening strategy. Thus, *Strengthening Plans* were constructed for CODIC (Indigenous Departmental Council from Caquetá) and *Tandachiridu Inganokuna Association* (See Annex D.7). As part of plans already developed during Q2, Tierra Viva Foundation was provided with monitoring, research and other purpose equipment; Escuela Audiovisual Infantil de Belén was supported by conservation awareness training and documentary filming equipment; and Belen de los Andaquies Peasant Market was provided with training session on vegetables production.

Progress on activity CL-2-013, dealing with *Tandachiridu Inganokuna Association* – PNNAFIW conflict resolution, was not as expected. The scheduled committee to be held between the Amazon Natural National Park Directorate and Tanda was postponed. CL expects such committee to occur during Q4 as it will serve, among others, to sign a memorandum of understanding between the parts in conflict.

During the period reported, there were no tangible results related with activity CL-2-016. Since Q2, CL had established work alliances with CIDEA San José and the Council for Life and Water from Belén (CLWB), which are still in their way to attain results. As for activity CL-2-010, CL regained contact with Gobernación de Caquetá to sort out a way to strengthen GIS Caquetá. Based on this, it was clear there are structural issues hampering GIS Caquetá functioning in “Gobernación”, some of them related with lack of permanent personal in charge. Therefore, CL is considering to adjust CL-2-010 scope for FY2016 so as to widen it to include potential collaborations with other stakeholders such as Corpoamazonia and Sinchi Institute.

Lastly, responding to activity CL-2-023, CL prioritized strengthening actions with Belen de los Andaquies Land Management Plan (EOT). Such actions, to be developed during Q4, are training sessions related with *Climate Change and Land Planning* and the provision of municipal updated cartography outputs provided by the EA. Additionally, CL regained contact with Corpoamazonia to synchronize Municipal EOTs strengthening efforts. This implies common work to articulate Corpoamazonia's activities on Environmental Determinants in Belen de los Andaquies, San Jose del Fragua and Solano with CL's EOT strengthening actions. Common work is intended to deal with capacity building, ecosystem analysis cartography and property level characterizations.

Based on the progress reported and the results attained during Q3, CL expects to achieve C2 yearly targets in accordance to plan.



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

Although there were no tangible results related with Gender, CL continued carrying on its gender awareness process (particularly linked with activity CL-2-016). Accordingly, during CLWB's monthly committee, CL introduced the gender and conservation approach to this organization in order to use it in the short term while updating Belen de los Andaquies' *environmental agenda*. Likewise, CL kept on participating in the Transitional Committee for Caquetá's Gender Policy, which recently is starting to widen its gender approach to include an environmental perspective (i.e. On may the 28th, the Transitional Committee launched a radio ad related with water, territory, food and gender). Additionally, as part of an effort to make visible gender differences, CL continued collecting program's data in a differentiated way.

3.4.2. Climate Change

The main contribution to tackle climate change impacts is related with the design and implementation of biocultural corridors throughout Fragua – Churumbelos intervention geography, which during the period was extended to 5 new villages (See Annex D.1). Throughout Q3, CL designed 72 property specific projects, intended, among others, to reduce vulnerability to climate change, ensure food security under changing climatic conditions and connect disrupted landscapes. Property-specific projects designed deal with agroforestry and silvopastoral arrangements, watershed protection, reforestation and restoration of degraded areas, vegetable production and establishing of productive trails, among others. Additionally, CL put forward a Cattle Ranching & Sustainability Workshop aiming at exploring alternatives to minimize *cattle ranching related deforestation, land degradation and GHG emission*. Lastly, CL's allies had a startup meeting to design and implement a week long course on *Climate Change* expected to occur in September 2015.

3.5. Networking and Synergy

CL continued existent synergies with C&G and EII, particularly related with the workshop on Cattle Ranching in Caquetá. Based on this workshop, CL kept on joining efforts in preparing a policy paper estimated to be ready no later than Q1FY2016. Likewise, as part of complementary childhood activities in Solano, FA signed an agreement with Universidad de la Amazonia aimed at implementing a short course on *Early Infants Wellbeing and Care* and developing an *Environmental Internship Program* to support CL's activities in Solano. During Q3, CL did establish contact with ECOCACAO in order to strengthen cocoa related training sessions. First interactions gave rise to a short course on cocoa good



practices aimed at program’s beneficiaries in Fragua – Churumbelos corridor. Yet, CL expects to broaden this partnership in order to receive from Ecocacao permanent technical cocoa support. CL continued its joint efforts with *Gobernación del Caquetá* to include a differential approach into CANUTSA program. This was made via CL’s work on Food Sovereignty Policy Guideline Document with CODIC.

3.6. Impact of Leveraged Resources

During Q3 a detailed amount of leveraged resources due to complementary actions in Solano (Childhood) was fixed. Resources from *Glen Nimitz Scholarship Program* intended to cover *Early Infants Wellbeing and Care course* amounts COP\$40.190.000 (\$34.440.000 Fondo Accion Childhood Program / 5.750.000 Universidad de la Amazonía), while those aimed at funding *Childhood High Impact Projects* (Un, dos, tres por la Niñez Program) sum COP\$260.000.000.

As instructed by USAID, CL is including as Annex D.8 a Cost Share Execution Report

3.7. M&E

During Q3, CL progressed on 6 concrete PMP indicators, namely: DO4-001, DO4-017, FON-006, FON-008, FON-009 and FON-011. During the period reported, under indicator DO4-001 1986ha in areas of natural resource importance were incorporated under improved management, under indicator DO4-017 219 community members were trained, under indicator FON-006 60 property level LMP were elaborated, under indicator FON-008 2 dialogue activity was carried out, under indicator FON-009 106 persons joined dialogue activities, under indicator FON-011 58 staff members were trained. For details refer to Annex B and MONITOR.

During Q3, the PMP did not have any modification. Indicator targets, definitions, units of measure, etc. remain the same.

4. ANNEXES

Annex A	List of Acronyms.
Annex B	M&E.
Annex C	Activity Description.
Annex D.1	Landscape Transformation.
Annex D.2	Solano Field Visits.
Annex D.3	Program’s geography.
Annex D.4	<i>Food Sovereignty for Indigenous people</i> module report.
Annex D.5	Proceedings “Cattle Ranching, Sustainability and deforestation reduction: Models and Perspectives” workshop.
Annex D.6	Capacity Building.



Environment Peace Initiative for
Colombia (EPIC)

- Annex D.7 Organizational strengthening plan.
- Annex D.8 Cost share execution.
- Annex D.9 Community based research plan for Fragua – Churumbelos