

# **The Ecuadorian Awa Territory: Protecting Habitat Biodiversity**

**Project period:** 1 October 2001-30 September 2003  
**Period covered by report:** 1 January-30 March 2003  
**Project executors:** WWF Colombia  
Altrópico Foundation  
Ecuadorian Federation of Awa Centers (FCAE, its Spanish acronym)  
**Contact:** Maria Fernando Jaramillo, Chocó Programme Coordinator, WWF-  
Colombia  
**Date of Report:** 23 May 2003

## **I. Summary of the Status of Activities and Project Advances**

This quarter most project activities were carried out as scheduled. Fortunately, no drawbacks occurred that could not be opportunely solved.

There is growing concern about the duplicity of project activities and processes with those of the recently launched USAID-funded CAIMAN Project, carried out by Chemonics. Plans are to hold a coordination meeting next quarter between Chemonics, WWF, the Altrópico Foundation, and FCAE to harmonize the interventions of the CAIMAN Project with ongoing processes and alliances. Both FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation have expressed their interest that WWF participate in the definition of the CAIMAN Project's work plan for the next year, which would be fundamental to strengthening WWF's longstanding alliance with both organizations.

Advances have been made in several project components this quarter:

1. Phase I of the "Population and Environment" research/training project, cofinanced by WWF-Colombia, has culminated.
2. A decision was made to conduct a feasibility study before establishing the FCAE Science Station in Central Río Bogotá.
3. Training workshops on legal empowerment of communities were initiated with the support of INREDH.
4. The Altrópico Foundation and FCAE signed agreements with Chemonics under the umbrella of the CAIMAN Project. Agreements expire in September 2003.
5. The Altrópico Foundation signed a cofunding agreement with FCAE.
6. FCAE, the Altrópico Foundation, Ecociencia, and WWF-Colombia signed a collaborative framework agreement.
7. Two letters of intention for proposals were presented to Conservation International (CI) regarding the FCAE Territory.

## **B. Specific Products Obtained during this Period**

- With Conservation International serving as facilitator, FCAE and the Nytua Foundation (Awa-Cachi) agreed to sit down and dialogue about the conflict of lands in Central Río Bogotá, and reach a solution. The Altrópico Foundation participated in the process.

- A conservation and sustainable development agenda for the Province of Esmeraldas was prepared by the Interinstitutional Coordination Committee of Northern Esmeraldas, with the participation of the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE, among other organizations.
- 70% of FCAE's Institutional Plan (mission, vision, objectives, redefined operational programs) is ready. La Ceiba Corporation endorsed this undertaking, serving as facilitator.
- Agreement signed between FCAE and the Executive Director of the CAIMAN Project, known as "Building the Institutional Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Awa Territory". The agreement will be in force from 19 March to 15 September 2003.
- Agreement signed between the Altrópico Foundation and the Executive Director of the CAIMAN Project to strengthen the Altrópico Foundation's institutional and technical capacity to improve its management and strengthen the technical assistance in natural resource management it offers FCAE. Validity of agreement 1: from March through 15 September 2003.
- Agreement signed between FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation and execution of the project "Production and Institutional Strengthening;" (1 January-31 December 2003).
- Letters of intention to carry out the projects "Connecting the Guadualupé Commune in Indigenous Awa Territory" and "Delimiting and Managing the Awa Territory Life Reserve", presented to Conservation International.
- Report on the first phase of the "Population and Environment" Project in Awa Territory.
- TOR for the feasibility study of the Río Bogotá Science Station, and TOR for the feasibility study for the Forest Program and Enterprise.
- FCAE's forest strategy defined.
- Income/expenditure survey of forest activities pending socialization.
- Results of a study conducted on the technical drying of timber of five forest species diffused and accepted.

## A. Status of USAID-funded Project Activities

*Objective 1: To maintain forest cover and biodiversity processes and elements in the Awa Territory and neighboring areas.*

Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<p><b>Goal 1: Territory Awa remains united, without divisions.</b></p> <p>1a. Decree of agricultural area or exclusion of Awa areas repealed. 1b. Conflict with Nytua Foundation legally clarified so the mentioned land is recognized as FCAE territory. As a result, the Nytua foundation has stopped making a property claim over the Rio Bogotá Awa Center.</p> <p><b>Goal 2: FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation with elements to manage and solve conflicts, so that external invasions are reduced or eliminated.</b></p> <p>2a. Awa communities have been effective in applying legal mechanisms to defend their territory before any potential invasion. 2b. FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation have more elements to address conflicts. 2c. <b>No</b> illegal exploitation of forests or other types within Awa territory.</p>	<p>1a. Monitoring of ongoing demands to repeal the Decree, and active participation in events of the Esmeraldas Interinstitutional Committee. 1b. Legal advisory services to resolve the conflict, holding meetings with the Nytua Foundation and conducting field verification with GPS.</p> <p>2a. Placement of signposts and radio communication systems in perimeter areas and at Awa centers. 2b. Designing and implementation of training in conflict management at different levels. 2c. Participation in negotiations with timber companies. 2c. Promotion of forest programs in those communities most threatened by possible incursion of timber companies and intermediaries.</p>	<p>1a. FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation have participated in all meetings of the Interinstitutional Committee. The NGO REGAL was contracted to advise and train members of the Esmeralda Interinstitutional Committee.</p> <p>2a. Signposts designed and transaction to install radio communications system completed. FCAE, duly assisted by lawyers, presented a petition to protect the Territory before possible invasion of neighboring inhabitants. The petition was denied. 2b. The status of alert is permanent, and this quarter no illegal extraction of resources occurred within Awa Territory. 2c. The FCAE Commission on Conflict Management has been active. ECOLEX was contacted to help strengthen this component in FCAE.</p>	<p>Permanent</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Permanent</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From the legal viewpoint, there are no viable ways to achieve the repeal of the Decree. The only way to achieve this repeal is through political lobbying. The actors involved are apparently not interested in listening to the reasons of local organizations. FCAE and Altrópico concluded that although a portion of Guadualito Center has been included in the Decree this is not going to affect the land use in this Center.</li> <li>The signposts are ready for installation and all requisites were presented to ANDINATEL to lease a small facility in Bellavista to locate the radio communication repeater.</li> <li>The threat of invasion remains latent and timber dealers are exerting considerable pressure.</li> <li>ECOLEX signed an agreement with the CAIMAN project to strengthen the indigenous communities involved in the designing of proposals. Training will also be offered in management of territorial conflicts.</li> </ul>

(Objective 1 continues)

Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<p><b>Goal 3: To reduce the conversion of land use in lands adjacent to Awa Territory.</b></p> <p>3a. Twelve communities involved in sustainable agricultural systems, and an Afro-Ecuadorian community with its territory legalized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All documents to legalize the territory of La Chiquita community (limits and management plans) are ready and people trained in alternative production systems and with the production systems designed.</li> <li>• Ten communities of FECONA (the Federation of Black Communities of Upper San Lorenzo) with people trained in alternative production systems and with the production systems designed.</li> <li>• The La Ceiba community with the marmalade company fully operational (legalized, equipment in operation, and selling products) and the orchard in production.</li> </ul> <p>3b. The Ecological and Development Summit of Northern Esmeraldas held and most of agreements reached had an environmental component.</p> <p>3c. 100% of the ethnic-territorial organizations (Awa, Chachi and Epera) are informed and participating in the Interinstitutional Committee of Northern Esmeraldas as well as the Summit through CONAICE (Confederacy of Indigenous Peoples of the Ecuadorian Coast).</p> <p>3d. Agreements reached at the Summit are followed up regarding the repeal of the Decree, land management issues, and negotiations with palm growers and timber companies.</p>	<p>3a. Workshops held and advisory services offered to communities on sustainable production systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘Semillas de Agua’ FECONA.</li> <li>• Workshops and assistance to the La Ceiba marmalade company.</li> <li>• Technical assistance to legalize La Chiquita territory.</li> </ul> <p>3b. Promotion and participation in preparatory events to the Summit and the Summit itself.</p> <p>3c. Socialization of advances, discussions, and agreements reached at the Summit by CONAICE.</p> <p>3d. Preparation and participation in the monitoring of Summit agreements (mechanisms pending definition).</p>	<p>3a. The Altrópico Foundation, with support of ‘Semillas de Agua’ continues to hold training workshops in Afro-Ecuadorian communities.</p> <p>3b. Meetings held with members of the Interinstitutional Committee to define Summit policies and to prepare the Summit agenda. The NGO REGAL was contracted to advise and train members of the Esmeraldas Interinstitutional Committee in the negotiation of agreements for the Summit.</p> <p>3c. All ethnic-territorial organizations of northern Esmeraldas are actively participating in the Esmeraldas Interinstitutional Committee.</p> <p>3d. Plans are to continue to support REGAL in training events on how to follow up on agreements.</p>	<p>In process</p> <p>In process</p> <p>Permanent</p> <p>In preparation</p>	<p>3b. The Committee’s lack of funds has restricted the participation in the negotiation of policies, proposals, and projects for the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although the Summit is scheduled for 30 May, it could be postponed.</li> <li>• The Committee has met with NGOs carrying out activities in the region to define their contributions to the agenda of the Ecological Summit of Northern Esmeraldas.</li> </ul>

Continuation objective 1...

Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<p><b>Goal 4. To build the legal capacity to defend the Awa territory</b></p> <p>4a. 150 members of 11 Awa centers aware of the constitutional alternatives to defend their territory, managing conflicts, and exercising their civil duties and rights.</p> <p>4b. 25 FCAE leaders and promoters managing and using constitutional alternatives to defend their territory, managing conflicts, and exercising their civil duties and rights.</p>	<p>4a and 4b. Workshops and formation events with INREDH and ASDES.</p>	<p>4a. 4 workshops held with INREDH as planned.</p> <p>4b. Workshops with ASDES are still pending initiation.</p>	<p>In process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops were held with the support of INREDH in the communities of Pailón, Guadualito, Gualpi Medio, and Mataje on Human Rights, Collective Rights, Protection Mechanisms, and Organizational Strengthening. FCAE provided logistic support and also a person to translate from Awapit, the local indigenous language, into Spanish.</li> <li>• An agreement has already been reached with ASDES on workshop topics and dates. The training of 25 leaders will begin next quarter.</li> </ul> <p>NOTE: Within the framework of the CAIMAN project, ECOLEX has been contracted to provide training in legal issues. FCAE will select two delegates to attend the paralegal course offered by ECOLEX.</p>

**Objective 2: Building the capacity of local organizations so they can channel resource management problems and exert influence on local development processes.**

Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<p><b>Goal 1: To improve project management in FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation through the use of improved Administration and Finance systems.</b></p> <p>1a. 100% of financial reports approved without corrections.            1b. 100% of technical reports approved without corrections.            1c. 90% of goals established in the FCAE and Altrópico Foundation work plans fulfilled, with the expected quality.            1d. 100% of projects presented by FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation pertinent to Territorial Management Plans and their respective Institutional Plans.            1e. Ensured continuity of 60% of the staff of both the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE for the next 3 years.            1f. Local Development Plan of the Awa People of Ecuador reviewed and updated. Strategic Plan of FCAE prepared, understood, socialized, and approved by FCAE Assemblies. Strategic plan of the Altrópico Foundation updated, socialized, and known by all Foundation staff.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning and monitoring meetings held each month to discuss technical and financial aspects of the project.</li> <li>2. Periodic meetings of the Coordinating and Monitoring Committee.</li> <li>3. Preparation of technical and financial reports.</li> <li>4. Preparation and management of projects, paying special attention to ensure the continuity of staff required for processes as well as their coherence with institutional plans.</li> <li>5. FCAE Assemblies.</li> <li>6. Workshops and meetings to prepare the Local Development Plan and, subsequently, the FCAE Strategic Plan.</li> <li>7. Meetings and workshops to update the Altrópico Foundation's Strategic Plan.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Three planning meetings held during the reporting period. The Altrópico Foundation participates at FCAE meetings.</li> <li>2. The Coordinating and Monitoring Committee met as planned.</li> <li>3. This quarter, the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE presented their technical and financial reports with a 2-week delay.</li> <li>4. Several projects and agreements were negotiated and signed this quarter: agreements with ECOCIENCIA-WWF-Altrópico and FCAE; agreement with Chemonics, the Altrópico Foundation, and FCAE. Preparation and negotiation of letters of intention for two projects presented by FCAE to Conservation International. A project on cacao management in the Chical area is being reviewed for presentation to UDENOR.</li> <li>5. The First Four-Month Assembly of 2003 was carried out at the Baboso Center.</li> <li>6. The La Ceiba Corporation served as facilitator of three workshops with FCAE promoters and leaders to help them formulate their institutional strategic plan.</li> <li>7. Funds are being negotiated to proceed with the preparation of the Altrópico Foundation's institutional plan and to review administrative procedures.</li> </ol>	<p>Permanent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the first time since the project began, the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE presented a delay in the presentation of their technical and financial reports to WWF.</li> <li>• Several difficulties identified in the coordination and communication between WWF and the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE have been tackled by promoting transparent, open dialogues that enhance institutional growth and strengthen alliances.</li> <li>• Technical aspects of the biological monitoring and GIS work carried out by FCAE in their territory will hopefully be strengthened through the agreement signed with Ecociencia.</li> <li>• As agreed from the beginning of the project, the process of preparing and negotiating FCAE proposals before Conservation International has been highly participatory with the three co-executing institutions of this project: FCAE, the Altrópico Foundation, and WWF. WWF has accordingly been able to contribute counterpart funding in kind and financial resources, thus avoiding duplications and harmonizing with ongoing processes.</li> <li>• The process with Chemonics, under the umbrella of the CAIMAN project, has been different, because the relationship has been established between Chemonics and the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE, without the participation of WWF. This situation has caused a lack of coordination between this project's activities and the proposals presented by the CAIMAN project.</li> <li>• 120 individuals, including Awa center leaders, partners, promoters, and program/institutional technicians, participated in the FCAE Assembly. A commission of 15 FCAE members is being organized to visit Pueblo Nasa in Colombia, where assemblies are prepared using a highly participatory process.</li> </ul>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<p><b>Goal 2: To promote forest management and certification.</b></p> <p>2a. Appropriate decisions can be made about forest programs based on the information generated by feasibility studies and market surveys.</p> <p>2b. 30% of certification conditions and prerequisites have been fulfilled.</p> <p>2c. System to monitor the impact of forest management practices, applied by FCAE technicians and promoters, is operational.</p> <p>2d. Income generated by forest extraction activities distributed according to clearly established and pertinent FCAE policies, seeking equity and community well-being.</p> <p>2e. Decisions regarding the training and timber-processing center taken on the basis of key information on financial and sociocultural feasibility.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Periodic meetings of the forest certification team to prepare and subsequently follow up on the execution of strategies designed to fulfill conditions and prerequisites (using as basis the EIA forest report and the SmartWood report).</li> <li>2. Execution of strategies to fulfill conditions and prerequisites.</li> <li>3. Training workshops on the designing and implementation of plans to monitor the environmental impact of forest management.</li> <li>4. Field activities to collect monitoring data regarding the impact of forest management and raise the baseline (FCAE promoters together with ECOCIENCIA).</li> <li>5. Financial feasibility study of FCAE forest operations, a sociocultural study, and another financial feasibility study on the establishment and operation of a training and timber transformation center.</li> <li>6. An income-expenditure survey of forest activities (input produced internally by FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation, based on project experiences so far).</li> <li>7. Preparation and legalization of community forest extraction plans.</li> <li>8. Extraction and marketing activities indicated in community plans.</li> <li>9. Meetings with communities to define the equitable and sustainable distribution of the income generated by forest operations.</li> <li>10. Training of technicians, promoters, and community members in forest management.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The annual forest management operational plan was designed as well as the monitoring scheme.</li> <li>2. A workshop was facilitated by WWF, together with the Altrópico Foundation and FCAE, to lay the groundwork on how to design a community forest strategy. FCAE alone prepared the strategy, which will be presented to the Altrópico Foundation and WWF next quarter to define roles and assistance.</li> <li>3. A training proposal to design a monitoring system, presented by FCAE to Ecociencia and WWF, is now under review.</li> <li>4. This activity has not begun because it depends on the approval of the Ecociencia proposal.</li> <li>5. The TOF for the feasibility study have been defined and a team of three professionals has been contracted for its execution.</li> <li>6. The income-expenditure survey has been completed and will serve as input for the feasibility study.</li> <li>7. The Comprehensive Mataje Plan is being reviewed and five simplified extractive plans are presented.</li> <li>8. A total of 79 m<sup>3</sup> of timber was produced and, until March, 47 m<sup>3</sup> had been transported and marketed in Guadualito; 32 m<sup>3</sup> corresponded to sawed timber.</li> <li>9. Meetings were held in Mataje, Pambilar, Guadualito to discuss production issues (economic reports, memoirs of meetings, agreements) and income distribution.</li> <li>10. A study was conducted on the technical drying of timber of five forest species. The forest project was presented at the MADEXPO Fair, which provided an opportunity to exchange ideas with other communities involved in forest management and certification in Bolivia (financed by WWF-Bolivia). Phase 2 of the forest training proposal is being prepared and will be submitted to WWF-Bolivia.</li> </ol>	<p>In process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The annual operational plan to monitor forest management activities, feasibility studies and certification was prepared and is now operational.</li> <li>• Quarterly meeting were planned to review, verify, and strengthen the fulfillment of conditions and prerequisites.</li> <li>• The final report of the EIA study is pending to readjust several forest management activities, but a meeting is planned for April.</li> <li>• The preliminary version of the EIA report recommended that FCAE only work its forest program based on community management plans, not on land use plans or family extractions. This recommendation has already been incorporated into the forest strategy designed by FCAE, but there are miscellaneous extractions in progress that are based on simple family or community forest exploitations, which cannot be suspended easily.</li> </ul>



Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<p><b>Goal 5. To socialize the results of the population dynamics survey and how they relate to the environment, and achieve their appropriation and possible application to territorial planning and the life process of the Awa people.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of a capacity-building/research agenda for the 'Population and Environment' project to advance in the understanding of related issues. This project is financed until December by WWF-USA.</li> <li>2. Meetings with FCAE directives to define lines of action and strategies to continue the work on related issues once the 'Population and Environment' project has culminated.</li> <li>3. Analysis of the results presented by 'Population and Environment' staff to structure a new project and raise funds. Fund-raising activities to establish a permanent working team on related issues.</li> <li>4. Informative and discussion meetings to determine whether a GIS laboratory should be established or alliances formed to access already existing GIS services.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Phase 1 of the 'Population and Environment' project concluded successfully this quarter.</li> <li>2. A workshop was held in January with FCAE and CAMAWARI directives to define lines of action and work strategies on related issues.</li> <li>3. Efforts have been made to maintain the GIS team working on population and environment and to satisfy other GIS needs of FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation.</li> <li>4. These meetings have not been held yet.</li> </ol>	<p>Concluded</p> <p>Concluded</p> <p>Permanent</p> <p>Behind schedule</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The final report was submitted and socialized during a workshop to authorities and leaders of both Awa organizations: FCAE and CAMAWARI. A synthesis is being prepared of the methodological process and research findings.</li> <li>• FCAE has integrated project results into different aspects of their strategic planning process.</li> <li>• FCAE has kept on two staff members: an Awa promoter and an external technician with expertise in GIS (this person will work until September 2003, paid with funds of the CAIMAN Project).</li> <li>• These meetings require coordination between FCAE, WWF, and Ecociencia. There have been other priorities.</li> <li>• The 'Population and Environment' team has supported FCAE programs in the following activities: gathering of Rio Bogotá field data using GPS to help define the boundaries that are currently matter of conflict with the Nytua Foundation; delimitation of the experimental farm in Mataje for mapping; preparation of reference map; and assistance to the Forest Program in the preparation of the Forest Management Plan.</li> </ul>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<b>Goal 6. To have the 22 schools of the Awa Territory applying an environment-oriented curriculum.</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Workshops and meetings with teachers on topics related to the use of an environmental approach in their study plans.</li> <li>2. Follow-up visits to schools.</li> <li>3. Coordination and management with institutions supporting the bilingual Awa environmental education process.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. II Presential specialized course for Awa teachers.</li> <li>2. Visits to 11 educational centers during the quarter.</li> <li>3. No coordination and management activities reported.</li> </ol>	In process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2nd specialized course in Bilingual Education was offered to 23 Awa professors. The 15-day course was held at the Baboso Awa Training Center and the study plan focused on strengthening environmental and cultural issues.</li> <li>• This quarter, the Training Center director, the two assistant directors, and the consultant Alicia Ortiz made follow-up visits to 11 educational centers of the Provinces of El Carchi, Esmeraldas, and Imbabura to evaluate whether the methodology taught at the course was applied by professors in the classroom. The method of evaluation used was direct observation.</li> </ul>

Goal to 30 September 2003	Planned annual activities	Activities carried out this reporting period	Status	Details and comments
<p><b>Goal 7. To train and build the capacities of 7 health promoters working at Awa Centers in the use of medicinal plants and disease prevention strategies (waste and water management, family care, and vaccination).</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improvement of existing lots of medicinal plants (San Marcos, Mataje, and Guaña) and promotion of new lots with the collaboration of indigenous healers (<i>awa watal</i>) and the Sustainable Production team. The new lots will be located at the homes of health promoters in San Marcos, Mataje, Green River, Palmira de Toctomí, Pambilar and Guaña.</li> <li>2. Handcraft workshop with women, providing complementary health information to explain the rationale behind the lots of medicinal plants.</li> <li>3. Four vaccination brigades carried out by health promoters.</li> <li>4. The health team will coordinate different activities within the territory with different health entities and the Ministry of Public Health (MPH).</li> <li>5. UNIPA will be contacted to exchange experiences about health programs.</li> <li>6. Health workers will conduct educational campaigns at schools and within the community to stress the importance of adequate community water and waste management.</li> <li>7. The Sustainable Production team will train health workers in the construction of pilot-scale water purification and disinfection systems for domestic use.</li> <li>8. Coordination of activities with other FCAE programs.</li> <li>9. Coordination and internal evaluation of gender and health team.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delivery of inputs and tools to three Awa centers: Rio Verde Bajo, Rio Verde Medio, and Palmira de Toctomi.</li> <li>2. Weaving activities carried out by the women of the Pambilar community were monitored, and meetings were held with the women of the communities of Gualpi Medio and San Marcos to ensure that the activities undertaken are continued (for example, dressmaking).</li> <li>3. A vaccination and medical care brigade was held during which 64 families were attended, each with an average of 7 members, at the Awa centers de Mataje, Guadualito, Rio Bogotá, and Balsareño, and in the two Afro-Ecuadorian communities of El Pan and La Sirena.</li> <li>4. Meetings were held with the Directors of San Juan de Lachas and Tulcán Health Centers , he Director of El Carchi Health Center, the administrator of the San Lorenzo Hospital Center, and the heads of the Offices of Indigenous Affairs of the departments of Imbabura and Esmeraldas.</li> <li>5. To date, this activity has not been carried out.</li> <li>6. Educational campaigns on waste management have been carried out for local families at the Awa centers of Mataje, Pambilar, and San Marcos.</li> <li>7 and 8: Meetings held to plan and coordinate the team's internal activities are also used to link these activities with those of other programs. This process will become increasingly more efficient with improved health programs and better-defined FCAE programs within the framework of the institution's strategic plan.</li> </ol>	<p>In process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The technical team of the Altrópico Foundation is working in zones 1 (Mataje, Guadualito, Pambilar, and Rio Bogotá) and 3 (San Marcos, Gualpi Medio and El Pailón).</li> <li>• The team of health promoters and community leaders are working together to prepare the annual operational plan of the Sustainable Production team.</li> <li>• Feasible activities have been evaluated and scheduled, based on the existing budget and on organizational needs.</li> <li>• Next quarter, more precise coordination mechanisms will be established with La Ceiba Corporation regarding the FCAE Sustainable Production program.</li> <li>• The preliminary version of the Awa forest EIA report brought to the attention of FCAE the need to strengthen its Health Program. This issue has been insistently highlighted, and hopes are that the structure of the FCAE health program will be progressively improved with the increased clarification of the institution's strategic plan.</li> </ul>

## II. Detailed Description of Project Advances

### A. Project objective

The project “*The Ecuadorian Awa Territory: Protecting Habitat Biodiversity*” mainly aims to maintain vegetation cover and the elements and processes of biological and cultural biodiversity in Ecuador’s Awa Territory and its surrounding area through the empowerment of FCAE and other local organizations so they are capable of guiding development processes, while minimizing or neutralizing the adverse effects of the multiple pressures exerted on this resource-rich territory.

### B. Description of Activities

Project activities are sufficiently detailed in the above tables. However, the activities carried out under the **legal capacity building** component, thanks to the September 2002 adjustment of project funding provided by USAID and WWF, should be highlighted

Legal capacity building has three subcomponents: training, legal attention, and negotiation. This quarter, notable progress has been made in the first two areas, under the coordination of INREDH and FCAE. Achievements are summarized below.

The following elements of the **training** subcomponent should be highlighted:

FCAE and INREDH have done a good job of coordinating the workshops. The methodologies used are involve games, facilitate participation, and prove stimulating for workshop participants of different ages and sexes.

The following needs have been identified based on workshop evaluations:

- The time assigned each day to workshop activities should be reconsidered and shortened, and key contents should be given in-depth discussion. Many community members live far away, making their full-time participation in the workshop difficult.
- Relatively few people of other communities located near the Center where the workshop is being held participate in the workshop, limiting the intended coverage of the formation process.
- Communities and FCAE must consider territorial and environmental problems, and any others, at training events, to better coordinate with the team of lawyers located in Ibarra and San Lorenzo.

Regarding the **legal attention** subcomponent, the following merits attention:

- The initial difficulties in coordination between INREDH and FCAE to provide suitable legal advisory services were successfully overcome.
- The attention offered in the city of Ibarra has not been completely satisfactory, in accordance with the established agreement. In the city of San Lorenzo, legal attention will be offered as of the second week of April because the FCAE office was in suboptimal conditions.

INREDH lawyers provided legal support in the following cases, considered the most important:

- *Case of Ricaurte*: Threat of invasion of Awa territory; legal resources still in process, threat still latent.

- *Case of the Nytua Foundation:* The Awacachi Foundation, successor of the Nytua Foundation in the ownership claim on the territory of the Río Bogotá Awa Center, has withdrawn its claim on the territory in mention.
- *Case of Rio Tigre:* The San Vicente Association claims to have land property titles for most of the territory of the Rio Tigre Awa Community. These documents are, however, in no way legal property titles and do not confer rights to the San Vicente Association. The Association has stated that, until the conflict has been resolved, it will not cross into Awa territory.
- *Case of Guadualito:* An outsider of the Guadualito community, who has a 50-hectare property within Awa territory, has requested that the Guadualito community legalize or regulate in some way his property, apparently to obtain an authorization from the Ministry of Environment to exploit the forest on his property. It is clear, however, that based on constitutional and legal analyses and on the land property title that the Awa people have over the comprehensive territory (101,000 hectares), it is legally impossible to recognize any right that would affect the full ownership of the Awa people, because these are ancestral territories of an indigenous community and, as such, cannot be sold, divided, mortgaged, or object of foreign possession, etc.
- *Case of the Teachers' Association:* Lawyers are providing advisory services and are sponsoring the formation of an association of teachers of the Awa Network and administrative personnel of the Federation.
- *Case of Rio Bogotá property deed:* In the case of the expansion of a certain part of the Rio Bogota territory that had been sold (donated) to the community, legal advice has been sought regarding the convenience of modifying the previous land property deed or simply writing out a new deed that would leave the prior deed without effect as the latter is not even registered before the Real-Estate Record Office.

A certified copy of the Agreement No. 3340, dated 11 March 2003, was obtained from the Ministry of Social Well-being. This agreement certifies the approval of FCAE's legal capacity.

### **C. Issues related to Project Management (problems found, delays, difficulties, and solutions proposed)**

- The difficulties encountered in coordination and communication between the Altrópico Foundation and WWF and between FCAE and WWF have been addressed with a proactive dialogue approach. Emphasis has basically been on the need to clearly and directly communicate those situations that are hindering the fluidity of these relationships.
- There will be some overlapping of this project's activities and those started by the CAIMAN project, both financed by USAID. At the beginning of the year, WWF asked Chemonics to schedule a meeting with WWF, the Altrópico Foundation, and FCAE to coordinate how CAIMAN project resources could harmonize with the processes under way. We hope that this meeting can be held as soon as possible to avoid duplication of efforts and lack of coordination in the interventions and relationships with FCAE and the Altrópico Foundation.

The following table illustrates the processes endorsed by this project that will hopefully help improve the coordination and dialogue with the CAIMAN project. Otherwise, there is a serious risk of duplication of efforts and possible advances may be thwarted.

Components	Supporting entity		
	WWF Colombia (Within the framework of the project “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity in Ecuadorian Awa Territory)	Chemonics (Within the framework of the CAIMAN Project)	Others
Territorial protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities of Objective 1 of the project “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity”, as well as financial support of legal advisory services offered by the two lawyers.</li> </ul>	ECOLEX	Advisory services of Dr. Fernando Sarango, with the support of the Altrópico Foundation.
Legal capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closely related to previous component.</li> <li>Training activities with INREDH and ASDES, and advisory services offered by the two lawyers.</li> </ul>	ECOLEX	Advisory services of Dr. Fernando Sarango, with the support of the Altrópico Foundation.
Institutional strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities related to Goal 1 of Objective 2 of the project “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity”, as well as financial support of the advisory services offered by the La Ceiba Corporation in the formulation of FCAE’s institutional strategic plan.</li> </ul>	PACT	
Forest program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities related to Goal 2 of Objective 2 of the project “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity”.</li> <li>Training events held with the WWF-Bolivia project.</li> <li>Technical support of WWF-Colombia’s forest adviser.</li> <li>Support of WWF-Colombia’s GIS office in the assessment of environmental impact.</li> <li>Support in the technical coordination of the project “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity”.</li> <li>Support in the designing and implementation of programs to monitor the impact of forest management.</li> </ul>	Jatun Sacha	ECOCIENCIA, with a training program in biological monitoring of the environmental impact of forest extraction activities, within the framework of the agreement it has with WWG, FCAE, and the Altrópico Foundation.
GIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All activities related to GIS carried out by FCAE and all those related to goal 5 of Objective 2 of the project “Protecting Habitat Biodiversity”.</li> <li>Research-training process related to “Population and Environment”, which restarted previous processes carried out by WWF with FCAE and laid the groundwork for the training and technical capacity building required by FCAE to establish a small GIS office.</li> <li>Technical support from WWF-Colombia’s GIS laboratory.</li> </ul>	ECOLEX? Jatun Sacha: GIS related to forest program to identify areas with forest potential?	ECOCIENCIA, which could support this activity within the framework of the agreement it has with WWG, FCAE, and the Altrópico Foundation.