
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

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SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT

10/01/2004 - 12/31/2004

World Wildlife Fund

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Southwestern Amazon Moist Forest Ecoregion

Valorization and Understanding of the Protected Areas of the Amboró - Madidi Corridor (CAM) in Order to Facilitate their Conservation

Second Quarterly Report (October 1ST – December 31st, 2004)

Strategic Goals and Objectives

Goal:

Create a favorable climate among the local population of the Amboró-Madidi Corridor (CAM) by favoring their participation in the process for the creation and management of protected areas, their education, information and environmental awareness and the joint visualization of the natural attributes of the protected areas in relation to the environmental services and its consequent potential to support sustainable economic activities for the region in which they are found.

Objectives:

- **Conservation:** Achieve the effective support from local communities and regional authorities for the Altamachi Protected Area ensuring its confirmation and achieving its declaration (recognition of the national government through a Supreme Decree). The Altamachi PA was created by the “Prefectura de Cochabamba” under a scientific model of identification and characterization as well as a participatory process of consultation. With this, it is intended that one of the last and best-preserved areas of the Yungas in Bolivia be placed under definitive protection and management, avoiding the advancement of deforestation within its limits.
- **Joint Planning:** Achieve the joint participation of the authorities and civil society in order to confront the threat of social and political opposition aimed at protected areas through the organization of joint activities and the search of synergies for individual activities:
 - **CAM Coordinating Committee (CCCAM):** Ensuring its continuity as an organism for discussion and technical planning and the gradual inclusion of additional authorities (Land Tenure, Popular Participation and municipalities when and if possible) and other local actors converting them in a forum for critical review and coordination.
- **Education, information and environmental awareness:** Consolidate the management of the Amboró Interpretive Center as a partnership model between

protected areas and municipalities and as sources of education, information and environmental awareness for the local population.

- **Visualization of potential for sustainable economic activities:** Carry out a study regarding the value of the environmental services of the water forthcoming from two protected areas within the CAM, that neighbor important cities, for their valorization among the local population and to offer information and ideas regarding sustainable economic alternatives for the users (municipalities, irrigation, businessmen and general population).

Collaborators/Partners

- * SERNAP - Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (National Service of Protected Areas)
- * DGB - Dirección General de Biodiversidad (General Directorate for Biodiversity)
- * FAN - Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (Friends of Nature Foundation)
- * Tropico - Asociación Boliviana para la Conservación (Bolivian Conservation Association)
- * ICIB - Instituto para la conservación e investigación de la Biodiversidad (Biodiversity Conservation and Research Institute)
- * FAM - Fundación Amigos del Museo Noel Kempff (Friends of the Noel Kempff Museum)
- * CIDEDER - Centro Integrado de Defensa Ecológica y Desarrollo Rural (Integrated Center of Ecological Defense and Rural Development)
- * FUNDESNAP (Foundation for the Development of the System for Protected Areas)
- * REMA Rescate en tus manos (Rescue In Your Hands)
- * PNC - Carrasco National Park (Carrasco National Park)
- * APA - Amboro Protected Area (Amboro Protected Area)
- * CI - Conservation International
- * WCS - Wildlife Conservation Society
- * TNC – The Nature Conservancy
- * CSF – Conservation Strategy Fund
- * Natura Bolivia
- * Local stakeholders – Prefectures (Environmental and Natural Resources Office from Cochabamba), Municipalities (Municipality of Buena Vista); OTB (Organizaciones Territoriales de Base – Local Community Organizations); OPIM (Organización del Pueblo Indígena Mosestén - Mosesten Indigenous Organization).

Summary: Period 10/01/04-31/12/04

Results by Objective and Activity

Objective I: Creating a favorable working environment by raising public local awareness regarding the Area's importance and in this way, supporting the process for the Supreme Decree ratifying the Altamachi Protected Area created by the Departmental Council of Cochabamba.

The activities of this objective are the following: a) Institutional support for CIDEDER, b) Support for the improvement of relations between promoters of the PA and neighboring populations, c) Carrying out a baseline diagnosis regarding the social conflicts and thus be able to clearly identify the information needs as well as those for conflict resolution, d) Hiring of two (2) farming and animal husbandry technicians as outreach and /or environmental promoters, e) A radio information and dissemination campaign regarding the values of the PA but also including programs of technical interest for the local population, f) Support the process to obtain legal paperwork.

The implementation of these activities has been delayed because they require close coordination with the Office for Natural Resources and the Environment of the Prefecture of Cochabamba,. However, in order to try and move forward in terms of coordinating efforts, three meetings were held with the Office for Natural Resources and the Environment during the trimester.

During the first meeting the possibility was discussed that the Prefecture, through their Office for Natural Resources and the Environment, could designate counterpart funds in order to maintain the activities of staff assigned to the Altamachi Protected Area and thus the possibility to provide continuity to its management.

The second meeting was carried out with the different organizations interested in participating in the management and consolidation of Altamachi and the following was agreed to: a) leadership would be re-taken by the Prefecture through its office for Natural Resources and the Environment and that all future meetings would be summoned by them with support from SERNAP; b) elaborate a strategic plan for interventions in Altamachi Protected Area (progress was made and there is a draft document); c) provide continuity in obtaining the Supreme Decree for its homologation and d) it was agreed that activities to be implemented need to be prioritized and for this, all organizations should submit the activities they consider important so that these can be prioritized.

A response was not received regarding the agreed upon points in the meeting except from CIDEDER which did send in its activities.

During a third meeting it was discussed how to move forward considering that no one had responded to the commitments assumed nor did anyone call for a meeting in order to follow-up on the previously agreed points. Thus, it was agreed that the Office for Natural Resources and the Environment would send in writing an alternative as to how to proceed with the management of Altamachi and that the activities proposed by CIDEDER continue. The Office for Natural Resources and the Environment considers that the only way to provide continuity would be through the creation of a Protected Area Management Unit within its office. The request for this will be presented before the departmental council.

On the other hand, a meeting was held with the Vice Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources and in which a commitment was made to provide follow-up to the Supreme Decree for Altamachi and for which the DGB and SERNAP will be forwarding him all of the pertinent information. In addition, CIDEDER also prepared two complete copies of the proposal for the Prefectura and SERNAP.

In spite of the fact that the Prefectura will not award funds for the management of the Altamachi Protected Area, WWF will support the continuity of the management with other additional funds. It is possible that the Prefecture will also maintain a low profile during the administration of the area.

Until the Prefecture expresses that it will provide continuity to the management of the Altamachi Protected Area, the elaboration of the contract for CIDEDER in order to implement the aforementioned activities is still pending.

Objective II: Participation in the planning and participation process:.

Activity 2.1.: CAM Coordinating Committee (CCCAM)

A meeting was held between Mr. Jorge Mariaca (Director, General Directorate for Biodiversity), Morris Israel (USAID), Henry Campero (WWF) and Edwin Camacho who to date has been working as the Facilitator for the CAM Coordinating Committee. Various aspects related to the organization, planning of activities and products expected during the current administration were discussed during the meeting as well as how to carry forward the commitments and the time that would be dedicated to the CAM. We were also informed that the DGB is better organizing its units and would thus be hiring additional staff and that Mr. Camacho would be heading up the Environmental Services and Ecosystems Unit with the support of two additional people. One of these individuals would be dedicated to Corridors. Thus, only at the end of the meeting we were made aware that Mr. Camacho would no longer be the Coordinator for the CCCAM. This led to a second discussion as to how to proceed in the hiring of a new coordinator.

Towards the end of 2004, a pre-selection of candidates was made known to WWF and SERNAP and the following individuals are being considered: Miguel Cardozo, Erica Fernandez and Cecilia Salinas. The final decision and hiring will take place at the end of January 2005.

On the other hand, the terms of reference for hiring the CCCAM facilitator are ready and will be adjusted during the first CCCAM meeting via an amendment to the contract.

Objective III: Education, information, and environmental awareness:.

Activity 3.1.: Hiring of staff to run the Center and guarantee its operations.

In spite of holding two meetings with the administration for Amboro Protected Area (APA) in order to implement this activity, progress was not made due to the fact that the Area's administration had many tasks, and that it was confronting invasions into the Protected Area requiring their full attention. However, the following was agreed upon: a) that the Administration for the APA would present a budget only for the administration of the Interpretation Center; b) that the APA would hire a communications person who would be responsible for providing follow-up to the Center's administration and functioning. But, it was also emphasized that any proposal regarding the functioning of the Center should wait until January 15, 2005 date upon which the Communications person would be hired and thus a clearer idea on how the Center should be administered. During one of the meetings between REMA, Director for APA and WWF a project profile from REMA was presented aiming to provide continuity to the activities and administration of the Center. Nevertheless, it was agreed that REMA would only propose the activities that they directly would develop in the Center and that regarding its administration, the APA would present a proposal. It was also agreed that REMA and the APA should sign an agreement.

Activity 3.2.: The initiation of a program for the production and sale of souvenirs from the Protected Area.

In a meeting between APA, FUNDESNAP and WWF, FUNDESNAP presented its program "Positioning, Dissemination and Commercialization" of products from the SNAP (National System for Protected Areas) under which it aims to generate income for the SNAP's protected areas. This program also includes an analysis of products, costs and commercialization. As a result of the meeting, it was agreed that FUNDESNAP develop a proposal, which they did, and was then presented to the APA and WWF. An agreement has been drafted and is being revised for its subsequent signing between SERNAP and FUNDESNAP (or at least between the APA and FUNDESNAP) for the implementation of this initiative. On the other hand, the terms of reference are ready for the elaboration of a contract between FUNDESNAP and WWF once the agreement between the APA and FUNDESNAP has progressed.

Objective III: Visualization and Identification of the Value of the Environmental Service Provided by Water Coming from Amboro and Carrasco.

For this activity, contact was made with the Fundacion Natura and the Conservation Strategy Fund (CSF) asking them to present proposals regarding a study for the Value of the Environmental Service Provided by Water Coming from Amboro and Carrasco. The proposal from CSF was finally selected. The terms of reference were jointly elaborated with CSF in order to establish the scope of the study as well as for the contract that was already signed in order for them to begin implementing the proposal.

Table of Final Accomplishments

<u>Benchmark Number</u>	<u>Benchmark/Output</u>	<u>Status*</u>
1.1.	❖ Institutional support for CIDEDER	mixed performance
1.2.	❖ Support for the improvement of relations between promoters of the PA and neighboring populations	mixed performance
1.3.	❖ Carrying out a baseline diagnosis regarding the social conflicts and thus be able to clearly identify the information needs as well as those for conflict resolution	mixed performance
1.4.	❖ Hiring of two (2) farming and animal husbandry technicians as outreach and /or environmental promoters	mixed performance
1.5.	❖ A radio information and dissemination campaign regarding the values of the PA but also including programs of technical interest for the local population	mixed performance
1.6.	❖ Support the process to obtain legal paperwork	mixed performance
2.2.	❖ CAM Coordinating Committee (CCCAM).	mixed performance
3.1.	❖ Hiring of staff to run the Center and guarantee its operations	mixed performance
3.2.	❖ The initiation of a program for the production and sale of souvenirs from the Protected Area	mixed performance
4.1.	❖ Visualization and Identification of the Value of the Environmental Service Provided by Water Coming from Amoro and Carrasco	On-track

- Status may include activities that are completed, on-track, delayed, mixed performance, or cancelled.

Project Evolution

The activities are delayed for various reasons. In the case of the Altamachi PA the cause is the lack of decision on behalf of the Cochabamba Prefecture's Office for Natural Resources and the Environment to provide continuity in the management of the PA justifying their position by indicating a lack of funding and fear of conflicts that arise primarily in the area of Cotapata. However, the problem of funding would be solved

through another source of funds obtained by WWF. It is very possible that due to the weakness being experienced by the Prefectures during this difficult time they are weary of having a high profile in managing a protected area. On the other hand it is also probable that the establishment of a Management Unit for the PA is slow and will delay even more the continuity in the management of the Altamachi Protected Area. However the verbal confirmation that CIDEDER can continue with its activities will lead to a new contract being signed and which will undoubtedly help the PA in not lowering its profile.

Regarding the activities related to the functioning of the CCCAM and the Interpretation Center, the delay is mainly due to the pace at which public institutions respond to established commitments and deadlines. In the case of the facilitator for the CCCAM, the DGB has not yet been able to evaluate the CV's received for the position. And, regarding the functioning of the Interpretation Center, the Amoro PA administration and its team have not been able to meet in order to decide upon the modality of administration for the Center.