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WWF TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT  
PART 1: GENERAL NARRATIVE REPORT

(EVERY 3 MONTHS (APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER, JANUARY), SUGGESTED LENGTH  
3-6 PAGES)

<b>Project/ Programme Title:</b>	<b>Mitigating Interethnic Land Conflict in Colombia: Securing Territory and Resource Rights in Rural Communities</b>
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- 1) **Introduction.** This section informs the reader about the project framework (Goal, Objectives, Expected results) and resumes the main issues occurred during the reporting period –context or organizational issues-.

**Rational of the intervention:**

1. **Focal area 1: Antioquia.** The Chigorodó and Mutatá Indigenous Authorities defined their comprehensive strategy to solve territorial conflicts, referred to as **Permanent invitation** (*Convite* in Spanish) **to defend and protect the land in harmony with men, women, and nature.** This strategy will serve as basis to solve the current conflicts with approximately 50 peasant settlers living within the Indigenous *Resguardos*, either before its constitution or afterwards to establish illicit crops. This strategy is directly related to the forest management strategy because it also strives to improve territorial control and reduce illegal activities, whether the illegal trade of timber or other types of resources or their banned uses.

2. **Focal area 2: Caquetá.** The priority is to reconcile peasant communities and the indigenous population, whose interests differ, striving to reach agreements about territorial conservation and management that allow the following: maintenance of the connectivity between the ‘El Portal’ Paez Indigenous *Resguardo* and the ‘Alto Fragua Indi Wasi’ Natural National Park; regulation of water sources that serve both the inhabitants of El Portal and neighbouring peasant communities, and maintenance of fauna important to the community diet.

3. **Focal area 3: Awa-Kofan conflict.** The idea is to solve the conflict caused by disputes over land titles in the affected area that is threatened by different interests.

2) **Project Successes:** Highlight the main success(es) for this reporting period, such as progress towards the project goal and objectives.

**“You can’t continue in our territory...but let’s talk”.** In an act of governance and territorial control, the Indigenous Governors and nearly 400 inhabitants of the Yaberaradó and Polines *Resguardos*, all members of the Chigorodó Major Indigenous Authority, visited communities where the Indigenous Environmental Guardians have detected recent invasions of settlers to make their presence as rightful owners of the land. The Governors assumed a firm but empathetic attitude before the impoverished peasants, who had had to flee from their homeland to indigenous territories due to other factors, and put forward the possibility of negotiate the time and conditions of their definitive departure from indigenous territories, but allowed them, for example, to gather the harvest of subsistence crops.

3) **Progress on Activities and related financial issues (compared to project indicators).** 3. a. Provide a **brief** (half page) overview of progress at the main activity level, highlighting any areas that are well behind plan (link these to any progress on internal management processes or capacity). 3. b. Quantify and explain any financial consequences related to activities (e.g. any major deviations in budget or expenditure).

Partner organizations at the three project sites have been very active during this period, streamlining action plans and budgets and preparing their working teams.

**Focal area 1: Antioquia.** Formal agreements have been signed with the Chigorodó and Mutatá Major Indigenous Authorities. The community Environmental Guard of both councils began field visits to identify and determine the extent of territorial conflicts. Meetings were held with the peasants to increase their awareness about indigenous land rights. The Guard explained the right and autonomy that the Indigenous Authorities have to control the access to their territory. In addition, as part of the strategy of **Permanent Convite to defend and protect the land in harmony with men, women, and nature**, the Embera territory of Chigorodó was peacefully occupied by 400 members of the indigenous community for the period of one week, in an act of territorial sovereignty. This act had a significant impact both within and outside the territory, achieving an initial sensitization of the regional society about the territorial problems faced by indigenous communities. After the peaceful occupation of the Yaberaradó and Polines *Resguardos*, many of the peasants and settlers have approached the Indigenous Authorities to seek an opportunity to negotiate. This is just the beginning of a series of approximations, which are expected to lead to lasting agreements.

Both the Chigorodó and Mutatá Major Indigenous Authorities defined a strategy to defend, patrol, and control their territories. As a result, both indigenous authorities established a Permanent Committee to defend their territories. The traditional authorities called upon public institutions working in the region to discuss the territorial conflict and to join efforts to solve land disputes and promote environmental actions to protect the area. The idea is to establish a roundtable with local and regional authorities to further define the strategy.

**Focal area 2: Caquetá.** Three planning meetings were held with the ‘Alto Fragua Indi Wasi’ Natural National Park, the NGO ‘Reconocer’, the ‘El Portal’ Indigenous Authority, and WWF. Due to the conflict with peasants in the area, an assessment should be conducted to identify the type of participatory process that should be conducted in this area.

**Focal area 3: Putumayo.** A work plan was completed with the Association of Indigenous Awa Authorities of Putumayo (ACIPAP). An assessment to evaluate its organizational structure and administrative capacity was completed. The work plan with the Kofan Permanent Committee is still pending due to changes in their representative structure.

**Planned activities that present arrears regarding the timetable.** The comprehensive characterization of two of the conflicts; the initiation of roundtables or dialogue and negotiation mechanisms at two project sites; the designing of training plans for one of the project sites; the identification of key actors to form Peace Committees or similar support mechanisms to solve conflicts at two project sites; application of tools of organizational and administrative self-evaluation and subsequent improvement plans at two project sites;

definition of the roles played by young people and women in the conflicts and in their sustainable negotiation at three project sites.

The **reasons** of this delay are:

- Initial difficulties to find suitable personnel to provide external support (consultants).
- The need to align the agendas of the initial visits to each site to advance in basic agreements and prepare a detailed work plan.
- The need to update information on the status of cases and their context due to the time that has gone by since project activities were initially defined until their actual execution.

To date the work plans of partner organizations indicate that it is feasible to bring activities up to date the timetable initially proposed. If further drawbacks occur, then the necessary adjustments will be made to the timetable and work plans.

4) **Problems and Constraints.** Highlight any failures, problems or constraints that have affected progress, and describe the measures taken to respond to them. List any key changes to the external environment in which the project is operating (especially where these relate to risks identified in project plan).

Operational adjustments, even regarding the approach used, were necessary in view of the differences found between the initial information available on each case and the real situation encountered once the activity began as well as the changes in context, evolution of conflicts, and situation of participating organizations.

Once the project began, there have also been drawbacks at several partner organizations due to changes in management and spokespersons that were there when the project was formulated. Fortunately, the shortcomings in internal communications evidenced have been gradually solved.

5) **Unexpected effects.** Describe any unexpected (positive or negative) consequences that have occurred as a result of the project and/ or any new opportunities that present.

The Security Plans (*Save guards Plans*) being prepared by several of the indigenous groups of Colombia, as of the Judicial Decree 004 of February 2009, are seen as an opportunity to contribute to the sustainability of actions derived from the peaceful solution of territorial conflicts. Several organizations participating in the project are specifically preparing these Plans through other processes in which they are involved: the Awa people (the ACIPAP organization), the Kofan people (the Kofan Permanent Committee), and the Mutatá and Chigorodó Major Indigenous Authorities.

A great opportunity that the project should take advantage of is the existence of the Indigenous Guardians in most of the partner organizations so that actions to solve territorial conflicts are more sustainable. In the specific case of the Mutatá and Chigorodó Major Indigenous Authorities, in the last months they have both established their Environmental Guardians, who have played a fundamental role in the characterization and understanding of the dimension of the territorial conflict.

The Chigorodó Major Indigenous Authority decided to peacefully occupy invaded lands (area of conflict between indigenous population and peasant settlers) located in the Polines and Yaberaradó *Resguardos* as an expression of their legitimate right to governance and territorial control. Despite potential reprisals that could have arisen in the area in view of the presence of illicit crops and the illegal trade of timber, the operation was successful because it opened an opportunity for dialogue between settlers and the indigenous population. It also proved to be an opportunity to show NGOs, public authorities, and human rights agencies the real dimension of the problem. The proposal is to create a permanent space for dialogue to seek comprehensive solutions.

6) **Learning and Sharing.** Describe key lessons learned, that are important to your project or that may be of use to others outside this project. They may relate to any of the following: successes, strategies adopted, challenges you are facing, surprise results, management processes, or technical understanding.

- Each case of conflict resolution must be guaranteed **permanent technical and legal assistance** in the field.

- When preparing a proposal of this nature, guidelines must be applied **to specify the dimension and intensity of the external support required**, which will depend on the current status of the conflict, installed organizational capacity, and ongoing processes that can contribute to the resolve the specific case.
- Fundamental elements to be considered before or during the initial phases of preparation of a proposal of this type: **status of the organization** in terms of leadership, divisions, or conflicts; status of the **relationships between the actors working together** to solve a conflict. In brief, are there unresolved conflicts between members of the technical teams or between actors working together?
- Even with the uncertainties inherent to a proposal being submitted to a donor for consideration, we consider that the **technical or legal support staff required by the project should be identified during the preparation process**. This way they can help scale the project regarding required competencies and resources, while establishing at least one initial demonstration of confidence and interaction with partner organizations. This creates better syntony with the essence of the project, if approved.
- As foreseen during the preparation of the project proposal, it is essential that **previous actions** have already been taken regarding target conflict cases and that **these have already been included in the organizational agendas** of key actors so that significant changes can be achieved in the situation of conflict in the short term, even with limited resources.
- A precedent condition to ensure the sustainability of specific actions directed to solve conflicts within the framework of a project of this nature is that a **strategy of peaceful conflict management** already be included in the **organization's course of action** (in its life plans, management plans or strategic plans).
- An additional financial effort should be made **during the preparation of the proposal** to hold at least one **in-person meeting with partner organizations** (especially if these are ethnic-territorial organizations) to review an advanced version of the proposal before it is referred to a potential donor. Virtual means are not the appropriate means for authorities and leaders of ethnic-territorial organizations to make their contributions. In-personal contact is an indispensable complement to the work of virtual formulation, with the advantage that advances are quickly made at a relatively low cost.

7) **Adaptive Management.** Based on your analysis of the situation and the project's progress, which project objectives and activities have been changed, or will need to be changed? Please attach latest versions of your action plan (e.g. workplan) and monitoring plan, if changes have been made.

Neither the work plan nor the monitoring plan underwent substantial adjustments during this period. It is foreseen that major adjustments will be reflected in next quarter's report when the work plans of all partner organizations are under way.

The following adjustments have been made to date:

- Given the current lack of clarity regarding the granting of land titles to ethnic territories, within the institutional framework, as well as the low possibility, according to experts, that the situation will be solved in the short term, the **expected goal in terms of number of hectares granted land titles within the territories** was adjusted based on the resolution of conflicts that hinder the process. The scope of this output was redefined: the coverage in hectares was maintained but the goal now refers to the clarification of land ownership and the building of a consensus on how to manage such areas.
- When preparing each work plan in detail, partner organizations have gradually determined the **relevance or non-relevance of forming certain mechanisms** that were in the initial proposal (for example, the negotiation tables, early warning committees) and, in their place, are proposing the consolidation of previously established mechanisms to address these conflicts, such as the Indigenous Guards, Territorial Committees, and Councils of Indigenous Authorities.
- In all cases, **capacity building events** in topics relevant to conflict resolution **will be linked to existing formation processes** in the form of workshops or seminars that complement topics already addressed in these formation processes. The flexibility and availability of consultants have been fundamental to make this much needed methodological adjustment.

- 8) **Communications/ Stories.** Highlight any actions or successes meriting communications attention e.g. positive media coverage, success stories, contacts made (such as with government), major events.

Given the advances in the area of Urabá with the Chigorodó and Mutatá Major Indigenous Authorities, the actions that these councils have carried out to date in the areas of communications and visibility should be highlighted: the different press releases to create awareness in the general public about the existing territorial conflict due to the recent invasion of their *Resguardos*; broadcasting on the Chigorodó radio stations; establishment of inter-institutional consensus-building tables; declaration of permanent *Convite*; radio blurbs; and an article published in the Dayi Drua (Our Territory) Newsletter No. 2, an informative organ of the Urabá Forest Management Program. These actions have been carried out by the two councils with the intention of not only sensitizing and informing the general public, but to also create form alliances and to find support and accompaniment of governmental organizations and international entities.

- 9) **Future Issues/ Challenges.** Highlight the 2-3 most significant issues/ challenges ahead for the project, focusing on the next 6 months, and explain how they will be addressed. (Concentrate on barriers to delivery that could lead to major changes to objectives or plans).

**Challenges:**

- Build the interest of conflicting parties to dialog and reach a concerted solution to the conflict, rather than undertaking legal actions to solve the conflict. This challenge will be addressed by offering advisory services and training with the consultant expert in conflict resolution.
- Proper handling of the situation of existence of armed actors with direct interests in maintaining the situation of conflict. Hopefully the previous experiences of each organization can be wisely combined with the suggestions of the expert consultant in conflict resolution to handle any delicate situation that may occur during the organization of activities.
- Linking members of the work teams in each project site because they come from different organizations. Detailed definition of the work plan with activities, procedures, participation, products, and specific responsibilities will help coordinate the team in field.
- Harmonization of the rhythm of project activities with that of participating organizations. Ongoing communication with partner organizations to provide timely support, correct and adjust work plans, and establish the contacts required to dynamize actions.

**Activities expected for next quarter:**

**Focal area 1: Antioquia**

- **Solution of specific conflicts:** Inter-institutional roundtables established to support Indigenous Authorities in the resolution of conflicts. Initial agreements established between the Authorities and peasant settlers that have recently entered their territories. The complete characterization of the conflict, including the role played by women and young people.
- **Capacity building:** The first training workshop in conflict resolution held with the Environmental Guardians and other members of both Indigenous Authorities. The tool to assess administrative and organizational strengthen applied in the case of the Mutatá Major Indigenous Authority. Initial activities in communications of the Permanent *Convite* strategy.
- **Early warning:** The Peace Committee reactivated with actors of the Humanitarian Inter-institutional Committee to support Indigenous Authorities in the resolution of territorial conflicts.

**Focal area 2: Caquetá**

- **Solution of specific conflicts:** Assessment completed with the participation of rural communities to define the type and scope of participation that these should have in the agreements on the management and conservation of the area that connects the 'El Portal' *Resguardo* and the Alto Fragua Indi Wasi Natural National Park. Complete characterization of the conflict, including the role played by women and young people. GIS information available for the characterization of the area and the natural resources affected by the situation of conflict.
- **Capacity strengthening:** The tool to assess for administrative and organizational self-evaluation applied with the 'El Portal' Indigenous Authority.
- **Early warning:** Potential actors for a Peace Committee or a similar early warning mechanism identified.

### Focal area 3: Putumayo

- **Solution of specific conflicts:** Complete characterization of the conflict, including the role played by women and young people. GIS information available for the characterization of the area and of the natural resources affected by the situation of conflict.
- **Capacity strengthening:** The first training workshop on conflict resolution held with members of the ACIPAP Indigenous Authority. The plan to improve this organization's organizational and administrative capacities implemented.
- **Early warning:** Potential actors for a Peace Committee or a similar early warning mechanism identified.

**10) Overall Assessment of progress.** Assess whether the project has made the expected progress against the action plan and project indicators, and whether planned the objectives will be achieved (In the early stages of a project, this will be a somewhat subjective judgement. As the project progresses, this should be based on an assessment of progress against goals and objectives and the associated indicators)

The **overall balance** indicates that, according to the initial timetable, the project currently presents delays in the execution of some activities. Of the total of 26 activities planned for the first year, nine are being executed as planned or have even advanced further than what was initially foreseen; nine other activities should initiate next quarter as planned; five present a slight delay and three a considerable delay.

Enclosed is a detailed table that monitors the **status of progress of each of the activities** proposed in the project's general work plan.



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### PART 2: MONITORING REPORT.

The enclosed Excel document presents a detailed follow-up of the **status of project goals and indicators** after five months of execution.



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