

USAID Progress Activity Report

STRENGTHENING PROTECTED AREA EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT IN PERU

Project # 527-A-00-01-00157-00 under LAG-A-00-99-00048-00

Report period: January - March 2003. WWF-PPO

I. Summary of Activity Status and Progress

a. Introductory paragraph.

This project has helped to convey to INRENA the importance of developing monitoring tools for natural protected areas (NPA) and for the national NPA system (SINANPE). With the development and institution of the Scorecard for monitoring NPA management capacity, for the first time INRENA began budgeting funds for management monitoring within NPA annual operating plans. While the tools developed through this project may be refined further in the future, a critical foundation has been laid for institutionalizing NPA monitoring within the NPA Institute (NPAI). In addition, WWF in collaboration with INRENA has been consolidating boundary demarcation and land tenure conflict resolution efforts within 8 NPA. The presence of lawyers in each NPA has been a new experience that has facilitated several concrete results, such as land tenure boundary agreements with land owners and traditional inhabitants, and the posting of boundary markers which in many cases help to reinforce the decisions made through conflict resolution efforts. Finally, the Paracas National Reserve (PNR) now has a complete conservation master plan, which establishes guidelines for hydrobiological resource extraction, one of the principal challenges facing the protected area. This plan establishes a framework for hydrobiological resource management which will help to ensure that these activities are increasingly organized and sustainable.

b. Highlights.

- The Scorecard for monitoring effective management in the SINANPE has been run twice in 49 NPAs, and reports analyzing each running have been produced.
- WWF-PPO, in coordination with Pacaya Samiria National Reserve (PSNR) personnel, established biological monitoring protocols for two of three indicators in the Reserve.
- Boundary demarcation and land tenure conflict resolution activities are being implemented satisfactorily in each of the 8 NPA. Land tenure boundary agreements have been signed, boundary markers posted, administration carried out in order to inscribe the PNR and Amarakaeri Communal Reserve in their respective public registries, and registry information gathered for all NPA.
- The PNR Master Plan has being completed and approved by INRENA, which is currently making minor revisions in terms of style and grammar in order to publish the document.
- A first version of the Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan for the PNR has been completed, which will serve as a basis for the final document, which will contain more elaborate strategies and precise financing mechanisms for the PNR.

c. Table of Activity Status

| Activity Number | Activity Title | Status | Page number for more information |
|-----------------|---|----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE | On-going | 2 |
| 2 | Land tenure issues review and conflict resolution in the SINANPE protected area network | On-going | 4 |

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| 3 | Support for strengthening the Paracas National Reserve | On-going | 5 |
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II. Detailed Description of Site Progress

a. *Key short and long-term program objectives for the site.*

Project goals will be accomplished through three main objectives:

1. Promote effective management in all 52 protected areas within the SINANPE protected area network through the development of an overall monitoring system to gauge effective management and conservation action impact.
2. Review and resolve land tenure issues and conflicts within 9* priority protected areas of the SINANPE.
3. Support the effective management of the PNR through the update of the Master Plan that defines priority conservation and threat mitigation activities and lays down a long-term financial and technical sustainability plan.

* In the original proposal, the PPO aimed to ensure that ten protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries, but due to complexities discovered through the priority-setting process this number was reduced to eight.

b. *Summary of Progress for Site* (if this provides added value or clarity, otherwise skip this)

c. *Activity Description*

i. **Activity Title : Effective management and Monitoring System of SINANPE**

ii. **Summary of major achievements and progress**

- WWF-PPO accompanied an international consultant recently hired by INRENA to develop SINANPE management indicators on two trips to the field. This close collaboration will help to ensure that Scorecard concepts are effectively integrated into the final monitoring and evaluation system that this consultant has been hired to create. These two monitoring tools, the Scorecard and the SINANPE management indicators, are highly compatible. In fact, many of the consultant's initial suggestions overlapped with concepts previously identified by the Scorecard. Accordingly, INRENA has decided to integrate the two monitoring tools described above in order to have one solid monitoring mechanism and to avoid duplicating NPA efforts and creating confusion.
- WWF-PPO visited the PSNR to make adjustments to two of the selected biological monitoring indicators: illegal activities and paiche population monitoring. For the paiche indicator, the evaluation recommends that paiche population counting methods be standardized and that confidence intervals be used for decision making, due to the difficulties in assessing paiche numbers. For the illegal activities indicator, timber extraction was determined the most pertinent activity. In coordination with the PSNR, WWF-PPO designed a preliminary action plan which emphasizes the participation of community groups in the assessment of cut timber. Activities along these lines will be implemented during the next report period to evaluate PNR indicators. The conceptual framework and proposed indicators were presented in oral and written form to USAID (January 31), and will be submitted to INRENA during the next report period, at which point it is expected that some modifications will occur.

- The framework for the Overall Monitoring System developed by WWF-PPO, which was presented to USAID January 31, has been forwarded to a team of international consultants. This team is currently exploring the possibility of working with INRENA and the monitoring group to develop a more detailed product which provides a framework for SINANPE activities. The team will work in a highly participatory manner from the outset in order to maximize efficiency. INRENA will prepare a proposal for collaborative activities during the next report period, with WWF support.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

| Benchmark Number | Benchmark/Output | Status |
|------------------|--|-----------|
| 1.1 | Implementation of scorecard to Monitor Effective Management | |
| 1.1.1 | Validated and approved protected area management monitoring scorecard | Completed |
| 1.1.2 | Scorecard implementation plan and timetable for all SINANPE protected areas | Completed |
| 1.1.3 | Baseline data (year 2001) of all SINANPE protected areas based on scorecard application | Completed |
| 1.2 | Biological Monitoring System Complete | |
| 1.2.1 | Completion of a set of preliminary indicator species, communities and ecological processes | Completed |
| 1.2.2 | Completion of variable and indicator monitoring protocols | On-track |
| 1.3 | Overall Monitoring System Complete | |
| 1.3.1 | Completion of SINANPE Overall Monitoring System | On-track |
| 1.3.2 | Implementation of Overall Monitoring System and activities timetable | Pending |

iv. Key management issues

- Currently, as mentioned above, the INPA is developing management indicators and a monitoring scheme for the SINANPE at the national level through a separate project. Integrating WWF and INPA project efforts will result in a system that includes both tools for monitoring management at the NPA area and SINANPE level, and incorporates indicators of management impact on the areas through biological monitoring.

i. Activity Title : Land Tenure Issues Review and Conflict Resolution in the SINANPE Protected Area Network

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- During this report period, WWF-PPO has continued working in the four previously selected areas, as well as in four additional ones. Lawyers are still in the field supporting these efforts, and have developed several activities achieving concrete products:
 - **Bosque de Pomac Historic Sanctuary:** WWF-PPO identified indigenous community territories located around the NPA and documented their legal status in order to begin the process of developing corresponding land tenure boundary agreements.
 - **Bahuaja Sonene National Park and Tambopata National Reserve:** WWF-PPO posted a boundary marker on the right bank of the Malinowsky River, identified property owners and inhabitants within the NPA, and prepared legal recommendations regarding next steps for INRENA.

- **Paracas National Reserve:** WWF-PPO completed the administration necessary to inscribe the NPA with the public registry office, and is currently in the process of responding to observations made by the office in order to complete the administrative process. WWF-PPO has also identified property owners within the reserve, has inscribed conservation easements in the Pisco public registry, and has financed buoy posting and the painting of boundary markers in the northern limit of the Reserve.
- **Río Abiseo National Park:** WWF-PPO provided the park with all relevant land tenure boundary agreements, tools critical to ensuring that its boundaries are preserved.
- **Amarakaeri Communal Reserve:** WWF-PPO has helped to prepare land tenure boundary agreements with three indigenous communities along the NPA boundary, and posting of boundary markers is underway. WWF-PPO also completed the technical dossier necessary to inscribe the NPA in the public registry.
- **Alto Purús Reserved Zone:** WWF-PPO has completed the necessary informational searches in Ucayali's public registries and has identified the indigenous communities that border the Reserved Zone. Due to the Reserved Zone status of the area, no more boundary demarcation/land tenure conflict resolution activities can be conducted until the area receives its final categorization.
- **Pacaya Samiria National Reserve:** In this area, principal conflicts are with illegal loggers, as most communities are located outside of the NPA. To combat this threat, two security and control posts have been constructed in the area and two community management groups have been strengthened in order to support Reserve security patrolling efforts.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

| Benchmark Number | Benchmark/Output | Status |
|------------------|---|----------------------|
| 2.1 | Digitalized maps and ground-truthing implementation plan of SINANPE | On-track |
| 2.2 | At least 8 protected areas have defined and demarcated boundaries | On-track |
| 2.3 | Protected area land tenure conflict resolution agreement documents | On-track |
| 2.4 | Omnibus bill final draft | Pending ¹ |

iv. Key management issues

- The difficulty in finding institutions that are able to complete ground-truthing activities with the precision necessary for this boundary demarcation work has generated delays in field work and map preparation. Nevertheless, contact has now been made with the National Cadastre and Mining Concessions Institute, and this organization has agreed to conduct these activities. All further NPA work will be completed by the next reporting period.

i. Activity Title : Support for Strengthening of the Paracas National Reserve

ii. Summary of major achievements and progress

- INRENA revised and officially approved the PNR conservation master plan through legislation R.J. N°465-2002-INRENA, and is currently revising the document's style, grammar, and maps, without altering the technical content of the document. Printing and publication of the document will be completed in the next report period.

¹ The final draft of the omnibus bill remains pending because its content will depend on the results of the land tenure issues review and conflict management activities currently being conducted by the PPO, as well as on the results of similar activities being conducted by INRENA and other organizations in other NPAs. This product will likely be delivered towards the end of the project.

- A WWF-PPO consultant has compiled considerable baseline information, completed extensive field work, and developed a draft proposal that includes information necessary for the PNR Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan. In combination with the conservation master plan recently approved by INRENA, this document will facilitate the development of the finished financial plan during the next report period.

iii. Table of progress in meeting key activity benchmarks

| Benchmark Number | Benchmark/Output | Status* |
|-------------------------|---|----------------|
| 3.1 | Technical Team hired | Completed |
| 3.2 | Paracas National Reserve Master Plan consulted, validated, and approved by DGANP/INRENA | Completed |
| 3.3 | Financial and Technical Sustainability Plan (FTSP) validated and approved | On-track |
| 3.4 | Paracas National Reserve Master Plan and FTSP published and disseminated | On-track |

iv. Key management issues

- As the financial sustainability plan for the PNR is closely linked with the conservation master plan in terms of strategies and activities, the development of this plan has encountered some delays. Since the final conservation master plan has already been approved, the PNR's financing strategies will be finalized in the next report period.

III. Success Stories and Other Appendices

When appropriate and possible, include one or more one-page success stories appropriate for public dissemination.