

The Ecuadorian Awa Territory: Protecting Habitat Biodiversity

Quarterly Progress Report

Project period: 1 October 2001-30 September 2004
Period covered by report: 1 October – 30 December 2003
Project executors: WWF Colombia
Altrópico Foundation
Ecuadorian Federation of Awa Centres (FCAE, its Spanish acronym)
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Date of report: 21 January 2004

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 organisations 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. Summary of the Status of Project Activities and Advances

This project was due to finalize on 30 September 2003. The delay in the execution of two important activities guided us to ask for an extension in time, which was positively attended by USAID. The new project deadline is September 30 2004.

This quarterly report is entirely dedicated to the activities related with two goals:

Goal 2a: *Appropriate decisions can be made about forest programs based on the information generated by feasibility studies and market surveys, specifically on the establishment of a training and transformation centre in San Lorenzo.* The team consultant submitted the final report of the feasibility study at the end of the previous period. From October to December the report was reviewed by the project’s co-funding and co-executing entities, and some comments were interchanged. WWF recommendation to FCAE is to complete the study in order to take a sustainable decision: there are some information gaps related to the actual demand for processed timber products; also the Forestry Potential of Awa Territory, a survey carried on by Jatun Sacha with CAIMAN project, has to be considered for the feasibility of the transformation centre in San Lorenzo; the final report from Jatun Sacha is going to be available in January 2004.

Goal 3: *To define the financial, technical, and sociocultural viability of the FCAE Rio Bogotá Biology Station.* The final document with the requested clarifications was submitted in November, and some comments were interchanged between WWF, USAID, FCAE and Altrópico. A decision can be taken now based on the feasibility study report, but we have been informed that two other feasibility studies have been carried by CAIMAN project in this same issue of ecotourism; WWF is afraid a new overlap is going on; we are proposing a meeting in Ecuador in January with USAID, FCAE and Altrópico to clarify and make decisions.

Next execution period will be mainly dedicated to decide how to best invest remaining resources and do the correspondent framework.

C. Specific products obtained during this period of project implementation

Project products include the following:

- The feasibility study for the FCAE Rio Bogotá Research and Ecotourism Facilities, with complementary comments from WWF y clarifications from FCAE.
- Preliminary report on feasibility of the establishment of a training and timber transformation centre in San Lorenzo, with comments from WWF.D.

C. Details of Activities Carried Out during the Reporting Period and Final Status of Goals

Proposed by the USAID Project

Objective 1: Completed during previous project phase.

Objective 2: Building the capacity of local organisations so the can channel resource management problems.

Goal to 30 September 2003	Final status to 30 September 2003	Current Status to December 30 2003	Observations
<p>Goal 2: To promote forest management and certification.</p> <p>2a. Appropriate decisions can be made about forest programs based on the information generated by feasibility studies and market surveys. Specifically, basic information on the financial and sociocultural convenience of the training and transformation centre will facilitate decision-making.</p>	<p>2a. Goal met in 70%: The team responsible for conducting the feasibility study for the forest management program and the company carried out 70% of the studies, and submitted the preliminary report for review of FCAE, the Altrópico Foundation, USAID, and WWF.</p> <p>The 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 centre were carried out, together with community meetings to define mechanisms to ensure equitable distribution of the income generated.</p>	In progress	<p>2a. The feasibility study includes historical and cultural studies, a market survey, a financial feasibility study; it contains valuable figures, data and information, but has to be complete in some aspects: WWF recommend to FCAE to complete the study over the actual market demand for processed timber products, and take in account the results from the forestry potential in Awa Territory that is being carry by Jatun Sacha, and is going to give the panorama over the raw material offer.</p> <p>NOTE: This forest management component had complementary activities funded by USAID's CAIMAN project. WWF-Colombia does not know the details of the activities carried out under the framework of that project, but assumes that the scope of the goals of both projects is closely related.</p>
<p>Goal 3: To define the viability of the FCAE Rio Bogotá Biology Station or Research and Community Ecotourism Centre.</p>	<p>3. The consultant and the FCAE team submitted to WWF and USAID the preliminary report on the feasibility of establishing a biology station in central Rio Bogotá and the new project: establishment of a community research and ecotourism centre. The report was revised and feedback provided with recommendations on what issues should be dealt with in more detail. A second version was submitted, partially adhering to the recommendations given by WWF to improve the study. Pertinent decisions will be made once the final document is ready.</p>	In progress	<p>3. WWF and USAID have received the final report solving the recommendations in the analysis of the project's cultural and social feasibility. A meeting will be held in January with FCAE, Altrópico and USAID to take decisions.</p> <p>NOTE: This ecotourism component had complementary activities funded by USAID's CAIMAN project. WWF-Colombia does not know the details of the activities carried out under the framework of that project, but assumes that the scope of the goals of both projects is closely related.</p>

E. Difficulties encountered during project development this reporting period

No difficulties.