



## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

SEPTEMBER 2003



*USAID's climate change activities in Bolivia promote sustainable land use and forestry management practices, improve the management of parks and protected areas, and support redesign of industrial production processes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Local capacity building, training, and public-private partnerships that promote environmental and resource protection are important strategies in these endeavors.*

**Background.** In recent decades, Bolivia has made significant progress in overcoming its long history of political and economic instability. Among the gains are 20 uninterrupted years of democracy and 17 years of far-reaching, fundamental economic reforms. USAID has closely supported this process through its development assistance program and continuous policy dialogue. However, problems still exist in areas such as poverty; infant, child, and maternal mortality; narcotics trafficking; and environmental degradation.

With regard to the environment, land tenure and water rights are becoming the most contentious issues in rural areas, occasionally leading to deadly violence. Sustainable management of natural resources, including forests and protected areas, is essential to addressing challenges of poverty and economic growth.

**Sector-Specific Climate Change Activities.** USAID focuses its resources in Bolivia on technical assistance and training to:

- Promote sustainable forest management through trade in forest products
- Improve park and protected area management, fostering participation to create local benefits (particularly through tourism)
- Help Bolivian industries implement cleaner production practices and become more efficient, competitive, and less polluting

*Enabling Sustainable and Climate-Friendly Natural Resource Management Through Capacity Building.* USAID/Bolivia supports diverse capacity-building and training activities that simultaneously foster sustainable land use and forestry management practices while conserving carbon stocks. These activities include training in:

- Improved forestry techniques for indigenous organizations, non-indigenous community groups, and municipal forest units
- Improved land use planning for a 500,000-hectare indigenous territory managed by the Tacana Indigenous Council
- Protected area management for groups managing the areas
- Climate change negotiations through Bolivia's Programa Nacional de Cambios Climaticos, or National Climate Change Program, located in the Ministry of Sustainable Development
- Greenhouse gas emissions inventory using Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change methods and guidelines

**USAID's partners in climate change activities in Bolivia include\*:**

- Agrupaciones Sociales de Lugar
- Bolivia's National Chamber of Industries
- Capitanía del Alto y Bajo Izozog (CABI)
- Centro Amazonico de Desarrollo Forestal (CADEFOR)
- Centro Integrado para la Defensa Ecológica y el Desarrollo Rural (CIDEDER)
- Cochabamba departmental government
- Conservation International (CI)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Protección del Medio Ambiente de Tarija (PROMETA)
- Tacana Indigenous Council
- Territorios Comunitarios de Origen
- Tropico
- Wildlife Conservancy Society (WCS)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

\* Because partners change as new activities arise, this list of partners is not comprehensive.

*Addressing Climate Change Through Protected Areas Management.* In Bolivia, more than 12 million hectares of forest and protected areas – an area the size of Alabama – are under approved management plans. As a result of changes catalyzed with USAID support, Bolivia remains the global leader in commercial tropical forests internationally and voluntarily certified as well managed. For example, with USAID assistance, the local nongovernmental organization Tropico provides technical support for the 800,000-hectare Eduardo Avaroa Reserve, the most important protected area in the high Andes. Furthermore, USAID-supported park management for the Kaa Iya National Park by Capitanía del Alto y Bajo Izozog helps to control illegal activities by the army, poachers, and farmers.

*Policies That Increase Community Ownership and Stewardship of Resources.* The 1996 Forestry Law, for which the USAID/Bolivia Sustainable Forestry Program is largely responsible, has democratized access rights to forest resources. Before the law, 180 private firms or individuals had rights to all of Bolivia's forests. Now, tens of thousands of rural communities empowered by this law hold these rights and have increased control and ownership over the surrounding forest resources. This program continues to make impressive gains, increasing the number of hectares under the management of rural farmer organizations and indigenous groups each year. Municipal organizations now manage 943,715 hectares of forest. Rural farmer organizations that now manage 499,309 hectares saw a 64% increase in managed area from 2001 to 2002. Similarly, indigenous groups saw a 44% increase in managed area – from 308,765 to 444,406 hectares – over the same period. Thirteen municipal forest reserves have been established, totaling 681,765 hectares. As part of its assistance to ensure smooth transition from the old to new land tenure regime, USAID has provided support in establishing clear titles to more than 7.6 million hectares of forestlands; helped resolve conflicts related to illegal land seizures; and improved previously confrontational relations among indigenous groups and lumber companies.

*Cleaner Production to Avoid Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improve Environmental Health.* The USAID-supported Center for the Promotion of Sustainable Technologies (CPTS) is a partnership with Bolivia's National Chamber of Industries. CPTS works with industry to redesign their production processes, simultaneously reducing costs, inefficiencies, and pollution. In 2002, 31 industrial plants began applying cleaner production approaches, up from 23 in 2000. The environmental, economic, and health impacts are impressive. In 2001, CPTS interventions resulted in a reduction in water consumption by sugar mills of 3,800,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year, the equivalent of two months of water consumption in the city of La Paz. With regard to water quality, the program also reduced organic discharge by 3,800 tons of chemical oxygen demand/year, the equivalent of the annual discharge of a city of 100,000 inhabitants.

*Public-Private Partnerships.* Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of

Government developed the Roy Family Award to recognize public-private partnerships that enhance the environment or protect natural resources of unique value. After a rigorous review of nominations from around the world, Harvard unanimously selected Bolivia's Noel Kempff Mercado National Park Climate Action Program as the first recipient of this award. This 30-year partnership was selected because it conserves biological diversity, promotes sustainable micro-enterprise development, and is replicable. This climate action program is a direct result of four years of USAID support through the Parks in Peril Program.<sup>1</sup> It is just one example of USAID's many successes in Bolivia.

For more information on USAID's climate change activities in Bolivia, visit the USAID Web site at:

- <http://www.usaid.gov>

<sup>1</sup> Parks in Peril (PiP) is a \$30 million park project aimed at improving the management of Latin American and Caribbean parks that contain globally significant biodiversity. The project works strategically to strengthen environmental policy, and builds partnerships and alliances for conservation. The program is implemented in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy.