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USAID AMAZON CONSERVATION REPORT: FISCAL YEAR 2008



APRIL 2009

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COVER PHOTO: Marking Waorani boundaries—Waorani community representative with territory sign during the territory demarcation process. A total of 84.2 km of territorial boundaries were demarcated by NAWE and ECOLEX under an agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) using USAID funds. Credit: Gosia Bryja (WCS), July 2008.

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OVERVIEW

AMAZON IN THE NEWS

The Amazon Basin, with its tremendous natural bounty, cultural diversity, and political complexity, featured in a number of prominent news stories during 2008. Over the course of the year, two Amazon countries – Bolivia and Ecuador – adopted new constitutions. On the border between Peru and Brazil, photographs of an “uncontacted” indigenous community confirmed the existence of such groups and provided extra impetus to organizations involved in efforts to protect areas on their behalf. Researchers documented the remains of an extensive, ancient urban landscape in the midst of the “pristine” western Amazon. A survey article in the journal *Science* reported that forests of the region “are a key but poorly understood component of the global carbon cycle” with the potential to “accelerate climate change” if the regional trend toward drying continues. Expanded infrastructure development fanned further debate regarding the best way to achieve national economic priorities without unduly impacting underrepresented cultural groups or degrading the natural resource base.

USAID ASSISTANCE

Working together in Fiscal Year 2008 (FY 2008), USAID and its regional and bilateral partners achieved important and lasting conservation results. Notable achievements included creating new protected and indigenous areas, supporting partnerships across national boundaries and establishing formal collaborations with host country government agencies. USAID funding helped to empower Amazonian citizens to enhance conservation and development programs through their voices, votes, technical expertise and vision of a healthy and sustainable future for the region.

This annual report describes USAID’s investment of US \$28,435,000 to reduce threats to biological diversity and to promote sustainable development in the Amazon region from October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008. The report begins with a description of the regional Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA), which supports activities in the Amazon regions of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. This section is followed by an overview of each of the Agency’s national-level, bilateral programs for biodiversity conservation in the Amazon. The latter are funded and managed by a USAID Mission or field office in a particular country. Table 1 summarizes the funds obligated to the various USAID Amazon programs.

Table 1. USAID Amazon Conservation Obligations in FY 2008 (US \$)

Program	Obligations	Distribution Percentage
ICAA	11,500,000	40
Brazil	9,000,000	32
Bolivia	2,380,000	8
Colombia	1,200,000	4
Ecuador	1,355,000	5
Peru	3,000,000	11
Total	28,435,000	100

REGIONAL PROGRAM

INITIATIVE FOR CONSERVATION IN THE ANDEAN AMAZON (ICAA)

BUILDING CONSERVATION CONSTITUENCIES ACROSS BORDERS (US \$11,500,000)

USAID's Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA) is a multi-year (2006-2011) regional project. It is managed by USAID's Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau, working in close coordination with USAID Missions in the Andean Amazon. Geographically, ICAA is focused on the Amazon regions of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. Beyond sharing a common language and cultural patrimony, this area includes globally unique resources and ecosystem services that are important to local, regional and global climate, health and economies. ICAA aims to raise the profile and increase the success of Andean Amazon conservation activities through alliances among governmental and civil society partners, including indigenous and other local organizations. ICAA builds upon and complements the long-standing successes of other USAID bilateral programs in the region which have also focused on conservation-related challenges. ICAA's objectives include the following:

- Promoting a regional approach to conservation and economic development in the Andean Amazon,
- Broadening participation in decision-making for Amazon Basin natural resources,
- Building capacities and partnerships for land management and policy implementation for diverse stakeholder organizations, especially conservation and indigenous organizations, and
- Leveraging sustainable financing through alliances with the private-sector.

ICAA's partners are organized into four field-based, conservation-oriented consortia and one Support Unit. By supporting collaboration among the 20 partner organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), indigenous organizations, scientific institutions, universities, and government agencies, ICAA aims to create a whole that is much greater than the sum of its parts.

Illustrative results from FY 2008 include the following:

Strengthening indigenous organizations: With USAID funding, several Peruvian indigenous communities were better able to respond to new and increasing pressures on indigenous territories and resources through redefined and strengthened regulations about territorial use. ICAA support for the mapping of current land uses strengthened indigenous leaders' negotiating position with government agencies tasked with responsibilities related to land tenure and the protection of indigenous groups in voluntary isolation. With training in organizational



In June, the Cofán Survival Foundation traveled to the San Rafael waterfall area with an advisor to the Minister of Electricity. ICAA is supporting efforts by the Cofán to better participate in decision making related to the hydroelectric plant proposed for the waterfall area.

Credit: Anaí Asar.

development and land management practices, indigenous leaders from indigenous organizations and federations became more effective negotiators for secure land rights and protection of indigenous groups who have been living in voluntary isolation.

Consolidating indigenous land titles: ICAA support for legal assistance to Bolivian indigenous organizations contributed to the awarding of land titles for 24,250 hectares of Lecos and approximately 16,000 hectares of Takana indigenous territory. Consolidating land title is an important step in conserving biodiversity because it helps to stabilize land management and slow deforestation resulting from uncontrolled settlement. ICAA also supported efforts by Cofán organizations in Ecuador to respond to concerns from non-indigenous stakeholders about a 2007 transfer of land title to the Cofán. Using a variety of conflict resolution approaches, the organizations forged good will with adjacent municipalities. In addition, municipal authorities chose to create a new 70,000-hectare municipal conservation reserve.

Improving forest management: In Peru, ICAA provided a group of reforestation concession holders with intensive training. They learned about forest inventory techniques, development of forest management plans, management of natural regeneration, efficient utilization of non-timber resources and reduced-impact logging techniques. ICAA investments resulted in the development of 37 forest management plans and more efficient concession management.

Cross-consortia collaboration: ICAA consortia have brought together their diverse expertise to focus on opportunities for improved territorial management and challenges posed by infrastructure development. In Ecuador, consortia led by The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society are collaborating to analyze the change in land-use patterns in the Cofán territories from 1990 to 2000 and 2008 in order to develop models of land use for the next 30 years. The aim is to help the Cofán people improve management of their territories by convincing government officials and future Cofán collaborators of the importance of Cofán presence in the landscape. On infrastructure issues, all of the ICAA consortia have engaged in educational dialogue and skill building with other Amazonian NGOs, government agencies and financial institutions to strengthen the environmental and social oversight of infrastructure projects, particularly those related to the Interoceanic Highway.

Learn more about ICAA at: <http://www.amazonia-andina.org>

COUNTRY-LEVEL PROGRAMS

BOLIVIA

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS LANDSCAPES AND IMPROVING FORESTRY MANAGEMENT (US \$2,380,000)

USAID/Bolivia's Landscape Conservation Program works to conserve a biologically significant corridor, Amboró-Madidi, which is located on the eastern slopes of the Andes. By developing economic incentives for communities and municipalities, the program encourages the adoption of more sustainable natural resource management practices. The program has a special focus on indigenous and rural communities.

Illustrative results from FY 2008 include the following:

Expanding the area of municipal protected reserves:

Through USAID assistance, municipal government staff have improved their skills in local planning, territorial management, and economic development. Local government has created an additional municipal protected area, Los Santos Reyes, which is adjacent to the Santa Rosa de Yacuma reserve that was developed in FY 2007. The new reserve is more than 500,000 hectares in size and extends the total protected hectares in this biodiversity-rich area to more than 1.1 million.

Promoting protected area co-management: For two protected areas within the Amboró- Madidi Corridor, Apolobamba and Pilón Lajas, USAID has supported the development of co-management models in which indigenous groups and government share responsibilities for governance and land management.

Enhancing conservation-friendly planning and financing: USAID supported the creation of a "Green Fund" by the Federation of Municipal Associations of Bolivia (Federación de Asociaciones Municipales de Bolivia). This national-level fund promotes municipal investments in conservation-friendly, municipally managed programs and has already leveraged both municipal and donor funds for specific activities.

Promoting Bolivian ecotourism: USAID and others sponsored and promoted the highly successful Third National Summit on Ecotourism in Bolivia. One hundred and fifty ecotourism initiatives representatives and government officials from across the country attended this event. With USAID assistance, the Vice-Ministry of Tourism was able to produce and distribute a new Ecotourism Guide summarizing Bolivia's attractions for international and Bolivian nature tourists.

In the forestry sector, USAID/Bolivia has improved regulatory oversight and business norms, expanded exports and jobs, and increased community benefits. Highlights in 2008 from the Bolivian Amazon include:

Developing a biodiversity monitoring system: To provide rigorous data for the Bolivian sustainable forest management model, USAID supported a monitoring system that analyzes the population level of birds,



Indigenous leaders work with WCS/Bolivia to develop management plans for indigenous territories in the Madidi landscape. Credit: Tomas Silicuana.

amphibians and reptiles in harvested and unharvested areas of managed forest lands. Initial findings indicate that the populations of these species have not declined in harvested areas.

Increasing competitiveness along the wood production chain: USAID has promoted commercial alliances between different stakeholders with the aim of incorporating indigenous communities into the forestry economy at the local, regional, and national market levels. Activities have focused on fair trade and corporate social responsibility principles. With assistance from a private sector company, one indigenous community achieved independent third party certification and several indigenous communities were able to sign contracts for certified products worth more than US \$800,000.

Learn more about USAID/Bolivia's environmental activities: <http://bolivia.usaid.gov/>

BRAZIL

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS DEVELOPMENT (US \$9,000,000)

The USAID/Brazil Environment Program contributes to the Government of Brazil's goals of reducing deforestation while promoting sustainable economic growth. In FY 2008, USAID/Brazil supported 25 NGO partners to achieve the following key results:

Improving natural resource management: Working with the indigenous Baú communities on certification processes for Brazil nut and oil production on their territorial lands, USAID helped to improve land management and monitoring on more than 2,500,000 hectares in the Amazonian State of Pará.



A member of the "Chico Mendes" Extractive Reserve Association in the State of Acre, Brazil, demonstrates how to produce rubber by the "liquid smoke" technique. "Chico Mendes," supported by USAID/Brazil's partners, has signed contracts to sell its rubber to national and foreign companies.
Credit: Alberto Tavares, WWF/Brazil.



Members of national forest advisory councils participate in a Tropical Forest Institute course for decision-makers at the Cauaxi Training Center, State of Pará, Brazil.

Credit: Michelle Zweede, USFS.

Providing extensive, diverse training: USAID partners trained nearly 1,200 people, including highly specialized researchers and local community entrepreneurs. Topics included sustainable agricultural production, community forest management, natural resources management, conservation of biodiversity, and community development. (See photo above.)

Increasing market access: Working with women's associations and community producer organizations, USAID funded the development of marketing plans, markets and trade agreements, as well as training on managerial and technical issues for forest products. Through these efforts, USAID facilitated greater access to markets for local cooperatives of small rural sustainable forest product producers who live in and around forest areas. (See photo at left.)

Learn more about USAID/Brazil's environmental activities: <http://brazil.usaid.gov>

COLOMBIA

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE FOR BUFFER ZONE INDIGENOUS GROUPS VIA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (US \$1,200,000)

To address threats to the Colombian Amazon and its peoples, USAID/Colombia promotes the sustainable use of natural resources in the buffer zone of the Alto Fragua-Indi Wasi National Park and the nearby “Piedemonte Amazonico” area. USAID supports the work of partners who are helping indigenous communities from four ethnic groups in southern Colombia (Caquetá, Cauca, and Putumayo Departments). The program’s main goals are to build the resource management capacity of stakeholders and offer economic alternatives to unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.

In addition to implementing the buffer zone program in FY 2008, USAID engaged in an intense planning process with the Government of Colombia’s National Parks Unit and other conservation stakeholders to develop a US \$11 million protected areas program. The program, to be launched in 2009, will focus on improving environmentally sustainable livelihoods, strengthening community participation in conservation, and building institutional capacity. Activities will be implemented in many of the same areas as previous USAID/Colombia Amazonian activities.

Illustrative results in FY 2008 include the following:

Strengthening indigenous governance: USAID activities focused on strengthening the capacity of indigenous communities in the Alto Fragua-Indi Wasi area in southern Colombia to develop and implement their Community Life Plans. The program also helped local mayors and governors to better understand national-level indigenous legislation and rights. In addition, USAID supported the development of institutional education plans by indigenous communities. In the “Piedemonte Amazonico” area, the program training emphasized indigenous community self-identity, socio-cultural and economic development, and more effective indigenous engagement with elected officials and other indigenous communities and organizations.

Enhancing conservation areas: Work included establishment of municipal protected areas, mapping, and implementation of land management plans. With USAID support, the National Park Agency, the Municipality of Belén de Los Andaquíes and neighboring farming communities collaborated on the establishment of a 457-hectare municipal protected area. In the “Piedemonte Amazonico” area, the program mapped 11,000 hectares of indigenous conservation areas. In addition, the program worked with indigenous communities in the “Piedemonte Amazonico” and Alto Fragua-Indi Wasi areas to develop and implement community-level natural resource management plans and Territorial Management Plans.

Expanding environmentally sustainable livelihoods: In the Alto Fragua-Indi Wasi area, USAID worked with indigenous and nearby farmer groups to strengthen their capacity to manage agroforestry and agriculture activities. The agroforestry activities were on community and family plots. Small-scale agricultural improvements focused on cacao cultivation, forage plots for cattle, small-scale sugar cane, and improved infrastructure for chickens, pigs, and guinea pigs. USAID also collaborated with the National Park Agency and the World Wildlife Fund to develop local-level, eco-tourism initiatives and helped an indigenous women’s association to improve the marketing of their artisan products.

Learn more about USAID/Colombia’s environmental activities: <http://colombia.usaid.gov/>

ECUADOR

CONSERVING INDIGENOUS LAND AND RIGHTS (US \$1,355,000)

Because the majority of Ecuador's Amazon territory is managed by indigenous communities, USAID/Ecuador focuses on helping these groups to maintain their traditional way of life. Activities are aimed at capacity building, land tenure and management rights, policy incentives, economic opportunities and partnerships to assist territorial management. USAID also supports efforts to strengthen bi-national links and promote conflict management and mitigation between Cofán indigenous groups on both sides of the Ecuador-Colombia border.

Illustrative results in FY 2008 include the following:

Supporting indigenous land management: USAID activities contributed to improved management on 424,159 hectares of indigenous territory. Waorani, Kichua and Cofán indigenous groups secured land rights and tenure, demarcated vulnerable boundaries, and established participatory surveillance systems at entry points. With USAID assistance, neighboring Waorani and Kichua developed consensus agreements to resolve land disputes. The Waorani initiated their first community mapping exercise with 5 communities controlling 60,000 hectares.

Mitigating cross-border conflict: With USAID support, the Cofán have begun to develop a bi-national Cofán Organization. Participating indigenous groups have hired a conflict management specialist and received project assistance in areas such as alliances with local governments, internal and external communications, territorial defense strategies, and early-warning programs to respond to armed incursions or other emergencies. Dozens of representatives from Ecuadorian and Colombian Cofán federations met three times, along with government, UN and NGO representatives, to plan a unified bi-national Cofán association.

Expanding benefits and increasing skills: Through USAID programs, a total of 1,745 indigenous people benefited from new economic activities in handicrafts, ecotourism and agroforestry, and more than 112 indigenous people have been trained in wildlife monitoring, GIS, control and surveillance, and conflict management. Three Kichua communities have improved their surveillance and control sites and contracted 6 community park guards to work along the Tiputini River.

Learn more about USAID/Ecuador's environmental activities: <http://ecuador.usaid.gov/>



Waorani Community Mapping: Anthony Stocks (WCS) training Waorani mapping technicians and community guards in compass use at Waorani community of Keweriono. Credit: Gosia Bryja (WCS).

PERU

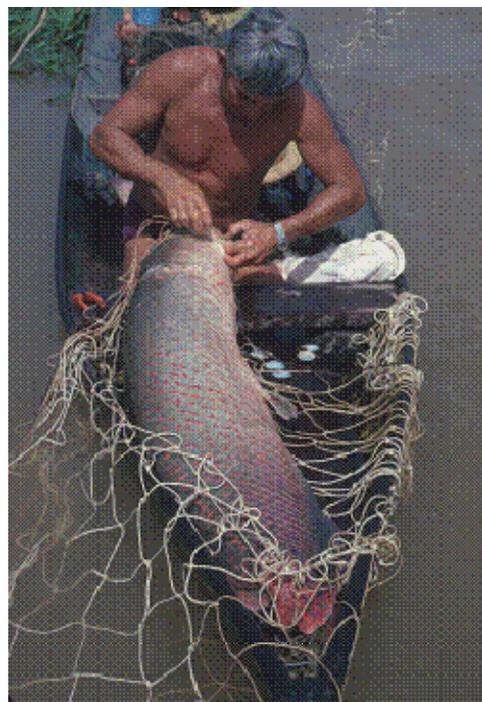
REFORMING THE FORESTRY SECTOR AND CREATING INCENTIVES FOR CONSERVATION (US \$3,000,000)

USAID/Peru aims to reduce poverty through trade-led growth while conserving biodiversity and ensuring that Peru's environmental management complies with national laws and international commitments (e.g., the environmental chapter of the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement). In FY 2008, USAID helped Peru to establish trade-based incentives for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and disincentives for illicit activities that harm the environment. In addition, USAID/Peru strengthened the capacity of environmental authorities at the national and local levels.

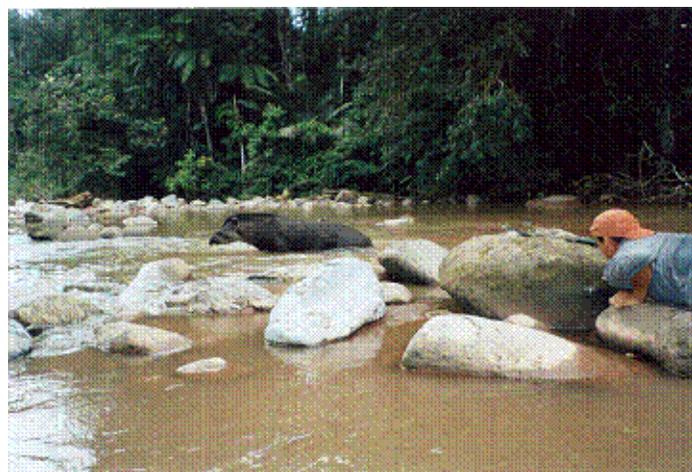
Illustrative results in FY 2008 include the following:

Strengthening natural resource oversight: With technical assistance from USAID, the Government of Peru issued four new laws and regulations which improve the management of natural resources. USAID/Peru supported the National Institute of Natural Resources' (INRENA's) ongoing effort to strengthen its oversight and monitoring of forest concessions and improve its natural protected areas management capacity.

Supporting international forest certification: USAID/Peru renewed technical assistance for the international certification of sustainably managed forests in Peru's Amazon basin by assisting seven initiatives from private sector companies and indigenous communities to gain certification. The area under improved natural resources management since FY 2006 totals 653,632 hectares. USAID helped evaluate all voluntary forest certification applications submitted by forest



A fisherman and recipient of USAID technical assistance on sustainable production of *paiche* (*Arapaima gigas*).
Credit: Jefatura PNCAZ/INRENA.



The Cordillera Azul National Park protects species such as the tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*), which is listed as vulnerable under Appendix II of CITES.
Credit: Jefatura RNPS/INRENA.

concessionaires and indigenous communities to the Government as a required first step for obtaining certification. To strengthen and expand Amazon forest certification as a means to combat illegal logging, USAID/Peru also entered into a Global Development Alliance agreement with the World Wildlife Fund.

Increasing benefits from sustainable natural resource management: With USAID assistance, INRENA trained 79 members of its staff on natural resources management and provided technical assistance to 2,010 beneficiaries in order to increase their economic benefits from sustainable natural resource management. These beneficiaries signed natural resources management contracts and committed themselves to implementing sustainable practices for raising Amazonian

fish or collecting various forest products, such as *paiche*, *aguaje*, and Brazil nuts, within the Pacaya Samiria (Loreto) and Tambopata (Madre de Dios) National Reserves.

Creating new alliances: In August 2008, USAID signed a cooperative agreement and Global Development Alliance with The Field Museum of Natural History of Chicago to support the Cordillera Azul National Park. The alliance partners include USAID, The Field Museum, a local NGO and two international charitable foundations (i.e., John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation). The program will protect the spectacular biological diversity of Cordillera Azul National Park and ensure sustained funding for long-term management of the Park.

Learn more about USAID/Peru's environmental activities: <http://peru.usaid.gov/>



Bolivian montane forests in the Madidi protected area are threatened by road proposals. The Wildlife Conservation Society and Conservation Strategy Fund have carried out an economic cost/benefit analysis to evaluate the impact of proposed roads on protected areas in the region.

Credit :Robert Wallace of WCS.

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