

Results in PROARCA/CAPAS

October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001

Guatemala, September 2001

PROARCA/CAPAS

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Acerca de esta publicación

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Las opiniones e ideas presentadas aquí no son necesariamente respaldadas por USAID, PROARCA/CAPAS, o CCAD, ni representan sus políticas oficiales.

About this publication

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**Results in PROARCA/CAPAS
October 1, 2000 - September 30, 2001**

Benchmark	Target	Indicator
Result 1: Improved protection and management of key public and private protected areas in Central America.		
1.1 Establishment of private conservation reserves, conservation easements, usufruct agreements, and similar conservation agreements	2	Legal registration of conservation reserves, conservation easements, usufruct agreements, and/or related private commitments to conserve lands and natural resources.
Accomplishments:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Nicaragua, 5 private conservation reserves declared through MARENA's Ministerial Resolution 09-2000 (plus 30 more reserves in process, and legal status pending to officially recognize a network of these private reserves); 2. In Honduras, 5 conservation easements registered for both municipal and private lands in the basin of Lake Yojoa; and 3. In Guatemala, registry of approximately 12 thousand ha in 31 private reserves in three regions (Lake Atitlán basin, corridor Sierra de las Minas with Biotopo Quetzal, and buffer zone of Biotopo del Manatí). 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark		(i) To the best of our knowledge, the conservation easements in Honduras are the first to be registered in that country. (ii) In Nicaragua, CEDAPRODE assessed the conservation interests and possibilities of 120 different landowners in three departments. (iii) In Guatemala, the new reserves created strategic conservation corridors in ecosystems not well represented in the country's protected areas (e.g., low-elevation forests in Atitlán).
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project		The work in Nicaragua was implemented via a CAPAS grant to CEDAPRODE, the country's principal NGO in environmental law and policy. The conservation easements in Honduras were co-supported for the technical fieldwork by TNC, recognized for its leadership in easements, and by ESNACIFOR. In Guatemala, the CAPAS Technical Team introduced a method and protocol to reduce the inscription time for a private reserve to 7 months (from 2-3 years).
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative		CAPAS is the only regional conservation project to actively promote private lands within the framework of the MBC. We supported not just a single task, but rather a package of activities to include land surveys, field inspections, and legal inscriptions. In Honduras, we developed local capacity by training ESNACIFOR's faculty and students in methods of conservation easements.

<p>1.2 Extend the application of the PROARCA/CAPAS monitoring framework for protected areas at (i) the level of individual protected areas, and (ii) the level of a national system of protected areas.</p>	<p>(1) 3 (2) 1</p>	<p>(1) No. of protected areas that institutionalize the use of the monitoring framework (2) No. of countries that officially adopt the monitoring system</p>
<p>Accomplishments:</p> <p>1. 28 protected areas (12 in Guatemala, 16 in Honduras) were added in 2000-2001, as follows:</p> <p><u>Guatemala</u> -- RUM Atitlán, RB Visis Cabá, PRM Quetzaltenango, PN Monterico, PN Volcán Pacaya, PN Laguna Lachuá, Biotopo Mario Dary, PN Laguna del Tigre, RM Cerro San Gil, RVS Xutilja San Martín (Complejo 2), PRM San Martín Sacatepéquez, proposed RVS Punta Manabique</p> <p><u>Honduras</u> -- RB El Chile, PN Patuca, PN Pico Pijol, PN Pico Bonito, PN La Muralla, PN Sierra de Agalta, PN Warunta, RB Río Kruta, RB Laguna de Caratasca, RF Río Rus-Rus, PN Casuco, RB Yuscaran, Área de Manejo de Hábitat por Especie, RB Río Plátano, PN Celaque, PN Cerro Azul Meambar</p> <p>2. 3 countries declared their official support for national-level monitoring: Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua</p>		
<p>a. Percentage of the benchmark reached</p>	<p>100</p>	
<p>b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark</p>	<p>CONAP, MARENA, and DAPVS chose the CAPAS monitoring framework from among alternative approaches available to them.</p>	
<p>c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project</p>	<p>The monitoring at pilot protected areas became the basis for national-level systems, requiring considerable planning and follow-up. Lenin Corrales developed the software for the national systems in Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua in parallel with the framework of previous years for Costa Rica and Panamá.</p>	
<p>d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative</p>	<p>Important actors in USAID are co-financing the monitoring. In Nicaragua CAPAS coordinated with COMAP, a project funded by USAID's bilateral mission, for the design and implementation of MARENA's national monitoring. In Panamá, USAID is supporting ANAM to improve data collection for the national monitoring system, building on foundations laid by CAPAS in previous years.</p>	

1.3 Improved conservation financing	3	No. of protected areas that use financial planning tools to secure funds for conservation activities
Accomplishments:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In Guatemala, financial plans were updated and business plans developed for Sierra de las Minas and Sierra de Lacandón. They rely on instruments such as water fees. In Panamá, a business plan was developed for the Bastimentos Marine National Park. It focuses on income from tourism. 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	The concept of a “business plan” for protected areas is at a pioneer stage, and CAPAS is doing its best to stimulate innovative thinking and action. Panamá views the Bastimentos model as the future for protected areas elsewhere in the country.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	In Guatemala, the work was carried out by Defensores de la Naturaleza, which has co-management agreements for the two protected areas in question. In Panamá, CAPAS relied on its Institutional Specialist working with a consultant.	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	We chose two different contexts as test cases. The conservation NGO Defensores de la Naturaleza is searching for new sources of income to substitute for traditional sources that could decline. The public agency ANAM has closed logging concessions and will lose \$500 thousand of annual fees because of it.	
Result 2: Improved cross-country harmonization of policies and strategies to protect and manage flora and fauna in Central America.		
2.1 Improved CITES implementation in one or more countries	1	No. of examples of better implementation of CITES laws and regulations
Accomplishments:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> FUNZEL and IDEADS recommended ways to make the CITES regulations and procedures consistent between El Salvador and Guatemala, and carried out extensive training (500+ customs officials, wildlife officials, police, etc.) in their use. The CAPAS Technical Team worked with the Executive Secretariat of SICA/CCAD to prepare Central America for its regional positions in the CITES COP for year 2002. 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	The invitation to CAPAS to address the CITES regional body reflects the project’s accumulated expertise on CITES over several years.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	N/A	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	(i) CAPAS coordinated between FUNZEL and IDEADS so that their joint effort would produce a greater result than either NGO could have achieved alone. (ii) For the CITES meeting in Tegucigalpa, CAPAS sent specialists for each of mahogany and sea turtles to address the authorities.	

2.2 Improved management of protected areas shared by two or more countries	1	No. of examples of stronger cross-country coordination to manage protected areas
<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belize and Guatemala approved the Strategy for El Pilar 2001-2004, a bi-national protocol of official political agreement for the actions proposed in the Strategy. At the community level, a bi-national coalition of NGOs ("Friends of El Pilar") proposed and signed their own cooperation agreement. The two governments and the "Friends of El Pilar" appointed a Consultative Council for Cultural and Natural Resources. 2. This past year's "Fiesta de El Pilar" attracted an estimated 2,000 participants, double the number in previous years, and an indication for El Pilar as a tourism destination. 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	CAPAS worked with 26 participants from two governments, three NGOs, and two MBC representatives in order to achieve the critical momentum for the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan had to be agreed upon at regional and district levels before it could be approved at national levels, which required a special effort in project time and resources.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	Principal intermediaries for local consensus building were Help for Progress (Belize) and Canan K'aax (Guatemala), working together on some tasks and separately on others.	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	CAPAS simultaneously addressed the grass-roots associations (a grant to Help for Progress) and the government policymakers.	

Result 3: Expanded market access for Central American agricultural, forest, and ecotourism products and services that meet high environmental standards.

3.1 Increased market access for certified Central American coffee	15	No. of coffee producer organizations with enhanced marketing strategies and practices due to CAPAS assistance
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Accomplishments:

1. 10 associations of coffee producers (5 countries) increased sales by an estimated 15% in U.S. markets: For 22 Central Americans participating in the Specialty Coffee Fair in Miami, CAPAS shared in the organizational and logistical planning, and provided roughly one-third of the financial support.
2. 1 producer association in Nicaragua assisted with direct marketing to Starbucks: Coordinating with TransFair-USA and USAID/Nicaragua, CAPAS sent leaders of PRODECOOP to Seattle to promote their “certified social coffee” with Starbucks.
3. 6 producer associations (4 countries) assisted with marketing strategies and capacity: (i) In El Salvador, CAPAS coordinated with FAO and World Bank to provide a commercial image and marketing strategy for the project “Coffee and Biodiversity” in the buffer zone of El Imposible National Park, with two containers of coffee sold for 2000-2001; (ii) In Nicaragua, CAPAS helped PRODECOOP (45 cooperatives) with a strategic and business plan that includes coffee marketing by names of origin; and (iii) In Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, CAPAS provided the resources to train 25 Central American technicians and a few government officials in organic certification methods and procedures, with supply of certified organic coffee (4 producer associations) increasing by 10% for the 2000-2001 harvest.
4. 1 coffee cooperative in Guatemala assisted with local marketing: Through a CAPAS grant, the Mundo Verde cooperative advanced in selling its popular brand of coffee (Café Popular Lupita) to local outlets in 35 communities.

a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	CAPAS closely coordinated with other projects and donors such as CRECER, Hivos, GTZ, RUTA, BID, and TransFair-USA. Extensive reliance on co-funding and co-sponsoring, with emphasis on “self-help” approaches to build organizational and marketing capacity.
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	N/A
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	CAPAS attempts to complement existing agendas and fill gaps. In El Salvador, we contributed the marketing component for a “Coffee and Biodiversity” project, which had been strictly production-oriented. In Nicaragua, PRODECOOP’s sale of coffee by name of origin is consistent with initiatives by the Specialty Coffee Association of America. For the coffee trade fair in Miami, we contributed a share but not all of the financial support for Central America, important in avoiding dependencies.

3.2 Assessment of opportunities and challenges for marketing a larger array of certified Central American agricultural products	1	No. of diagnostic reports on the subject
<p>Accomplishments:</p> <p>CAPAS produced a draft internal analysis by December 2000, and released an edited public version in the following months (<i>available on the CAPAS website in Spanish only</i>).</p>		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	The analysis was conducted by the CAPAS Marketing Specialist, based on her access to key informants (e.g., international donors, directors of regional organizations, project managers, government officials, producer organizations, etc.).	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	N/A	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	The diagnostic combines a conceptual framework with a pragmatic presentation of current and planned projects.	
3.3 Strengthened certification initiatives for sustainable forest management	2	No. of forest management units that initiate certification procedures due to CAPAS assistance
<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> CECOFOR (Central de Cooperativas Forestales) in Jalapa, Nicaragua: With technical support through CAPAS, CECOFOR (cooperative of 132 small forest owners) made a complete analysis of gaps between its current state of forest management vs. requirements for FSC certification. However, CECOFOR is unlikely to attain certification. CODEFORSA (Comisión de Desarrollo Forestal de San Carlos) in Huetar Norte, Costa Rica: This cooperative (700 small forest owners) made progress to conform with Costa Rican forest law, resolve land-use conflicts, hire technical personnel, and conduct a forest inventory. CODEFORSA is likely to attain “group certification” within FSC’s framework during the year. 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	75	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	Recursos Naturales Tropicales S.A. (RNT) is the CAPAS subcontractor for forest certification. RNT drew upon its existing relationships with independent forest certifiers so that work at CODEFORSA and CECOFOR would be relevant and targeted.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	RNT invested considerable time and resources in forest inventory and other field analysis.	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	“Group certification” for forest cooperatives is a new practice, and CAPAS and RNT accepted the risks of failing.	

3.4 Increased promotion of Central American ecotourism products	10	No. of organizations and protected areas with improved promotion of ecotourism products due to CAPAS assistance
<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 5 organizations started ecotourism marketing on websites: CAPAS supported the design of four ecotourism websites in Guatemala (FUNDAECO, El Estor Ecotourism Cluster, Association of Private Reserves, and Alianza Verde) and one in Costa Rica (Network of Private Reserves). The website for Alianza Verde was funded through a CAPAS grant (<i>see #2 below</i>). 2. 1 ecotourism association initiated tourism certification: With help from a CAPAS grant, 8 ecotourism suppliers in the Alianza Verde (Petén, Guatemala) were evaluated for certification under the Green Deal (3 were certified, and 5 need to comply with further requirements). Additionally, the Alianza Verde established a website for ecotourism promotion (<i>see #1 above</i>). 3. 3 ecotourism associations advanced their marketing strategies and promotional image: (i) Collaborating with three partners (FODESTUR-GTZ, SICA's Tourism Directorate, and PROARCA's Clean Production Initiative), CAPAS contributed to the strategic planning and first annual work plan of the Ruta del Maíz (130 small and medium enterprises) for tourism services; (ii) In coordination with four other sponsors, CAPAS helped convene the actors and start the operation of the El Estor Tourism Cluster (7 members) in Guatemala, and produce materials for the cluster's website (<i>see #1 above</i>); and (iii) CAPAS worked with COOPRENA (11 ecotourism enterprises, Costa Rica) to design and produce promotional materials (brochure, website, and CD-ROM), and develop consensus on a marketing strategy. 4. 40+ ecotourism enterprises presented with opportunities for joint ventures: CAPAS coordinated with FODESTUR-GTZ and SICA's Tourism Directorate to have Guatemalan ecotourism suppliers meet potential partners in Costa Rica and Belize, respectively, for potential joint ventures. 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	SICA and FODESTUR-GTZ look to CAPAS for ideas and professional connections in ecotourism marketing. This three-way partnership was responsible for the organization and funding of approximately half of this past year's activities.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	The following tourism specialists participated with CAPAS in this past year: Denia del Valle, Amos Bien, Lieve Coppin, and Karola Tippman.	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	CAPAS is the only regional conservation project in Central America to connect ecotourism buyers and sellers. Moreover, in large part due to the project's assistance, the region is close to having a viable 7-country ecotourism network.	

3.5 Improved capacity of protected areas, communities, and NGOs to accommodate ecotourism	4	No. of organizations and protected areas which demonstrate improved capacity to accommodate ecotourism due to CAPAS assistance
<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DAPVS, Honduras: CAPAS used its manual on Best Management Practices for Ecotourism in Protected Areas to recommend how to improve tourism infrastructure at 6 protected areas in Honduras. 2. Rincón de la Vieja National Park, Costa Rica: At the request of SINAC's Director, CAPAS helped coordinate the design and initiation of an ecotourism program for this park to include participation by the public, private, community, and NGO sectors. SINAC intends that the ecotourism program for Rincón de la Vieja serve as the pilot for other public conservation areas in Costa Rica. 3. AMICA, Nicaragua: 20 women (4 communities) improved their knowledge of tourism services (food, lodging, publicity, and marketing) through a CAPAS grant. 4. ANAI, Costa Rica: 60 local guides advanced in technical themes (customer service, marine navigation, and search and rescue), as well as promotion and marketing (catalogue of local guide services, and promotional forum with local hotels) through a CAPAS grant. 5. Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena, Panamá: The Foundation validated its Ecotourism Development Strategy for Kuna Yala, developed pilot ecotourism plans for 2 communities, and included tourism promotion on its website (through a CAPAS grant). 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	CAPAS is the only regional conservation project to provide training in best ecotourism practices to government officials for protected areas (e.g., SINAC in Costa Rica and DAPVS in Honduras).	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	Ana Báez, author of the Best Management guidelines, was the CAPAS consultant for Rincón de la Vieja (SINAC) and Honduras (DAPVS).	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	The CAPAS grants to AMICA, ANAI, and the Kuna foundation show that a regional project is able to assist grass-roots enterprises. In parallel, the work of Ana Báez is the project's way to influence administrators and policymakers.	

Result 4: Enhanced knowledge and skills in topics important for biodiversity conservation in Central America.

<p>4.1 Enhanced knowledge and skills in topics important for biodiversity conservation in Central America at the level of (i) organizations such as NGOs, government agencies, and others; and (ii) key individuals from such organizations.</p>	<p>(1) 20 (2) 100</p>	<p>(1) No. of organizations assisted by CAPAS in strategic plans, financial management, accounting methods, and other organizational capabilities. (2) No. of government and NGO officers trained in technical aspects related to biodiversity conservation.</p>
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Accomplishments:

1a. 12 organizations in strategic planning, operational planning, administrative management, and organizational development: DAPVS, PROLANSATE, Talamanca-Caribe Biological Corridor, FUNZEL, FOPECO, Fundación Solar, Inko Xanakon, Huehuetenango coffee cooperatives (3), FAICO, and Tropical Forest Foundation

1b. 4 organizations in financial management, endowments, and business plans: MARN, SalvaNatura, WWF/Central America, and ANAM (*see Result 1.3*)

1c. 13 organizations in proposals for grant funding: FONACON, CEPAL-ONU, CONAP, FUNDAECO, FUNDARY, APROHABITAT, AMASURLY, ASINDEGUA, PROPETEN, Asociación de Amigos del Bosque, Fundación Solar, Asociación Hogar Esperanza, Centro de Acción Ambiental y Legal

1d. 1 organization in CITES regional coordination: SICA/CCAD (*see Result 2.1*)

2. CAPAS provided skills transfer to approximately 585 government and NGO officers (*see Annex A*). This does not include the training impacts of CAPAS grants to FUNZEL, IDEADS, FAICO, Fundación Solar, and PROLANSATE – all of which emphasized themes in organizational development, institution building, and consensus building.

<p>a. Percentage of the benchmark reached</p>	<p>100</p>
<p>b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark</p>	<p>We addressed needs from the grass roots (e.g., internal administration of Inko Xanakon) to ministerial levels (e.g., an environmental endowment for MARN in El Salvador).</p>
<p>c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project</p>	<p>Efforts were led by the project’s Institutional Specialist, with very little contracted TA.</p>
<p>d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative</p>	<p>CAPAS adhered to a demand-driven approach and resource-sharing by the partners in order to prioritize our training and capacity building. We went only where we were invited.</p>

Small Grants		
Small grants are implemented in support of Results 1, 2, 3, and 4	7	No. of organizations receiving grants under the small grants program. Grants funding in bridge phase not to exceed \$250 thousand.
Accomplishments:		
<p>1. 12 NGO projects across 7 countries successfully reporting completion within the CAPAS grants cycle 2000-2001, for an expenditure of about \$212 thousand (96% of \$220 thousand in the budget). Accomplishments are integrated within Results 1, 2, 3, and 4 preceding (<i>also see Annex B</i>).</p>		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	100	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	CAPAS favored projects that could build on the work of its previous grants to expand impact with relatively modest additional funding. Secondly, we continued to consolidate a regional identity among the grantees by inviting the 12 of them to exchange views about grants management and leadership.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	CAPAS invested heavily in asking its own project personnel (technical and financial) to guide the weakest NGO projects towards satisfactory completion. Of the 12 projects, CAPAS provided help to about half of them.	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	Oversight of both technical and financial progress of the grants in order to minimize negative surprises, and to maximize the use of financial resources.	
Partners for Biodiversity		
“Partners” in Rio Plátano show progress in micro-enterprises, conservation, and capacity building	N.A.	“Partners” to provide periodic progress reports through CAPAS.
Accomplishments:		
<p>1. Ecotourism: The Partners provided updated promotional materials on adventure travel in Río Platáno to several written and internet outlets. An assessment of ecotourism at Las Marías showed improvements that can be attributed to earlier assistance by the Partners.</p> <p>2. Mangrove restoration: Methods to replant red mangroves in the settlements of Cocobila and Ibans were taught to 26 villagers. However, replanting has been delayed until the Partners and the villagers reach agreement on whether their labor will be paid.</p> <p>3. Capacity building in MOPAWI: The Partners provided a new round of training on planning, organizational leadership, consensus building, and personnel management with MOPAWI.</p> <p>4. Turtle conservation and butterfly farm: The Partners are helping with financial approaches for the turtle project (Plaplaya), and with conflict resolution for the butterfly farm (Raista).</p>		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	N/A	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	Eric Greenquist (Partners Coordinator) provided timely information to CAPAS regarding technical accomplishments and DOI spending.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	Arden Andersen (ecotourism), Felix López (mangroves), Mike Fritz (wetlands ecology), Jeremy Buck (environmental contaminants), and Richard Enríquez (organizational development) led the technical effort for DOI in this past year.	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	Despite modest co-funding from CAPAS, the DOI Partners were highly active in the cycle 2000-2001.	

Communications		
Diffuse information about CAPAS and PROARCA to clients and partners	N.A.	Periodic reports regarding materials requested, produced, and disseminated
Accomplishments:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical reports: estimated 400 distributed by project's end, not including those downloaded from the project's website. 2. CAPAS website: estimated 4,000 visits in 2000-2001 (12,000+ since 1999), providing access to 220 technical reports and 23 information bulletins by project's end. 3. PROARCA website: conceptual framework, art, and information materials to represent all of the program's components -- 600 visits since early 2001. 4. Special information products: PROARCA folders, CAPAS information bulletins (7), CONCAUSA brochures, 5-year CAPAS summary, press articles (3), radio programs (2), and CD-ROM (2). 5. Support to Eco-Index: CAPAS co-finance and managerial/technical orientation for this conservation website of Rainforest Alliance, which offers data and search capabilities on conservation projects in Central America. 6. Tools and resources: expanded array of photos, graphic art, and contacts database for the next generation of PROARCA. 7. Administrative reports: 4 quarterly progress reports in English and Spanish, submitted to USAID according to the terms of our contract. 		
a. Percentage of the benchmark reached	N/A	
b. Management and leadership in reaching the benchmark	We distribute a large number and variety of information products by email and internet (1,200+ recipients). An independent evaluation of conservation websites ranked CAPAS as "good" or "excellent" in 7 of 8 criteria.	
c. Quality and timing of the TA, and relevance to the project	N/A	
d. Notable performance through exceptional contractor initiative	Extensive communication among CAPAS, Costas, LEPPi, and GCAP to develop the PROARCA website. A visual image of PROARCA was created for the first time.	