

Advancing Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (ASLAA)

1.1 NAME OF THE PROJECT :

Advancing Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (ASLAA)

1.2. DATE

Agreement /contract finish:

Tuesday, 29 September, 2015

Agreement /contract start:

Friday, 30 September, 2011

Report period start:

Monday, 1 October, 2012

Report period finish:

Monday, 31 December, 2012

1.3 Prime Partner:

Rainforest Alliance

1.4 NAME OF PROGRAM MANAGER

Phone number Program Manager:

+593 2250636, +593 2250011

E-mail Program Manager:

mdonahue@ra.org

Name Program Manager:

Mark Donahue

1.5. NAME OF USAID AGREEMENT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (AOR) OR CONTRACT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE (COR) :

Mónica Suquilanda

1.6. Name of alternate AOR or COR:

Mónica Romo

1.7. USAID Mechanism Number:

AID-OAA-A-11-00055

1.8. Overall Program Description:

Rainforest Alliance and its partners, Asociación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo Integral (AIDER) in Peru, and ECOLEX in Ecuador, have designed the Advancing Sustainable Landscapes in the Andean Amazon (SL) project with the goal of conserving biodiversity in two landscapes, Sucumbíos, Ecuador and Cusco/Madre de Dios, Peru. In the Sucumbíos landscape we are working in the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve (CWR) and buffer zone. Within CWR, we are working in the Putumayo, Cuyabeno, and Shushufindi cantons, from the bridge over the Cuyabeno River east to the Siona communities of Tarabeia, San Victoriano, and Puerto Bolívar, for a total of 128,000 ha. In the buffer zone, we are working with the Secoya community of Siecoya Remolino, and approximately 250 landowners representing about 12,500 ha. In Madre de Dios, we are working in the province and district of Tambopata with the follow indigenous communities from the Ese Ejas, Shipibos, Yine, Amahuaca, Kicharunas ethnicities representing approximately 75,000 ha: Tres Islas, Palma Real, Infierno, Sonene, and Puerto Arturo. In the upper and middle Tambopata, we are working in the Filadelfia area and with various tourism operations, representing approximately 3,000 ha. In the Cusco section of the landscape, we are working in the La Convencion and Calca Provinces, and Quellouno and Echarate and Yanatile Districts, found within the Ivochote and Laco – Yavero watershed and covering 13,500 ha (Cooperatives: Bioazul, Jose Olaya, Chaco Huayanay, Paquivo, Alto Urubamba, and Mateo Pumacahua and Asociacion Agricultura Ecologica). Our overall strategy is premised on addressing the principal threats to biodiversity and their drivers identified in the two landscapes that have the most significant impact and can be countered directly given the experience and expertise of RA and its partners in order to optimize impacts locally given the scope and level of project investments. The principal threats include habitat degradation and habitat loss due to wholesale deforestation or land-use conversion, while the drivers of these threats can be grouped into three areas: a) limited institutional capacity by local governments and communities for natural resource management; b) limited participation in and access to programs by local groups for resource management and sustainable production chains; and c) weak organizational capacity and market linkages of local producers and operators to grow local economic opportunities.

2.1.1 IR1 – Selected Landscapes Managed Sustainably:

The main achievements by SL in the first quarter of FY2013 included below will allow us to work toward addressing the principal threats of habitat degradation and habitat loss due to wholesale deforestation or land-use conversion through our interventions under the three USAID Activity Results (AR) for Area-Based programs.

Under AR1, sound landscape planning and use of sustainable NRM practices, our main achievements during the quarter include the following:

- Through a joint effort with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment (MAE), the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve (CWR) now possesses key baseline information of tourism activities, which will allow them to make improved decisions related to sustainably managing the reserve through the subsequent development of a tourism operations regulations manual that will cover key topics such as codes of conduct, transportation regulations, and environmental compliance.
- During the period, an armed robbery targeting tourists entering the CWR by river occurred, resulting in the kidnapping of two tourists who were rescued a few days later. To help the Ecuadorian authorities better understand the tourism context in CWR in order to develop a CWR risk management plan, we facilitated meetings with CWR and tourism stakeholders where potential risks and mitigation measures were identified through a risk management matrix, which will be part of an official risk management plan.
- A draft of a socio-economic and environmental baseline and diagnostic for the buffer zone of CWR was developed through over 100 in-person interviews with fifteen pre-cooperatives and secondary information to help better define the target intervention groups and agricultural and social project interventions. Organizations Flor de Oriente and San José de Sansaguari, located in Palma Roja - Putumayo, with a forest management potential of 2000 ha agreed to work with us in sustainable forest management.
- Madre de Dios (MDD) now has a consolidated geographic database with tourism attractions and resources in and around the Tambopata National Reserve that has been accepted by the authorities of DIRCETUR as an official document to be utilized to develop a tourism map that will serve as input for establishing conservation and sustainable natural resource use strategies, as well as to promote sustainable tourism in the region.
- We improved the MDD government's capacity for natural resource management by providing technical assistance to incorporate sustainable tourism criteria in the Tambopata National Reserve tourism management plans (Alto Tambopata – Collpas Colorado and Chunchu); tourism operations using the reserve attractions will now be required to implement the criteria.

Under AR2, improved environmental governance, we attained the following achievements:

- In Ecuador, we helped MAE get one step closer to more effective environmental regulation of the tourism operations operating in CWR by helping to better define the impact of environmental threats created by the operations, providing technical recommendations for improving environmental compliance, and developing a simplified environmental datasheet to measure and monitor compliance.

- Cuyabeno tourism operators association (FERTOC) was created as a way to strengthen the tour operators' capacities for sound natural resource policy development and management, including the ability to negotiate with other tourism stakeholders.
- In MDD, indigenous producer groups, ASCART and AFIMAD have improved their governance and ability to manage their natural resources through the development of strategic plans, which are currently being validated by their members.

Under AR3, improved sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem resilience, we attained the following achievements:

- To improve the quality of the tourism experience in CWR, increase the understanding and implementation of tourism best management practices, and provide employment opportunities for members of the CWR buffer zone and Amazonian communities, together with the MAE and WWF, 32 new and 40 current naturalist guides were trained; those that pass the courses will receive a license.
- AFIMAD, RONAP, ASCART and PALSAMAD producer organizations have improved their capacity to access funding from lenders, and improved their market access by obtaining better commercial agreements. ASCART obtained a loan of \$52,000 to fund its Brazil nut harvest, as well as a sales agreement for 25 tons at 50% above the current market price.

2.1.2 IR2 - Key Elements of Natural Resources Governance Functioning in Critical Landscapes :

Our main achievements under IR2 during the reporting period are related USAID's line of action 3 - develop capacities of authorities and indigenous peoples in the comprehension and management of mechanisms for land regularization, environmental rights and indigenous rights. Achievements include:

- During the period, we established an agreement with MAE to provide technical assistance in forest governance, through which we provided support in the development of a preliminary document for forest control and final destination regulations.
- To work toward improving natural resource management policies in the Ivochote and Lacao Yavero municipalities of the La Convencion province, we contributed to the formulation of the La Convention cocoa roundtable strategic plan; the plan is the basis for formulating the cocoa strategy for Ivochote and Lacao Yavero.

2.1.3 IR3 – Increased Capacity to Utilize PES-like and other Economic Incentive Programs :

[Enter text]

2.1.4 IR4 – Greater Understanding and Solutions for Key Environmental Issues :

[Enter text]

2.1.5 Support Unit Services :

[Enter text]

8. SUMMARY

8.1 Achievements:

CWR now possesses key baseline information of tourism activities, allowing MAE making decisions on sustainably managing the reserve through the development of tourism operations regulations including codes of conduct, transportation regulations MAE get closer to more effective environmental regulation of tourism operations in CWR by better define environmental impact threats created by operations, providing recommendations for improving environmental compliance, and developing a datasheet to measure and monitor compliance

AFIMAD, RONAP, ASCART and PALSAMAD have improved their capacity to access funding and market access by obtaining better commercial agreements.

ASCART got a \$52,000 loan to fund its Brazil nut harvest and a sales agreement for 25 tons at 50% above market price

8.2 Challenges and Adjustments :

The main challenge was the kidnapping of tourists entering the CWR, which increased the risk of danger to project staff, and reduced the probability of the project conceptual model functioning as designed. To address this we have proposed to expand the geographic area of intervention to include the greater Napo River watershed, in addition to the Aguarico sub-watershed.