



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR COLOMBIAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT No. 514-A-00-06-00306-00

FINAL REPORT
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR
COLOMBIAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES (PHASE II)

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Sustainable Development for Colombian Indigenous Communities AMAZON CONSERVATION TEAM (ACT) – COLOMBIA PROGRAM

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current report corresponds to the final results achieved with the project for assistance to Colombian indigenous communities in the Amazon Piedmont and the Vaupés.

With USAID support, ACT made progress with three indigenous organizations¹ and three unions of traditional knowledge² in the strengthening of indigenous governance and of cultural identity, as well as the restoration of traditional values and norms as a way to prevent illicit economies within their communities.

During project implementation, activities contributed to the integration and complementarities of USAID efforts for indigenous communities, specifically with the PADF-led buffer zones program.

The project enabled assistance to 654 families; the sowing of 32 hectares in traditional cultivations; 80,181 hectares devoted to licit natural forest management by three indigenous organizations and a union of traditional healers; and the generation of 102 full-time-equivalent (FTE) jobs (agricultural and non-agricultural).

Lessons learned during the implementation of the Cooperative Agreement are included as annexes to this executive summary in several documents: a) an indigenous jurisdiction document; b) two land management plans; c) land management strategy for two indigenous associations; d) an indigenous productive strategy, and e) two multimedia presentations illustrating progress in the development of Life Plans with two indigenous associations.

1.1 Leverage capacity and coordination with other projects

A total of US\$250,809 were leveraged by ACT during the life of the project to finance project activities.

Additionally, US\$66,080 derived from the Spanish NGO Ecodesarrollo were invested in Life Plan formulation and implementation activities and the organizational strengthening of ASATRIZY.

2. POPULATION AND COVERAGE

A total of 654 families were directly assisted:

- 192 families of the Siona community residing in the municipalities of Puerto Asís and Puerto Leguízamo in the Putumayo.
- 242 Coreguaje families in the municipalities of Milán and Solano in the Caquetá.
- 61 Eastern Tukano families of the municipality of Mitú in the department of the Vaupés.
- 82 families of the Inga-Kamtzá community residing in the municipalities of Mocoa, Villa Garzón, Colón and Sibundoy in the Putumayo.

¹ *Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Pueblo Siona (ACIPS), Consejo Regional Indígena del Orteguaza Medio Caquetá (CRIOMC) and the Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas de la Zona del Yapú (ASATRIZY).*

² *Unión de Médicos Indígenas Yageceros de la Amazonía Colombiana (UMIYAC), Unión de Mujeres de la Medicina Tradicional, and the Unión de Payés de la Cultura del Yuruparí (Kumuã Yoamarã).*

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- 77 families of the Cofán community residing in the municipality of Valle de Guamués, Orito and San Miguel in the Putumayo.

Geographic coverage

12 municipalities located in three departments benefited during the execution of the Project.

Caquetá	Solano
	Milán
Putumayo	Puerto Asís
	Puerto Leguizamo
	San Miguel
	Valle del Guamués
	Orito
	Mocoa
	Sibundoy
	Colón
	Villa Garzón
Vaupés	Mitú

3. RESULTS

3.1 Self-governance and development

3.1.1 Organizing structures of traditional knowledge

- Social benefits opportunities were presented within the traditional knowledge systems administered by the unions of indigenous traditional authorities—essential to the permanence of the indigenous cultures on their ancestral traditional lands—through:
 - Consolidation of support provided to traditional healers’ unions (UMIYAC and Kumuã Yoamarã) and to the organizational structures of their communities in the Amazon Piedmont and in the Vaupés, with the objective of guiding management processes and preventing cultural disintegration. A principal achievement of the unions has been the propagation of their work among the political authorities of the indigenous associations and the establishment of a support network for the resolution of conflicts that for many years had impeded the development of their Life Plan processes.
 - The *taitas* conducted their work through 22 brigades or traditional health ceremonies conducted in *malokas* (ceremonial houses). The *taitas* visited 12 indigenous reserves located in the Putumayo and Caquetá departments. Four ceremonial houses were built in the Vaupés as well as one in Putumayo for the service of the *taitas*—as a consequence of cultural recovery, the protection of health and the conservation of diversity were strengthened.
 - Contribution to traditional knowledge transmission to the coming generations through support for 28 apprentices of traditional knowledge systems and a general UMIYAC gathering held with 41 healers and political authorities of three organizations.

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- Decisions made in collaboration with 42 traditional healers³ belonging to UMIYAC and Kumuã Yoamarã.
- 9.23 FTE generated by the healthcare provided by the *taitas* to their communities.

3.1.2 Organizational strengthening, indigenous rights and institutional planning

- To strengthen the operation of the indigenous socio-political, administrative, communications and organizational structures which are recognized by the State for each indigenous community as a basis for the exercise of public authority and self-governance.
 - Transparent organizational development: ACT signed three agreements for collaboration, cooperation and technical assistance and relationship principles based on transparency and common values with three indigenous associations.
 - Implementation of an accounting system in two indigenous associations, managed with the assistance of official accountants.
 - Proper outfitting of office space and provision of computer equipment in the headquarters of three indigenous organizations.
 - Nine (9) planning and follow-up meetings between ACT and three (3) indigenous organizations.
 - Generation of quarterly activity chronograms for 39 indigenous promoters.
- To contribute to the development of the fundamental rights of ethnic minorities by means of a strategy to restore their own regulatory systems (indigenous jurisdiction), knowledge transmission, and dialogue based on equality under the law.
 - Negotiated rights before the appropriate actors: agreement signed between ASATRIZY and the health concern ARS Salud Total⁴ in order to assure that the totality of the communities receives health services.
 - Preliminary document to establish criteria for the design of indigenous internal jurisdiction models based on their traditions. (**Annex No. 1.**)
 - Strengthened cultural identity, social cohesion and self-determination for two indigenous organizations through support to communication programs dedicated to social organization. Six communication promoters trained, and audiovisual memories of the ACIPS general assembly recorded and produced.
- To support the formulation and modification of life plans and community covenants as a means to unify social organization priorities, in order to secure cultural identity, create group cohesion, and prevent the displacement of communities.
 - An annual assembly conducted for the Siona association with assessments and conclusions.
 - Seventeen (17) meetings⁵ towards the participatory construction of three life plans.

³ 22 traditional healers from the UMIYAC and 20 *payés* belonging to the Kumuã Yoamarã.

⁴ Private concern, an *Entidad Promotora de Salud (EPS)* that promotes enrollment in social security and protects health. It provides the services of the *Plan Obligatorio de Salud (POS)*.

⁵ ASATRIZY: 10 meetings; CRIOMC: 5 meetings; ACIPS: 2 meetings

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- Two Life Plan progress documents (ACIPS and CRIOMC) and one draft document for ASATRIZY. (**Annex No. 2 Multimedia 1, and Annex No. 3 Multimedia 2.**)
- To assist in the elaboration and negotiation of projects identified in the life plans that strengthen the collective foundations of indigenous culture; satisfy the indigenous groups' basic needs; and contribute to the continuity of the indigenous families on their traditional lands.
 - An approved project by the Spanish NGO Ecodesarrollo for the execution of a project of support to the Siona, Inga and Coreguaje indigenous communities. The project contains integrated solutions for cultural survival that prevent displacement and strengthen the population's relationship with traditional lands. Total contract value: US\$176,000 (October 2006 – August 2008).
- To train and support community leaders and promoters in the necessities involved in strengthening the life plans; the skills that the organizations require; or administrative and management needs.
 - Twelve training workshops: indigenous legislation, ethno-education, communications.
 - Capacity building for 25 traditional authorities in administration, accounting and legal bases.
 - ACT completed the construction of a small training center located in the *Vereda las Planadas* in the municipality of Mocoa (Putumayo). This location has a simple infrastructure consisting of two dormitories and two meeting rooms with a lodging capacity of 60 individuals. During the past year⁶, 23 training events and meetings were organized by ACT, and 335 participants visited the center.
 - The Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund awarded ACT US\$98,000 for capacity building in 2007.
- Improved administrative and financial capacity in an indigenous association with greater operational effectiveness.
 - Indigenous authorities (three *Cabildos Mayores*) of three indigenous associations (34 indigenous reserves) with improved governance over local activities and increased recognition by their constituency.

Full Time Employees – Indigenous Organizations

Organization/ No. FTE	CRIOMC	ACIPS	ASATRIZY	Inga Kamtzá	Total
FTE	20	13	4	2	39

⁶ March 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007.

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The following table presents information on indigenous community members actively engaging in activities directly benefiting their communities:

Leaders, traditional authorities and promoters working for their communities

Program	Cofan	CRIOMC	ACIPS	ASATRIZY	Inga (Mocóa & Yunguillo)	Total
Organization (Senior Council)	0	5	5			10
Cultural promoters		6	2			8
Radio promoters		4				4
Territorial promoters		9	3	3		15
Agroecological promoters		4	4	2		10
Community health promoters		1	1	2	2	6
Traditional authorities of UMIYAC	22	3	11		14	50
Traditional authorities of Kumuá Yoamara				20		20
Union of Women	11		10		15	36
TOTAL	33	32	36	27	31	159*

* 39 indigenous leaders have full-time jobs.

3.2 Livelihood improvement

3.2.1 Community health programs

- To create self-managed community healthcare programs that offer low-cost integrated solutions to common problems identified by the organizations in the short, medium and long term.
 - Community health programs identified and in execution: 1) healthcare self-management, promotion, and prevention programs through a team of eight health promoters⁷; 2) community health service programs with the participation of 36 female traditional healers; 3) design of a community health training program.
 - The community health program was certified by the Universidad del Rosario and facilitated a signed agreement with the Religious Community of the Mother Laura. A first training course was conducted for 19 indigenous representatives of eleven ethnic groups, who drafted a preliminary diagnostic of their communities and a work plan to initiate activities seeking the promotion of healthcare self-maintenance. These promoters will assist a total of 18 indigenous communities in eight departments (Vichada, Caquetá, Norte de Santander, Guajira, Cesar, Risaralda, Córdoba, and Casanare).

⁷ Six (6) health promoters supported by the Cooperative Agreement 514-A-00-06-00306-00, and two (2) promoters supported by the PADF Buffer Zones Project.

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- Health brigades in the communities: the traditional healers conducted 22 health brigades and provided care for 2,447 persons.
- Recovery and conservation of medicinal flora through the maintenance of 72 community germplasm banks⁸.
- Six community health promoters sponsored through this project in order to carry out their work to identify alternative solutions to common problems and illnesses, and devoted to health education activities:
 - Four follow-up workshops for community health promoters
 - 208 family information cards fulfilled
 - Ongoing assistance in healthcare self-maintenance for 82 indigenous families
 - 27 workshops seeking the promotion of healthcare self-maintenance
 - Food assistance, basic healthcare and emergency care for 35 elder *mamas*.

3.2.1 Biological resources and food security

- Promote the revaluation, recovery, management and social exchange of ancestral biological resources that may improve nutritional, health and livelihood conditions through their use in the traditional sustainable production systems.
 - Expanded traditional sustainable production systems, arrangements or practices with three indigenous teams (13 indigenous promoters).
 - Improvement of the population's nutritional security conditions through support for the establishment of 32 hectares of traditional crops with 60 families.
 - Development of a production strategy by three indigenous organizations as part of their Life Plan.
 - Creation of three (3) local extension teams, and nine community biological resource promoters supported.
 - 29 local capacity building workshops in 13 indigenous reserves and 222 participants; community extension activities and visits to organizational and individual chagras in 34 indigenous reserves.
 - Increase of 32 hectares in the area of traditional and sustainable productive systems.
 - Through the propagation of species, increase in the number of species per family (average of 20 species per family) of community subsistence agroecosystems.
 - Recovery, conservation, and dissemination of 65 traditional biological resources.
 - Installation of conservation and propagation mechanisms through 34 seeds banks in the communities: seven with ASATRIZY, seven with ACIPS and 18 with CRIOMC.
 - Establishment of an exchange network among community members belonging to 22 indigenous reserves⁹ that enables rapid resource dissemination.

⁸ Women's and health promoters' gardens.

⁹ CRIOMC: 8 reserves. ACIPS: 7 reserves. ASATRIZY: 7 reserves

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- Establishment of 13 community demonstration plots, six of them benefiting rural schools.
- Generation of 38 FTE jobs (agricultural).
- Productive diagnoses and strategy for 40,635 hectares.¹⁰ (**Annex No. 4**)
- Train and support for six¹¹ (6) new community biological resource and nutritional self-sufficiency promoters of three indigenous associations.
 - Realization of the first meeting of Cultivators of Ancestral Agriculture with the participation of 22 indigenous agroecological promoters who support the installation and maintenance of sustainable production projects supported with USAID resources under this Cooperative Agreement and the Buffer Zones project executed with the Pan American Development Foundation.

3.3 Traditional land consolidation

Land use planning and management

- Members of the communities trained and supported in indigenous protection and traditional land management.
 - Creation and strengthening of three indigenous land management committees and 15 land promoters.
 - Capacity building of 79 community members (land management committees).
- To characterize the traditional land management priorities based on biological and cultural information on the socio-environmental conditions of the communities, and to develop plans and projects to address these issues with the communities.
 - Participatory development of baselines for the current status and management plans of 67,131 hectares¹² of the indigenous traditional lands. (**Annexes 5, 6, and 8.**)
 - Drafting of a land management strategy for ACIPS, including the possibilities of enlargement and inter-connection of traditional lands. (**Annex 7.**)
 - Drafting of a preliminary strategy territorial for ASATRIZY. (**Annex 8.**)
 - Participatory development of cultural maps of the indigenous traditional lands. There are cultural maps for eight reserves belonging to CRIOMC, for the El Hacha reserve of ACIPS, and for the entirety of the traditional lands of ASATRIZY that comprise seven *capitanías*. (**Annex 5,6,8**)
- To increase the indigenous organizations' capacity at the local level to enable local community control over the management and protection of traditional lands.

¹⁰ CRIOMC: 23,172 hectares. ACIPS: 17,463 hectares

¹¹ Dos promotores agroecológicos capacitados por cada una de las 3 asociaciones de cabildos indígenas beneficiadas – ACIPS, CRIOMC y ASATRIZY.

¹² CRIOMC: 17,862 hectares; ACIPS: 6,637 hectares; ASATRIZY: 50,000 hectares and Medicinal Plants Protection Area: 13,000 hectares

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- General management and land use plan outlined in two life plans. (**Annexes No. 2 and 3 – Multimedia.**)
- Implementation of traditional protection and land management practice mechanisms that prevent population displacement due to loss or exhaustion of land. 79 families participating in biological conservation through the monitoring of 67,000 hectares of indigenous lands and 13,000 hectares of the conservation area that is to be declared a Sanctuary for Medicinal Plants. Surveys, expeditions, community work sessions (*mingas*) and signposting travels and traditional land delimitation were conducted.
- At the project's commencement, ASATRIZY calculated their traditional lands to 50,000 hectares. As a result of the collaborative work between ACT and the land management committee of ASATRIZY, they were able to determine through surveying expeditions and the use of GPS technology that the lands comprise 150,000 hectares. The cartography resulting from this work is annexed. (**Annex 8, Maps 1-9.**)

4. INDICATORS

Benefiting Families:

Presented following are the accomplishments in the fulfillment of the proposed indicators for the project that commenced in October 2002 under the Cooperative Agreement No. **514-A-00-03-00201-00** (Phase I) and that that was complemented with a new contract identified with the agreement No. **514-A-00-06-00306-00** (Phase II).

Presented in the following table, are the proposed goals for a period of four years. The results are presented separately for Phase I (3 years) and for Phase II, which encompasses the period from February 28, 2006 through March 31, 2007.

The goal proposed for the four years is compared with the cumulative results for Phases I and II, and is presented in percentage of fulfillment.

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Indicator	Goal Year 1-4	Results, Cumulative Y1-Y3 (Oct.02-Oct. 05)	Results, Y4 (Feb. 28/06-March 31/07)	Results Cumulative	Percentage
Number of families benefiting from AID activities. (Direct and indirect)	3,785	3,785		3,785	100%
Number of direct families benefiting from AID activities	1,898	1,248	654*	1,902	100,2%
Hectares of licit crops supported through the USAID alternative development program	150	115	32	147	98%
Hectares devoted to licit natural forest management through alternative development projects	122,997	54,626	80,131	134,757	109%
Number of social and productive infrastructure projects completed	27	26	7	33	122%
Full Time Equivalent jobs	266	139	102	241**	91%
Number of municipalities (i.e. local governments, indigenous reserves, associations, local institutions), NGO that have been strengthened by ACT projects or activities	104	100	35***	100	96%

* Of this total, 116 families were served in the first phase.

** Of the total of FTE jobs generated, a total of 40 correspond to indigenous leaders who during the term of the project dedicated 100% of their time to assisting in specific activities within their indigenous organizations and received remuneration for the work performed.

** Of this total, 35 institutions benefited during the first phase.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The quantitative results achieved enable us to affirm the fulfillment of the proposed goals. ACT recognizes that in order to achieve true sustainability of results with vulnerable and threatened communities, it is necessary to continue to provide special attention to the implementation of actions in three broad areas: social (education and health); environmental (recuperation and/or enlargement of traditional lands); and sustainable production. The difficulty of the State in maintaining a presence and in assisting indigenous groups required the continuity of international and national solidarity and as well as a process that has demonstrated success in its methodology.

With this project, it has been possible to reduce the vulnerability of the indigenous communities to threats posed by the illicit economies, the presence of groups operating at the margin of the law, and the advance of colonization toward their traditional lands. The strengthening of the political structures and of the unions of traditional knowledge-keepers as well as the training of young promoters in a range of areas enabled three indigenous organizations to draft their development plans (Life Plans) and to implement specific solutions to the problems identified by those organizations. It is clear that this organizational strengthening has renewed the commitment of the indigenous communities to respect their cultural norms as well as the traditional order that rejects violence or the incursion of illicit cultivations.

