

## **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

**Date**

17 June 2019

**CEPF Grant**

Uni Loja 108984

**Grantee**

Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja

***Project Title***

*Conservación de anfibios en el Abra de Zamora, Ecuador*

**Project Location**

Abra de Zamora, Ecuador

## **Grant Summary**

1. Grantee organization.  
Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja
2. Grant title.  
Conservación de anfibios en el Abra de Zamora, Ecuador
3. Grant number  
Uni Loja 108984
4. Grant amount (US dollars).  
74774.00
5. Proposed dates of grant.  
1 July 2019 – 1 August 2020
6. Countries or territories where project will be undertaken.  
Ecuador.
7. Date of preparation of this document.  
17 June 2019

## 8. **Introduction:**

The project aims to identify priority zones for the conservation of the CBA Abra de Zamora (fig. 1) and its surroundings, based mainly on the presence and distribution of seven target species of endangered amphibians, characterization of the habitat and other criteria such as the presence of functional ecosystems and water regulation ecosystem services. This information, along with other analyzes, such as land tenure, will serve as key inputs for the participatory designation of protected areas in the Abra de Zamora and its surroundings. Together with the competent institutions, the project intends to attain the most efficient legal protection figure, by delimiting the most important areas in the territory and starting the declaratory or approval processes. To strengthen the social and institutional commitment to protected areas, the project aims to disseminate and promote information on ecosystems, species and their services to multiple stakeholders. At the end of the project, an Action Plan for the Conservation of Amphibians will be prepared in the CBA Abra de Zamora, which will be delivered to various involved stakeholders and decision makers, among which: representatives of civil society, land owners, local authorities, local researchers, NGOs, Ministry of the Environment,

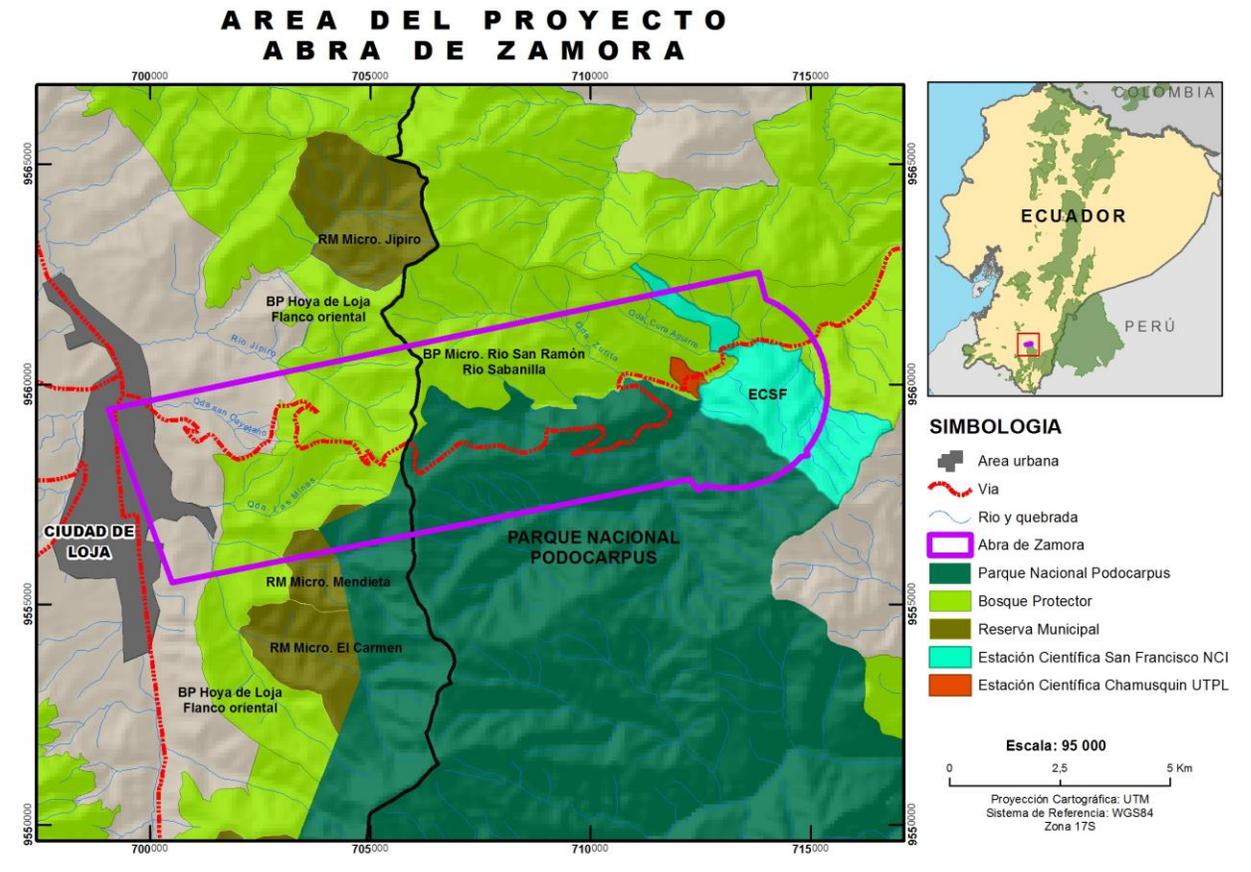


Figure 1. Map of the study site.

## 9. Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities:

The project is meant to gather base-line information about the biodiversity and social situation. As such, Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja has not carried out until now any activity with the purpose of disseminating information. However, in order to insure the support of the Environmental Agency, we have obtained a research permit from Ministerio del Ambiente Ecuador (MAE-DNB-CM-2015-0016) and also an access permit from the Parque Nacional Podocarpus Reserve.

## 10. Project Stakeholders:

Governmental agencies: municipal and local government representatives of Loja and Zamora Chinchipe provinces

Environmental agencies: Ministerio de Ambiente of Loja and Zamora Chinchipe, National Directorate of Biodiversity (Dirección Nacional de Biodiversidad Quito), The National Institute for Biodiversity (INABIO), HQ staff from Parque Nacional Podocarpus

Representatives of IUCN

NGOs: Centro Jambatu, Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional (partner)

UICN América del Sur  
Academia: Universidad Nacional de Loja  
Private sector: Landowners, population of Loja and Zamora Chinchipe at large  
Media: local radio and newspapers, social networks, international scientific journals.

**11. Stakeholder Engagement Program:**

We aim to involve all the identified (previously mentioned) stakeholders in the design of the Conservation Action Plan and the delimitation of the CBA Abra de Zamora protected area, and to afterwards disseminate the results of the project through diverse actions.

**12. Stakeholder Engagement Program:**

A close relationship will be maintained with the local representatives of the Environmental Ministry (Ministerio del Ambiente Loja and Zamora Chinchipe), as well as with the staff of the Parque Nacional Podocarpus. We will inform them about the objectives and activities included in the project at the start of the project (during the first month), maintain them informed about the progress, and consult with them when designing the Conservation Action Plan for the amphibian species, as well as when setting the limits and finding the best protection form for the CBA Abra de Zamora. Their representatives will be invited to take part to all public meetings relating to the project, as well as to our field trips. Additionally, we plan to train at least two rangers from Parque Nacional Podocarpus in long-term monitoring of local amphibian species. Posters relating to the project will be placed at the headquarters of Ministerio del Ambiente Loja and Zamora Chinchipe. Communication will be maintained through work meetings and email.

Similarly, we will inform the local and municipal government about the start, progress and results of the project, and consult them on the designation of Abra de Zamora as a protected area. Their representatives will also be invited to public meetings and to the workshop organized during the project.

Detailed technical reports regarding the Conservation Status of the seven focus amphibian species, and the proposed Conservation Action Plan will be sent to the concerned agencies (Dirección Nacional de Biodiversidad Quito, UICN, INABIO y Centro Jambatu).

A proposal of inclusion of conservation priority areas from CBA Abra de Zamora into a form of protection, either as part of the Podocarpus National Park or as a standalone municipal reserve, will be submitted to the municipal and local government representatives of Loja and Zamora Chinchipe provinces and the Environmental Agencies of the two provinces.

We will organize two consultation meetings, involving the Municipalities of Loja and Zamora, the Ministry of Environment, local universities, the NGOs and UTPL in order to disseminate the progress of the project and to guarantee a participative construction of the Conservation Action Plan for the amphibians in Abra de Zamora. After the completion of the Action Plan, we will also organize a workshop promoting the Action Plan, directed at representatives of civil society, land owners, local authorities, local researchers, NGOs, Ministry of the Environment, National Directorate of Biodiversity, IUCN, INABIO, Jambatu Center. During this event, we will impart to the participants a brochure with amphibian species description, life-history, importance, distribution, conservation status, threats and proposed measures for the conservation of the amphibian species present in El Abra de Zamora and its surroundings.

Land owners and local community will be kept informed regarding the advance of the project, the importance of the amphibians, and the encountered species on their property through private meetings.

To better disseminate the results of our project with the community, we will participate in two local radio programs and write two articles for a local journal, as well communicate our advances through social media. Additionally, one poster, one leaflet, and a video regarding the importance of the amphibians as bioindicators and of Abra de Zamora as a protected area will be produced and used during a citizen- and a student- involvement campaign.

To gain the support of the scientific community, a scientific paper regarding the amphibian species present in Abra de Zamora and the importance of the area for their conservation will be sent to an indexed journal.

13. **Consultation methods:**

Consultation with the governmental agencies, land owners and the general community will take place during the public meetings and the workshop. More technical aspects, such as the ascribing a conservation status for the amphibian species and designing a conservation plan will involve the participation of experts from the Environmental agencies, conservation NGOs and the IUCN.

14. **Other Engagement Activities:** This section will describe any other engagement activities that will be undertaken, including participatory processes, joint decision-making, and/or partnerships undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders. Examples include benefit-sharing programs, community development initiatives, resettlement and development programs, and/or training and microfinance programs.

The current project was designed as the first stage in a process that improves the protection status for Abra de Zamora. Based on the ecological and social information generated through our project, the next step would be for our partners (Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional) to promote the importance of the area for amphibian protection and as a source of water for the nearby communities, and as a result to secure the involvement of stakeholders so that the CBA Abra de Zamora receives an efficient protection status.

15. **Timetable:**

- 1 – 15 July 2019 – inform the municipal and local government representatives of Loja and Zamora Chinchipe provinces and Ministerio de Ambiente of Loja and Zamora Chinchipe about the start of the project;
- 15 July – 1 August 2020 - deliver a technical report regarding the conservation status of the focus amphibians to the interested official organisms (National Directorate of Biodiversity Quito, IUCN, INABIO and Jambatu Center);
- 15 July – 1 August 2020 - send to the relevant agencies (Ministry of the Environment, municipal and provincial GADs) a proposal to include the priority areas of the ACB Abra del Zamora and its surroundings in a form of protection (inclusion in the Podocarpus National Park, creation of a municipal reserve);
- 1 March 2020, 1 May 2020, UTPL - two work meetings between the Municipalities of Loja and Zamora, Ministry of Environment, local Universities, NGOs and UTPL to guarantee a participatory construction of the Action Plan.
- 15 July – 1 August 2020, UTL – one workshop sharing the Action Plan directed to representatives of civil society, land owners, local authorities, local researchers, NGOs, Ministry of the Environment, National Directorate of Biodiversity, IUCN, INABIO, Centro Jambatu
- 1 May – 1 August 2020, Loja central square - citizen involvement campaign
- 1 May – 1 August 2020, Loja and Zamora schools – student involvement campaign
- 1 January – 1 April 2020 – participation of rangers from Podocarpus National Park and of local press to field trips;
- 1 January – 1 August – media involvement – written press, local radio programs, social media, scientific press.

## 16. **Resources and Responsibilities:**

The project coordinator will have ultimate responsibility of implementing the stakeholder engagement plan. The team will share responsibilities in all components, and will receive extensive support from our partners (Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional).

The budget for stakeholder involvement, including visits from central governmental representatives and NGOs specialists, promoting materials such as video, leaflets, posters etc., have been built into the project activity budgets.

## 17. **Grievance mechanism:**

To ensure rapid attention to any conflicts arising from the implementation of the project, the following resolution mechanism is proposed:

- i. Before the start of fieldwork, we will produce a poster containing the following information, in Spanish:

- title and brief description of the project
- grantee information: Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, San Cayetano Alto s/n 11 01 608 Loja, Ecuador
- contact information - Diego Armijos Ojeda, Coordinator of the Project, San Cayetano Alto s/n 11 01 608 Loja, Ecuador, Teléfono: 3701444 Ext. 3020, e-mail: [darmijos1@utpl.edu.ec](mailto:darmijos1@utpl.edu.ec)
- email and telephone contact information for the CEPF Regional Implementation Team.

- o Coordinador Nacional RIT Andes Tropicales para Ecuador: Vincent Gravez, email : [vincent.gravez@ffla.net](mailto:vincent.gravez@ffla.net)

- o Directora de Donaciones del CEPF: Michele Zador; email: [mzador@cepf.net](mailto:mzador@cepf.net)

- email and telephone contact information for the local World Bank office.

- o Banco Mundial en Quito: 12 de Octubre 1830 y Cordero, WorldTrade Center, Torre B, piso 13. Telf. (02) 294-3600. Quito, Ecuador

- email of the CEPF Executive Director

- o Director Ejecutivo CEPF: email:[cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org)

- the grievance mechanism description, including the text “We will share all grievances – and a proposed response – with the Regional Implementation Team and the CEPF Grant Director within 15 days. If the claimant is not satisfied following the response, they may submit the grievance directly to the CEPF

Executive Director at [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org) or by surface mail. If the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.”

- ii. At the beginning of the project we will communicate with the Ministerio del Ambiente Loja and Zamora Chinchipe and the local municipalities regarding our "Procedure for the resolution of conflicts and complaints" that works during the operation of the project. The poster containing all information will be remain on public display at UTPL, the Ministerio del Ambiente Loja and Zamora Chinchipe until the end of the project.
- iii. The grievance mechanism will also be communicates to other actors (landowners, ONGs, other interested parties) during private and public meetings carried out by both UTPL and NCI, and during the workshop.
- iv. When the complaint or claim is filed, the procedure will be activated.

If there are complaints, the affected parties will be encouraged to follow the complaint process described below:

- should we receive any grievance, as a first step it will be determined if the claim corresponds or not to the implementation of this project. If the claim corresponds to this project and it is determined that the response is only a clarification or a general question, it will be resolved immediately by Diego Armijos, Project Coordinator of UTPL. Efforts will be made to resolve any complaint on site or with local representatives, as rapidly as possible.
- for inquiries or complaints that cannot be handled on site or with local representatives, claimants will be encouraged to submit the grievance directly to the CEPF Executive Director at [cepfexecutive@conservation.org](mailto:cepfexecutive@conservation.org).
- if the claimant is not satisfied with the response from the CEPF Executive Director, they may submit the grievance to the World Bank at the local World Bank office.
- all complaints will be formally registered and will be communicated to the RIT ECUADOR Coordinator, Regional RIT Coordinator and the CEPF Donations Director within 15 days of being presented.

- a record of the entire process will be kept, where the complaints received will be recorded, date of receipt, person responsible for follow-up, date of follow-up, response provided and steps to follow if applicable.

**18. Monitoring and Reporting:**

The results of the stakeholder engagement activities will be reported to governmental activities at the end of the project and CEPF. Information will be shared through meetings and workshops.