

Tumbes-Choco-Magdalena Biodiversity Hotspot Chocó-Manabi Conservation Corridor

Program for Consolidation

May 2009

The Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena biodiversity hotspot ranks among the highest globally for its biodiversity. It includes a wide variety of habitats, ranging from mangroves, beaches and coastal wilderness to some of the world's wettest rain forests. Scattered throughout the relatively flat coastal plain are mountain systems with unique habitats. The hotspot also is known for a high degree of cultural diversity that includes indigenous groups, people of African ancestry and *mestizos*.

Given the hotspot's large size and diversity, the CEPF strategy as detailed in the ecosystem profile for this hotspot¹ targeted the Chocó-Manabi Conservation Corridor and specifically five sub-corridors within it. CEPF awarded 46 grants valued at \$5 million from 2002 to 2007, leveraging an additional \$11.4 million for the corridor.

Achievements: CEPF assessed the portfolio's impact at the close of its five-year investment period for this region and rated its performance of the portfolio to be very strong². Several important conservation results were achieved:

- More than 73,500 hectares of new protected areas were created on private, community, and indigenous territories. In addition, CEPF helped to improve management on 850,000 hectares of land within existing protected areas.
- CEPF helped local communities adopt improved land management practices through a variety of projects, including establishing payment for ecosystem services mechanisms in indigenous territories, and promoting sustainable gold extraction, agroforestry and ecotourism.
- CEPF helped strengthen local and regional coordination for conservation through 40 conservation alliances that included local communities and public and private organizations.
- CEPF advanced a unified vision for the region through territorial planning exercises at different political levels. A bi-national effort that brought together leading nongovernmental organizations and public agencies resulted in the design of a hotspot-wide monitoring system for decisionmaking, which reinforced this unified vision.

¹ Ecosystem Profile, Chocó-Manabi Conservation Corridor,
English www.cepf.net/Documents/final.choco-darien-westernecuador.choco.ep.pdf (PDF, 1.5 MB) /
Español www.cepf.net/Documents/final.spanish.choco-darien-western-ecuador.choco.ep.pdf (PDF - 1.2 MB)

² Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Tumbes-Chocó-Magdalena Biodiversity Hotspot,
English www.cepf.net/Documents/final_chocomanabi_assessment_march07.pdf (PDF - 822 KB) / Español
www.cepf.net/Documents/final_chocomanabi_assessment_march07_sp.pdf (PDF - 837 KB)

Justification for consolidation: While significant strides were made, the region remains highly complex and threatened. Threats to biodiversity persist and jeopardize the long-term viability of the gains made with CEPF support. For example, in the Chocó of Ecuador, old-growth forests are under grave threat by timber extraction and by conversion to African palm and teak plantations. The level of threat was not fully appreciated when the region's ecosystem profile was prepared because a road connecting the once-remote region to the Andes highlands had only recently been paved. Since that time, areas of high biological value have been converted to African palm, causing significant social conflict and deforestation (Ecuador possesses among the highest deforestation rates in the world).

CEPF was instrumental in ensuring that many areas of high biological and cultural value were brought under sustainable management and protection. However, given the scale of the threat, important opportunities and needs for CEPF consolidation exist to ensure the robustness of CEPF's conservation results and to promote their scaling up.

It is important to note that the Pacific coast of Colombia and Ecuador is characterized by highly impoverished, remote communities that have a long history of being underserved by donors and the government. Extensive planning and conservation work throughout the Colombian and Ecuadorian sides of the corridor with local communities were major achievements under CEPF. For example, on the Ecuadorian side of the bi-national Awa indigenous territory – which harbors among the best preserved land in the Ecuadorian Chocó – CEPF supported the development of management plans for six communities. These management plans were designed to help Awa communities develop their lands with sustainability and conservation as fundamental goals, rather than have the land converted for African palm and timber extraction. At the Awa's request, the Wildlife Conservation Society replicated these management plans in other areas of the indigenous territory. The Ecuadorian Awa have expressed interest in having their entire territory brought under similar community-level management plans to ensure broad consensus on the management objectives of the territory. The Awa have also expressed interest in better coordinating their bi-national territory with their counterparts on the Colombian side of the border, where a similar planning effort was undertaken with CEPF support.

Other important opportunities exist for consolidation. For example in Colombia's Munchique - Pinche Sub-Corridor, an opportunity exists to scale up a payments for environmental services scheme in an indigenous territory of high priority for biodiversity, which is located on the upper watershed of a dam.

While several important site-based needs exist for consolidation and scaling up, local stakeholders recognize that these initiatives must be complemented by development plans and policies that internalize conservation and sustainable development as fundamental goals. In Colombia, efforts need to focus on working with regional development agencies called the Regional Autonomous Corporations (CARs), which exercise authority over the corridor's development and conservation priorities. In Ecuador, significant effort needs to be focused on promoting more sustainable development policies coming out of local and national governments.

Through consolidation, CEPF's objective is to reinforce and sustain the gains achieved as a result of the initial five-year investment in this important region. Based on analyses, consultation with partners and site visits, CEPF has selected three of the five original sub-corridors within the Chocó-Manabi Conservation Corridor to target consolidation based on priority needs and

opportunities: the sub-corridors of the bi-national region, Munchique-Pinche, and Serranía de Los Paraguas.

Table 1. Investment Priorities & Activities

<p>Investment priority 1: Support the Adoption and Implementation of Management Plans and Governance Structures to Promote the Sustainability of Conservation Results in Two Sub-Corridors Implementing partners: Fondo Ambiental Nacional (\$350,000), Federación de Centros Awá del Ecuador (\$280,000), Fundación Altropico (\$250,000), Fundación Sirua (\$200,000), Corporación Serriangua (\$200,000). Potential leverage: Wildlife Conservation Society, Fond Ambiental Nacional, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Conservation Stewards Program, Fondo de Acción Ambiental</p>	
<p>Outcome 1: Governance and management structures and plans adopted and implemented in two sub-corridors: the bi-national region and Serranía de Los Paraguas.</p>	
Activity	CEPF Budget: \$1,280,000
<p><i>Bi-National Corridor</i></p> <p>In the Awa indigenous territories, support the <i>Binational Plan de Vida</i> (Plan for Life developed by Awa communities in Colombia and Ecuador) to strengthen bi-national collaboration between Colombian and Ecuadorian Awa communities, and implement and replicate site-level management plans to new areas in Awa territory.</p> <p>In the bi-national area of mangroves (which includes Cayapas Mataje Ecological Reserve, whose CEPF-funded management plan was recently approved by the Government of Ecuador), support implementation of key management activities (i.e., creation of local management committees and public education, improved protection), and facilitate bi-national collaboration between technical staff and communities.</p> <p>In Cotocachi – Cayapas, establish management committees involving local communities to improve their engagement in protected areas activities. Conclude the border demarcation process in priority areas under particular threat and expand the system of volunteer park guards.</p> <p>In the Chachi Gran Reserve, replicate the conservation steward program to other communities to expand areas brought under agreement and maintain land use in the face of encroachment from African palm development.</p> <p>In the Golondrinas Protected Forest, consolidate the legalization of forest lands and create a community management committee.</p> <p>In the Awacachi Sub-Corridor, seek to consolidate support of local communities through conflict resolution and technical assistance in cacao production.</p>	

<u>Serranía de Los Paraguas</u>	
Consolidate the sub-corridor comprised of private protected areas (PPA) and a national park, by implementing management plans funded by CEPF, developing new management plans for additional PPAs, and supporting greater collaboration and capacity building among PPAs.	
<p>Investment priority 2: Ensure the Compatibility of Development Processes with Biodiversity Conservation in three key sub-corridors.</p> <p>Implementing partners: Conservation International (\$350,000), Centro de Investigación y Estudios en Biodiversidad y Recursos Genéticos (\$120,000)</p> <p>Potential co-financing: Fondo de Acción Ambiental, Regional Development Authorities of Colombia.</p>	
Outcome 2: Conservation and human welfare considerations are incorporated into local, regional and national development plans in key sub-corridors: the bi-national region, Munchique-Pinche and Serranía de Los Paraguas.	
Activity	CEPF Budget: \$470,000
<p>Strengthen the integration of the bi-national conservation vision with the strategies and operations of key stakeholder groups (environmental and development nongovernmental organizations, research institutes, Colombian Regional Development Authorities, and municipal, provincial and national governments). Also attract more financing for conservation and sustainable development from in-country and international donors.</p> <p>In the bi-national corridor of Ecuador, promote development policies that are compatible with conservation in order to stem the expansion of African palm and teak in areas of importance for biodiversity. Activities to include economic analysis to examine policy options, integration of conservation into local and provincial development plans, socioeconomic and environmental monitoring of impacts, and capacity building to foster participatory decisionmaking with partners.</p> <p>Consolidate the inter-institutional agreement signed by Colombian and Ecuadorian organizations to share information for monitoring conservation trends in the entire hotspot. This includes capacity building and integration of the agreement with existing participants, and obtaining funds from the CARs for financing.</p>	
<p>Investment priority 3: Support the establishment and expansion of sustainable financing mechanisms</p> <p>Implementing partners: Centro para la Investigación en Sistemas Sostenibles de Producción Agropecuaria (\$200,000), Fondo Ambiental Nacional (\$350,000), Fundación Sirua (\$200,000)</p> <p>Potential leverage: Fondo Ambiental Nacional, Fondo de Acción Ambiental, Flora & Fauna International</p>	
Outcome 3: Stable funding mechanisms are operational in support of priority management needs in	

Cotacachi – Cayapas and Cayapas – Mataje Ecological Reserve and three key sub-corridors: the bi-national region, Munchique-Pinche, and Serranía de Los Paraguas.	
Activity	CEPF Budget: \$200,000
<p><u><i>Bi-national Sub- Corridor</i></u></p> <p>In the Awacachi Corridor, develop and implement a fundraising campaign to buttress contributions to the existing trust fund. Promote environmental service scheme for water provision to downstream communities.</p> <p>Improve the collection of existing tourism entrance fees in support of management for Cotacachi – Cayapas and Cayapas – Mataje protected areas.</p> <p>Provide technical assistance to Ecuadorian partners to help them access funding for conservation under the <i>Plan Socio Bosque</i> (Social Forestry Plan).</p> <p><u><i>Munchique-Pinche</i></u></p> <p>Build on current payment for environmental services scheme by expanding coverage to three adjacent communities surrounded by a protected area, document and disseminate information on the existing scheme to other parts of the corridor, and consolidate the existing scheme through capacity building of local communities.</p> <p><u><i>Serranía de Los Paraguas</i></u></p> <p>Support fundraising for a trust fund dedicated to financing conservation and sustainable development activities in the sub-corridor.</p>	

Total consolidation: \$1,950,000

Donor Collaboration: CEPF and its grantees are committed to collaborating with a wide variety of donors to achieve the conservation outcomes pursued under consolidation. Among the CEPF partners, the MacArthur Foundation and Global Environment Facility (GEF) have existing or planned investments that demonstrate promising opportunities for collaboration. The MacArthur Foundation recently completed a call for proposals for its Northern Andean region, which includes a funding window for the Ecuador – Colombian border area. CEPF and the MacArthur Foundation have agreed to work together to ensure cooperation between grants located in the bi-national corridor.

With respect to collaboration with the GEF, three projects are of particular interest:

- i. *Colombian National Protected Areas Conservation Trust Fund* has been in implementation since 2006, and will be targeted for potential collaboration.
- ii. *Mainstreaming traditional knowledge associated with agrobiodiversity in Colombian agroecosystems*, in preparation.

- iii. *The Sustainable Management of Biodiversity and Water Resources in the Ibarra – San Lorenzo Corridor* in Ecuador, scheduled for CEO endorsement and approval in November 2009.

CEPF has not identified any projects financed by the governments of Japan and France or by the World Bank that offer similar opportunities for potential collaboration at this time, although effort will be made during implementation to coordinate with relevant projects.

In addition, USAID and GTZ have ongoing programs that have been partners in past CEPF projects and will be targeted under consolidation for continued cooperation. Furthermore, the Colombia Fund for Environmental Action and the Ecuador's National Environmental Fund were important partners for leveraging local funds under earlier grants, and initial discussions have yielded encouraging results for similar partner relationships under consolidation. And finally, CEPF will collaborate closely with Conservation International's Global Conservation Fund in raising funds for the Awacachi trust fund.

Monitoring Plan: CEPF will monitor the performance of its grantees in achieving a core set of consolidation targets as outlined below through the review of programmatic and financial progress reports and site visits to each project. The specific targets presented in Table 2 have been selected based on their relevance from the CEPF Global Results Framework. In addition, a target specific to leverage for this portfolio has been added to reflect the significant leverage goals for this consolidation portfolio.

Table 2. Chocó-Manabi Conservation Corridor Logical Framework for Consolidation

Objective	Targets	Means of Verification
Reinforce and sustain the conservation gains achieved as a result of previous CEPF investment in the Choco-Manabi Conservation Corridor.	Seven stakeholder networks strengthened to support long-term conservation action by replicating and scaling up CEPF successes.	Grantee performance reports and Annual Portfolio Overview Reports
	576,962 hectares located in key biodiversity areas with strengthened protection and management.	Grantee performance reports and Protected Areas Tracking Tool (SP1 METT)
	Four CEPF conservation results replicated and/or scaled up.	Grantee performance reports and Annual Portfolio Overview Reports
	\$2,900,000 leveraged	Final project reports
	250,300 hectares in production landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation	Grantee performance reports and Productive Landscape Tracking Tool (SP2 METT)
Intermediate Outcomes	Targets	Means of Verification
Outcome 1. Governance and management structures and plans adopted and implemented in three sub-corridors. \$1,280,000	Three sub-corridors under improved governance for sustainable development through achievement of key conservation milestones.	Grantee performance reports and Annual Portfolio Overview Reports
	Nine KBAs demonstrate improvements in their protection and management <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cayapas - Mataje Ecological Reserve 2. Cotacachi- Cayapas National Park 3. Chachi Gran Reserve 4. Golondrinas Protected Forest 5. Awacachi sub-corridor 	Grantee performance reports

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Serrania de los Paragua sub-corridor 7. Tatama National Park 8. Munchique National Park 9. Awa indigenous territories 	
	Seven projects enable effective stewardship by indigenous and local communities for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.	Grantee performance reports
<p>Outcome 2. Conservation and human welfare considerations are incorporated into local, regional, and national development plans in key sub-corridors: the bi-national region, Munchique-Pinche, and Serranía de Los Paraguas.</p> <p>\$470,000</p>	Six projects located outside protected areas integrate biodiversity conservation in management practices.	Grantee performance reports
	100% of targeted communities involved in sustainable use projects demonstrate tangible socioeconomic benefits.	Grantee performance reports
	Twelve policies influenced as a result of CEPF grant consolidation.	Grantee performance reports and Annual Portfolio Overview Reports
<p>Outcome 3. Stable funding mechanisms are operational in support of priority management needs in Cotacachi – Cayapas and Cayapas – Mataje Ecological Reserve and three key sub-corridors: the bi-national region, Munchique-Pinche, and Serranía de Los Paraguas.</p> <p>\$200,000</p>	Five sustainable financing mechanisms established and/or strengthened with initial capital secured.	Grantee performance reports