FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Name: American Bird Conservancy

Project Title: Proyecto *Polylepis*

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

The project proceeded as anticipated. Extensive photographs are available of the project work underway and we would be happy to present these, or provide scans to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) at anytime. A more detailed written report has also already been submitted to CEPF and we would be delighted to supply additional copies if this would be of interest.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose*: Reforest and protect Polylepis forests at Abra Malaga, Yanahuara, and Cancha Cancha, Cusco Department, Peru. Develop community programs to provide renewable alternatives for fuel wood and timber.*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
Indicator 1: Number of *Polylepis* saplings planted (this is dependent on amount of funding available, and is scaleable accordingly both in quantity and time).	8,000 (5,000 at Abra Malaga and 3,000 at Cancha Cancha).
Indicator 2: Number of high priority *Polylepis* parcels officially protected (this is a longer-term objective and will be dependent on cooperation of local decision-makers and communities).	Initial agreements now exist with 5 communities. ABC and its local partner, Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN), have developed a five-year plan to upgrade these to full conservation agreements and to help the communities acquire land title to create a series of private protected areas.
Indicator 3: Number of renewable fuel wood and timber projects with communities; number of more fuel-efficient stoves distributed (this is dependent on amount of funding available, and is scaleable accordingly both in quantity and time).	10,000 *Eucalyptus* saplings were planted on degraded land at Huaca Huasi to ease pressure on the key *Polylepis* forest at Mantanay. An additional 4,000 *Eucalyptus* were planted at Quishuarani, a parcel identified late in the project and containing significant numbers of the critically endangered Royal Cinclodes. In addition, 1,000 *Buddleia incana* were also planted.

Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.

The project has succeeded in expanding the area forested by *Polylepis* at both Abra Malaga and Cancha Cancha. We have also created a plantation that will provide a significant alternative source of fuel and construction wood for the community at Huaca

Huasi, that is dependent on the large *Polylepis* forest at Mantanay (Yanahuara is the other community close to Mantanay but does not use *Polylepis* as they are already close to *Eucalyptus* plantations). In addition, late in the project period, ECOAN discovered a small 6.5 ha *Polylepis* fragment at the village of Quishuarani. Unexpectedly, this fragment contained 8 pairs of the Critically Endangered Royal Cinclodes. Due to the fact that the fragment is under considerable pressure from the community, ECOAN elected to develop a community *Eucalyptus* plantation there. At the community's request, 1,000 *Buddleia incana*, a native tree locally valued for home construction, were also planted. This is however a long-term initiative and it will take time for the saplings to mature. Conservation issues in the area are complex, and center around the creation of a sustainable wood economy for local communities. ABC and ECOAN have developed a long-term strategy to develop such an economy in 12 high Andean communities in the Vilcanota area that depend on key *Polylepis* areas, and to develop a series of private *Polylepis* reserves to protect the key endangered species.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

Perhaps the most interesting and valuable additional impact has been the stimulation of interest in the communities to gain title to their land. Previously, they have simply used the *Polylepis* wood without regard to who owns it. With the increased focus on reforestation and conservation, the communities are beginning to take a more active interest in the management of all the land in their vicinity. We believe that this will lead to increased responsibility for the sustainable management of natural resources on their lands and will likely be an additional positive outcome from this project.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs*: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Reforestation of in excess of 1,000 *Polylepis* saplings per site at each of the three highest priority *Polylepis* forest locations: Abra Malaga, Yanahuara, and Cancha Cancha.	
1.1 Number of saplings reforested during project period.	8,000 at two sites (as above).
Output 2: Agreements with communities to protect priority *Polylepis* forests.	
2.1 How many communities have agreed to protect their forests.	5 with initial agreements.
Output 3: Distribute fuel-efficient stoves to families in communities close to priority sites, establish renewable *Eucalyptus* plantations for fuel-wood and timber, donate fuel-wood as an interim measure while plantations mature.	
3.1 How many fuel-efficient stoves, *Eucalyptus* saplings, and how much fuel wood has been distributed.	10,000 *Eucalyptus* saplings (the Huaca Huasi plantation was made a high priority due to that community's pressure on one of the regions largest *Polylepis* fragments). 4,000 *Eucalyptus* and 1,000 *Buddleia incana* were planted at Quishuarani, a site with a very high number of Royal Cinclodes.

Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.

Outputs were delivered at the scale we anticipated.

Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

We decided to focus on the *Eucalyptus* plantation at Huaca Huasi and at Quishuarani rather than invest in more stoves and fuel wood. Many villagers already have fuel-efficient stoves from previous ABC funding, and the plantations were viewed as a more sustainable investment than additional supplementary fuel wood or stoves.

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The principal issue of concern is the potential for *Eucalyptus* to spread or cause watershed impacts. The Huaca Huasi plantation is separated from the *Polylepis* forest by a large mountain which it would be unable to spread across, and, similarly, the plantation at Quishuarani is located far from native forests or agricultural land. There are no mammals present that would be able to propagate the *Eucalyptus* seeds. Fire suppression in *Eucalyptus* will be stressed, though the small confined plantation is unlikely to become a problem as the land in the vicinity of Huaca Huasi has already been severely denuded. *Eucalyptus* is also abundant in many nearby areas that would be more likely to cause a problem than the carefully monitored plantations we have established.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.

This grant has been a valuable building block towards a larger project that we have been able to plan during the grant period. This project is tackling direct threats to extremely threatened habitats in a very direct way. Although we have yet to solve the larger problem of developing sustainable community wood economies, we have established the key elements that can lead to this long-term outcome: community support for the project's objectives, provision of renewable fuel wood sources, land titling, reforestation, and conservation agreements.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)

ABC and ECOAN began this project with a common objective: protect sufficient *Polylepis* forest to conserve the three endangered bird species in the Cusco area: Royal Cinclodes, Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, and White-browed Tit-Spinetail. ECOAN is locally managed and their staff are determined and capable. The effectiveness of the partnership between ABC and ECOAN has been the key factor in the success of the

effort. ABC did not impose any objectives on ECOAN, but helped to facilitate their work, while taking an active, collaborative role in project design.

Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)

ECOAN takes a very pragmatic approach to conservation and recognizes that to prevent deforestation, it is essential to provide alternatives. While it values communication with communities, it emphasizes action over discussion, and values delivery of outputs over other considerations. Because there is a ready source of saplings from another Cusco-based NGO, Asociación INCA, the main limiting factor in additional reforestation is funding.

VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you so much for your support. It has made a huge difference to the program. We hope that the program will ultimately prove to be a model for other Andean conservation efforts in *Polylepis* areas and will continue to keep CEPF appraised of our progress.