

# Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Tropical Andes Biodiversity Hotspot

Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor

A Special Report October 2006

### CONTENTS

Overview	
CEPF 5-Year Logical Framework Reporting	13
List of CEPF Approved Grants	
Workshop Summary	

### **OVERVIEW**

Known as the "global center of biodiversity," the Tropical Andes biodiversity hotspot is the single most diverse region of our planet in terms of its terrestrial species. Given its significance as the home of the world's greatest number of endemic species, the Tropical Andes was among the first three regions selected to receive investment from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), beginning in 2001.

CEPF is a joint initiative of Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to engage nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), community groups, and other sectors of civil society in biodiversity conservation.

This special report of five years of CEPF investment in the Tropical Andes Hotspot draws from CEPF experience, lessons learned, and project monitoring, including analysis of final project reports compiled by grant recipients supported during the period. All final project reports are available on the CEPF Web site, <u>www.cepf.net</u>. The report also draws from the results of a 2006 questionnaire to CEPF grant recipients and an April 2006 stakeholders workshop attended by more than 50 grantees and leaders in the region. A summary of the workshop, organized by Asociación para la Conservación, Investigación de la Biodiversidad y el Desarrollo Sustentable (SAVIA), is included in this report.

### **CEPF** Niche

The Tropical Andes Hotspot stretches along the eastern slopes of the Andes from northwestern Venezuela to the northwestern corner of Argentina. This long, narrow strip of land covers 150 million hectares and is shaped by steep altitude gradients between snow-capped peaks, some above 6,000 meters high, complex inter-mountain valleys, and a piedmont zone above 500 meters. Below that altitude is the major wilderness area of the lowland Amazon forest, stretching for more than 1,500 miles to the Atlantic. Those steep mountain slopes, receiving heavy rainfall, provide a vast number of microhabitats and ecological niches for between 30,000 and 35,000 vascular plant species, of which roughly 15,000 are endemic. While impressive, those numbers probably underestimate the actual total; recent explorations continue to add new organisms to the list. Similarly, the Andean region stands out for its very high species numbers for nearly every terrestrial vertebrate group, including more than 1,700 species of birds and more than 1,100 species of amphibians.

As part of the initial design of CEPF, Conservation International convened a binational workshop in February 1999, with participation from government officials, NGOs, and scientists from both Bolivia and Peru to discuss threats and articulate a common vision for a binational biological corridor for the area connecting Tambopata in Peru to Madidi in Bolivia. The participants, who represented the Wildlife Conservation Society, the United States Agency for International Development, Bolivia's National Service of Protected Areas (Servicio Nacional de Areas Protegidas -SERNAP), Fundación ProNaturaleza and Peru's National Institute of Natural Resources (Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales -INRENA), among others, agreed on a vision for the corridor and on both short- and long-term steps to advance this vision. In July 2000, Conservation International's Andes Program reconvened a technical binational team to reevaluate the corridor concept, expanding the original concept to include the entire Vilcabamba-Amboró Forest Ecosystem. This workshop resulted in the creation of a revised strategy for the region that builds upon the initial platform established in the first workshop. Together, these two processes formed the baseline of consensus-driven priorities that were subsequently translated into the CEPF ecosystem profile for the Vilcabamba-Amboró Forest Ecosystem.

Because of the extraordinary size and biological significance of this hotspot, CEPF recognized the opportunity to work at a large landscape scale, aiming to improve protection for an extremely large number of organisms. This approach was possible because a variety of extensive protected areas already existed, concentrated particularly between the Vilcabamba range in central Peru and Amboró National Park in central Bolivia. While most of these reserves were weakly managed, their existence meant that CEPF could focus on expanding their coverage and establishing connections between them to create a uniquely large corridor to help conserve the enormous biological richness of the region. In response to the dramatic circumstances of this "hyperhotspot" and the priorities identified in the workshop, CEPF and its partners developed a highly ambitious landscape-scale conservation plan.

CEPF targeted its investments in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor, a 30-million hectare strip of forest that includes three complexes of formally declared protected areas (16 in total, 9 in Peru and 7 in Bolivia): the Vilcabamba-Manu range, entirely in Peru; Tambopata-Pilon Lajas, straddling the border between Peru and Bolivia; and Cotopata-Amboró, in Bolivia. Each of these territories contained a variety of national parks, indigenous reserves, forest reserves, and multiple-use areas, and all of them are occupied by small but growing numbers of people, including both indigenous groups and recent colonists. CEPF's ambitious agenda was to consolidate these clusters of uneven protected area coverage into a functioning corridor that could provide effective conservation of biological resources on a massive scale.

In that context, CEPF aimed to respond to the set of pressures identified in the ecosystem profile for the Tropical Andes, including colonization by people moving from the highlands of Peru and Bolivia into lowland forests, fast-moving clearance of forest cover for both commercial lumber production and small, inefficient farming, water pollution, soil erosion, and flooding. The proposed construction of major infrastructure projects, including hydro-electric generation schemes, highways linking Brazil with Peruvian ports on the Pacific, and oil and natural gas extraction and associated pipelines all present substantial threats to the biological wealth of the east-facing Andean slopes.

At the same time, extreme poverty, inadequate environmental laws and policies, official corruption, complex land tenure situations, and weak national law enforcement institutions all added pressure to these destructive and unsustainable practices. In addition to confronting these pervasive challenges, CEPF took on the added difficulty of attempting to establish a coordinated approach to nature conservation across a political frontier between two independent countries.

The ecosystem profile included six strategic directions to guide CEPF grantmaking:

- 1. Establish effective mechanisms for transboundary coordination, collaboration, and catalytic action.
- 2. Strengthen bi-national coordination of protected areas systems.
- 3. Encourage community-based biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.
- 4. Strengthen public awareness and environmental education.
- 5. Strengthen environmental and legal policy frameworks.
- 6. Establish an electronic information exchange, coordinated information, and datagathering mechanism.

### Impact

Five years later, having invested \$6.13 million, CEPF's impact can be summarized as a large and seminal but incomplete contribution to the consolidation of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor. That was the central conclusion of the stakeholders workshop held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, April 21-22, 2006. More than 50 grantees and leaders from the target region and beyond assembled to help assess CEPF's impact, the sustainability of its investments, shortcomings of the portfolio, and gaps and priorities for future action.

One basic finding, made clear during the workshop, was that the participants were genuinely enthusiastic about gaining a regional perspective and shaping their conservation and development programs around more integrated landscape-scale strategies. Before CEPF began its investments in the hotspot, conservation was tackled almost entirely through isolated initiatives, collaboration was weak, and no common goal of integrating the various protected areas into a large corridor existed.

The CEPF presence stimulated greater collaboration among major actors, both government agencies and civil society organizations, bringing local and international missions and perspectives to the table. It also focused on bringing new areas under formal protection, which was recognized as the most tangible accomplishment of CEPF's grants over the past five years.

Substantial existing protected areas also benefited from the development of management plans and co-management committees through which government officials, local communities, and NGO leaders can come together to make appropriate decisions about the use of natural resources in many of the parks and reserves of the region. These structures are beginning to deliver reduced conflict around protected areas and enhanced sustainability. They exemplify CEPF's basic mission of increasing civil society participation in conservation decisions and thereby making them more effective.

As planned, CEPF's investments helped to strengthen existing conservation initiatives, supported new ones, and generated experiences that can now be replicated in other parts of the corridor, as well as in other regions where such large-scale initiatives may be appropriate. Workshop participants also found that the strategy outlined in the ecosystem profile was a major strength of CEPF's approach, even though they referred to it more in its broad terms than in its details. They recommended that CEPF incorporate more specific indicators into any future strategy to give partner organizations baselines and targets for the periodic measure of progress. (Profiles written in subsequent years have included more explicit indicators.)

Grantees also recommended that the alliance-building process, seen as an innovative component of CEPF's strategy, should be strengthened through an even greater presence of grassroots organizations, including indigenous communities, in any future programming. In short, they agreed that more inter-institutional collaboration across diverse social and economic sectors could be a major influence on the results of such conservation action in the Tropical Andes Hotspot. The CEPF portfolio, in other words, made a start in the right direction, but its advances need to be reinforced if they are to provide durable protection of the world's highest priority region for terrestrial biodiversity conservation.

### Implementing the Strategy

CEPF awarded 31 grants in support of the Tropical Andes Ecosystem Profile. They ranged in size from \$3,800 to \$904,000, the average amount being \$180,400. To provide a closer analysis of the results generated by these grants, a brief analysis of actions taken in line with each of the six strategic directions follows:

## Strategic Direction 1: Establish effective mechanisms for transboundary coordination, collaboration, and catalytic action

The single grant made under this heading was awarded to Conservation International (CI), to act as the Coordination Unit for the Tropical Andes portfolio and to develop the corridor vision for the region. Working through its offices in both Lima and La Paz, and conducting a wide variety of initiatives, CI promoted the concept in both countries.

A key achievement of CI's role was the development of a series of maps displaying proposed changes in the conservation status of the land in the corridor at 5, 10, and 15-year horizons. These maps identified a sequence for establishing new protected areas, improving management efforts, terminating logging and mining concessions, and increasing connectivity among the major components of the corridor. A relatively new concept in 2001, the detailed corridor vision became an organizing theme and aspiration across the region. Although landscape-scale conservation planning gained currency as opposed to traditional unconnected site-based projects, the old approach is still alive and well. Attempts to establish a bi-national working group for the corridor as described in the ecosystem profile did not come to fruition, but informal collaboration across the border separating Peru and Bolivia has grown significantly. A single plan for the transboundary Tambopata-Madidi complex was completed and is currently being reviewed by the appropriate government agencies (INRENA in Peru and SERNAP in Bolivia).

As part of its coordination role, CI also delivered training courses for community leaders and park staff who serve on the new protected area co-management committees. Research on land-use conflicts in each of the major protected areas of the corridor generated policy recommendations on their resolution. Generating new taxonomic research, supporting land-use change detection systems, and sharing biological and economic data all contributed to the identification of priorities for further conservation action and better monitoring of results.

Despite these accomplishments, working out an operational model for coordinating CEPF actions at such a large scale and in two countries was incomplete. The separate gravitational fields presented by two substantial countries inevitably worked against a new concept shaped by ecosystem boundaries rather than political ones. Even within CI, coordination between the two national program offices was sometimes difficult to achieve. Turnover in the leadership of those national programs added to the challenge. The power and appeal of the bi-national corridor was established sufficiently to build support for further action, but five years appears not to be sufficient time to cement in place such a major conceptual change.

#### Strategic Direction 2: Strengthen bi-national coordination of protected area systems

The grants awarded in this category aimed to promote substantially better management of the existing protected areas along the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor and to establish joint planning between Bolivia and Peru through civil society involvement. Much of this activity consisted of meetings, which can be criticized as much motion with uncertain impact. Nevertheless, the participatory process to which CEPF is committed requires bringing government officials,

specialists from national and international NGOs, business executives, and leaders of local communities together to reach decisions about managing natural resources in and around formal protected areas.

Workshop participants reported that these processes made positive differences in nearly every place where they were undertaken because they reduced the political tension around the creation and functioning of the protected areas. The primary question about their impact was the limited coverage that was feasible across such a large target area with the financial resources that CEPF could allocate (two grants totaling \$676,000). The ecosystem profile may have been overly ambitious in this respect.

Products of these grants can be seen in the formal management plans now in place along the corridor. The existence of these plans and the inclusive process by which they were created, as well as the co-management committees that were established to engage relevant stakeholders in decisions about the operation of these large protected areas have all contributed to more effective management and the achievement of conservation results. A formal bi-national policy-making structure was not established, revealing that the inertia such innovative plans must overcome is large. On the other hand, the corridor concept was widely accepted in government agencies and nonprofit organizations, indicating that further, better coordinated efforts in both countries are needed and warranted. In addition to building necessary political consensus, CEPF grants supported the development by the Museo Noel Kempff of new indicators and criteria for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas.

## Strategic Direction 3: Encourage community-based biodiversity conservation and natural resource management.

This strategic direction recognized the vital role that a wide variety of indigenous, mixed-race, and colonist communities play in and around the corridor's formal protected areas. It accounted for the largest number of grants awarded in the portfolio. Twelve grants, totaling \$2.61 million supported a rich mix of initiatives, including two facilities for small grants at \$500,000 each. These small grants programs were matched 1:1 by national environmental trust funds in both countries of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor: Fondo de las Americas del Perú (FONDAM) in Peru and the Fundación Protección y Uso Sostenible del Medio Ambiente (PUMA) in Bolivia will make grants for community-based projects exclusively in the designated target areas, which are productive landscapes in, around, and between the protected areas. These partnerships represent significant leverage for the CEPF portfolio and a method of engaging other donors in the priorities established by the ecosystem profile. The demand for grants of this kind was demonstrated by the large number of proposals submitted. Many of the plans that were not funded directly by CEPF will be good candidates for the targeted grant programs of FONDAM and Fundación PUMA.

Other grantees were national and international conservation organizations that conducted action programs aimed squarely at connecting conservation measures with local economic benefits. They included the establishment of formal Brazil nut harvesting concessions for 130 small-scale farmers, a remarkable form of sustainable development made possible because Brazil nut trees have not been successfully grown in plantations. These concessions safeguard 225,000 hectares of biologically rich land, as well as the farmers' livelihoods. Training local farmers about preventing forest fires around their fields, developing ecotourism enterprises, and building the capacity of indigenous communities in the corridor to improve the management of their forest lands were other examples of activities supported by CEPF in this category. Several grants

directly supported indigenous peoples' organizations to improve their own organizational structures, capture traditional knowledge, and improve their resource management practices.

An immediate result of these actions was increased cooperation among conservation organizations, protected area staff, and local communities in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor. Park officials and the NGOs involved gained a better understanding of the needs of local communities and the use of markets to achieve conservation objectives.

These experiences have the potential to be scaled up and to become part of normal practice around protected areas in both Bolivia and Peru. While such actions were broadly applauded, the need for longer-term support of such community-based initiatives was also expressed. The processes needed to make the local benefits of conservation tangible take longer than two years, the frequent length of CEPF grants. The attraction of more than \$18 million in co-financing and leveraged funds from other sources for conservation work in the Corridor by the CEPF portfolio of grants indicates that the prospect for continued international support of this large vision is tangible.

#### Strategic Direction 4: Strengthen public awareness and environmental education

CEPF's grants for public awareness and education generated a lively mix of actions, including a widely viewed documentary film titled *Tesoros sin Fronteras*, which promoted the corridor concept. This film, which was broadcast on several regional television networks in both Bolivia and Peru and attracted extensive press coverage, emphasized the connection between conservation on the corridor scale and the planning of sustainable economic development at the national and regional levels.

Shifting public and policymaker attention from the traditional site-based conservation project approach to the larger corridor scale is a challenge that requires frequent repetition of the message from a variety of angles. CEPF attempted to create this change in perceptions in several ways. Grants for environmental education in the local schools around several of the major protected areas, particularly in Bolivia, engaged elementary and secondary teachers in building their students' understanding of conservation and its local benefits. Training for regional journalists about the corridor concept and an annual environmental reporting award were provided as well, resulting in a variety of articles explaining the advantages of protected areas in local and national newspapers. A special campaign to build public support for enlarging the protected area around the small existing Machu Picchu sanctuary was a sharply targeted element of this effort.

The results of these initiatives were not gauged through survey research, so evaluation of their impact has been impressionistic. The interpretation of participants in the workshop was that the campaign succeeded in stimulating high-level interest in both countries among academic experts and government technicians, but that it was not sufficient to generate broader understanding of the value of the corridor approach in the specific circumstances of Vilcabamba-Amboró. Journalists projected positive messages in both countries, but this effort was neither pervasive enough nor sustained sufficiently to persuade the larger public at the national level about the significance of the corridor concept. Engagement with schoolteachers in the corridor was seen as highly desirable, but these efforts were limited to a few municipalities particularly affected by changes in protected areas. The reach of these attractive programs was inadequate to the scale of CEPF's strategy. Four grants, totaling \$632,000, were devoted by CEPF to education and awareness-building. These grantees and other actors made it clear that more substantial, sustained investment is clearly needed to shape understanding of conservation's advantages and benefits among the general public in the corridor.

#### **Strategic Direction 5: Strengthen environmental and legal policy frameworks**

Because mining, logging, road construction, agricultural expansion, building dams for hydroelectric generation, and hydrocarbon extraction pose such significant threats to the rich biodiversity of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor, efforts to shape the policies of international donors, national governments, investors, concession holders, and other key actors involved in these developments were basic to the CEPF strategy for the Tropical Andes Hotspot. Six grants with a total value of \$625,000 were awarded in this category. They supported the production of detailed threat analyses and land-use plans to guide decision-makers in local evaluations and to give officials and community groups new standards for gauging the likely impacts of such economic development actions.

Replicable legal instruments that formalize access rights for traditional natural resource users were created, offering some protection to indigenous communities, whose right to continue using the forest lands where they have lived for millennia have not been recognized in the legal systems of Peru or Bolivia. Advocacy for the establishment of indigenous or communal reserves was advanced as a critical aspect of assembling the enormous conservation corridor while protecting the interests of local people. Technical legal work that contributed to the passage of model legislation in Peru for creating privately held conservation concessions, a new category of protected area, may turn out to be the most significant product of these grants if the first such large concession, awarded in the watershed of the Rio Los Amigos, is successful and can be replicated elsewhere.

The thrust of this strategic direction was to influence economic development decisions and to improve the legal and policy frameworks in which those decisions occur. In this aspect of the portfolio, genuine but obviously incomplete progress resulted from CEPF's grants. Finding relevant indicators to gauge the influence of such efforts is difficult, largely because they are attempts to prevent negative things from happening. Causation will always be hard to prove in these processes, but more work is needed to improve CEPF capacity to measure important variables in the political and economic context of conservation, particularly in this top priority region.

### Strategic Direction 6: Establish an electronic information exchange, coordinated information, and data-gathering mechanism

The narrow, site-specific perspective that is standard in conservation and in development projects was squarely challenged by CEPF actions in the Tropical Andes Hotspot. That challenge required a significant improvement in information about the entire corridor to give the concept tangible form. Consequently, a key element of the CEPF strategy in this hotspot has been support for a monitoring framework and integrated data system to collect information about changes in the protected areas, indigenous reserves, and other natural resource protection zones that comprise the corridor. Sharing such information among the numerous influential actors is a fundamental need that CEPF attempted to encourage and improve. Access by a broad array of government agencies, businesses, and civil society groups to the findings of research organizations and to project-specific methods and results throughout the corridor was a prime focus of the six grants, totaling \$560,000, that were awarded in this category.

Supported by a coordinated set of CEPF grants, five partner organizations in Bolivia and Peru have joined an Internet-based conservation information system, coordinated by the Noel Kempff Museum of Natural History in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. This electronic system provides access to relevant data for conservation scientists, policymakers, educators, and natural resource managers across the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor, improving their understanding of changing conditions and reinforcing the vision of the bi-national, landscape-scale corridor. The sustainability of this network is not yet certain, but its significance and innovative quality are clear. A multipleportfolio grant also reinforced these actions by providing for the sharing of project information, experiences, and lessons learned among conservation programs in all the Neotropical hotspots. The online tool, the Eco-Index (<u>www.eco-index.org</u>), now includes more than 80 profiles of CEPF-supported projects as well as hundreds of others from across the region.

### Conclusions

CEPF has significant, although incomplete and uneven, results to show for its five years of investment in the Tropical Andes Hotspot:

(1) The expansion of formal protected area coverage has been a spectacular success, with more than 4 million hectares newly created or expanded with CEPF support. Additional expansion is needed to continue the process envisioned in the ecosystem profile, which projects the connection of all the protected areas in the corridor as displayed graphically in the sequence of maps produced by CI. That vision asserts that the expansion and resulting consolidation of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor is entirely possible despite the conflicts around new infrastructure construction and resource extraction that will be chronic. Proposing conservation measures at such a massive scale was an ambitious undertaking, but given the region's globally unsurpassed biological richness and the substantial threats to the maintenance of that wealth, it was an appropriate course to take. Conventional conservation focusing on limited sites would offer less of an alternative to standard economic development investments and would offer fewer opportunities for the genetic flows and adjustments to climate change that the huge corridor inherently provides.

(2) Conservation leaders in the region support the large-scale strategy presented by CEPF, but the corridor concept has not penetrated sufficiently at the local level. The corridor approach gained traction with many leaders, but it requires more extensive, routine collaboration and a change in perspective among the many public sector, NGO, community, business, and development assistance organizations that must be involved. Participants in the workshop reported progress, but more substantial funding by a variety of donors will be needed to build sufficient consensus. It must be recognized that the strong pattern among most bi-lateral and multi-lateral agencies of treating each recipient country separately provides continued disincentives for regional planning and action.

(3) Transboundary coordination has begun, but needs to be confirmed through formal agreements. The bi-national Tambopata-Madidi plan can serve as a solid start in building the inter-governmental agreements needed to make the corridor plan sustainable. Such agreements should have a positive impact on the programs of international donor agencies that find it difficult to think across political frontiers. These agreements should direct the efforts of public agencies in Peru and Bolivia and give impetus to the role of civil society organizations in both countries. While the difficulty of obtaining such formal agreements is great, it is a necessary aspect of the corridor plan—in addition to enlarging protected area coverage in both countries. More focused and consistent effort is needed to implant the corridor idea as a durable organizing feature of planning in the Tropical Andes Hotspot.

(4) *CEPF grantees have made a good start in promoting community-based resource conservation and resource management, but this approach is extremely labor-intensive and must be applied more widely.* Demonstrating local economic benefits for the people living in and

around protected areas is essential for the success of the corridor plan. Grants in this category supported a rich variety of presumably sustainable enterprises that offer alternatives to destructive logging, mining, and agricultural practices. Particularly noteworthy were grants to the national environmental trust funds in both Bolivia and Peru, each of which will match CEPF funds and award at least \$1 million for such enterprises in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor. These grants were made too late in the five-year sequence to give us a clear picture of their effectiveness, but the leverage gained by these actions were an excellent method for dealing with the insufficiency of CEPF funds to produce the desired impact across this large landscape.

(5) *The public awareness and environmental education effort was lively but inadequate.* The documentary film *Tesoros sin Fronteras* was widely praised, but its influence was seen by workshop participants as limited to urban elite audiences. Training for journalists on biodiversity conservation and the corridor concept generated favorable press attention, but that was similarly limited in its impressions and was transient. Programs with teachers in rural schools around the protected areas to inform students and their parents were seen as a critical need, which CEPF responded to in a few locations, but a comprehensive program across the corridor was not attempted. This variety of approaches taken to informing the numerous publics required to make the corridor concept work was a strong point of the grants made for this purpose. Yet the mix of target audiences was seen by some stakeholders as giving too much attention to elites. Given the limited resources available, that choice was not irrational, but the point about reaching rural communities is obviously significant for making the basic plan successful. Any future efforts must take this critique seriously.

(6) *Grants aimed at strengthening the political and legal framework of the corridor had mixed results.* In this category, the development of new legal instruments for giving formal recognition to traditional land claims by indigenous communities and for creating private conservation concessions were substantial accomplishments. Both of these advances occurred in Peru. The results of threat analyses and land use plans designed to shape public policy in both countries were less evident, partly because of the absence of good indicators for gauging changes of this kind.

(7) *The new regional mechanism for conservation data sharing is off to a good start*. The coordinated set of five grants to a network of organizations in both countries, coordinated by the Noel Kempff Museum of Natural History in Bolivia, is a good demonstration of the advantages and challenges of consortium structures. While the network made a slow start, it is demonstrating the potential of a regional alliance among competent NGOs to amplify their influence and to avoid wasteful duplication of effort. A common database like this can influence public policy decisions and gain both efficiency and effectiveness for conservation actions of all kinds across the large extent of the incipient corridor.

(8) *The Tropical Andes portfolio was successful in leveraging funds from other sources.* Attracting both co-financing of specific project grants and other investments from major donors to the objectives of the profile is a basic expectation of every CEPF portfolio. The total of more than \$18 million was a solid record.

(9) *The relatively general nature of the indicators and targets led to an inadequately focused mixture of grants.* Being one of the first three regions to receive CEPF funding made the Tropical Andes portfolio an experiment in numerous ways. As part of the first echelon, it functioned with a relatively general profile, which made it difficult to focus on the aspects of the plan that were less tangible than new protected areas. This initial profile attempted to cover essentially every dimension and need of the corridor plan rather than seeking a more limited catalytic role. In this

respect, it attempted to do too much with the available financial resources. The niche, in other words, was not sufficiently strategic.

At the same time, working at the landscape or corridor scale inherently requires a diversity of initiatives that is substantially more complex and sophisticated than the usual site-based project. On the ground, it must include well-managed productive landscapes as well as strict protected areas, indigenous reserves, and extractive reserves. It calls for overcoming the widespread reluctance to placing conservation in the mainstream of economic development policy; it particularly needs the extensive civil society participation that is CEPF's special calling; and it depends on better law enforcement and reduced corruption—all high hurdles. The fundamental lesson learned should be that effective grant-making in the service of a big agenda (which the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor certainly was) demands significantly more focused choices of targets than conventional conservation approaches require. Pursuing a regional program like this in more than one country also requires the establishment of a single regional coordinator who is responsible for advancing the entire vision. This approach has become standard in later CEPF investment regions.

(10) Conservation in this region has been enhanced by the introduction of a corridor-scale approach, and it can be advanced further through renewed, more catalytic, action by donors. The conservation effects of dramatic growth in the coverage of protected areas in the Tropical Andes Hotspot are inherently large because of the extraordinary diversity of organisms found all across the region. Continued expansion and improved management in existing parks is entirely possible if additional funds become available, particularly for proper management of these areas. The long-term effectiveness of the parks and other protected areas, however, depends on progress with the entire range of objectives presented in the ecosystem profile, and future efforts must consider with care how to maximize their impact across the whole spectrum of needed actions.

11) Future efforts to sustain the dramatic and potentially very consequential landscape-scale Vilcabamba-Amboró plan will need to be more sharply focused and more thoroughly planned with the emerging community of stakeholders that this five-year investment has usefully brought into being. New threats posed by large infrastructure development projects in the name of regional economic integration and poverty alleviation, such as the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America bring additional pressures to the corridor. Proposing to link the 12 countries that make up South America with new highways and improved waterways, IIRSA will bring about large-scale change even if the most careful environmental impact analyses are carried out. In short, the natural ecosystems in the Tropical Andes Hotspot face the threat of even greater degradation than was foreseen in the ecosystem profile. CEPF has made a start in building the necessary dialogue among government, civil society, and international donors, but that dialogue must be more systematic to avoid short-term economic gains leading to long-term development failures.

### **CEPF 5-Year Logical Framework Reporting**

LONG-TERM GOAL STATEMENT	TARGETED CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	RESULTS
Corridor concept and management frameworks incorporated into bi- national policy creation and decisionmaking.	<i>1-5 Years:</i> <i>Immediate Priorities</i> <u>Areas Protected:</u> -Manu National Park (1,800,000 ha) under effective management	<b>Manu National Park</b> expanded to an area totaling 1.7 million hectares under protection; CEPF contributed to bringing 183,000 hectares of new land under protection through a debt-for-nature swap; improved policing of illegal logging and developing a vegetation cover and threats monitoring system. Education, ecotourism and natural resource management projects were set up with key communities adjacent to the park.
	-Apurimac Reserved Zone (1,700,000 ha) under protection and effective management	Three new protected areas were declared within the former <b>Apurimac</b> <b>Reserve Zone</b> (totaling 1,669,300 hectares): Ashaninka (184,468.38 hectares), Matisiguenga Communal Reserves (218, 905.63 hectares) and Otishi National Park (305,973.05 hectares), totaling 709,400 hectares under new protection; training was provided to indigenous leaders on implementing co-management plans and communities received training in craft development using NTFPs; a legal framework was established for the area; a remote sensing monitoring system was developed for the park.
	- Alto-Purus Reserved Zone (6,000,000 ha) under protection and improved management	<b>Alto Purus Reserved Zone</b> , under increased protection categorized as a National Park (2,510,694.41 hectares), together with the Reserva Comunal Purus (202,033.21 hectares) became a restricted zone totaling 2.7 million hectares; co-management structure established; anti-illegal logging patrols begun along vulnerable boundaries; sustainable management productive projects developed with communities adjacent to the park.

-Bahuaja Sonene National Park (1,100,000 ha) under effective management	<b>Bahuaja Sonene National Park:</b> A management plan was completed and bi-national technical committee established for the Tambopata-Madidi region, including joint patrols agreements; 240 brazil nut concessions awarded bringing 225,000 hectares under sustainable management; legal analysis and plan for controlling mining concessions in place. Park promoted through communications strategy.
-Madidi National Park (1,924,300 ha) under effective management and corridor created	<b>Madidi National Park</b> (1,895,750 hectares): Management committees strengthened through training in conflict identification and resolution, a new management plan was created, including new resource management regulations currently under implementation; alternative livelihood projects were developed and implemented with local communities and training delivered on sustainable agriculture techniques, commercialization of products, ecotourism, and others, and a new municipal government environmental regulations adopted; the corridor concept was included in the municipality's official plans. An environmental education project was implemented with local schools and communities.
- <b>Pilon Lajas Biosphere</b> <b>Reserve</b> (400,000 ha) under effective management	<b>Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve</b> had 450,000 hectares consolidated through reversal of a logging concession (the last timber concession inside the reserve); co-management committee established; fire prevention and conflict resolution training delivered to local community leaders and park staff; management plan updated; and three ecotourism projects launched bringing benefits to communities. An environmental education project was implemented with local schools and communities.
-Apolobamba Natural Area (483,000 ha) under effective management	<b>Apolobamba Integrated Management Natural Area</b> (483,000 hectares): land-use planning completed in two municipalities and an indigenous district placed under effective management; fire prevention training provided for park guards, environmental education program implemented with schools, natural resource management projects implemented with one community (Charazani) within the park. Mining threats and assessments were incorporated into the management plan.

-Amboro National Park (638,000 ha) under effective management	<b>Amboro National Park</b> (638,000 hectares): Community tourism operations and sustainable agriculture practices strengthened through the creation of a new promotional Web site for the park; training was delivered to park staff and communities on ecotourism enterprise development. A land-use and mining concession study identified areas of conflict within the park. An information management and monitoring system was also developed to support park managers.
-Isiboro Secure National Park (1,200,000 ha) under effective management	<b>Isiboro Secure National Park</b> (1,200,000 hectares): Park profile developed and integrated into a Web site aimed at promoting ecotourism. Information management and monitoring system put in place for park managers.
- <b>Pilon-Lajas-Isiboro Secure</b> <b>Corridor</b> (80,000 ha) under protection and corridor created	<b>Pilon-Lajas-Isiboro Secure Corridor</b> (80,000 hectares): Progress was made toward consolidating the corridor through ecotourism projects developed with communities around the park.
5-10 Years: Long-Term Priorities -Amarakaeri Reserved Zone (420,000 ha) under protection and effective management	Amarakaeri Communal Reserve declared with 402,336 hectares. Ecotourism projects supported; legal rights and management training has contributed towards preparing indigenous community leaders and associated representative of indigenous federations to implement guidelines for the effective management of Communal Reserves. Land- use study conducted, remote sensing monitoring system in place, and mining concessions mapped to strengthen park management.
-Machu Picchu Cultural Heritage (1,500,000 ha) under protection and effective management	Machu Pichu Historical Sanctuary: 35,592 hectares are under protection and the Master Management Plan for the Sanctuary was revised with wider participation of stakeholders. Resource management projects conducted within the park. A project led by the Instituto Machu Pichu conducted a major awareness campaign targeting tour operators and local residents to protect the sanctuary.

-Tambopata-C National Reser under effective and corridor cre	rve (516,000 ha) management	New management plan developed for the <b>Tambopata National Reserve</b> , and a transboundary conservation action plan completed for the Tambopata – Madidi Complex (currently under review by INRENA and SERNAP). A technical committee was created including representatives of INRENA, SERNAP, CI-Peru, and CI-Bolivia. In addition, La Nube Biological Station is established and functioning as part of the improved management efforts. The corridor goal was advanced through the establishment of 130 Brazil nut concessions safeguarding 225,000 hectares and the development of appropriate management plans around the reserve.
-Apurimac-Alt Corridor (500, corridor created	,000 ha)	<b>Apurimac-Alto Purus Corridor</b> (500,000 hectares): The expansion of Alto Purus Reserve advanced the consolidation of the corridor. In addition, CEPF supported an ecotourism project with communities in the buffer zone of both parks.
-Cotapata Nati (51,000 ha) und management		A land use and mining concession study was conducted for <b>Cotapata</b> <b>National Park</b> (51,000 hectares) and results shared with SERNAP to support improved management of the area.
-Carrasco Nati (623,000 ha) ur management		Land tenure issues resolved in two communities within <b>Carrasco</b> <b>National Park</b> (623,000 hectares) and lands titled and incorporated into an updated management plan for the area.
-Manuripi-Hea Park (1,500,00 effective manag corridor created	0 ha) under gement and	<b>Manuripi-Heath National Park</b> was promoted widely through the corridor's communications strategy as a key destination for ecotourism.
Extinctions Ave         Due to the imm         corridor there a         number of Crititian	ense size of this re a large	Each of the areas targeted for protection or improved management provide important habitat for a number of Critically Endangered and endemic species. CEPF also supported a small grants program for threatened species in the Peruvian part of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor, an investment matched by CI's Center for Biodiversity Conservation in the

	Endangered and endemic birds, mammals, rodents, and primates that will be targeted for protection.	Andes, and one that enables four years of funding for research on priority species that will further strengthen knowledge and subsequent management action.
CEPF PURPOSE	IMPACT INDICATORS	PROGRESS
Relevant actors (governments, indigenous and non-indigenous people, extractive resource groups, and others), collaboratively and effectively participate in biodiversity conservation within the corridor.	1.1 Increase in overall funding for biodiversity conservation within the hotspot to reach a level of at least 2 times the initial CEPF funding level by the conclusion of 3-year CEPF implementation.	At least \$18,678,378 in project co-financing and additional funds leveraged for biodiversity conservation in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor. (This amount may increase as the last activities conclude in the hotspot and all groups report on leveraging.) This increases the overall funding in the hotspot to substantially more than double the \$4.3 million initial CEPF investment approved by the CEPF Donor Council in December 2000, and is more than double the revised CEPF investment total, which was increased to \$6.15 million by the Donor Council and the time period for investment expanded to five years in 2001.
	1.2 Indigenous groups, local communities, grassroots groups, municipalities, and other local stakeholders increase their participation in the planning and management of corridor protected areas.	CEPF has enhanced the participation of indigenous and other local groups in corridor and protected area management, conflict resolution, and integrating sustainable land uses into local practices. Specific projects in ecotourism, NTFP micro-enterprise development, sustainable agriculture systems (cacao, brazil nut, cotton, and bees), fire management, and co- management schemes for protected areas in Pilon Lajas and Madidi National Parks reached more than 8,000 families in the corridor, including indigenous communities in Otishi, Ahsaninka, and Matziguenka reserve zones. Specifically, CEPF's projects supported actions in more than 40 municipalities, involving numerous stakeholders including Indigenous Peoples groups like the Ashaninka, Matziguenka, Caquinte, Yine Yami,Tacana, Esse Ejja, Quechuas, Aymaras, Tacanas, Lecos, and Cavineños.

1.3 Overall expansion in the number and size of local NGOs and other civil society participants working in biodiversity conservation and the array of services offered is also increased.	CEPF reached numerous community organizations, helping to increase the number of staff in the <i>Tacana Indigenous People's Council</i> , as well as building the capacity of the <i>Centro de Pueblos Indigenas de La Paz</i> and launching new organizations such as the <i>Comite Local de Emergencias en el Municipio de Reyes</i> to monitor and organize forest fire prevention at the municipal level. In addition, CEPF's funding catalyzed the integration of environmental management plans into local government ordinances in at least five municipalities, and 12 communities developed and adopted their own natural resource sustainability norms.
1.4 Political authorities, private sector companies, NGOs, and other stakeholders maintain inter-institutional relations through the Corridor Operations Center and continue to use the information system for planning purposes.	A bi-national coordination unit was established through Conservation International-Peru and Conservation International-Bolivia to assist the building of linkages among different sectors of government, the business community, community groups, and local and international NGOs. An umbrella project involving five organizations was also supported to enhance communications and information exchange through an Internet portal (www.andesbiodiversity.org), bringing together resources and information from organizations in both countries. Given the importance of international cooperation for ensuring connectivity of the Vilcabamba- Amboró Corridor, the coordination unit made a special effort to involve groups working in the bi-national region of the corridor - organizations like PROFONANPE, Pro Naturaleza, Associacion para la Conservacion del Patrimonio del Cutivireni, and the Centro para el Desarrollo Indigena Amazonico.

### List of CEPF Approved Grants

### <u>Strategic Direction 1: Establish Effective Mechanisms for Transboundary Coordination,</u> <u>Collaboration and Catalytic Action within the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor</u>

#### Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Tropical Andes Hotspot

Organize a workshop with CEPF grantees and other partners in the region to assess the results of CEPF investments and identify collective lessons learned. Results will include documented proceedings and lessons learned to help inform future investment decisions.

1 0	1
Funding:	\$72,903
Grant Term:	3/06-5/06
Grantee:	Asociación para la Conservación, Investigación de la Biodiversidad y el
	Desarrollo Sustentable

### Transboundary Coordination Mechanism for the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor

Develop corridor conservation strategy and seek agreement by stakeholders, formalize transboundary coordinating body, and develop and implement strategy to raise long-term funds for corridor conservation as part of acting as the CEPF Coordination Unit in this region.

Funding:	\$904,000
Grant Term:	1/01-6/03
Grantee:	Conservation International

### Strategic Direction 2: Strengthen Binational Coordination of Protected Areas Systems

#### **Creation and Effective Management of Forest Protected Areas in Peru**

Through a debt-for-nature swap between the U.S. and Peruvian governments to guarantee longterm funding for protected areas, contribute funding for protection of three parks (Manu National Park, Amarakaeri Communal Reserve and Alto Purus Reserved Zone) in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor. This grant is expected to leverage \$3.5 million in local currency over the next 12 years for grants to local Peruvian organizations to carry out activities related to the effective management of these protected areas.

Funding:	\$236,000
Grant Term:	7/02-10/04
Grantee:	World Wildlife Fund, Inc.

### Improving Management and Consolidation of Selected Protected Areas within the Vilcabamba-Amboró

Consolidate Bahauja-Sonene, Madidi, Tambopata, Pilon Lajas and Apolobamba protected areas by finalizing their management plans and initiating management plan implementation.

Funding:	\$439,757
Grant Term:	1/01-6/03
Grantee:	<b>Conservation International</b>

# Strategic Direction 3: Encourage Community-based Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management

#### Small Grant Program for the Bolivian Portion of the Vilcabamba-Amboro Conservation Corridor

Establish a \$1 million grant window within the Fundacion Puma in Bolivia to target projects within the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor of Bolivia that help local communities better manage and use their natural resources in and around the protected areas of the corridor. CEPF and the Fundacion Puma will match each other with contributions of \$500,000. Fundacion Puma will administer this grant facility, and Conservation International - Bolivia will participate on the review and selection committee.

Funding:	\$500,000
Grant Term:	11/05-12/06
Grantee:	Fundación Protección y Uso Sostenible del Medio Ambiente

# Sustainable Use of Biodiversity Resources in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor

Create a partnership between Conservation International-Peru and the Fund for the Americas (FONDAM) in Peru to establish a special grant-making window within FONDAM to fund projects specific to the Vilcabamba-Amboró biodiversity conservation corridor. Both CEPF and FONDAM will match \$500,000 commitments, thus creating a funding initiative for the corridor of \$1 million to be granted to civil society partners.

Funding:	\$500,000
Grant Term:	7/05-6/08
Grantee:	Fondo de las Americas del Perú

### Small Grants Program for Species of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor

Contribute to the small grants program for threatened species in the Peruvian portion of the Vilcabamba-Amboró biodiversity conservation corridor. Matching funds will be provided by Conservation International's Center for Biodiversity Conservation in the Andes, creating at least two years of funding for research projects on priority species.

Funding:	\$99,999
Grant Term:	6/05-12/06
Grantee:	Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza

### Formalizing Forest Access and Implementing Sustainable Brazil Nut Management in Madre de Dios, Peru: Bridging Phase

Continue working with Brazil nut producers to develop the remaining 300 Brazil nut concessions in Madre de Dios. At the same time, further strengthen INRENA's (the Peruvian government agency overseeing natural resource management and protection) GIS and database management capability to ensure its readiness for the long-term sustainability of managing this region.

Funding:	\$200,000
Grant Term:	2/05-1/07
Grantee:	Amazon Conservation Association

# Formalizing Forest Access and Implementing Sustainable Brazil Nut Management in Madre de Dios, Peru

Develop and implement a forest management model that conserves the Brazil nut forests in the Vilcabamba-Amboró corridor in Madre de Dios, Peru by protecting the forests' size and integrity, while improving the standard of living of Madre de Dios Brazil nut producers.

Funding:\$163,963Grant Term:11/02-3/05Grantee:Amazon Conservation Association

# Organizational Strengthening of the Council of Tacana Indigenous Peoples for Natural Resource

### **Management and Conservation**

Help achieve the objectives of the Sustainable Development Plan for the Tierras Comunitarias de Origen Tacana by increasing awareness and education on such issues as sustainable development of lands and promotion of ecologically sound economic alternatives. Build capacity within communities to organize and ensure complementary conservation efforts.

Funding:	\$48,215
Grant Term:	9/02-6/04
Grantee:	Wildlife Conservation Society

### Prevention of Human-Induced Forest Fires in Madidi and Apolobamba National Parks

Establish partnerships with community-based organizations and cattle ranchers' association to promote the importance of controlling burning and involve these organizations in the development of sustainable natural resource practices. Conduct workshops, lectures and other activities and strengthen the capacities of local institutions to establish effective control of burning.

Funding:	\$193,743
Grant Term:	8/02-12/03
Grantee:	CARE Bolivia

### **Project Polylepis**

Help protect key polylepis forest areas, reforest high altitude watersheds with polylepis and develop community-based conservation programs to support these efforts.

Funding:	\$9,500
Grant Term:	5/02-5/03
Grantee:	American Bird Conservancy

# Reducing Deforestation in the Buffer Zone of Bolivia's Madidi National Park: Promoting the Cultivation, Manufacture and Use of Bamboo Products

Establish capacity-building centers to guide local communities in the sustainable cultivation of bamboo, as well as the manufacture and marketing of bamboo products at the local, regional and national levels.

Funding:	\$51,300
Grant Term:	5/02-9/04
Grantee:	Central de Pueblos Indigenas de La Paz

### Biodiversity Conservation and Participative Sustainable Management of the Natural Resources of Amboró National Park and ANMIA

Undertake a participatory process in local communities to address conservation needs and sustainable practices in critical habitats.

Funding:	\$120,700
Grant Term:	4/02-6/04
Grantee:	Probioma

#### Learning Host to Host: Ecotourism Exchanges in the Tropical Andes

Bring together leaders of three ecotourism lodges with four communities in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia to share lessons learned on ecotourism and ultimately compile best practices to share with other communities and private companies.

Funding:	\$157,451
Grant Term:	11/01-9/03
Grantee:	Selva Reps S.A.C.

### Developing Natural Resources Management Programs in Four Communities Within The Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor

Through a participatory process, train communities and interested families in natural resource management by developing and initiating projects in select localities.

Funding:	\$563,582
Grant Term:	1/01-6/03
Grantee:	Conservation International

#### Strategic Direction 4: Strengthen Public Awareness and Environmental Education

#### Conservation from the Schools: Networking and Partnerships in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor. Phase One: Pilon Lajas, Madidi, and Apolobamba

Strengthen the role of educational units in conservation through the training of teachers, the development of school-based environmental programs that mobilize entire communities and the establishment of a network of cooperation and information exchange among educational units and teachers.

Funding:	\$78,980
Grant Term:	1/03-12/04
Grantee:	Instituto para la Conservación y la Investigación de la Biodiversidad

### Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People: Linkages Between Biodiversity, Ecosystem Health and Human Health

Cover travel and full participation costs for individuals from the Atlantic Forest, Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador, Guinean Forests of West Africa, Madagascar, Philippines and Tropical Andes hotspots to attend the Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People conference.

Funding:\$5,550Grant Term:5/02-7/02Grantee:University of Western Ontario\*This is a multi-regional project covering six hotspots; the total grant amount is \$27,200.

# Enhancing Public Awareness for Improved Management of the Machu Picchu Sanctuary and its Surrounding Environment

Conduct a comprehensive public awareness campaign about the sanctuary, including creation of a documentary film and development and distribution of press releases and media kits, a newsletter and radio and television spots.

Funding:\$56,298Grant Term:2/02-4/03Grantee:Instituto Machu Picchu

#### Building Awareness of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor in Peru and Bolivia

Stimulate and support good environmental reporting on the rich biodiversity of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor in Peru and Bolivia and efforts to conserve it. Activities include workshops for print, radio and television journalists, development of a mechanism for information exchange and distribution of awards for conservation reporting.

Funding:	\$48,449
Grant Term:	11/01-12/04
Grantee:	International Center for Journalists

### Developing and Implementing a Communication Strategy to Raise Awareness Among Key Audiences of the Importance of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor

Develop and implement a communication strategy to strengthen awareness of the conservation corridor and its importance and ultimately create a broad constituency for its conservation.

Funding:	\$449,754
Grant Term:	1/01-6/04
Grantee:	<b>Conservation International</b>

### <u>Strategic Direction 5: Strengthen Environmental Policy and Legal Frameworks to Mitigate</u> the Impacts of Extraction Industries, Transportation and Infrastructure Projects, and <u>Large-scale Tourism</u>

### Disseminating and Implementing Legal Tools for Conservation in the Private Sector in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor, Phase II

Implement legal tools for the creation of private conservation concessions on the Peruvian side of the Vilcabamba – Amboró Corridor with a goal of creating between six to 10 new conservation areas with CEPF funding, all targeted in strategic areas for creating connectivity among other existing protected areas.

Funding:	\$169,150
Grant Term:	7/05-12/06
Grantee:	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental

#### Comparing Methodologies for Improved Protected Area Evaluation in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor

Prepare and publish seven park profiles, including carrying out final fieldwork in Amboró, Carrasco, and Isiboro Secure national parks and developing key partnerships within the region.

Funding:	\$20,000
Grant Term:	3/05-8/05
Grantee:	ParksWatch

### Updating and Republication of Manual of Legal Tools for Private Conservation in Perú

Revise and publish an additional 1,000 copies of the Manual of Legal Tools for Private Conservation in Peru produced through a previous CEPF-supported project to disseminate and implement legal tools for conservation in the Vilcabamba-Amboró biodiversity conservation corridor.

Funding:\$3,800Grant Term:10/04-3/05Grantee:Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental

# Disseminating and Implementing Legal Tools for Conservation in the Private Sector in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor

Promote the use of conservation instruments such as conservation concessions, private reserve establishment and concessions for environmental services for land protection on the Peruvian side of the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor as a complement to current government-sponsored conservation initiatives. Activities include an outreach campaign to the nongovernmental sector on Peru's new legislation that underpins such instruments, training for government officials on processing applications and publication of a guide on applying for conservation instruments.

Funding:	\$69,384
Grant Term:	11/02-9/03
Grantee:	Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental

# Restoration and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in the Mining Zone of Tipuani, Bolivia

Work with a local mining cooperative and municipality to develop a pilot project in ecological restoration following the closure of small-scale gold mines in the buffer zone of Apolobamba National Park.

Funding:	\$96,350
Grant Term:	4/02-3/05
Grantee:	TRÓPICO

### Evaluating Threats in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor

Together with relevant actors, undertake a corridor-wide assessment to identify human-induced threats to biodiversity and develop and propose strategies to eliminate or mitigate their impact.

Funding:	\$265,240
Grant Term:	1/01-6/03
Grantee:	Conservation International

### **Strategic Direction 6: Establish an Electronic Information Exchange and Coordinated Information and Data Gathering Mechanism**

#### Implementing Basic Infrastructure for Local Area Networks (LAN), Internal Telephone Communications and a WAN Network Between the National Herbarium of Bolivia and the Bolivian Fauna Collection

Install a computer and telephone network connecting the National Herbarium of Bolivia and the Bolivian Fauna Collection as part of the first phase in a larger effort to interconnect all of the branches of the Instituto de Ecología.

Funding:	\$9,831
Grant Term:	6/04-4/05
Grantee:	Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Ecología

#### The Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor Biodiversity Information Management System: A Collaborative Internet Resource for Scientists, Educators and Conservation Managers

Create a mechanism for information sharing across the Vilcabamba-Amboró corridor, making relevant information available on projects, activities and monitoring indicators for biodiversity conservation. The project will also help build capacity of the organizations involved and help build alliances among all those working in the corridor.

Funding:	\$197,079
Grant Term:	1/04-12/06
Grantee:	Asociación Peruana para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (\$50,059); Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (\$47,350); Fundación para el Desarrollo Agrario (\$49,670); Fundación San Marcos para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y la Cultura (\$50,000)

## Using the Eco-Index to Allow Organizations Working in Neotropical Hotspots to Share Experiences and Glean Lessons from Colleagues

Facilitate the exchange of information about experiences, challenges and best practices developed through various conservation projects throughout Central and South America, including CEPF-funded projects in the Atlantic Forest, Chocó-Darién-Western Ecuador, Mesoamerica and Tropical Andes hotspots. Project goals, experiences and information will be disseminated through the Eco-Index in English, Spanish, and where relevant, Portuguese.

Funding:\$47,336Grant Term:10/02-3/04Grantee:Rainforest Alliance\*This is a multi-regional project covering four hotspots; the total grant amount is \$189,727

### Monitoring Conservation Outcomes in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor

Organize and generate data to develop predictive models that show the spatial distribution of major habitat types in the region and indicate how future development will impact biodiversity. Using these tools, identify critical habitats as priorities, develop monitoring frameworks and assist conservation managers to effectively mitigate the negative impacts of future development on biodiversity.

Funding:\$355,196Grant Term:9/02-10/06Grantee:Amigos del Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado





### **Workshop Summary**

### Assessing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Tropical Andes

Hotel Camino Real April 21-22, 2006 Santa Cruz, Bolivia

### Contents

Preliminary Agenda	
Introduction	
Working Group Sessions	
Vision	58
Annex A CEPF Project Questionnaire	
Annex B. List of Participants	67

### **Preliminary Agenda**

### **Evaluating Five Years of Investment** in the Tropical Andes Region in the Vilcabamba Amboró Corridor

Preliminary Workshop Agenda Hotel Camino Real, Santa Cruz, Bolivia April 21-22, 2006

#### April 21, 2006

### **Official Start 9.00**

8:30 am	Participant Registration
9:00 am	Welcome speech (Present authorities)
9:30 am	Workshop details: Objectives, agenda, methodology
10:00 am	Introduction of participants and the encounter's expectations.
10:30 am	CEPF: A general vision of CPEF's five years in the Vilcamba – Amboró Conservation Corridor, Tropical Andes Region
11:15 am	Coffee-break
11:30 am	Presentation of the questionnaires systematization. Group completion
1:00 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm	Group work sessions

Evaluation of the bi-national coordination process. Work groups will evaluate: the advances achieved through the coordination unit, the bi-national unit through the Protected Areas' National Systems, the developed bi-national actions, and their results.

4:00 pm	Presentation of the group work. Analysis in session of the advances achieved, the weaknesses, the mechanisms to strengthen or to implement
5:30 pm	Review of the panel exhibit. Presentation of the information exchange mechanism
7:30 pm	Welcome Cocktail

### April 22, 2006

9:00 am	Introductory speech about the conservation situation in the Vilcabamba Amboró Corridor, possible scenarios
10:00 am	Vilcabamba – Amboró Corridor's initial situation: Ecosystem Profile Group work:
	<ul> <li>Analysis of the protected areas' management situation in the corridor, contributions achieved, topics to monitor</li> <li>Contribution of the resource management projects, topics to monitor</li> <li>Contribution of the education and environmental communication projects</li> <li>Contribution of the projects related to information exchange mechanisms</li> </ul>
11:15 am	Coffee-break
11:30 am	Continuation of group work
12:00 pm	Presentation of the group work, analysis of conclusions
1:00 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm	Identification of large achievements, identification of absent subjects, weaknesses in the intervention process
3:30 pm	Group work: intervention proposals to solve absent subject matters, involving absent players, and others identified
4:30 pm	Presentation of the group work
5:30 pm	Conclusions and closing event
7:00 pm	Delivery of the event's preliminary report
8:00 pm	Farewell dinner

#### Analyzing Five Years of Investment in the Vilcabamba Amboró Corridor

#### Workshop Summary

#### Introduction

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is an entity whose funds are designed to optimize the protection of the world's threatened biodiversity hotspots in developing countries. It is a joint initiative of Conservation International (CI), the Global Environmental Fund (GEF), the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank.

The program strives to achieve a significant advance in the global biodiversity hotspots – the world's richest and most threatened areas. A fundamental objective is to ensure the participation of nongovernmental organizations, community groups, and other sectors of civil society in biodiversity conservation.

In summary, CEPF offers an opportunity to promote the conservation of some of the world's most important ecosystems – areas of great biodiversity and beauty.

Known as the "global epicenter of biodiversity," the Tropical Andes is the most biologically rich and diverse hotspot in the world. Given its importance in housing the greatest number of endemic species in the world, the Tropical Andes region was among the first regions chosen to receive funds from CEPF.

During the last five years (2001-2006), CEPF has focused its investments in the Vilcabamba-Amboró biodiversity conservation corridor - 30 million hectares of rich biodiversity within the Tropical Andes Hotspot that extends from the Vilcabamba mountain range in southern Peru to the Amboró National Park in central Bolivia.

In February 1999, as part of the initial design of CEPF, Conservation International convened a binational workshop, with participation from government officials, NGOs, and scientists from Bolivia and Peru to discuss threats and articulate a common vision for a bi-national biological corridor for Tambopata-Madidi. The participants, who represented the Wildlife Conservation Society, the United States Agency for International Development, the National Service of Protected Areas (SERNAP), Fundación Pronaturaleza, and the National Institute of Natural Resources (INRENA), among others, achieved consensus on a vision for the corridor and agreed on both short and long-term recommendations to achieve this vision in one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world.

In July 2000, CI reconvened a group of bi-national technical participants to reevaluate the corridor concept, which then was expanded to include the entire Vilcabamba-Amboró forest ecosystem. This workshop resulted in the creation of a revised strategy for the region that builds upon the initial platform established in the first workshop. Together, these two processes formed the baseline for priorities reflected in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor.

The workshop "Analyzing Five Years of CEPF Investment in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor" represented an opportunity to analyze/discuss the results of the profile's implementation over the last five years. The objective of the workshop was mainly to provide an opportunity for the

organizations to collectively discuss their achievements and how CEPF investment has contributed to the promotion of conservation and development in the region.

CEPF and SAVIA have the pleasure of presenting this summary of the meeting, which includes the discussions of the participants' working groups, as well as conclusions.

Working Group Sessions

### **GROUP 1**

### Effective Mechanisms for Transboundary Coordination, Collaboration, and Catalytic Action



### **Participants:**

- Cecilia Cabello  $\checkmark$
- ✓ Eduardo Forno
- ✓ Juan Carlos Gómez
- ✓ Carmela Landeo
- ✓ María Eugenia León✓ Carmen Miranda
- ✓ Juan Arce
- ✓ Jaime Cevallos
- ✓ Daniela Lerda
- ✓ Manuel Rodríguez

### A. Achieved Results

• An initial contact between the authorities of the protected areas from the two countries was achieved as a processes trigger. Corridor's basic strategy as a working document.

### **Achieved Impact**

- Recognition of the transboundary conservation value by institutional players.
- Recognition of the presence of environmental authorities on both sides of the border.
- Strengthening of the corridor's vision in both nation's environmental authorities.
- New resources and alliances have been put into motion among institutions, with a working vision beyond the corridor's borders.

### Limitations and Weaknesses

- The setting of effective transboundary coordination mechanisms was not achieved.
- The work in this directive was not based on the Environmental Protection Plan in Bolivia's Industry (Plan de Programa Ambiental de la Industria Boliviana or PAIB); therefore, the mandate from the agreement signed by the two countries with regards to conservation was not adopted.
- A possible weakness was the financing of only one large proposal, which did not cover the whole range of strategic management priorities, instead of financing several that generate synergies and a larger platform of players and institutions.
- The five-year financial deadline was not enough to cover all that was proposed in the strategic directions.
- The political and developmental dynamics in both countries have been a factor that has decreased the possibilities of having impact.
- A space was not created so that recipients of CEPF funds could share their experiences to create synergies.

### Lessons Learned

- A political management base or platform to boost the idea was not created.
- The need of having systematized information as a base.
- Key players such as the productive sector and others; social areas, chancelleries, etc. (transversality) were not properly included.
- It is necessary to evaluate the existing mechanisms between the countries in order to use them as base.
- The members of the chancelleries and ministries of foreign affairs, as well as the authorities of other areas, must be kept informed and must be part of the work.
- It is hard to reflect on lessons learned without the participation of the players directly involved.

### **B.** Use of the Ecosystem Profile

- Limited distribution and ownership of the ecosystem profile among the receivers of funds.
- It was not updated based on the context changes and the evolution of the processes that were taking place in the corridor.
- Lack of indicators directly in the ecosystem profile.

### Adoption of the corridor as development tool

- CEPF must put in context its future actions, its strategies for the new information, new strategies and new contexts in both countries.
- It should seriously consider the subject matter of climatic changes in a new strategy toward the corridor's conception.
- Subjects, geographical areas, and absent players.
- New areas, altitude, and climatic changes.
- Exclusion of savannas in Bolivia.
- Extension and relations beyond the included ecosystems. North-South.
- It excludes areas like Cuzco.
- The definition criteria of the geographical environment should be reviewed.

### Heritage of this phase

- The institutions' approach within the countries and among the countries that work in the Corridor.
- The approach of the governmental entities that is responsible for protected areas.
- A higher knowledge and understanding of the corridor.
- A larger exchange of experiences among the corridor's players.

### **Corridor's Shared Vision**

- There is not yet a sufficiently shared vision for the corridor within and among the countries; neither among the areas and among the players.
- A debate should be supported among the different players in order to define a corridor policy in each country.
- The concept should be included as part of the concepts and processes for national planning in each country.

### **GROUP II**

### Strengthening of the Coordination Systems for the Protected Areas



### **Participants:**

- ✓ Victor Inchausti
- ✓ Guillermo Avanzini
- ✓ Miryan Garcia
- ✓ Dorys Méndez

- ✓ Alejandra Urioste
- ✓ Teddy Peñaherrera
- ✓ Jorge Ugaz
#### A. Achieved Results

CEPF funding has complemented the required financing by the protected area authorities for the development of actions within the management frameworks of Bolivia's and Peru's protected area systems.

There are two main lines in this analysis:

1. Support to improve the strengthening of the protected area systems, through:

- Ranking of Peru's protected areas through participative processes (connectivity).
- Establishing a fund to improve the administrative and technical capacities of the protected area system and to constrain illegal logging within the protected areas and their buffer zones.
- The national protected area implementation in Bolivia (protection and connectivity).
- 2. Support to improve the strengthening of the players, mainly local, involved in the management of the protected area systems.
- Consolidation of the protected area system in Peru, which allows the co-management of
  protected areas by native communities (administration contracts, community reserves)

#### 3. Contribution to the technical exchange among institutions from both countries.

• Technical bi-national exchange meetings among public organizations and civil society, which permitted the review of measuring indicators and evaluation criteria of the protected area management.

#### **Reached Impacts**

- Legally consolidate the protected areas system in Peru (ranking).
- In the system's consolidation process there has been an advance in the construction of alliances with indigenous organizations. Participation of the indigenous communities in the protected area consolidation processes, as well as their co-management.
- Contribution to the protected areas integration process in the different processes that are being developed in the framework of a vision that is no longer of a place, but a landscape.
- Relationships and exchange have been strengthened among the organizations of both countries.

#### Limitations and weaknesses

- The strategic guidelines designed to orient investment have not defined medium- and long-term goals and indicators for the corridor. This does not permit measurement of the fund's effectiveness.
- The public institutions have not participated in designing the program's construction. There is no institutionalization of the CEPF's policies.
- Lack of local and regional publicity about the existence of the corridor.
- The processes have not been internalized in the programs from the public organizations.

#### Learned Lessons

- Goals, indicators, and means should be set so as to reflect the impact of the fund's effectiveness.
- Planning, evaluation, and initiative follow-up mechanisms of this magnitude should be developed.
- There should be an institutionalization of CEPF policies.
- The Fund has contributed to the application of the policies established by the governments for the management of protected areas. (Ranking, co-management of protected area by indigenous communities).
- The corridor concept has captured the attention of important players, such as indigenous communities. The work with the indigenous organizations is helping to strengthen the protected areas system, which should further this subject.
- The application of funds from different donors is not efficiently taken advantage of in the same geographical areas that develop the same concepts.

#### **B.** Use of the Ecosystem Profile

• Most of the organizations do not use the ecosystem profile because they do not know of it, due to its limited distribution and socialization.

#### C. Adoption of the corridor as development tool

- The corridor is not yet adopted by the government entities as part of their strategic plans.
- The organizations related to CEPF's financing or to other CI funds, if they take the corridor as a reference to justify the technical proposals of the conservation and development projects.

#### D. Subjects, geographical areas, and absent players

#### Subjects

- Terrestrial organization.
- National policies regarding the protected areas.
- Management of tree species in forests.
- The fund's conception for resources and investment priorities caused these funds to not be used to become tools for development programs.
- There has not been direct support to control other larger threats, such as illegal deforestation and extraction of hydrocarbons.

#### Geographical Areas

- The available information has not permitted development of the site.
- Little support to projects located in the connectivity areas.

#### Absent players:

Beneficiary players:

- Local Communities
- Local Governments
- Private Companies (mining, forestry, hydrocarbons)

#### Executive players:

Governmental Entities

#### Heritage of this phase

- The process of adoption of the Vilcabamba–Amboró Corridor's vision has started; it is the first one in the region.
- Civil society organizations have been strengthened in specific subjects for the corridor's conservation.
- The application framework of the Fund's strategic directives allows us to integrate ourselves with public and private institutions in both countries.
- Greater availability and access to scientific, economic, and social information regarding investment made in the zone.

#### **Corridor's Shared Vision**

The vision of physical integrity and of the need for enhanced connectivity among protected areas is widely shared, but no consensus exists about the methods for achieving these connections or about their exact physical locations.

# **GROUP III**

## **Biodiversity Community Conservation in the Community's** Management of Natural Resources



- ✓ Angela Andrade
- ✓ Dan Martin
- ✓ Erick Meneses
- ✓ Jorge Ugaz
  ✓ Ani Zamgochian

#### A. Reached Results

- Improved approach among the organizations that develop activities oriented toward conservation and the communities.
- Higher awareness in the management of natural resources in the indigenous areas (to know the natural resource's productivity for their insertion in the market) and the settlers (to better understand the value of the forest).
- Recovery of traditional farming techniques.
- Greater involvement by local organizations with the parks administration.
- Partial formalization in the legal access to the resources (Brazil nut in Peru).
- Development of local capacities in managing the resource.
- Management models of replicable resources have been achieved (until achieving certification).

#### **Generated Impacts**

- A higher knowledge and use of the properties and the goodness of the natural resources has been generated.
- The communities acknowledge the economic value of the forest resource.
- Other sources of earnings that are different from the traditional sources have been identified.
- The communities are defining the relationships and involvement of other players.
- Development of a methodology that is repeated in neighboring countries (Bolivia, Peru, and Brazil).
- The exchange of organizational cultures has been motivated (individualism to collectivity) (management of the Brazil nut franchises).
- They are prepared to continue and to give sustainability to their enterprises.
- The participation of the community in research processes has been achieved.
- Indirect impacts have been generated, such as the replication of specific actions like training, services, or resource management. (Replicable by SERNAP)

#### Limitations and weaknesses

- Gaps have been identified in the link between the resource and the market.
- It is not necessary to include a financial mechanism for productive projects. CEPF was already able to fund a variety of projects from fire management schemes to bamboo cultivation.
- Initiatives should consider from the very start a self-sustaining mechanism to ensure their continuity after the initial funding runs out.
- The projects are executed in very short periods, which impede the continuity required to achieve the sustainability of said enterprises.
- Divorce between CEPF and SERNAP.
- The SERNAP's management has no community support.
- There are intermediaries that distort community enterprises (operators, warehouses, etc.)
- Weaknesses in organizational areas.
- The certification's direct costs are high.
- Occasional delays in the receipt of CEPF payments by grantees.

#### Lessons Learned

- It is possible to sensitize the communities by demonstrating the forest's values.
- The projects must have development of local capacities.
- At higher involvement in the communities with the projects, higher sustainability, but this involvement is achieved by a long-term process.
- The projects must involve all of the players identified in a productive chain, emphasizing specific actions for each one and roles.
- The need for organizations in the communities in (associations, etc.).
- The training for the state organizations is not effective due to the high level of rotation.
- Community participation and its commitment with the project are essential.
- A project executing organization should only have the facilitators' role for the change process that the community wants to develop.
- The research of biodiversity potential resources must be supported in order to identify if the niches exist in the market for these possibilities.
- Strategic alliances must be established.
- Guidelines are needed to measure the program's impact on the corridor's conservation (macro biological indicators).
- A greater emphasis is required on creating capacities to implement plans to manage the resources.

#### **B.** Use of the ecosystem profile

- The profile could not be used in the community work because there is no shared vision between the NGO and the community which is tired of having a protected area...and nothing else.
- If the profile was used, the project execution was more difficult, given the negative perception by the communities.
- The use was more internal for the executing organizations since it helps to create common criteria.

#### Adoption of the corridor as development tool

- The corridor's image in the communities is based on the traditional conservation concept, and as a larger protected natural area; this negative perception is attributed to the lack of an information distribution strategy regarding the program.
- The program is generating a change oriented toward strengthening the corridor as a developmental tool.
- Make an inventory of successful productive experiences, and spread them as an additional item to the program.

#### Subjects, geographical areas, and absent players

- Create a map of players to establish strategic alliances.
- Diagnose the species with market potentiality.
- Promote studies for the identified species.
- Involve the private sector.

#### Heritage of this phase

- New conservation conception related to the developmental processes.
- It is necessary to identify an added value to the amount of investment (as an addition) for the conservation corridor.
- The financing resources for the corridor have been leveraged.

#### **Corridor's Shared Vision**

- It does not exist when the community thinks it is a limit for its development.
- Develop a long-term vision for the corridor.
- Connect CEPF's program to other sources of funding that support other development goals (health, education, alternative livelihoods, etc.).
- Trans-boundary strategic coordination regarding the management of natural resources (MAP example).

# **GROUP IV**

## **Reinforce the Public Consciousness and Environmental Education**



## Participants:

- ✓ Raúl Bustillo
- ✓ Jaime Cevallos
- ✓ Alberto Delgado
- ✓ Giuliana Lopez
- ✓ Gustavo Mariaca

- ✓ Enrique Quilla
- ✓ Silvia Sánchez
- ✓ Cynthia Silva
- ✓ Vanessa Suárez

#### A. Achieved Results

- Contribution to the development of capacities of rural unit teachers.
- Contribution to the application of the vision of environmental education, looking for appropriation by the teachers that continue the activities after the project (Project Bolivia).
- The Corridor's purpose (goal) has been made social.
- Diffusion on Bahuaja Sonene to possible Congressional candidates.
- Include the subject in the public agenda of the bi-national corridor, Vilcabamba–Amboró.
- Distribution of the subject with reporters, award for reporting biodiversity. The interest on the subject has increased in the press.
- There has been an advance at the general information level.

#### **Reached Impacts**

- Positive impact on the media in order to raise interest about conservation.
- It helped on the internal analysis of the corridor's concept, and a presence of the corridor's concept in several areas has been achieved.
- It helped to build the concept of bi-national action; processes were recovered in accordance to what was previously created.
- Impact in the academic world about the corridor's concept and large planning processes.
- Impact on political decisionmakers on conservation aspects: changes in the manner of looking at the scenario, of understanding the impacts that go beyond the specific place they are exercised.
- This change of scenario has also influenced the tourism companies, which start to sell the complete scenario.

#### Limitations/weaknesses

- The communication strategy should go hand-in-hand with a permanent maintenance process, and there has not been a shared responsibility, not even between Peru and Bolivia. There has not been a continuity of the efforts aimed at the government authorities (considering the changes of authorities).
- Proper definition of the target audience is lacking.
- There has not been an advance at the level related to promoting the inclusion of the corridor as an effective planning instrument.
- Environmental education is a long-term process that requires longer-term financing, which was not an option given the limited funds available under this strategic direction.
- The communication strategy did not make an impression in the local authorities.
- The communication strategy has been implemented mainly by one organization.
- The base line was not made social (if there was one), nor the achieved information.
- Lack of articulation among the different strategic lines.
- It is discovered that there should be networks which have not been built; there is no interaction of the strategic lines.
- Short-term projects that are not long enough for the conservation needs.
- Related to the aspects of the definition of a vision, concepts, has not been sufficiently participative.

#### Lessons Learned

- Need of involving the local authorities so they get interested in the conservation topic.
- Expand the support and the action of the local institutions for the communication process.
- Combine the strategy's macro actions with the most specific actions.
- Include the corridor's subject in the strategies of the protected areas. Strengthen and promote local communication strategies.

#### **B.** Use of the ecosystem profile

- It was used to design the projects. It was also used in the institutional activities as a reference framework. There are institutions that did not use the profile beyond the project design.
- The profile sustains CI's vision regarding the conservation of the biodiversity in the Vilcabamba–Amboró Corridor; it was used a lot in CI's work. The profile has been very useful to have a constructive base and dialogue with other institutions.

#### Adoption of the corridor as development tool

• The corridor as a planning instrument in the countries has not been achieved. Also, it has to be considered that at the level of the government authorities the work has to be restarted.

#### Subjects, geographical areas, and absent players

- Focus the role of the protected areas within the local context.
- Reinforce the environmental education and make it a priority. It is necessary to build a common strategy in a large scenario (the corridor); this absence prevents having political influence.
- Absence of work in the incorporation of the educative curriculums, work at the level of the Ministry of Education.
- There has not been an advance, even considering the interconnectivity areas.
- The future autonomous governments will be essential together with the municipalities. Neither authorities nor local public were made a priority.
- A focus of protected areas within the social and territorial context, etc.
- Work with players and private owners (also related with the interconnection areas).
- Serious work has not been undertaken in the corridor's basin (particularly for Peru).
- Possible growth of the protected areas. Department and municipality protected areas.
- Indigenous organizations lands under indigenous management and right as absent players.

#### Heritage of this phase

- Bi-national inter-institutional communication, with perspectives to a permanent action within the framework of this scenario (corridor).
- Working in a new framework, which furthers in the overcoming of the political frontiers, of the protected areas frontiers, etc has been achieved.
- The intention of working in a corridor scheme has been strengthened. New institutions have been incorporated.
- It is going from a concept to the practical construction of a working strategy in the corridor.

• Another set of institutions that work in the corridor in conservation has been brought to the table through CEPF.

### Heritage of this phase

- work in process
- a path to follow

#### **Corridors' Shared Vision**

- There are elements, probably shared of a vision. Currently we have a vision outline. But it can not be said that there is a shared vision.
- It is built from the conservationists that do not necessarily have all of the elements for sustained development.

# **GROUP V**

# **Strengthening of the Political and Legal Framework**



## **Members:**

- José Luis Capella Erick Meneses  $\checkmark$
- $\checkmark$
- Silvia Sánchez  $\checkmark$

#### A. Achieved Results

- Areas with potential for private conservation identified and in process of implementation.
- Interested players receiving support to implement their areas.
- Constant training to governments (local, regional, and national).
- Four or five areas implemented as environmental servants, franchises for conservation, ecotourism, other forest products.
- Legal framework consolidated and in constant improvement.
- Identified baseline
- Strategy for the mitigation of the designed strategies.
- Mechanism for the implementation of the created strategy.

#### **Achieved Impacts**

- Civil society is aware of and considers feasible the private conservation before megainvestments with impact on the conservation (for example: inter-oceanic, hydrocarbons). Local, regional, and national government take the subject and promote it (Municipality of Cusco's Case).
- Better opportunities in the environmental management of the hydrocarbon projects in the corridor.
- Opportunity to improve the environmental and social standards in mega-projects for hydro-carbon extraction.
- Negative effects of the Camisea project are affecting regional environmental plans and their relationships with the Initiative for Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America.

#### Limitations and weaknesses

- Given the corridor's magnitude and the expectations created (project context), more funds are required.
- The conservation subject is not a state policy.
- Presence of large investments and conflict of interests.
- Economic resources.
- Local capacities.
- Subject's complexity.
- Political priority to the investments in Peru, and little or no environmental and social responsibility.
- Agriculture area, weak competence in areas where the hydrocarbon sector has interest.
- It is not clear, within the ecosystem profiles' guidelines, the objectives in Environmental Policies for the corridor. It is more an alert to the mining activities.
- Access to the information. Existing information very limited: baselines, absent systems of monitoring and evaluation.
- Policies oriented only to the project's supervision, without differentiating more or less sensitive areas.
- Lack of institutional development and democracy, especially in remote areas, where most natural protected areas are located. Absent or weak inter-sector coordination.

#### Lessons Learned

- Identify the pertinent private conservation tools (franchises, easements, concessions, etc.) For example, Franchises for Reforestation in primary forests are not recommended. Pay attention to what the people want to do in the area in order to make a conservation decision (Example: Madre de Dios and Cusco - Ecotourism/Other forest products).
- Have an integral vision of ecosystem conservation, which does not only involve protection.
- Effect in order to define regional environmental policies, regarding investment projects with impact on ecologically and culturally sensitive areas.
- Large coordination with multilaterals such as, Inter-American Development Bank, Corporacion Andina de Financiamiento and the US Export-Import Bank.
- Strategic environmental studies.
- Need to strengthen the environmental institutionalism (National Council for the Environment), regional governments, local governments)
- Work strengthening the local capacities for environmental management
- The participation of the academic area in the accompaniment of mega projects is urgent.
- State promotion policies of the actual and binding citizenship participation in defining early alert policies to impact projects.
- Act on time. And not wait for the damage to happen.

#### **B.** Use of the ecosystem profile

• No. Baseline with concepts that extremely limit the work range.

#### Adoption of the Corridor as development tool

• Yes. Manage a subsystem of protected areas for the South (that does not exist at the moment) for the adoption of private conservation politics.

#### Subjects, geographical areas and absent players

- *Subjects*: Citizenship awareness, private conservation, early alert information systems, environmental education.
- *Geographical Areas:* Include important cities / Incorporate other criteria, not only natural protected areas, focus more on political and economic factors (hydrocarbons, communication methods).
- *Players:* Indigenous populations, local populations, local and regional governments, multilaterals.

#### Heritage of this Phase

• Little empathy between the civil society and the corridor concept. A multi-sector committee for the corridor's management should exist.

#### **Corridor's Shared Vision**

- The conservation of protected natural areas must be included in the economic and social development processes existing in its scope.
- The Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor vision: In 15 years, natural protected areas and habitats will be consistently associated with the legal and economic systems for the use and management of the territory.

## **GROUP VI**

# **Mechanisms of Information Exchange**



## **Participants:**

- ✓ Ángela Andrade
- ✓ Stephan Beck
- ✓ Nuria Bolaños
- ✓ Juan Carlos Chivé
- ✓ Saúl Cuellar

- ✓ Pablo Ibañes
- ✓ Tim Killeen
- ✓ Luis Pomar
- ✓ Catalina Rivadeneira

#### A. Achieved Results

- 5 original Web sites.
- Eco-Index
- 26 additional Web sites (yes).
- Documentary information, database (no).

#### **Achieved Impacts**

- Accepted by the institutions.
- Thousands of hits, visits, and downloads.
- Connection of regions, institutions, and people.

#### Limitations

- Lack of growth in Peru.
- Lack of database collocation.
- Lack of development of metadata systems.
- Lack of full implementation of key institutions.
- Lack of civil society consciousness (especially scientists) for sharing information.
- Technological growth.
- Infrastructure maintenance.
- Lack of governmental support for the use of new technologies.
- Quality of Information.
- Collection Maintenance.
- Lack of diffusion capacity by the players on conservation subjects.
- Lack of systematization of the people's knowledge.

#### **Lessons Learned**

- Google is the most effective metadata.
- Metadata are requirements for GBIF, ABIN.
- Capacity of institutional and individual growth is important.
- Creation of communication strategies to involve other players.
- Expansion of the use of Internet to rural communities.
- This initiative helped to consolidate alliances with other networks, such as the Amazon Basin Biodiversity Information Facility.

#### **B.** Use of the ecosystem profile

- For proposal preparation.
- It is adequate (FAN and APECO).
- Lack of information about mining.
- Lack of information about social players and (very conservationist), plus a NGO work, and it must have an active participation of the actual players within the corridor.

#### Adoption of the corridor as development tool

- What context? Sustainable development?
- It must have and it can have this aspect.
- It must compare the development within the corridor as regards other areas that are not part of a corridor.

- Lack of appropriation?
- There was already appropriation by the press.

#### Subjects, geographical areas, and absent players

- Lack of (or insufficient) participation by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Its extension must be considered.
- Lack of effective activities within the corridor (example: Altomachi Cotacahi).
- High-Andes Ecosystems

#### Heritage of this phase

- It must plan in larger scales of the Corridor.
- Systematization of project and institution information.
- Improvement of infrastructure and technological capacities for participating institutions
- The environment has improved regarding the management of information and the will to share.

#### **Corridor's Shared Vision**

• NGOs yes, but the communities we will see.

## **REFLECTIONS OF THE PROCESS**

## How individual participants felt after the groups' analysis

- I feel it is a huge task, particularly at the time of changing governments in Bolivia, and in Peru soon.
- I am happy for having the opportunity to be with a group who is willing to share the process' limitations, this is very strange, it is an indicator of maturity of the civilian society, and are good bases for a new planning process. It is the basis for trusting relations among the donors and the investment receivers in order to advance into the future.
- I did it by myself because that's what I got, but it would have been better to do it together. This implied CEPF's trust, who gave us the money, crossed their fingers, and hoped that we did it right. And we did it right.
- With mixed feelings, because we could have done much more. But I also feel satisfaction because there are more players that join continuously.
- This is a fund to be executed through the NGOs. But the need of a more active participation of the government institutions is evident. For example: the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as regards the competent sectors. This is a process and we have a way to go. But other players have to be considered, other perceptions that are also tri-national (Madre de Dios Acre Pando). How we can include these visions of joint management of our protected areas that include this corridor's concept, in the national legislation and in the plans.
- I had my share, it was worth it," and "what is done is done.
- A very strong and very honest analysis has been made.
- Impressed and expectant. Impressed because the fund was supposed to be a seed, and looking at the presence here, and knowing the dimension of the work, it can be seen that it was achieved. Expectant because we get to see where it is going, see how the generated expectations are accomplished, to see how those who are here see the future together, to see that in the future, these 60 can become 200.
- Dissatisfaction; I have learned a lot from all of the experiences performed, the set of instruments, it requires the presence of local players. And the whole process of evaluation should be contrasted with the beneficiaries.
- Highly grateful, although as a regional government we have not received financing; we think we can work together with the vision of the regional government. Not satisfied with the criticism we received from a board, which is the product of the country's centralism.
- Feeling of great relief that this meeting took place. Feeling of responsibility for carrying this information and properly consolidating it in order to grasp what has been said to present it to the financing board.
- I feel we have advanced, but I also feel that more work from us who temporarily occupy public posts is necessary, in my country as well as in Bolivia.

#### What has been sowed?

- It is a unique opportunity for the respect we owe one another, and the expectation in the responsibilities and roles we have to carry out in this live entity, which is the corridor.
- In some opportunity, the protected areas were a strategy to safeguard the patrimony, but now the message is that it will not be possible to preserve without working outside the protected areas, and the need of working in citizenship: rights, and about their demands before the State.
- We have sowed six seeds, some of which are blossoming, others were sowed wrong. But in short we have an opportunity.
- We have sowed the vision that the protected areas are in a shared territory, they are not in a foreign territory. We are walking in an articulation with a very large responsibility ahead of us.

#### What should we be careful of in the future?

- Not forgetting the lessons learned.
- If this was a positive experience for being bi-national, how we can ensure that it continues to be bi-national? Without any type of leadership, the concept of corridor will disappear in this institutional step. Without a financial backer that keeps motivating a bi-national action, or a leadership, will there be a bi-national project in the future?
- Not re-inventing the wheel, of leaving aside what was done and learned. Not generating spaces or tendencies of opposing situations among the players. Not forgetting the lessons learned.
- Articulate better and know ourselves better between projects; the projects are developed like islands; it is important to have a proactive attitude from all of the participants to share the experiences, and to have transversal elements of environmental education and communication.
- A deeper reflection; it is because the subject is not understood as a common asset, and we should be careful so it does not stay in the hands of those who are convinced, and that is actually built with other players.
- Not forgetting to work with the people from the cities who do not know and do not understand the situation and the importance of nature, of the biodiversity.
- Foresee that the projects are sustainable, so that if CEPF ends, the projects do not die.
- Being careful of the inflation of expectations, of not offering anything beyond what we actually can do. Secondly, we work strategically or we will die; we can not do everything. This leads us to look from where we see the development. Avoid seeing the financing as financing for the projects, but think in the processes.
- We should not forget that the conservation projects, from the littlest initiative up to the largest one, are experiments; nobody has found the magic wand that solves conservation problems.
- Trying to turn the frustrations into opportunities in order to achieve a more trusting experiment next time.

#### What is left to do?

- Share more experiences with other corridors, share lessons learned in a larger regional scope.
- Use all the communication means possible in order to share, and that goes beyond an information exchange.
- Lack of exchange within the corridor.

- Lack of a mechanism to relate among Peruvians and Bolivians, as regards our similar subjects. This is not a typical meeting, but it should be a mechanism of permanent exchange, a permanent platform.
- Clarity in our own roles and competencies, maintain a transparent objective toward which we are heading.
- We get to start walking by ourselves as responsible adults.

#### What is the general balance of all this?

- The general balance is very positive since it was possible to exchange all that needed to be shared, the lessons learned, how to recover them.
- There is an effective maturity of the institutions to build the concept of the corridor, of setting a space within a more complex social structure.
- Fairly positive balance and it will be better if we do our task.
- CEPF is not the same as corridor; it is only the trigger in the processes in the corridor. There are other financial backers willing or working in the corridor's context.
- Thinking about CEPF, we must think that the partnerships are a powerful instrument for the institutions to continue by themselves, in the same direction, etc. Rescue the alliances, the interaction, which is the great value of this process. In this sense, the only thing that unites us in this space is a way of conceiving the development; when we see the corridor we do not talk about geography but politics, a developmental vision.
- The alliances can be strengthened horizontally. The reflection is that they are more valuable than the financing to execute the actions; it has allowed us to participate in a developmental context with a similar look.

#### VISION



\*VACC = Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor

### **Components of the Vision's Results:**

Management of knowledge and experiences

- Network for exchanging experiences among the indigenous populations.
- Large diffusion of achievements and lessons learned in the Vilcabamba-Amboró Conservation Corridor (VACC).
- Promote the experience exchange among corridors.

#### Scientific bases support the conservation works

- Established and functional strategy for climate change.
- Conservation indicators for the identified corridors.
- The scientific institutions share more the information.
- Scientific information of natural resources available and used in decisionmaking.
- Specific information system, distributed, implemented, and integrated to other systems.
- The systematized information oriented toward decisionmaking.
- There are updated biological inventories of the VACC's space.
- Scientific community generating and sharing information.

#### Socio-economic and environmental evaluation and monitoring system established

- Monitoring system responds to a continuous improvement in the VACC's implementation.
- Improvement of biological and social baseline.
- Community network related to biological and social monitoring.
- An efficient socio-environmental monitoring system for the corridor has been established.

#### **CCVA's sustainable financing**

- The investment for conservation has been tripled in an articulated manner.
- Stability and financial sustainability of the protected areas' national systems.
- Public resources sustain more than 50 percent of the management of VACC's protected areas.
- Sustainable financial mechanism for the corridor's protected areas.
- Strengthening of the bi-national collaboration mechanisms in the management of the protected areas.

#### High level of awareness in key players

- Environmental education and public awareness is VACC's transversal star line.
- Environmental education program in execution supports initiatives developed in the corridor.
- Formal education has included environmental education in the curriculum.

#### **Territorial and development planning includes VACC**

- In 80 percent effective terrestrial organization.
- Municipalities organized with development plans and environmental action plans, participatory, anti-poverty, and pro-biodiversity.

- VACC with macro and mid territorial organization officially approved.
- Planning includes the ecosystem approach.
- VACC's space includes the river basin sources that are part of them.
- Connectivity zones among consolidated and protected areas.
- Interconnection spaces with policies and investment for the sustainable use and conservation.
- Cleaned up community territories and legal security.
- Protected areas, and consolidated and ensured connections.
- Territorial planning properly included in state plans.

#### **Bi-national Agenda**

- The corridor acknowledged and considered among Peru-Bolivia politics.
- Fair, matching, and shared laws (countries) for the management of resources.
- Transboundary sub commission of protected areas and VACC within the joint commission (Peru-Bolivia).
- Incorporation of public policies.
- There are bi-national conservation policies institutionalized for VACC.
- State policies support the corridor's concept.
- Safeguard policies of the community territories strengthen the VACC.
- National systems of protected areas articulated to local governments.
- Legal tools of conservation used and consolidated in the corridor.
- Conservation of VACC's biodiversity.
- That environmental players have more power than the multinational corporations.
- Decrease of the advance of the agricultural border.
- The feasibility of the endangered species is achieved.
- The transformation percentage of the corridor's ecosystems has decreased.
- The deforestation rate has reduced in the VACC.
- Maintain the conservation status of the natural areas.
- Species and ecosystems preserved and ensured.
- Biological richness proportional to the power of decision.

#### Inhabitants benefit from the sustainable use of the VACC's resources

- Improvement to the quality of life from sustainable activities.
- The socioeconomic development in the region is tightly linked to the corridor's conservation.
- An improvement in the quality of life is evident in the most vulnerable population of the VACC.
- Country and indigenous enterprising program is executed.
- VACC's natural resources articulated to market sustainable.
- The projects have generated self-sustainable processes of local development.
- Forests used well with management plans.

#### Mitigated and prevented impacts in investment mega projects

- Mega projects internalize the corridor's concept in their management.
- Investments operating under standards of international requirement.

#### Alliances among all the consolidated players

- Private and community conservation network.
- A coordination system of the corridor's players has been formalized.
- There is a coherent vision shared by all the players.

#### **Empowered Corridor's Players**

- Indigenous communities strengthened and actively participating.
- Local players actively participate in the design, execution, and evaluation of the VACC's projects.
- Community Forestation Management strengthened!
- Base social organizations included in the processes of planning, execution, and evaluation of the corridor's conservation.
- Approval of the corridor's concept by players and sectors.
- Inclusion of the indigenous populations in the decision-making and in the VACC's operation.
- Inclusion of all the local key players.
- Local governments are actively involved in the corridor's conservation processes.
- VACC's protected areas with efficient participative management.
- Established mechanisms to generate decentralized technical capacity.
- Political and sector authorities have training systems in accordance with the VACC.
- Construction of citizenship.

**ANNEX A. CEPF Project Questionnaire** 



#### **CUESTIONARIO DE PROYECTOS**

CEPF apoyó a su organización en los siguientes proyecto(s):

Nombre: Organización: Titulo del Proyecto(s): Ubicación del proyecto: (País, localización): Objetivo mayor del proyecto:

Este cuestionario no debe tomar más de 15 minutos para ser completado

Si tiene cualquier pregunta respecto al cuestionario, por favor, enviar un correo a cynthia.silva@saviabolivia.org

Muchas gracias por ayudarnos con esta información.

## I. Direcciones Estratégicas del Perfil del Ecosistema:

1. Por favor indique abajo, agregando una explicación breve, cómo su proyecto(s) contribuyó a las siguientes Direcciones Estratégicas tal como están planteadas en el Perfil del Ecosistema de CEPF:

SD1: Establecer mecanismos eficaces para la coordinación, colaboración y acción catalítica transfronteriza en el Corredor Vilcabamba-Amboró.	
SD2: Fortalecer la coordinación binacional de sistemas de áreas protegidas.	
SD3: Estimular en las comunidades la conservación de la biodiversidad y el manejo de recursos naturales.	
SD4: Fortalecer la conciencia pública y la educación ambiental.	
SD5: Fortalecer los marcos legales y de políticas ambientales para mitigar los impactos de las industrias extractivas, los proyectos de transporte e infraestructura y el turismo a gran escala.	
SD6: Establecer un intercambio electrónico de información y un mecanismo coordinado de recolección de información y datos.	

## II. Indicadores de impacto:

2. Abajo es una lista de los objetivos de CEPF para los Andes Tropicales. Por favor indique, escribiendo una breve explicación en la columna derecha, si y cómo su proyecto ha contribuido hacia estos objetivos. Si su proyecto no involucró el apoyo a un objetivo particular, por favor deje el espacio en blanco.

a. Parque Nacional de Manu (1,800,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
b. Reserva Apruimac (1,700,000 ha) bajo protección y gestión eficaz	
c. Reserva de Alto-Purus (6,000,000 ha) bajo protección y gestión mejorada	
d. Parque Nacional Bahuaja Sonene (1,100,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
e. Parque Nacional Madidi (1,924,300 ha) bajo gestión eficaz y avances hacia la creación de un corredor	
f. Reserva de la Biosfera de Pilon Lajas (400,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
g. Area Natural de Apolobamba (483,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
h. Corredor de Conservación Pilon-Lajas- Isiboro (80,000 ha) bajo protección y avances hacia su creación	
i. Parque Nacional Isiboro Secure (1,200,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
j. Parque Nacional Amboro (638,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
k. Zona de Reserva Amarakaeri (420,000 ha) bajo protección y gestión eficaz	
l. Patrimonio Cultural Machu Picchu (1,500,000 ha) bajo protección y gestión eficaz.	
m. Corredor de Conservación Apurimac-	

Alto Purus (500,000 ha) avances hacia su creación	
n. Reserva Nacional Tambopata- Candamo (516,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz y avances hacia la creación de un corredor de conservación	
o. Parque Nacional Manuripi-Heath (1,500,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz y avances hacia la creación de un corredor	
p. Parque Nacional Cotapata National (51,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
q. Parque Nacional Carrasco (623,000 ha) bajo gestión eficaz	
r. Corredor de Conservación Carrasco- Isiboro Secure (459,000 ha) bajo protección y avances hacia su creación	

3. Su proyecto tuvo otro impacto además de los anteriormente mencionados? No\_\_\_\_\_ Si \_\_\_\_\_

En caso de que así sea, por favor describa estos impactos con más detalle:

4. Su proyecto contribuyó a la protección de especies amenazadas, y si es así, cuáles especies?

5. En su opinión, la sociedad civil se ha fortalecido alrededor de asuntos de conservación y desarrollo como resultado de las inversiones del CEPF? ¿Cómo?

6. En su propia evaluación, cuales son las actividades que deben apoyar los donantes en el futuro para ayudar a aumentar la capacidad de los grupos locales que trabajan en la conservación de la biodiversidad? 7. Si otra organización realizara su proyecto nuevamente, cual seria el consejo más importante que les daría, es decir, cual es la lección mas importante que aprendió en su proyecto?

8. Sugiere algún aspecto en particular que el CEPF debe seguir haciendo o algo que debe cambiar en el futuro?

Le agradecemos por sus insumos.

## **ANNEX B. List of Participants**

Nº	Organization	Participant	E-mail	Country
1	Amazon Conservation Association	Brian Hayum	bhayum@amazonconservation.org	USA
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