

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: *Amazon Conservation Association*

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): *Formalizing Forest Access and Implementing Sustainable Brazil Nut Management in Madre de Dios, Peru*

Implementation Partners for This Project:

Local Project Leader: Asociación para la Conservación de la Cuenca Amazónica (ACCA)

Government of Peru (INRENA)

Brazil Nut Producers' Associations:

- Association of Brazil nut Producers of the Tahuamanu Reserve (ASCART)
- Association of Brazil nut Producers of Madre de Dios (ASECAMD)
- Federation of Brazil Nut Producers of Madre de Dios (FEDECAMD)

NGOS: CESVI, WWF, ProNaturaleza, Conservation International, FONDEBOSQUE

Private Sector: INDAMAD, FastTrade, Candela

Academia: UNSAAC, School of Forest Sciences, Madre de Dios Branch.

Project Dates: *18 November 2002 to 31 March 2005*

Date of Report (month/year): June 2005

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

Brazil nuts are an important renewable resource in the Amazon basin: according to government figures, they produce sales of over \$33 million annually in Brazil alone. Nuts are harvested from natural stands, not plantations, because the trees depend intimately on a complex web of pollinators, seed dispersers, and abiotic conditions. Even short-term productivity therefore depends on managing these natural stands in an ecologically sustainable fashion. In many parts of the Amazon, Brazil nut harvesting is a traditional, seasonal activity - led by both women and men - that both forges and depends upon agreements among neighbors and households. This is particularly true in southeastern Peru, where most Brazil nut harvesters are small-scale producers, with stands that are seldom larger than 1,000 hectares. Brazil nut production is therefore a significant model that closely links the economic, ecological and social components of sustainable development.

ACA's Brazil nut Program seeks to conserve and maintain the productivity of approximately 1 million hectares of Brazil nut stands in the southwestern Amazon by establishing formal, long-term contracts between approximately 1,000 Brazil

nut producers and the Peruvian Government, whereby nuts are harvested from mapped areas, according to management plans that incorporate the highest standards of sustainable forest management. To ensure a strong local capacity to implement these plans, the Project sought to enhance the management and technical skills of members of a key Brazil nut producer's association, ASCART.

This program is particularly important given the impending construction of the Trans-oceanic highway that will connect Brazil to the Pacific Ocean and traverse this area of Peru. The typical deforestation that accompanies road construction is due to uncertain land tenure and unplanned development. Our work with Brazil nut producers and their neighbors is stabilizing land tenure along this road, and is providing an economically viable alternative to deforestation.

This Project has assisted over 130 pioneering Brazil nut producers in the formal establishment of Brazil nut concessions and the development of management plans. This has resulted in over 224,000 hectares of primary tropical forest being legally designated for sustainable production. Of these, 27,000 hectares have the additional distinction of certification under the Forest Stewardship Council system, in recognition of producers' adherence to the strictest international standards for forest management. This achievement culminates years of dedicated work in organization, legalization, mapping, conflict resolution, and training for Brazil nut producers and their representative organizations. In the process, ACCA (ACA's Peruvian partner) facilitated intensive, on-the-ground efforts to resolve many conflicts surrounding access to Brazil nut tree stands and overlapping institutional jurisdictions. Using new technology such as GPS and GIS applications, and opening dialog between resource users, their representative organizations, and government agencies, ACCA's work led not only to formal and permanent access to these tree stands, but also to the added value from certification. Certifiers accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council carried out an extensive evaluation of Brazil nut forest management. The result is a benefit for growers, the forests and consumers who seek to use their purchasing power to support conservation.

The Project has also put ASCART - a small but influential local Brazil nut producers' association - on the path to long-term sustainability, with management and leadership training, business development support, and a key role in the decision-making processes surrounding all of the achievements noted above. The 27 concessionaires who participated in the pilot program to obtain FSC certification are members of ASCART.

As a key partner in this process, INRENA (the Peruvian government agency that oversees natural resource management and protection) has also benefited greatly from this experience, with technical support and guidance in the development of tools and guidelines for awarding and evaluating Brazil nut concessions within national forest concession protocols. A host of local and national organizations and producers' groups are now also participating in this

initiative, and many Brazil nut producers are following in the pioneers' footsteps, seeking ACCA and ASCART support to formalize their harvesting rights.

As a result of all this, Brazil nut harvesting in southeastern Peru is more compatible with biodiversity conservation, local producers have extended their opportunities to benefit financially from the activity, and potentially adverse social impacts have been avoided by resolving tenure overlaps and securing government recognition of the rights of traditional Brazil nut harvesters.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: Improvement of the management and administration of Brazil nut concessions in Madre de Dios, Peru.

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level: 40-year concessions granted by INRENA to 75 Brazil nut producers.	Over 240 concessions were granted during the life of the project, to 115 producers.
Indicator 1.1 40-year concessions granted by INRENA to 75 Brazil nut producers.	Over 240 concessions were granted during the life of the project, to 115 producers.
Indicator 1.2 Five Brazil nut concessionaires (individually or as a group) adopt sustainable forest management standards and apply for independent third-party forest management certification.	7 concessionaires adopted and met FSC standards as established in an external evaluation.

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

This groundbreaking project has forged important alliances among diverse sectors of society, including:

- Government authorities;
- Non-government organizations;
- The private sector; and
- Individuals and households, all with different interests and visions.

With its agility, flexibility, and commitment to equal respect for all the parties involved, ACCA has:

- Synchronized the differing visions and interests of these elements;
- Resolved numerous boundary conflicts that threatened the long-term viability of Brazil nut management using advanced technology; and secured over 27,000 hectares of certified forests in favor of small-scale producers;
- Ensured replicability by carefully documenting the methodology and lessons learned from the program's outset as a model for the region. There is considerable potential for this to be expanded among small-scale Brazil nut producers in Bolivia and Brazil. The program is already being replicated and

extended throughout Madre de Dios, Peru by other conservation and technical support agencies;

- Worked with Brazil nut producers to obtain the first FSC certification for Peru. These represent the only certified forests in all of Peru for any forest product to date. ACCA staff worked closely with FSC to develop the certification standards. Simultaneously with the FSC certification process, ACCA assisted Brazil nut producers to obtain organic certification, and;
- Ensured the active participation of Brazil nut producers in all aspects of the program. This has resulted in strong local ownership of the results. Producers received hands-on training in all phases of the management plan development. Since the producers volunteered their labor for field work, it has also kept project costs low, allowing the program to reach many more people than originally planned.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The project was able to surpass its targets and achieve greater success and impacts by acting as a local facilitator rather than implementer. This presents a model for other actors in the region, where direct implementation is often the preferred role.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs and indicators from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: 75 management plans developed and submitted to INRENA for consideration of 40-year Brazil nut concession rights.	
Indicator 1.1 Two 3-day workshops to train 31 Brazil nut producers in mapping and tree inventorying techniques.	In total 22 workshops were organized around inventory and mapping techniques, with over 100 participants over the course of the project.
Indicator 1.2 31 Brazil nut use areas mapped.	80 areas were mapped
Indicator 1.3 75 Brazil nut concessions awarded by the Peruvian government to Brazil nut producers, permitting the long-term sustainable management and administration of those forest resources.	244 concessions have been awarded.
Output 2: Five demonstration plots developed to showcase sustainable Brazil nut management standards and practices.	7 Brazil nut producers have demonstrated best practices by receiving FSC certification through an external evaluation. Another 20 are in the process of seeking certification
Indicator 2.1 Three 2-day workshops for 79 ASCART Brazil nut producers to train them in forest certification standards and procedures; benefits to be derived from managing and administering (i.e. chain-of-custody) their forest resources sustainably; and the development and implementation of a step-by-step internal control process to insure chain-of-custody of Brazil nuts and Brazil nut products.	The workshops were well-attended. However, the high cost of obtaining certification is prohibitive for many Brazil nut producers.
Indicator 2.2 Ongoing technical assistance in certified forest management standards and procedures provided to	27 producers are receiving technical assistance, and sharing lessons learned in the process with

at least five Brazil nut concessionaires (out of the 79 trained).	others.
Indicator 2.3 At least five Brazil nut concessions apply for forest management certification (individually or as a group).	27 concessionaires have applied to date.
Output 3: Project results disseminated to targeted stakeholders in Brazil, Bolivia, and Peru to achieve corridor-wide benefits.	A workshop held in December 2004 achieved this output. The workshop was well-attended by representatives from all sectors of civil society in 3 countries.
Indicator 3.1 Framework developed and implemented for correct method of establishing indisputable chain-of-custody over certified management systems and products, to be used by at least five Brazil nut producers as they progress towards certification, and afterwards for marketing their certified product.	This has been developed. FSC Certification is in process for the chain of custody framework..
Indicator 3.2 Dissemination of project results for purposes of regional (tri-national) replication to achieve corridor-wide impacts/benefits	A workshop held in December 2004 achieved this output. The workshop was well-attended by representatives from all sectors of civil society in 3 countries.

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

All targets were exceeded. This was a highly successful project at all levels of its design.

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

N/A

V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

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

This project was not considered as requiring notable environmental or social safeguards, as it builds on a traditional activity that reflects positive forest stewardship. Participation of women in the training workshops and ongoing dialogs was notable, well over 40%.

VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

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

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

Internally, we have learned many lessons: the need for careful planning and thoughtful execution, and detailed monitoring and evaluation, with a willingness and ability to adapt as circumstances change.

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

The success of this project depended a great deal on starting out at a small scale, building on existing functional elements and then on continuous improvement, as well as maintaining a facilitating role throughout the project.

One notable obstacle is the high cost of obtaining international certification and the limited value-added that certification currently provides in return. Future efforts will be dedicated to improving production capacity and lowering costs so that certification can be made more readily available to Brazil nut producers.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Fondo de las Americas	B	150,000	For additional production-capacity improvements
Blue Moon Fund	B	8,000	For business plan development and chain-of-custody certification

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Continuing this process remains a high priority for ACA, as legal challenges continue to be brought against Brazil nut concessions by non-conservation interests. Careful monitoring and evaluation of the management standards for concessions will also be important both from a biological and economic standpoint: The management plans must be meticulously implemented by the Brazil nut producers as a condition for the concessions' existence. Future investment plans can also consider other uses for Brazil nut stands (e.g. ecotourism). Finally, local producers' organizations will need additional strengthening assistance to more fully assume a leadership role in this important activity.

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF aims to increase sharing of experiences, lessons learned and results among our grant recipients and the wider conservation and donor communities. One way we do this is by making

the text of final project completion reports available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these reports in our newsletter and other communications. Please indicate whether you would agree to publicly sharing your final project report with others in this way.

Yes X
No

If yes, please also complete the following:

For more information about this project, please contact:

Name: Cristian Vallejos

Mailing address: Amazon Conservation Association

Tel: ++1 (202) 234-2356

Fax:

E-mail: