

Peru Mapacho River Watershed Environmental Capacity Development

Project - S-63749

One Sky and ACCA Quarterly Report to CIDA
for Voluntary Sector Fund

Project Period: June 30 – Sept 30, 2007



Participatory Methodologies Workshop in Cusco, Sept, 2007

Submitted by
One Sky – Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living
And
Asociacion para la Conservacion de la Cuenca Amazonica (ACCA)

Submission date: November 15, 2007

CONTACTS

Northern ENGO

One Sky
Box 3352
Smithers, BC
V0J 2N0 Canada
Ph: 250-877-6030
Email: info@onesky.ca

Primary Project Contacts:

Nikki Skuce, Program Director
Email: nikki@onesky.ca

Michael Simpson, Executive Director
Email: mike@onesky.ca

Southern ENGO

Asociacion para la Conservacion de la Cuenca
Amazonica (ACCA)
Av. Oswaldo Baca 402
Urb. Magisterio, Cusco
Peru
Ph: 011-51-84-222-329

Primary Project Contact:

Cesar Moran, Executive Director
Email: cmoran@amazonconservation.org

Project Synopsis

The goal of the project is to increase the capacity of the Association for the Conservation of the Amazon Basin and five identified communities to manage and influence governance decisions regarding their natural resources as well as develop gender sensitive sustainable livelihoods. The project will also mitigate the threats to biodiversity via six sets of project activities:

- 1) community economic development (CED) based on ecotourism and natural resource management;
- 2) policy dialogues;
- 3) leadership development;
- 4) gender mainstreaming;
- 5) eco-tourism guide training and environmental education curriculum; and
- 6) public engagement in Canada and Peru.

Project Term: This project officially started April 16th, 2007 and will remain in effect until June 30th, 2010.

Total CIDA contribution:	\$420,000
Total One Sky contribution:	\$125,000

I) Update on Overall Results Based Management

Synopsis

This was an extremely active quarter with the baseline assessment completed and field visits by One Sky and a team of consultants (Drishti). One Sky facilitated a strategic planning session for the overall capacity development of ACCA. Drishti completed a participatory methodologies workshop.

The field production for the first phase of the video was completed with interviews and B-roll secured. Editing for a draft version was completed. A CIDA intern arrived for five months and was oriented. An initial and substantial contribution was secured (\$65,000 CDN) as part of One Sky's matching funds. A three-year plan was agreed upon. A webpage update for both ACCA and One Sky was completed.

1) ACCA Capacity Development

A workshop was held in Cusco at the Club Hotel on October 8 -10 with the participation of eight institutional leaders. A team from *One Sky: The Institute of Sustainable living* facilitated the process. The main goal of the workshop was to identify institutional priorities, develop a shared vision, and set the course for the following years' activities. The product of this workshop was a document (attached as annex) that describes:

- a) Institutional Vision and Mission
- b) Institutional Sociopolitical context and history
- c) Current institutional chart as well as a revised one
- d) Institutional strengths and weaknesses
- e) Project analysis at the global and programmatic level according to the following criteria: 1) timeline; 2) achievability; 3) specificity; 4) possibility and 5) measurability

Communications officer traveled to Lima to develop institutional web page and secure portal providers.

Software and training was provided on developing organograms (Inspiration 8).

"The three key areas in which there is room for further capacity include:

1) Organization-wide strategic planning

2) Networking

3) Gender mainstreaming"

Excerpt from
Baseline
Assessment

2) Community Economic Development

As a way to understand the communal vision of the Queros Native community, a social diagnosis was necessary. The purpose of the diagnosis was to develop a current social baseline that would help us to jointly design the intervention in the area of this approximately 8,000 hectare conservation concession "La Reserva Ecológica Huachipaire Jaramba Queros". This diagnosis was carried out over 5 weeks during which a series of workshops including a participatory rural appraisal and series of focus groups were held. Moreover, ACCA staff conducted visits to different communal sectors to understand farming, hunting, fishing, gathering and handicraft production practices. Finally a thorough local institutional mapping activity was conducted in Pilcopata to measure communal involvement in local activities, as well as to evaluate how ACCA was viewed. This social diagnostic is under revision by the Executive Director and the Director of the Cusco office. We expect to extract useful information from it to elaborate the management plan for the Conservation Concession.

3) Policy dialogues

In order to consolidate the Conservation Concession on behalf of the Andean Q'eros Nation, ACCA has been engaging in an ongoing series of meetings and events. All of these have taken place in this nation's five towns: Japu, Q'eros Totorani, Hatun Q'eros, Quico and Marcachea.

For these meetings, there were three main objectives:

- a) Strengthen the Q'eros nation's organizational capacity via periodic inter-communal assemblies. ACCA has been keen to facilitate spaces for dialogue in which these communities could interact with other institutions and external actors. All of this was developed in order to encourage a trend towards transparency.
- b) Strengthen ACCA's institutional work by promoting our productive projects as well as a social forestry project in the five Q'eros communities.
- c) Establish and manage the Conservation Concession on behalf of the Q'eros Nation that will contribute to cultural and biodiversity conservation as well as promote the sustainability of these communities.



"I like the interchange of ideas and participation as well as the structure that was used within the workshop"

Participant evaluation Sept 2007

4) Integral leadership development

Participatory Integral workshop: This was held from September the 19th to the 21st of this year in Cusco at the Centro de Estudios Andinos Bartolome de las Casas. The participants were field technicians, project coordinators and directors. This workshop was organized and presented by *Drishti: Centre for Integral Action* in coordination with *One Sky: Canadian Institute of Sustainable Living*. The workshop focused on developing the following:

- Socialization of participative methodologies in order to help us implement projects with a better contextual understanding.
- An introduction to tools to conduct an integral project diagnosis.
- Strengthening teamwork via improved communication and institutional integrity.

Through the development of the nine phases of the participatory process, this workshop offered methodologies that will help our staff construct adequate dialogues and a shared vision with our beneficiaries. Our main conclusions from these workshops were to:

- Reformulate intervention strategies in order to give appropriate continuity to the processes we have initiated.
- Apply participatory methodologies in a holistic and integrative manner.
- Actively promote horizontal dialogues inside and outside of the institution.
- Learn from and respect the differences that exist between our institution and our beneficiaries.

5) Gender mainstreaming

The baseline assessment identified gender mainstreaming as one of three priorities for capacity development in ACCA. This recognition, and the support it has received within ACCA, is a major outcome in developing gender awareness within the organization. Gender mainstreaming is about incorporating gender analysis and activities in all the different activities and decision making of an organization. To this effect it was a topic of discussion during the strategic planning exercise and was specifically addressed with role-playing and discussion during the participatory methodologies workshop. The discussion of gender topics, lexicon and issues was evident during these key interventions over the past quarter. Specific activities at the beneficiary scale will likely become more evident as the guide training and interpreter training commences in the coming quarters.

6) Guide training

As the canopy walkway construction has been delayed until the rainy season is over, the current focus for the guide-training component is on the recruitment of the guides and the training of ACCA staff to manage this component. In the workplan this is staged in two phases. We will be working with the Queros located in the Amazon first. There are distinct advantages to working with this group in the fall of 2007. They are much smaller, more cohesive and can better act as a pilot for the participatory methodologies being explored. Once an initial evaluation is carried out this next quarter we can better design the second guide training component with the Queros Andinos who have a much more complicated social structure (seven different communities). For this reason special emphasis was placed on the training of trainers in participatory methodologies and we were very pleased that all of the ACCA tecnicos (field staff) were able to participate in this workshop in September along with senior management.

Meetings were held with Greenheart in Vancouver and Smithers, B.C. and an agreement reached on guide capacity development. A second site visit to the canopy walkway site was organized. An initial payment for the One Sky contribution was secured from Greenheart.

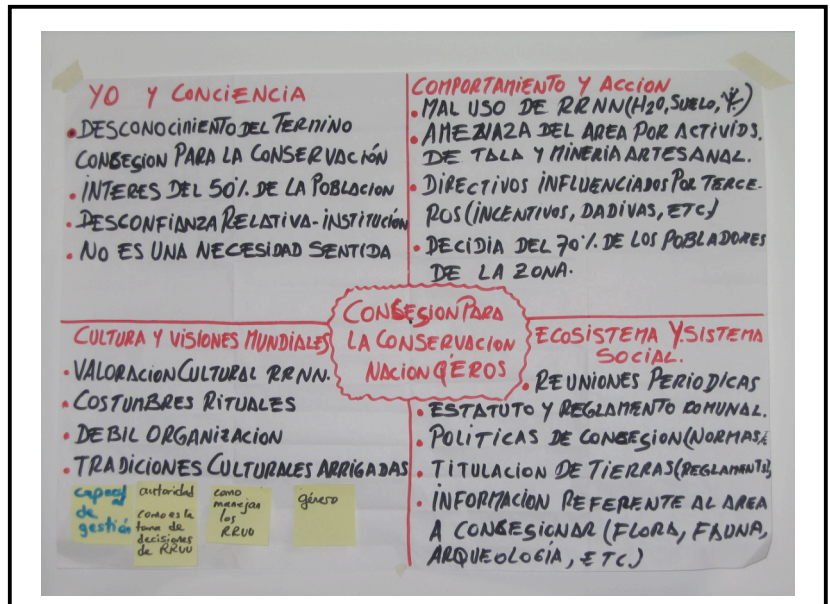
One Sky funds are also financing the participation of an ACCA field technician Santa Cruz Ayala in a course to become a: "Sustainable Development Specialist" organized by School of Pedagogy and Humanities of the Universidad del Centro del Peru. This course runs from August 09, 2007 to February 10, 2008 and totals 400 class hours. We are confident that course will give him the tools and motivate him in the implementation of projects and his day to day involvement with beneficiaries.

" The Peruvian NGO ACCA has first-hand experience of attempting to work in sustainable development using a scientific, conservation-oriented approach, with less emphasis on the more interior dimensions of culture, community, and consciousness."

Excerpt from Drishti Baseline Assessment of ACCA 2007

7) Environmental Education

Since the last report ACCA has been unsuccessful in securing support for an educational component with Yale, however, this possibility is still being developed. Their plans, also outlined in the previous report, to include children in cloud forest environmental education were realized in the last quarter with two busloads of children visiting the cloud forest research station from Pilcopata. Communications director Miguel Moran included participatory techniques during the workshop (including role playing with the schoolchildren) that were learned in the Drishti workshop. CIDA intern Pablo Alvarez participated in this workshop which included interpretive hiking, a mapping exercise, the use of an audio-visual and peer discussions. One Sky documented the workshop with video.



Above: One of three integral assessments using quadrants to analyze the conservation concessions during Drishti workshop (Sept 2007)
Below: One Sky, ACCA and Drishti in Queros community, Amazon.



8) Public Engagement Activities

One Sky held several important public events during the last quarter including:

- Public auction in Smithers in which our Peru project was profiled.
- Four Rotary club presentations including three in the Napa Valley and one in Terrace, BC.

In addition we completely updated our web page with a section on Peru, blogs from Peru, blogs from interns and an on-line photo gallery.

High definition video footage for the Peru video was collected from the field including interviews with the executive director of ACCA, the Program Director of ACCA, a visiting Oxford carbon specialist, community members from the Amazon, a One Sky intern in Peru, a specialist on integral theory from Drishti and the One Sky Program Director. Footage was collected from the ACCA field projects including B-roll on Saacha Inchi (a micro-enterprise), the canopy walkway, the cloud forest, the Amazon basin, the Queros community and the Andean communities in and around Cusco.

A One Sky World Tour program has been completed and scheduled for February of 2008 that will include site visits to our project.

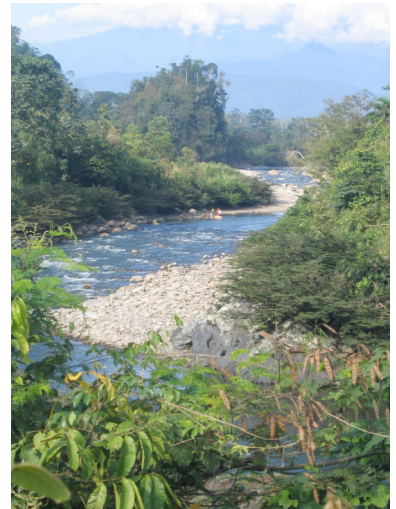
II) Update on Monitoring and Evaluation

To date the project monitoring and evaluation component has benefited from a strong baseline assessment in which both soft and hard capacities of ACCA were determined as well as key points of intervention. This has also allowed us to modify the project in suitable ways at the very beginning. In addition One Sky staff have had a strong presence on the ground including two weeks in June and almost five weeks in Sept/Oct. Both trips involved extensive field trips to remote locations to visit activity sites. This has assisted us, from the project inception, in developing a strong shared understanding of the activities, outcomes and impacts over the three-year project duration. ACCA reports have been on time, well written and accurately reflect the level of effort that has been supported.

An additional strength has been the enthusiasm and involvement of senior management of ACCA, which has led to strong support and analysis of project activities. Certainly developing a strategic plan at the meta-level for the entire organization in the initial months of the project has assisted us in developing organizational support throughout ACCA. A strong ability to use information technology, including Skype and computer telephony has also allowed us to closely monitor progress. In this regard Peru's inexpensive cell phone and internet technology is an unexpected advantage.

"We are excited to begin working with One Sky and ACCA to develop the world's most ambitious cloud forest canopy walkway in Peru. The components are 80% fabricated and we expect to ship this month."

Greenheart Conservation Company, Nov 2007. Upon delivery of the first 65K of financial support to One Sky.



III) Other

Additional Notes on Lessons Learned:

- a strong baseline assessment assists everyone in understanding the rationale behind the project design and becomes an essential reference in monitoring and evaluation.
- Securing substantial funding early on relieve stress for project managers.
- Developing public relations materials at the beginning of the project such as a video, although at times speculative, is an enormous asset in public outreach.
- Staging activities that are similar, such as our work with the different communities of the Queros, provides an iterative opportunity to develop and evaluate one activity before commencing the next.
- Timing a strategic planning session, at the meta level with the partner organization at the beginning of a project, while not always possible, is extremely fortuitous in designing complementary activities and training.

IV) Financial report (attached as Excel spreadsheet)