

# Bi-national conservation and peace in the Condor Range Region Ecuador-Peru (Ecuadorean component)

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## Final Report

PD 2/00 Rev. 2 (F)

### I. Introduction

The Council approved the project during its Twenty-eighth Session in May 2000 and full financing was pledged at the same Session. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed in December 2000. The bilateral agreement between the Executing and Collaborating Agencies in Ecuador and Peru for the co-implementation of the project and the first Yearly Plan of Operation were submitted to the Secretariat in March 2002. The first disbursement of funds was made in March 2002.

### II. Project Objective

The Peace Treaty signed between Ecuador and Peru in 1999 led to the establishment of an ecological transboundary conservation area in the Condor Mountain Range Region as a mechanism to settle the conflict and promote the development and integration of the peoples of these two sister countries.

With a view to consolidating the peace, conservation and sustainable development process, this project envisaged generating a participatory environmental management model for the Peruvian region of the Condor Range and was implemented in close coordination with project PD 2/00 Rev.2 (F) "Bi-National Conservation and Peace in the Condor Range Region, Ecuador-Peru (Ecuadorian Component).

### III. Project Strategy and Activities

The project's strategy and activities were geared towards: i) the establishment of a sub-system for the protection of natural areas under different management categories through a participatory planning process; ii) the design of a regional strategy and development of master plans for each of the natural protected areas giving due consideration to the active participation of local communities; iii) the development and management of the legal rules required to ensure compliance with the protection of natural areas and the implementation of master plans; iv) the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation program with community participation to specifically involve the local population within the context of environmental conservation and thus improve their quality of life; v) the design of a training and extension program in order to adequately develop the activities envisaged in the master plan and monitoring program; vi) the establishment of a technical-

administrative framework for the efficient management of natural protected areas and the management of forest resources; vii) the strengthening of ongoing technical cooperation between Peru and Ecuador through a Bi-National Committee and the exchange of experiences between specialists and local leaders; viii) the strengthening of national inter-institutional cooperation through a Technical Committee for the Peruvian sector; and ix) the development of a work plan for Phases II and III so as to ensure the continuity of the results obtained in the first phase.

#### **IV. Project Achievements and Outputs**

The Project was completed in November 2004. In accordance with the project document, all planned activities were successfully carried out and achievements can be summarized as follows:

- Relevant biodiversity and socio-cultural assessments were carried out throughout the region;
- An integrated system of protected areas and buffer zones were defined based on the participatory processes and studies carried out in the region: A protected area of 152,874 ha denominated Ichigkat Muja – Condor Range National Park was defined and is to be incorporated into the Peruvian Protected Areas System under IUCN Category I, while a further 451,247 ha surrounding this National Park has been arranged as a sustainable development buffer zone and denominated the Santiago Comainas Reserve Zone;
- A participatory bi-national and regional environmental management strategy was institutionalized in order to carry forward the conservation and sustainable development processes in the region, with a vision towards the creation of the Alto Marañon Biosphere Reserve;
- A Master Plan was developed in a participatory manner for the Ichigkat Muja – Condor Range National Park. This tool will permit and assure the preservation of the area's values;
- A biological and social monitoring and evaluation programme was designed with the local communities for the Ichigkat Muja – Condor Range National Park. Furthermore, a management committee was created by the communities to implement this programme and so assure the participation of the civil society in the future management of this area;
- A GIS database for the transboundary conservation area was developed containing information on cartography, vegetation cover, current land use and ownership, distribution of communities, land tenure conflicts, biological and socioeconomic indicators, etc.;
- The coordination framework between Ecuador and Peru was established and strengthened so as to ensure the harmonization of goals and actions of both projects and to strengthen the cooperation and friendly relations in the region and between these two countries; and
- A work plan for the second and third phases of this project were developed.

#### **V. Target Beneficiaries Involvement**

The beneficiaries targeted by this project were the Awajun and Wampis Indigenous Communities, the municipal governments and INRENA, and the peoples of Peru and Ecuador at large. While tangible involvement of the aforementioned beneficiaries is described under the previous heading, it

is worthwhile to highlight that the whole development process of the transboundary conservation area was fully participatory in all aspects.

## **VI. Lessons Learnt**

Among the many lessons learnt, it is relevant to highlight the following:

- The Project lacked an effective, or at least demonstrative, sustainable development component that would improve living standards in the region based on the sustainable use of natural resources, so as to complement and strengthen the transboundary conservation area planning process;
- The focus of conservation projects involving indigenous communities must take into consideration the holistic view of these communities with respect to the use of forest resources, taking into consideration the cultural elements that define the use of determined natural resources; and
- External factors, such as the lack of clear land tenure systems, the inaccessibility of the region and the overall weaknesses of the Peruvian institutions, hampered to a certain degree the full achievement of the project's objectives.

## **VII. Dissemination of Results**

Most of the project's activities involved participatory processes such as workshops and other types of gatherings with the different stakeholders. In addition, all documentation on information about the Condor Range was integrated into a constantly updated spatial database and publicly made available. Research was also carried out on several specific topics during project implementation, and these were properly documented and disseminated throughout Peru and Ecuador. Moreover, promotional and educational materials were also prepared for dissemination among the local population. All technical reports and other documentation are available directly from the Executing Agency.

## **VIII. Recommendations Related to Future Work**

In order to fully realize the achievements of the project, INRENA is currently in the process of legally declaring the studied transboundary area of Ichigkat Muja – Condor Range as protected and incorporating it into the Peruvian Protected Areas System as a National Park (IUCN Category I).

The Peruvian Government has also submitted a follow-up project proposal PD 237/03 (F) "Binational Conservation and Peace in the Condor Range Region, Ecuador-Peru (Peruvian Component) Phase II" to ITTO. This proposal aims to implement the second phase of PD #/00 Rev.2 (F) Overall, it envisions to implement in a participatory manner the Master Plan for the Ichigkat Muja – Condor Range National Park developed during the first phase of this project and further contribute to the Ecuador-Peru Peace Process.

## **IX. Concluding Remarks**

Overall, the project has significantly contributed towards the Ecuador-Peru Process through the creation of a Transboundary Conservation Area in the Condor Mountain Range Region, via which sustainable development and the conservation of natural resources will be achieved in the region.

A coordination framework between Peru and Ecuador will be established to ensure the harmonization of goals and actions and strengthen the cooperation and friendly relations in the region and between these two countries.