Equator Initiative Case Studies
Local sustainable development solutions for people, nature, and resilient communities
Local and indigenous communities across the world are advancing innovative sustainable development solutions that work for people and for nature. Few publications or case studies tell the full story of how such initiatives evolve, the breadth of their impacts, or how they change over time. Fewer still have undertaken to tell these stories with community practitioners themselves guiding the narrative. The Equator Initiative aims to fill that gap.

The Equator Initiative, supported by generous funding from the Government of Norway, awarded the Equator Prize 2015 to 21 outstanding local community and indigenous peoples initiatives to reduce poverty, protect nature, and strengthen resilience in the face of climate change. Selected from 1,461 nominations from across 126 countries, the winners were recognized for their achievements at a prize ceremony held in conjunction with the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in Paris. Special emphasis was placed on the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of forests; securing and protecting rights to communal lands, territories, and natural resources; community-based adaptation to climate change; and activism for environmental justice. The following case study is one in a growing series that describes vetted and peer-reviewed best practices intended to inspire the policy dialogue needed to take local success to scale, to improve the global knowledge base on local environment and development solutions, and to serve as models for replication.
PROJECT SUMMARY

In the heart of one of Bolivia’s most biodiverse regions, Consejo Indígena del Pueblo Tacana (Indigenous Council of the Tacana People, or CIPTA) has secured a ‘Native Community Lands’ collective land title (TCO, by its abbreviation in Spanish) to 389,303 hectares of forest and savanna. After bringing the successful land claim before the Bolivian government, CIPTA agreed on land use and natural resource management practices among the 20 communities that live in the territory. Their land use strategy prioritizes sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and forest protection. Their success is reflected in the Tacana territory’s deforestation rate which is four times lower than in surrounding areas used for agriculture and other productive activities. CIPTA also created 24 community-based associations to oversee agroforestry, ecotourism, cocoa production and sustainable caiman (Caiman yacare) hunting. More than 50 percent of Tacana households have benefited from these associations. Tacana individuals have gone from poorly-paid employees to members of associations that offer sustainable sources of income. An independent women’s organization has also been established to coordinate work across the 20 communities. It aims to strengthen women’s participation in the community, such as championing cultural recovery and improving women’s quality of life. The Tacana territory forms a corridor that links up to the Madidi protected area, providing vital protection for its more than 50 endangered plant and animal species, including the jaguar (Panthera onca) and the white-lipped peccary (Tayassu pecari).

KEY FACTS

Equator Prize Winner
2015

Founded
1996

Location
Abel Iturralde Province, La Paz Department, in the northeastern area of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

Beneficiaries
2,606 members of the 20 communities making up Consejo Indígena del Pueblo Tacana

Areas of focus
Protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests; protecting and securing rights to communal lands, territories and natural resources

Sustainable Development Goals Addressed

EQUATOR PRIZE 2015 WINNER FILM
BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Predating the Inca Empire, the Tacana people have inhabited lands surrounding the Beni, Madre de Dios, Madidi and Tuichi rivers—an area that forms part of Peru, Brazil and, chiefly, Bolivia. Today, the Tacana are scattered across the eastern flank of the central Tropical Andes in Bolivia, in the Pando and Beni Departments. Most of the population is concentrated in Abel Iturralde Province within La Paz Department, where lands overlap with rich, biodiverse areas like the Madidi Integrated Management Natural Area (ANMI) and Madidi National Park.

This region is significant in terms of biodiversity, as it contains 11 different forest and savanna ecosystems that are not represented in protected land areas. Madidi National Park and Integrated Management Natural Area form the core of this landscape. They contain an estimated 12,000 species of vascular plant, 1,100 species of bird (11 percent of all bird species found on Earth) and approximately 300 species of mammal. This is the home of a number of the characteristic fauna species of the Bolivian Amazon: the jaguar (*Panthera onca*); the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*); the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*); the pacarana (*Dinomys branickii*); the white-fronted capuchin (*Cebus albifrons*); the Madidi titi monkey (*Callicebus aureipalatii*); the marsh deer (*Blastocerus dichotomus*); and the black caiman (*Melanosuchus niger*).

The Tacana’s stewardship of their territory protects corridors linking to the Madidi protected area. These corridors are vital for sustaining wildlife populations, such as the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*), which require large amounts of space and are endangered on the continent. These species are also integral to the patterns of subsistence hunting practiced by the indigenous communities. Furthermore, the territory contains 51 endangered plant and animal species.

Each Tacana community has two principal authorities: a chief and an additional community leader called ‘corregidor’, and each is working to preserve the Tacana language. Consejo Indígena del Pueblo Tacana (CIPTA) is an organization that represents the 20 Tacana communities living in La Paz Department.

In 1997, CIPTA applied for a ‘Native Community Lands’ title (‘Tierra Comunitaria de Origen’ in Spanish, or TCO) for land situated on the southeastern edge of the Madidi protected area, Tacana I, to Bolivia’s National Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA) on behalf of the 20 Tacana communities. The application was successful, and 389,303 hectares of land are now regulated and titled. 39,430 hectares of this area overlap with Madidi. CIPTA submitted a second application in 2001 for the designation of TCO for Tacana II, an area at the northern end of Madidi, which is currently undergoing regulation. At present, this application is being managed by the Central de Comunidades Indígenas Tacana II Río Madre de Dios (Tacana II Río Madre de Dios Indigenous Community Center). Ownership of TCO Tacana I is currently shared between 19 different communities. These 19 communities, and one community located outside the TCO boundary, are represented by CIPTA. CIPTA beneficiaries are the members of the 20 communities comprising: a population of 2,606 individuals, according to the 2012 census, of whom 1,370 (53 percent) are men and 1,236 (47 percent) are women.

Despite severe deforestation pressure on this area, the Tacana people have preserved traditional land and natural resource management practices that are both compatible with biodiversity conservation objectives and are now regarded as general Tacana policies. These policies align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the national government as key elements of its agenda. There is consequently a substantial degree of overlap with protected areas in terms of watershed management, the maintenance of fauna populations, the conservation of areas for gathering and extracting forest resources and the protection and promotion of cultural heritage.

Families in the Tacana territory still sustain distribution systems for products like bush meat, fish and fruit. Solidarity ties are forged through exchanging products, issuing invitations and other reciprocity systems rooted in Tacana cosmology. Other economic activities pursued by the communities include gathering firewood, trade (stalls, restaurants, etc.), agriculture, craft work, utilizing non-timber forestry products and gathering wild produce, such as honey and fruit.
Consejo Indígena del Pueblo Tacana: Origins and Structure

In 1990, with many logging companies arriving in the region, a group of young Tacana leaders began to consider establishing an organization that would allow them to address the dispossession of their traditional lands and the unsustainable exploitation of their natural resources. In 1992, they decided to create a representative body for all of the Tacana communities, which they named “Consejo Indígena de los Pueblos Tacanas” (CIPTA). The organization was legally established between 1992 and 1993.

The main motivation for creating the organization was the realization that the region was enduring increased road construction. The influx of settlers and loggers was displacing the people who had always lived there, thereby depriving them of access to their natural resources and their culture.

CIPTA’s aims are as follows:

■ To develop policies and strategies for the management, use and control of natural resources, in partnership with the indigenous Tacana communities.
■ To ensure that communal lands and territories are demarcated and consolidated, in order to safeguard the autonomy of the indigenous Tacana communities.
■ To support and push for the approval of the proposed legislation on indigenous peoples drafted by the Movimiento Indígena del Oriente, Chaco y Amazonia Boliviana (the Indigenous Movement of the Regions Oriente, Chaco and Bolivian Amazon) and proposed to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly by the Confederación de Pueblos Indígenas de Bolivia (the Bolivian Confederation of Indigenous Peoples, or CIDOB).
■ To devise and produce plans and programs that promote the health of indigenous communities, ensuring that their cultural values are respected.
■ To manage the allocation of economic resources, both internal and external, with the aim of funding projects that support the development of indigenous communities with respect to production, road building and river transport links.

Under CIPTA’s founding statute, the Tacana people’s organizational structure is governed by the Gran Asamblea (General Assembly), which is the highest decision-making body and meets every four years. Its powers include electing the Directorio (governing body); reviewing, approving, or rejecting its long-term policies, strategies, plans and budgets; and reviewing its four-yearly operational and financial reports. To facilitate timely year-to-year management, the Asamblea Consultiva (Consultative Assembly) meets once a year in November.

The Consejo de Corregidores (Community Leaders’ Council) holds ordinary meetings on a quarterly basis or as needed. Among its other duties, the Consejo de Corregidores supports and supervises the Directorio. The Directorio holds ordinary meetings once a month or as needed.

Community members contribute to and participate in decision-making through representatives elected at open meetings, who then take part in the activities arranged by CIPTA’s leaders.

Within CIPTA’s organizational structure there is also Consejo Indígena de Mujeres Tacanas (Tacana Indigenous Women’s Council, or CIMTA), founded in 1996 to boost Tacana women’s participation during the land consolidation process and to improve their quality of life. With the support of female elders, CIMTA has offered trainings to revive traditional weaving techniques. As a result, not only are many women now able to pursue an alternative livelihood earning more income, but they have also come to play an important role in defending the importance of the Tacana people’s traditional values and restoring their status among the communities.

To ensure equitable participation among men and women in the Directorio’s decision-making processes, it was decided at the most recent Gran Asamblea in 2012 that positions on the governing body should be held alternately by a man and a woman.
LOCAL CHALLENGES

Deforestation

Bolivia ranks among the ten countries with the highest absolute rates of forest loss in the world. A 2013 study, conducted by CIPTA and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) entitled “Escenarios de deforestación en el Gran Paisaje Madidi-Tambopata”, demonstrated that the expansion of agriculture and the conversion of forest to grazing land were the key factors driving deforestation.

These ecosystems are also under pressure from road construction illegal timber harvesting and activities associated with the sugar industry, which has brought changes in land use. This cycle can be observed along the roadways and has had adverse effects on water sources located outside the Tacana territory, which contain the sources of 27 of the region’s 31 prominent rivers, as well as two ecosystems that are poorly represented in the national network of protected areas.

Regrettably, certain areas that are important for preserving ecosystem services are often excluded from the protected areas. These include the ranges of wild varieties of crops, important areas for watershed protection and erosion control, altitudinal and latitudinal corridors for climate change adaptation and cultural corridors.

Poverty, Precarious Work and the Loss of the Tacana Language

Based on the total monetary income derived from commercial or market-based activities, 74.5 percent of the Tacana population can be categorized as moderately poor and 60.1 percent as extremely poor. If we include sources of non-monetary income reliant on access to indigenous communal lands, such as small-scale farming, hunting and fishing, these figures drop to 36.6 percent and 17.6 percent, respectively.

There has also been a tendency for indigenous people to find work as poorly-paid day laborers. Most of the Tacana people have lost comprehension of their native language and instead speak Spanish, the language of instruction in schools. The Tacana are one of the most highly integrated ethnic groups in Bolivian society. In this sense, their situation is more akin to that of the country’s campesinos.

Climate Change

Climate change has had a number of impacts on the Tacana territory, including prolonged droughts that have altered land use patterns in agricultural areas. Some springs have also dried up, with repercussions for human consumption in some communities reliant on the pampas. The consequences are particularly acute in tenant farming communities, where people are now having to enter the Tacana TCO in order to obtain adequate water supplies.

Conversely, between February and March 2014 this same area was victim to flooding. The communities were inundated, with floodwater reaching levels unseen for generations. Homes and chacos (farming plots) were destroyed, and some communities actually relocated to higher ground. Flora and fauna were also lost, as the forests to which wild animals had retreated became waterlogged.
LOCAL RESPONSES

Protection of Ancestral Lands and Culture

In response to the environmental and socio-economic challenges facing the Tacana people, the Plan de Gestión Territorial Indígena del Pueblo Tacana (the Tacana People’s Indigenous Land Management Plan) was created. The plan sets out clear objectives and strategies to channel the collective efforts of the 20 communities in order to control and manage the territory. The land use strategy prioritizes sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and forest protection. Since its implementation, the territory’s deforestation rate is four times lower than that of surrounding areas.

The forest management practices support resilient livelihoods based on agroforestry, ecotourism, crafts, cocoa production and sustainable caiman (Caiman yacare) harvesting. The benefits of this approach have been felt by more than 50 percent of Tacana households.

The 2013 study (“Escenarios de deforestación en el Gran Paisaje Madidi-Tambopata”) emphasizes that conservation is dependent on local land management capacities. In other words, it requires local people to plan current and future land uses, strengthen their institutions and take action through projects aimed at sustainable natural resource management.

The study also suggests that land management practices in the Tacana territory help protect the Madidi National Park and Integrated Management Natural Area from environmental impacts. This protected area is vital for biodiversity conservation and for protecting the headwaters of more than 100 streams that supply water to the entire Iturralde Province.

In this study, Geographical Information System (GIS) data and statistical spatial analysis techniques were used to determine the correlation between geographical conditions and loss of forest cover from 2005 to 2010, and to develop a projection looking forward to 2021. Along one 4 kilometre section of the main road running between San Buenaventura and Alto Madidi (north of Ixiamas), on the northern boundary between the La Paz and Pando Departments, deforestation rates were lower within the Tacana TCO (0.5 percent annual loss) and significantly higher (2.3 percent) in privately owned areas used for agriculture and intensive livestock farming.

Therefore, the Tacana management practices protect the corridors linking the Madidi protected area and the Tacana TCO from deforestation. Such corridors are essential for maintaining fauna populations, and for the sustainability of subsistence hunting among indigenous communities. At the same time, they also provide protection in areas susceptible to erosion and flooding in the Andes, such as the banks of the main rivers and streams in Iturralde Province.

KEY IMPACTS

Protection of Ancestral Lands and Culture

- The Tacana land management practices effectively preserve forest cover. Deforestation rates in the Tacana territory have been shown to be 4.6 times lower than in neighboring, unmanaged areas, and 7.4 times lower than projections in a scenario involving road improvements.
- The process of implementing the Tacana People’s Indigenous Land Management Plan has also led to efforts to revitalize the group’s indigenous culture. These include a new regional school curriculum and the launch of a Tacana radio station.
In 2015, the Tacana TCO approved a second version of the Indigenous Land Management Plan, backed by WCS, to address risks posed by natural disasters.

Sources of Sustainable Livelihoods

The Tacana TCO provides clarity of tenure over a specific area of land, but the territory also benefits from an organizational structure grounded in the long-term management of a collectively owned forested landscape. This territorial government has three levels, based on: (i) a territorial organization (CIPTA) that represents the collective rights of the Tacana people; (ii) the 20 community organizations inside TCO Tacana; and (iii) the regulation of economic activity through the productive organizations active in the indigenous territory, whose members might draw from one Tacana community or from several. The communities and productive organizations are the key strategy for overseeing the territory as they are widely dispersed across the area and therefore cover a large proportion of its vulnerable perimeter.

Implementing the plan has established 24 community-based enterprises, benefiting 53 percent of Tacana households. There are productive organizations dedicated to forestry, tourism, cocoa harvesting and crafts, among other activities, and they also supplement other, non-commercial means of subsistence. They have allowed the communities to tackle illegal logging and extraction of non-timber forest products. Moreover, the communities and productive organizations are able to monitor the territory for natural resource extraction and illegal logging, in an area where state vigilance is difficult to achieve.

As a result of the support that CIPTA has provided to various initiatives and productive enterprises over these years, household income has risen, although not significantly. However, these initiatives have allowed Tacana families to diversify their livelihood base.

The typical annual income of hunters is equivalent to US$1,700. Around 19 percent of the indigenous land is managed by nine forestry associations, and close to 30 percent is used by the various community-based productive organizations. Each member of a forestry association receives an annual stipend of US$1,279, plus US$700 in payment for their work, with each member working an average of five months. Association members responsible for the sustainable management of the caiman (*Caiman yacare*) earn US$2,357 from selling sustainably produced leather to Gucci—work that requires a commitment of one month. Women producing handwoven crafts with traditional designs earn US$700 per year. Over a period of three months, each family is able to harvest and process a quantity of cocoa worth the equivalent of US$1,500. The degree of involvement in these sustainable activities varies among families and communities.

Profits from productive enterprises are generally invested in local community infrastructure, such as improvements to churches and classrooms, or used for health care emergencies. CIPTA steps in where basic services are unavailable, taking practical measures to deal with emergency situations.

KEY IMPACTS

**Sources of Sustainable Livelihoods**

- Implementing the Tacana People’s Indigenous Land Management Plan has enabled 24 community-based associations to become established, benefiting 53 percent of Tacana households.
- Around 19 percent of the indigenous land is managed by nine forestry associations, and close to 30 percent is used by the various community-based productive organizations.
- Profits from productive ventures are generally invested in local community infrastructure or used to pay for health care.
Monitoring Endangered Species

With help from WCS, CIPTA has introduced techniques for monitoring subsistence game species into the Tacana school curriculum. Meanwhile, productive enterprises working in tourism, sustainable caiman management and timber/non-timber forest management have developed their own participatory monitoring plans.

By monitoring their hunting and fishing activity, the Tacana have gathered data on: the number of individuals taken per species; their estimated biomass (kg); how this biomass is used, i.e. whether for the community’s own consumption or for sale (thus determining the importance of wild game in meeting Tacana families’ protein needs); the average time needed to catch their prey; the distances traveled; the location of hunting and fishing grounds; the location of breeding sites and the biological corridors used by species in the Tacana TCO; the annual reproductive cycles of the various species; and what the conservation status of the most important species is judged to be.

This is all crucial information that firstly, demonstrates the importance of wild animals to Tacana families in terms of nutrition and food security, and secondly, helps guide actions to ensure that fauna species in TCO Tacana I are used sustainably.

KEY IMPACTS

Monitoring Endangered Species

- Based on species occupancy studies carried out by WCS, the Tacana TCO plays an essential role in the conservation of species like the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*), the jaguar (*Panthera onca*), the white-lipped peccary (*Tayassu pecari*) and the black caiman. These studies have shown that the area holds healthy populations of these species and others important for subsistence hunting like the Brazilian tapir (*Tapirus terrestris*) and the orange-rumped agouti (*Dasyprocta aguti*). This shows that the Tacana territory supports healthy forests and wild animal populations.

- The Tacana people’s indigenous land management practices are also preserving the capacity of ecosystems to adapt to climate change. This connectivity allows fauna to disperse along latitudinal and altitudinal corridors linking the territory to the protected area.

Inclusion of Women

The role of CIMTA in representing women mainly comprises supporting the communities’ organizational efforts and encouraging women to form community organizations.

In Tacana communities, women take on various roles. Within the family, they support the household economy and contribute to the work carried out around the home (agriculture, for example). Currently, it is noticeable that a greater number of women are becoming active in other roles outside the home and holding positions of authority in their communities—an indication that women’s participation in decision-making is on the rise. On CIPTA’s Directorio, two secretariats are currently occupied by women, the Secretary of Health and Education and the Secretary of Economics and Development, and they have the same opportunities to pursue their projects as men on the governing body. CIMTA, the organization that represents the women of the 20 communities, is subsidiary to its parent organization and its governing body is made up entirely of women.

In each body of governance (the *Gran Asamblea, Asamblea Consultiva* and *Consejo de Corregidores*), the calls for applications across the 20 communities clearly specify that 50 percent of representatives must be women. This guarantees that women will participate, which helps
to ensure women’s inclusion. With this goal in mind, the number of attendees is monitored to verify that the set percentages for each gender are met. The latest amendment to the organization’s statute stipulates that the Directorio must be composed of men and women in equal numbers. To achieve this goal, there are ongoing efforts to foster women’s capacities by supporting the women’s community organizations.

KEY IMPACTS
Inclusion of Women

- The number of women taking on leadership roles and positions of authority has increased over the past few years.
- In each body of governance (the Gran Asamblea, Asamblea Consultiva and Consejo de Corregidores), measures are in place to achieve gender parity.

Prevention of Disasters and Climate Change

With support from WCS Bolivia, CIPTA has developed various disaster prevention mechanisms including restoring native crop varieties and relocating chicken runs and animal enclosures to higher altitudes less vulnerable to flooding. The participation of indigenous groups is critical to efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change by contesting deforestation. Meanwhile, information is being compiled on the role the forest plays in moderating environmental risks. A baseline study is being developed measuring the reduction of impacts from the road improvement project, compared over time. This data will also enable researchers to assess the effectiveness of indigenous management practices in the Tacana territory and protected areas, as an alternative approach to ensuring the long-term holistic management of the forest.

KEY IMPACTS
Prevention of Disasters and Climate Change

- More than 250 kilometre of the territory’s vulnerable perimeter is now under supervision and, with the implementation of the management plan, deforestation has been reduced by 25 percent compared with neighboring areas along the road between San Buenaventura and Ixiamas. As a result, CO₂ emissions have been cut, with various other conservation benefits also observed.
- Projections by WCS Bolivia and CIPTA suggest that the Tacana’s management of their territory will lead to reductions of 13M t CO₂ compared with surrounding areas if the present rate of deforestation continues, and if the region’s roads are upgraded this figure increases to almost 24M t CO₂.
- These practices have also reduced forest loss in areas at risk of erosion in the foothills of the Andes and in flood-prone locations along the banks of Iturralde Province’s main rivers and streams.
National Policy Impacts

The key policy proposal adopted by CIPTA at a local level is indigenous territorial land management serving as the foundation of the indigenous autonomies. While this idea has achieved local-level recognition in San Buenaventura’s municipal autonomy statute, it has yet to be implemented at wider scale.

In terms of forestry policy, CIPTA has put forward several suggestions for devising policies that benefit community forestry associations. Policy decisions are made within the appropriate decision-making system—in this case, the consultative assemblies. Subsequently, representatives present the decisions they have made and defend them in the relevant bodies.

The main factor was the sense of unity among the different communities and the way they were brought together as part of Consejo Indígena del Pueblo Tacana, which in turn forms part of the Confederación de Pueblos Indígenas de Bolivia (Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia). CIPTA has also contributed to the development of the Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for the Integral and Sustainable Management of Forests as a non-market-based approach.

Contributions to the Global Agenda

The accomplishments made by CIPTA contributes in numerous ways to a range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, efforts to diversify the communities’ income and increase their earnings support the goal to eradicate poverty and hunger, and those relating to decent work and economic growth (SDG 1, SDG 2 and SDG 8). CIPTA also supports the goal of gender equality by including equal numbers of men and women within the organization and encouraging the foundation of CIMTA (SDG 5). Finally, reducing deforestation and forming productive organizations aimed at encouraging sustainable economic activities are closely aligned with the goals of responsible production and consumption, climate action and the protection of terrestrial ecosystems (SDG 12, SDG 13 and SDG 15).
REPLICABILITY, SCALABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Replicability

Although the Tacana’s specific territorial management model has not been replicated elsewhere, indigenous communities living on collectively held land in lowland Bolivia share the challenge of implementing Territorial Management Plans. Each indigenous territorial organization sets its own criteria for indigenous territorial management. CIPTA serves as an example of how successful strategies for land management can look like.

Knowledge exchanges take place during the annual assemblies held among the indigenous groups living in La Paz and throughout Bolivia, and in the framework of the Confederación de Pueblos Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (the Confederation of the Indigenous Peoples of the Amazon Basin, or COICA).

Scalability

The Tacana people hold titles to their territory, granted to them by the Bolivian state, and they have become skilled in managing soil and natural resources. This has helped them prevent the overuse and destruction of collectively owned forests. These skills have also contributed to a variety of productive activities that help ensure that the indigenous communities have sustainable livelihoods.

The capacity of indigenous peoples to express and reinforce their ancestral rights on the basis of their vision for their territories will shape the future of the Amazon region. Indigenous territories make up 22.5 percent of the Bolivian Amazon, 44 of which border or overlap protected areas. Looking at the Amazon as a whole, 21.5 percent—or 214,441,200 hectares—are part of legally established indigenous territories. Moreover, 6.1 percent of the Amazon could be managed under this model, which would help leverage conservation efforts and complement the conservation of protected areas.

Alongside other management initiatives, the tools used to implement the Tacana People’s Indigenous Land Management Plan have been shared across the Amazon region.

Sustainability

CIPTA currently has a sub-allocation agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS Bolivia), the primary institution to have supported it for over 15 years on various organizational and community activities, to execute the Land Management Plan created by the Tacana. WCS has provided financial support and contributed technical expertise.

As a way of improving the sustainability of CIPTA community representatives at a Gran Asamblea meeting decided to authorize the development a Forestry Management Plan.

This plan would allow CIPTA to generate its own resources in addition to those contributed by the communities and various productive ventures.

One possible option for consolidating the sustainability of the territorial management model is collaborating with the Multinational Climate Change Fund in the context of the Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for the Integral and Sustainable Management of Forests.
FUTURE PLANS:

- Continue implementing the Tacana People’s Indigenous Territorial Management Plan
- Build monitoring capacities - Capacity building to establish monitoring systems
- Establish sustainable financing mechanisms for Tacana Land Management
- Share experiences with other indigenous groups throughout the Amazon Basin
- Implement plans for the management, industrialization and commercialization of palm groves, such as majo and azai
- Regulate the collection and use of water originating in the TCO for the benefit of other rural areas and urban populations

PARTNERS

- **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS Bolivia):** WCS Bolivia has been working with the Tacana people since 2001, supporting their efforts to secure collective legal ownership of 389,303 hectares of land and to implement a strategy for land use and natural resource management among the 20 communities living in the territory.

SOURCES AND FURTHER RESOURCES


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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN’s global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

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