

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study		COMDEKS Project: Napo River Watershed		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)		Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study		Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Watershed management, Ecosystem conservation, Traditional knowledge, Rainforest conservation			
Date of submission		6 March 2017		
Web link	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6012/comdeks_ii_case_study_publication.pdf#page=78			

Geographical Information

Country	Ecuador			Location(s)	Oriente Region				
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link		https://www.google.com/maps/@-0.6086162,-77.0270212,9z							
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	x
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
<p>The target landscape is rich in biodiversity and ecosystem services. Its inhabitants retain many traditional methods for sustainable resource management and ancestral knowledge of biodiversity. However, it has lost nearly 20 percent of its natural vegetative cover in the past 50 years, mainly due to the rise of resource-extractive industries, which were promoted without taking into account their impact on the environment.</p>									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
<p>The landscape is characterized by indigenous communities with high rates of poverty, social exclusion and discrimination. Most of the population living in the rural sector derives its income from agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and tourism. One of the unique forms of production and subsistence economy that have arisen from indigenous knowledge is known as the "Kichwa chakra system," in which a mixture of crops are grown together, although today this system has been supplanted to a great extent by less diverse and less sustainable farm practices.</p>									

Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017						
Rationale									
<p>The landscape has become fragmented with the construction of oil-related infrastructure; clearance of forest areas for palm and soybean plantations and other unsustainable agricultural practices; extraction of timber and gold; and the desire of settlers and local people to own land. Destruction of ecosystems directly affects rural communities, which base their livelihoods on local resources, and changes the dynamics of traditional environmental knowledge.</p>									
Objectives									
<p>Greater ecological connectivity and improved biodiversity through reforestation activities and protection of watersheds; Improved local livelihoods through the development of sustainable enterprises; Strengthened institutional capacity and participatory decision-making through the promotion of community working groups and conservation agreements.</p>									
Activities and/or practices employed									
<p>Negotiating community conservation agreements and preserving communal land tenure; Restoring degraded forests and conserving watersheds; Reviving and enhancing the "Kichwa chakra system"; Promoting sustainable fish farming, organic cocoa cultivation, and other livelihood alternatives; Creating financial incentives for forest</p>									

protection; Entering a partnership with Colonso Chalupas Ecological Reserve; Encouraging CBO networks to maximize impacts.	
Results	
Projects have resulted in conservation agreements that commit communities to preserve the local forest, resulting in the conservation of 577 ha of tropical rainforest; sustainable fish-farming was established in 26 communities; A management plan that ensures the buffer zone of the new Ecological Reserve was drafted; Cooperative work on the biocorridors in the target landscape has shown community organizations the benefits of joining together to maximize their impact.	
Lessons learned	
Community conservation agreements are powerful tools to conserve ecosystems; Local knowledge dissemination is important to increase ecological resilience; The value of local products can be increased with simple processes and low-cost technology; It is possible to link generations through activities that maintain traditional knowledge; Ancestral knowledge can play an important role in addressing modern development challenges.	
Key messages	
Projects in the watershed empower communities to conserve ecosystems through community agreements, forest restoration and protection of microwatersheds. Resilience in the watershed is evident when communities disseminate ancestral knowledge and strengthen their capacities through local associations that link producers. The net effect of is that the maturation of a landscape community is already well underway, although sustaining this community will require continued effort.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 344,999.97 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Ecuador.

Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	●	●	●	●	●	●			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●	■	●	●	●			●	●	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

●	●			●			■	