



conservation agreements private partnership platform

PERU - Reducing deforestation and improving economic opportunities for indigenous communities

ACTIVE
until Dec. 2019

In the Alto Mayo basin—one of Peru’s most deforested areas—nearly 30 percent of original tropical forest has disappeared. Scarce economic opportunities have led the indigenous Awajun people to rent their community lands, contributing to more than 60 percent of the deforestation. Unsustainable agricultural practices and the use of agrochemicals, herbicides and pesticides have led to soil degradation and water contamination. Since 2013, Conservation International (CI) Peru has been working with two Awajun indigenous communities in an approach to community-based territorial planning and development. Through the implementation of conservation agreements, this initiative aims to strengthen the Awajun communities’ governance and capacity to sustainably manage their territories and help reduce deforestation. To improve livelihoods and help families avoid economic dependency on land rentals, the project has provided trainings, inputs and organizational support on sustainable management of cacao, coffee and banana crops.

What is a “conservation agreement”?

It is a deal between a community and a group or person funding a conservation project. In exchange for making specific conservation commitments, communities receive benefits from the funder.

THE COMMUNITIES AGREE TO:

- Not rent primary forest to others
- Stop deforestation, using agrochemicals, and contaminating water sources
- Provide surveillance and issue corresponding sanctions when the commitments are broken
- Promote the conservation, recovery, reforestation and restoration of degraded areas through agroforestry systems and riverside defenses, using native species

IN RETURN FOR:

- Technical assistance, supplies and fertilizer to establish 10 coffee and 50 cacao plots
- Workshops, trainings and internships
- Support for medical campaigns
- Support to start an association to help with product marketing

INVESTMENT

CAPPP: \$393, 253

IMPLEMENTER

Conservation International Peru has been working since 1989 to recognize biological and cultural mega-diversity as the nation’s main wealth and use this principle as a guide for development policies.

PARTNERS

Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (Andean Ecosystems Association / ECOAN)

- Provides technical assistance



MONITORING

The process to gather field information has begun. Data is not available yet, but there is evidence of less deforestation and a significant reduction in the use of herbicides and agrochemicals. On the socio-economic side, the families working with coffee and the community members trained in cacao grafting have seen their incomes improve.

RESULTS TO DATE

64 families benefiting

45 hectares of cacao, coffee, banana and peach palm farms sustainably managed

11,000 kilos of coffee produced, with an average of 63% yielding a cupping score of 80 (considered specialty grade)

15 beekeeping kits distributed

8 Awajun community members trained as field promoters

5,000+ trees planted for shade and soil recovery

Local association Ikam & Cafe Awajun created to strengthen the community's trade capabilities

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

The signing of this conservation agreement has generated the conditions necessary for the Programa Nacional de Conservación de Bosques y Mitigación del Cambio Climático (National Plan for Forest Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation) to identify the Alto Mayo native community as a beneficiary of this program, which provides an economic incentive of \$3 for each hectare of forest preserved.

La Cooperativa de Servicios Múltiples Bosques del Alto Mayo (Alto Mayo Forest Multiple Service Cooperative) is supporting farmers in the articulation and coffee product commercialization.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The coffee plots managed under the conservation agreement are in the process of being certified organic. The community members are being encouraged to grow cacao; some plots will start producing by the end of 2018 and will then require technical support. The local association Ikam and Café Awajun must continue to be strengthened to achieve the certification of the coffee and cacao crops, ensuring a higher economic income that will lead to an improvement in the quality of life of the population and the conservation of their forest. It is expected that the model will be replicated in other Awajun communities that face the same threats and socio-environmental context.



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