

"Does establishing Community Conservation Areas lead to greater protection of existing forest? A case study from the Northern Peruvian Tropical Andes"

### Activities Report

Grantee: Vanessa Luna-Celino

All the activities that had been planned for this summer were completed, which consisted of around 20 interviews with authorities of peasant communities. In addition, 3 interviews with representatives of local NGOs that have accompanied the peasant communities in the creation of their conservation areas (in the case of the 9 communities that have them); and an interview with a representative of the association of private conservation areas of the Amazonas region (Red AMA). The decentralized offices of the ministries of health, agriculture, and education were also visited to obtain data on public infrastructure (made by the government) throughout the region.

Almost all interviews were conducted between May 19 to June 6, and then 2 interviews were conducted between August 15 and 17. All the work required trips from the city of Chachapoyas to different points where the peasant communities are located. In my visits, I also corroborated the state of the roads to reach each of the communities, from the cities settled in the region, especially the city of Chachapoyas.

All this information, of a qualitative nature, will be in the process of evaluation in the coming months. Each interview took between 40 and one hour and a half and followed the model presented in my research proposal. In addition, with the representatives of the communities and with the help of some maps that I brought, I corroborated the boundaries of the communities and the location of the forests, so that they show me where the deforestation occurred and the reasons for these, if they knew (as a way to corroborate/have more secondary information)

The main difficulties that I have faced were the fact that I only had 2 months to complete all the planned work. Finally, all the activities planned for the summer were carried out as planned, which was due to the fact that I already had connections with some of the organizations with which I collaborated, starting with the Red AMA, who shared with me and before I got to Chachapoyas all the contacts of the communities that I was going to visit. Then I had a schedule of visits with some anticipation, although it meant moving every day from 1 to 4 hours to reach each of the communities.

I started by visiting the 9 communities that include the Red AMA, because the representatives of the protected areas they manage were very willing to participate in the interviews, in addition to contacting other authorities in their communities. Then, thanks to the contact they gave me and with some patience, I visited another 12 communities that do not have private conservation areas. The representatives of these communities, in general, did not show the same enthusiasm in the interviews. In fact, I had to call them several times to finally agree a time to visit them in their communities. In addition, the representatives of the three communities did not allow me to record the conversations.



Chachapoyas city, capital of the 'Amazonas' region, Northeastern Peruvian Andes (Altitude: 7,500 feet)



One of the communities visited: Comunidad Campesina La Jalca. This community has a private conservation area of 43 200 acres, which consists of almost a third of its whole territory



Principal investigator, Vanessa Luna, conducting interviews with authorities of peasant communities in Amazonas