

"The Role of Rural Communal Tourism in Protected Area Sustainability by Strengthening Social Capital Market Access Development in the Peruvian Amazon"

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## FIELD RESEARCH GRANT

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## **Abstract**

This research aims to understand the role of rural community tourism in protected area sustainability by strengthening social capital. Here we draw on the concepts and theories of ecotourism and social capital, and employ cross sectional surveys and interviews. This research will take place within the buffer zone of the Tamshiyacu Tahuayo Communal Regional Conservation Area (TTCRCA), Loreto – Peru. The area shows two types of rural community tourism: a) operated by a communal association and b) operated by independent families. We expect this research will reveal the strong and growing linkage between communal rural tourism and Protected Area sustainability.

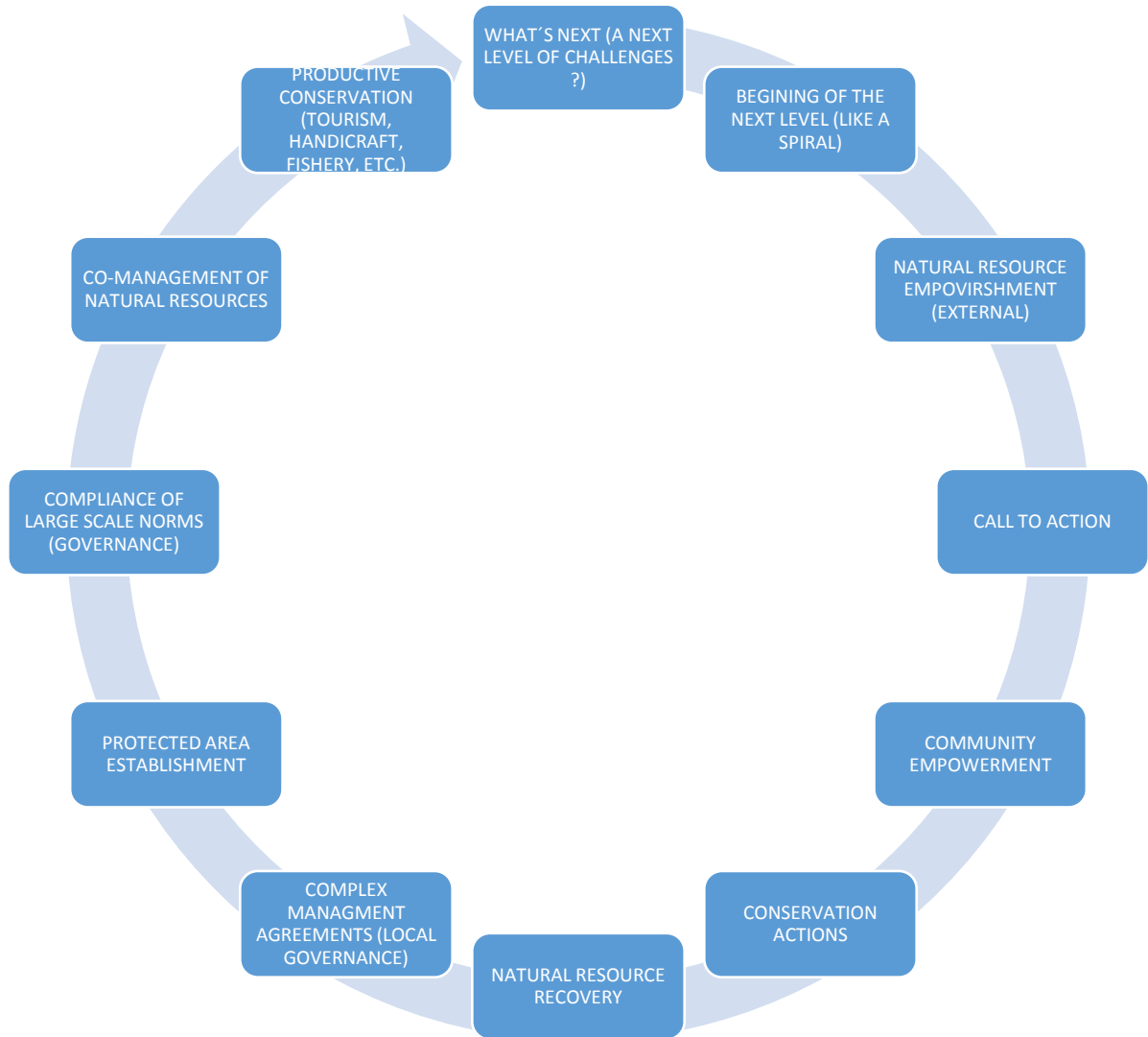
## **Activity Report**

- 1) Field entry (I) - cross sectional surveys and interviews in three communities. To be carried out in the community of “El Chino”, Tahuayo River.  
I have carried out 15 of interviews
- 2) Field entry (II) Workshop: with families working in tourism in the area. To be carried out in the community of “El Chino”, Tahuayo River.  
I carried out 01 workshop in El Chino. In Diamante and San Pedro the focus groups was replaced by extended interviews to the authorities and association members
- 3) Interviews and surveys to the Chief of the Protected Area, and local NGOS' working in the area (to be carried out in Iquitos).  
As there is not official Chief of the Protected Area, I interview the official in charge of the activities of the area.
- 4) To elaborate and print the local Bulletin and three printed poster flipchart size with photographic records.  
The bulletin was sent to all three communities and photographic records were sent with assistance from a local partner: Excelsa Gestion para el Desarrollo S.R.L.

## **PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS**

- The elements we consider to analyze social capital among the people I interviewed, showed many ways to express within the communities. This provides A general sense of how diverse social capital is in this communities.
- Knowing their past (their legacy) on conservation efforts contributes to their selfesteem and empowerment.
- Protected area management allows them to take over complex and innovative ways to monitor their resources (socio ecological observatory?).
- The people we interviewed showed or perceived the following: Strengthening their capacities is linked to better leaderships skills, Information access is linked to protected area conservation status and rules compliance.
- Strong social capital made tourism possible.
- Tourism benefits or contributes to the community overall development

**Cycle of conservation actions related to governance sustainability (small scale to large scale):**



# PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD







The other face of field research





Doña Romelia is the expert on medicinal plants in the community. Her husband works in tourism, he was one the first “locos” to begin this activity and also a community leader.



