

Practitioner Grant Report

Title of the research:

'Effective Management of Community-based Conservation Areas in Northern Peruvian Andes'

Researcher/ Degree:

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Award:

Tropical Conservation and Development Program (TCD) Practitioner Grant

Period:

Summer 2019

Summary:

I co-organized a 2-day workshop in Chachapoyas city with Red AMA, and the support of the local NGO Yunkawasi. This workshop promoted collective discussion about the factors limiting and facilitating the effective management of private conservation areas by peasant communities in the northern Peruvian Andes, particularly in the Amazonas administrative region.



All the participants to the workshop, whit some missing

The local grass-root organization [Red de Conservacion Voluntaria de Amazonas \(Red AMA\)](#), formally created in 2012, gives support to voluntary conservation initiatives in the Andes of northern Peru. The network consists of nine ACP's (*Areas de Conservacion Privadas*, or private conservation areas) managed by peasant communities and six ACP's managed by individuals or families that together protect more than 126,000 hectares of forest, constituting the most extensive voluntary conservation initiative in Peru.

The mission of Red AMA is to 'coordinate activities to improve management and help ensure the financial sustainability of individual and community conservation initiatives, as well as create a space for dialogue and exchange of experiences between the ACPs. In addition, Red AMA provides support to combat threats

that affect or impede the achievement of the objectives of the creation of these conservation areas.' My thesis research and the recently organized workshop were perfectly aligned with Red AMA's mission.

A component of my master's thesis (completed at UF's Center for Latin America Studies, Spring 2019) used a combination of remote sensing, socioeconomic and road infrastructure data to compare and understand patterns of forest cover loss on peasant communities' lands located in the Tropical Andes of northern Peru. Open-access secondary data was used to exemplify a readily accessible analysis that could be applied by grassroots organizations to evaluate multitemporal and multispatial analyses of forest cover loss. The combination of proximate and underlying factors that explain forest loss includes cattle density, road infrastructure, and an indicator of household wealth. From 2007 to 2017, in 30 rural communities, an average of 1.89% of the forest has been lost (in relation with the extension of forest in 2007), with an increasing tendency over the years. This tendency of forest loss exists even with population declines in these communities, although communities are experiencing a significant rural-to-rural migration of settlers coming from the high eastern Andes. On the other hand, from 2012 to 2017, there has been more than a 142.8% increase in the number of cattle in these communities, which accounts for the growing importance of raising livestock in family farming. These ranching activities are promoted by the development of road infrastructure, especially paved roads which increase market access. The proximity to Chiclayo, the closest coastal city and fourth most populated city in the country, is also correlated with forest loss in these Andean communities. The findings of this research were shared with the conservation network of Amazonas region (Red AMA), as well as with representatives of ten campesino communities, as a way to draw their attention to the need to govern common resources adequately.

Objective:

The workshop had two main goals:

- (1) To present my research results about drivers of deforestation on communal lands in the Andes of northern Peru; followed by a collective discussion on future scenarios and how to monitor forest loss using free alerts from Global Forest Watch.
- (2) To promote an active discussion about the enabling and limiting factors of effective conservation on communal lands, especially within the ACPs. To this end, we tried to reach policy commitments to overcome deforestation as well as other threats, and better promote effective management of conservation areas.

Methods:

A total of 22 people participated, which included representatives of the nine communal ACPs that are part of the Red AMA, local conservation promoting authorities, representatives from two local NGOs (Yunkawasi and Ucumari), in addition to the people that make up the network directory. For the first goal of the workshop, I made a power point presentation for half an hour. Then, to overcome the second goal, I used a combination of participatory action research (PAR) methods as focus groups, participatory mapping, and timelines. The facilitation methods and tools were copied from the Governance of Infrastructure in the Amazon (GIA) project, which used them on its regional workshops in Peru, Bolivia, Brasil, and Colombia on the previous summer.

Below, detailed workshop agenda:

MONDAY AUGUST 19TH		
<i>TIME</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
12:00 - 1:30 PM	Lunch	
2:00 - 2:15 PM	Objectives and methodology	Why are we here? Rules for a good group discussion
2:15 - 2:45 PM	Participants' introduction	Who are we? What do we do? What are our expectations?
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Red AMA <i>Pedro Heredia</i>	What has the AMA Network done so far? What is needed? Why only communal ACPs in this workshop?
3:00 - 3:30 PM	Research on Deforestation drivers. <i>Vanessa Luna</i>	Deforestation in Amazonas, Peasant Communities and communal ACPs of Amazonas.
3:30 - 3:45 PM	Fight against deforestation by Red AMA <i>Pedro Heredia</i>	
3:45 - 4:15 PM	Coffee break	
4:15 - 5:10 PM	Participatory Map 1: each peasant community, emphasis on ACPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why participatory maps? Importance for this workshop. • What are the threats? (5 min) • Threats and actions for each communal ACP (20 min) • Exhibition of each peasant community (30 min - 3 min per group).
5:10 - 6:30 PM	Participatory Map 2: Amazonas region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In groups, identify possible threats and current actions for the entire region. (20 min) • Share results of each group. (20 min - 5 min per group) • Activity summary (10 min)
6:30 - 8:00 PM	Dinner	

TUESDAY AUGUST 20TH		
<i>TIME</i>	<i>ACTIVITY</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Breakfast	
9:00 - 11:00 AM	Timeline: Each communal ACP (2 h)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tool to think about the future. • Work in 4 groups to discuss: (1h 30 min) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What happened in the past? (last 30 years). 2) What is happening now? 3) What is the trend scenario? 4) What is the desired scenario? <p>The discussion should involve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional milestones - Regulatory milestones - Territorial milestones • Share results from each group (30 min - 6 min each group).
11:00 - 11:30 AM	Coffee break	
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM	Next steps (1h 15 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion: actions to be carried out in each communal ACP. (45 min) Groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corosha - Yambrasbamba Tilacancha - Copallin Los Chilchos - Chuquibamba - La Jalca Colcamar - Molinopampa • Share results from each group (30 min, 6 min each group).
12:45 - 1:15 PM	Conclusions	
1:15 - 1:30 PM	Final evaluation and closing	
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Lunch	

Results:

The detailed analysis of the group discussion, from either flipcharts or video records, is still in the process of being transcribed. Here I present some of the results.

1. Participatory Map 1- each peasant community, with emphasis on ACPs

What are the threats? There was a collective brainstorming of the threats to an effective natural resources management on communal lands, especially in conservation areas:

- Lack of interest, especially of young people
- Lack of identity of the residents towards their community
- Lack of information in the residents
- Lack of dissemination of activities
- Forest fires
- Livestock
- Illegal logging
- Animal hunting
- Orchid extraction
- Human migration
- Land traffic
- Irresponsible agriculture
- State absence
- Illegal mining
- Road construction
- Indiscriminate fishing
- Bad handling and waste
- Legal void and lack of law enforcement
- Lack of knowledge of the regulations
- Lack of updating of the communal statutes
- Weakening of the communal authority
- Lack of articulation between state institutions and rural communities
- Lack of continuity of community representatives involved in conservation
- Lack of generational replacement
- Lack of more sustainable economic alternatives.

Threats and actions for each communal ACP: Each community representative were divided into small groups to work on their own communities and conservation areas' maps to discuss threats and actions. First, they had to pick five of the most important threats named above. Second, each group had some minutes to present to the rest of the group their results.

*Presentation of threats and actions
for each community and its conservation areas*



2. Participatory Map 2 - Amazonas region: Each of four groups were given maps of the Amazonas region for them to place on it the threats and actions for the whole region. In the end, each group had a few minutes to share with everyone.

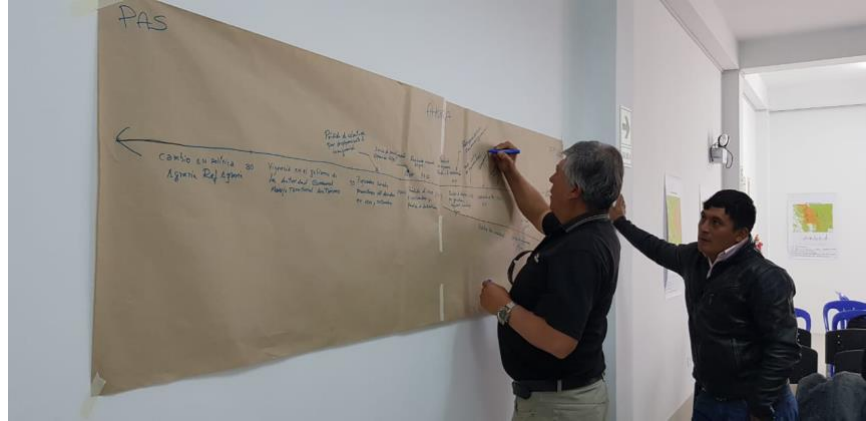


Participants listing and placing into the map the regional threats and actions.

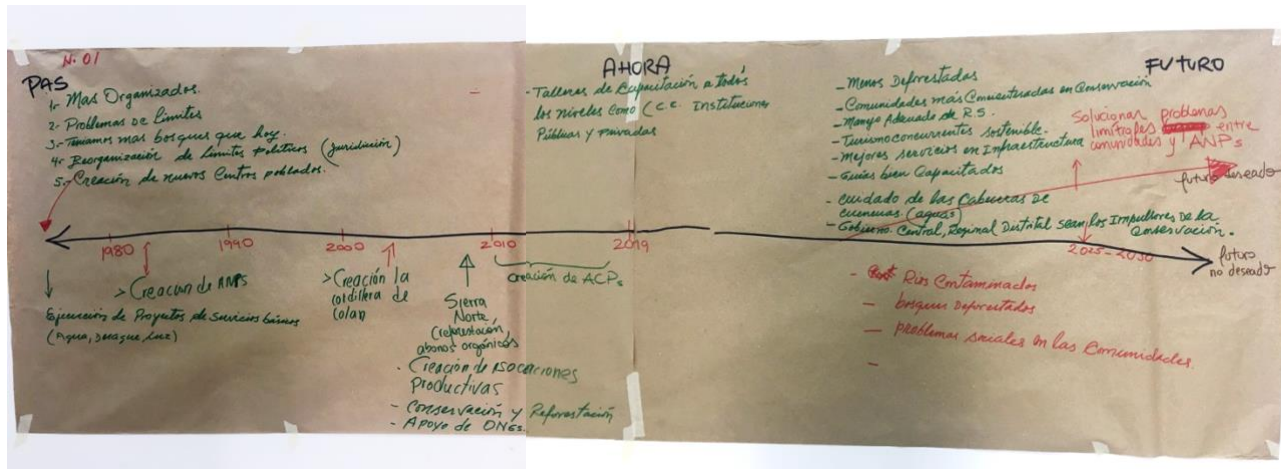


Participants presenting to everyone their main results

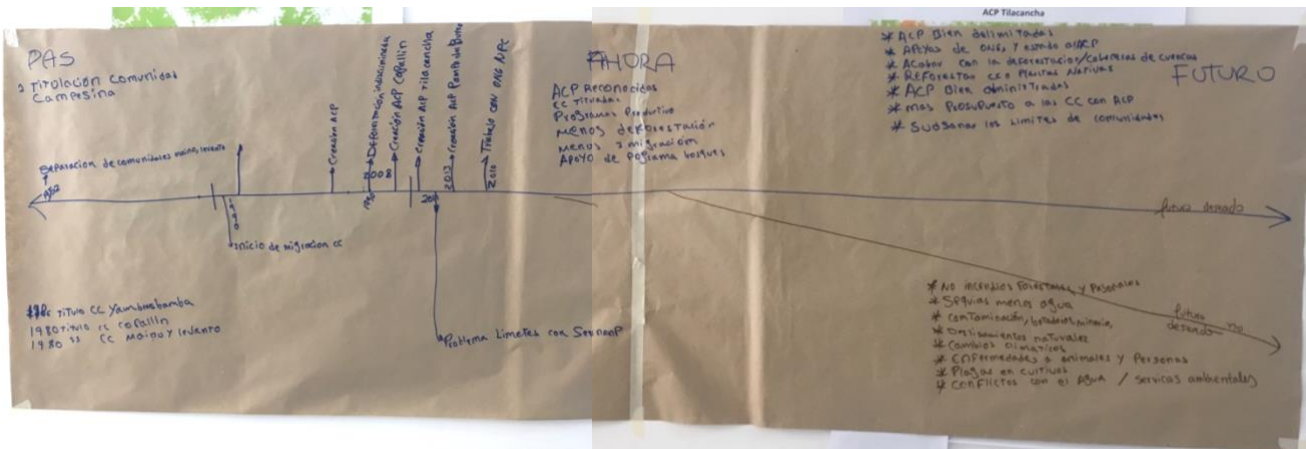
3. Timeline for communal ACPs in the Amazon region: Four groups were assigned to reflect on the main institutional, regulatory, territorial and other important milestones that affected and are affecting the conservation of natural resources in their campesino communities. Also, they reflected on the expected and desired scenarios for the future. In the end, each group had some time to share with everyone.



Participants writing down the milestone affecting the management of natural resources in their communities



Timeline 1



Timeline 2

Acciones	ACP 1. Chilchias	ACP 2. SP CHUQUIBARBA
- Información	mas extensivo a los comuneros y Centros educativos en Conservación Ambiental.	* conformar Comité difusor y promover la existencia de la ACP y realizar
- Capacitación	Formulación de proyectos Productivos, Sostenibles. Como Turismo en todas sus modalidades fortaleciendo los emprendimientos.	* Saber sus beneficios a largo plazo
- Incendios.	Trabaja mas coordinado con la comunidad Rondas Camp. para prevenir.	* Para las capacidades organizativas y formular proyectos amigables con el bosque y la biodiversidad
- Actualizar el Estatuto.	Se educa a la conservación. Caza furtiva, Pesca y manejo de la Tuna	* desarrollar un proyecto que busque educar al ganadero apicultor y cazador furtivo (maej. Motivos para el ganado en época de sequía)
Zona de Investigación	Buen manejo de Residuos sólidos. Reforestaciones	* insistir en su aprobación
Turismo. Articulado entre las dos comunidades		* solicitar a Personal Capacitado (Camp) ministerio del Ambiente Para exponer como clasificar la basura.
		por sus potenciales Turísticas

Acciones	ACP 1 ^{campe del Burro}	NIERVA BUENA ALPACA ACP 2
Definición de linderos zona COPAL	Fecha para una asamblea general (Fosilla de REDAMA)	Fecha para una asamblea general individuales
Control y Vigilancia	Mayor involucramiento de la Población	= IGUAL
empoderamiento de la ronda campesina	- BUSCAR FINANCIAMIENTO PARA GUARDAS PERMANENTES	= IGUAL
Talleres de sensibilización a la Población y instituciones educativas	buscar fondos de instituciones (ONG, ESTADO, ETC.)	= IGUAL
Zanción a infractores en las ACPs	seara cumplir por acción de la Fonda y la Fiscalía Policia	=
Promover el turismo	dar a conocer por tripticos, Afiches, pagina web, folletos, mesas comites de turismo	=
Promover la agricultura sostenible	apicultura Artesania	=

ACCIONES	ACP 1 Tlacacha	ACP 2 COPALLÍN
* Capacitaciones a los Agricultores y ganaderos	- Proyectos Productivos ^{alternativos} * como: - insipinación Artificial de ganado vacuno - Asistencia Técnica a los agricultores - Analisis de suelo	- Buscar Acciones q No Afecten a los ACPs
* Cap Talleres a las Escuelas y colegios de nuestra Comunidad	- Hacer participar a los alumnos en las Actividades de nuestra Comunidad	- Turismo - Manualidades - Apicultura des - Piscicultura
* Proyectos de reforestación en la Zona degradadas	* Reforestar con plantas Nativas de nuestra Zona	* Aser conocer lo primero la nuestra de nuestra cultura nuestras instituciones
* Comprometer a las Autoridades en nuestras Comunidades para manejar	* Sencilisov a las autoridades para el control en las ACPs	* NO Tratar con especies q resaqueen los suelos - Eucalito Pino
		* Buscar fondos ^{para la} Sostenible Para el Bienestar de las Comunidades * Como reservas productivas

Group 2, 3, and 4: Specific actions to be carried out in two communal conservation areas

5. Workshop Evaluation: Each participant had the opportunity to write down in post it's what they found that did and didn't work well in the workshop. Their feedback is shared below.



Revision with the group of what worked and didn't worked well in the workshop

What worked well?

- 'The punctuality. The chosen topics'
- 'The organization of the event, the methodologies and dynamics'
- 'Coordination between the groups. The individual exhibitions'
- 'Dynamic work in groups. The search for the participation of all attendees'
- 'The discussions'
- 'The enthusiasm and dynamism of the participants. The gathering of information as the diagnosis of problems and solutions'
- 'The way the workshop was organized'
- 'The explanation of Miss. and his kindness, as well as the attention paid'
- 'All participants fed on the experiences of each community'
- 'Share group ideas'
- 'Participation: everyone gave their point of view, which was accepted and agreed upon. Information: precise, they did not extend the times much, nor did they let them explain themselves in subjects that did not correspond. Punctuality: except for minutes, the program was fulfilled. The rest, everything tidy. It was a productive meeting '
- 'Relate as authorities and friends, and know better why it is so important to protect our conservation areas in our communities'
- 'Get to know each other ACPs. The punctuality. The way to work in a group '
- 'Logistics, transport, and accommodation. The schedule, the workshop was executed according to schedule. The theme was adequate for ACPs'
- 'Exchanging ideas among all ACPs. The group coordination. Maintaining communication between all ACPs to support us'
- 'The punctuality. The communication with the participants. The organization of the event. Thank in a personal way to the time of Vanessa and his interest in the communities to improve'
- 'I learned a lot about communal ACPs'

What didn't work well?

- 'The hotel reservation'
- 'I did not respect the silence when others talked'
- 'Find the solution to better integrate between neighboring ACPs'

- 'Absence of some key ACP people'
- 'That everyone who confirmed their attendance did not come to the workshop'
- 'That some people were distracted by other things while other people presented their results'
- 'In the future, it would be good to have a workshop where all ACPs (not just communal ones) can participate'
- 'At the beginning of the meeting, all people spoke at once'
- 'There was no presence of public and private entity authorities, to act based on the recommendations of this workshop'

Last thoughts:

This experience helped me improve my capacity to communicate the results of my studies to a broader public. Also, to link academic research into policymaking through the spread of knowledge and collective discussion on future management directions (adaptive management framework). Currently, I'm working on a document in Spanish to share with the participants, that also includes the main results of my master's thesis. In addition, both my thesis research and the outcomes of this workshop will end up being published in peer-reviewed journals to be accessible to the scientific and policymaking communities. Overall, my partnership with Red AMA was strengthened for future collaborations.