



COLOMBIA

EU LAND GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

COUNTRY BACKGROUND

In 2012, the national government signed the Agreement for prosperity (Acuerdo para la Prosperidad No. 79), which seeks to conserve and sustainably use the natural and cultural heritage of the country and aims to create a space for dialogue between governmental institutions and the peasant delegations. This aims to face the numerous socio-environmental challenges in natural parks and the surrounding protected areas. Between 2012 and 2015, 92 461.91 hectares of forest were transformed whilst in 2018, 60 percent of the total area of the national natural parks (PNN) were under occupation. However, more than 90 percent of the municipalities inside the national parks are now engaged in the peacebuilding process. They are also supporting territories where the peasant economies were historically associated with illegal activities on the use of lands (including illicit crops). Finally, nearly 50 percent of protected areas have indigenous and afro-descendant communities. These are the poorest communities in the country with rates of Unmet Basic Needs (NBI) higher than 70 percent.

OBJECTIVE

The European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation (EULGP CI) aims to increase responsible governance in national protected areas and their areas of influence to reduce conflicts related to land tenure and use, and to promote the understanding and use of the VGGT among local communities living in these areas.

Name of the EULGP CI*	Promotion and incorporation of land governance guidelines with local communities living in protected areas and their surrounding zones of influence
Implementer	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Implementer partners	FAO World Wide Fund for Nature WWF- Colombia
Target areas	Nevado del Huila, La Paya, Catatumbo - Barí, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and El Cocuy
Political entities involved	Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación (APC) Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible Parques Naturales Nacionales (PNN) Unidad de Restitución de Tierras (URT) Unidad de Planificación Rural Agropecuaria (UPRA)
Budget	EUR 4 000 000
Length of the EULGP CI	April 2016 – March 2020

STRATEGY OF INTERVENTION

The EULGP CI established four components for implementation:

- Strengthen spaces for social and multi-stakeholder dialogue at local and national levels for the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) in the natural parks and their areas of influence. This result is in accordance with the Strategic Plan of the National Settlement Roundtable.
- Define and implement conflict management strategies for territorial governance in five critical areas of national parks and their areas of influence.
- Facilitate and support the processes of restitution of ethnic communities, in such a way that governance is increased. To achieve this result, a process of focusing on cases of Ethnic Territory Restitution will be carried out in the previously prioritized PNN (Acandí and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta).
- Develop a communication strategy.

*EULGP CI (European Union Land Governance Programme - Country Implementation)

TRANSVERSAL PROJECT

By means of a Transversal Project, co-funded by the EU and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) coordinates, supports and consolidates the implementation of the EU Land Governance Programme. The European Union Land Governance Programme funds 18 individual country-level projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, all of which address tenure issues, and are implemented alongside various partners, among which are government agencies, civil society organizations, bilateral and multilateral organizations and private contractors. All project activities are carried out within the framework of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) and, in the African context, the African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa (AU Declaration) and its Framework and Guidelines on Land Policy in Africa (F&G).

OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- Established local governance by supporting local roundtables in five protected areas: Nevado del Huila, La Paya, Catatumbo - Barí, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta and El Cocuy. The roundtables followed up and monitored the commitments of the communities within the framework of the Agreement, and carried out characterization exercises in the protected areas that enabled the identification of the target population.
- Ensured participatory processes and political dialogue at local level. Four technical working groups have been organized with the participation of the peasant delegation and the national parks staff to review the issues related to: a) performance of the national roundtable, b) revision of the results of the characterization study and standardization of criteria, c) allowing activities within the parks and d) formulation of public policy through a methodological route (definition of the problem, proposals and solutions).
- Reliable and legitimate information on tenure, agricultural uses, demography, conflicts and climate change has been elaborated in two pilot areas (Nevado del Huila and Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta):
 - Diagnosis on tenure, agricultural uses, demography, conflicts and climate change for two pilot areas (covering 18 municipalities).

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Validation of the results in seven workspaces gathering 191 participants

- Identification of management and territorial development instruments that affect the use of rural land and natural resources in 11 municipalities
- In the characterization exercise for the restitution of territorial rights of ethnic communities, 744 families and 3 054 persons were assisted by the project and 48 percent of the participants were women. More than 39 working meetings took place with the participation of more than 400 local actors, involving 85 000 hectares of collective territories, because approximately 40 percent of the collective territories overlap protected areas.
- Elaboration and dissemination of awareness raising and training material: 1 350 high resolution photos, 3 600 postcards, 21 tweets on Twitter, nine graphic recording products used as a tool for adapting technical content, seven communication and photography workshops (151 participants), seven videos (photography workshops, diagnostic validation), seven web publications, four newsletters, four press bulletins, two institutional banners, two territorial banners, one video (Spanish and English), one web stream.
- Increased the capacities of the implementation teams by participation in:
 - Dissemination and capacity building activities on the VGGT (eight workshops with the participation of 451 local actors and project implementers)
 - Participation in the VI International Environmental Fair (FIMA 2018)
 - Participation in the discussion group on governance in protected areas (August 2018)
- Signatures of agreement of intent:
 - 12 collective agreements and 24 individuals resident in Caucaya (PNN La Paya)
 - Around 40 agreements between the peasant families from the communities of Jerusalén, San Francisco, Bachecito, El Placer and Santa Librada (PNN of Nevado del Huila)



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