



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



World Heritage
Convention

Strengthening Sustainable Resource Management and Local Livelihoods in *Los Katíos National Park*

(Colombia)



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Project Outline

Duration:
18 months

Total Budget:
125 000 USD
(incl. admin
costs)

**Implemented
by:**
WHC-LAC

Local Partners:
National
Natural Parks of
Colombia
(Ministry of
Environment)

This project aims to strengthen sustainable natural resource management in *Los Katíos National Park* in a way that also provides sustainable livelihood options for local communities living in the area and its buffer zone. With the support of a national expert, the project foresees a series of activities to enhance the capacities of *Los Katíos'* management team, to raise the local communities' awareness regarding the natural conservation values, to identify and develop sustainable activities for local livelihoods, and to strengthen environmental education and communication local networks. The project **will work with the local communities, recognizing and including their traditional knowledge** regarding the management and conservation of natural resources, and with the property's management structure to build a "**Sustainable Resource Management Programme for Conservation and Local Livelihoods**" and to develop its first implementation steps.

The project responds to the concerns of the World Heritage Committee raised by the most recent Decision 41 COM 7B.11, as well as Decision 39 COM 7A.19 when the property was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger. Additionally, support to *Los Katíos National Park* was considered among the common goals set by the "*Action Plan for World Heritage in South America*" (PAAS 2015-2020) endorsed by Decision [39 COM 10B.4](#) of the World Heritage Committee.

CONTEXT

The Decision CONF 003 XI inscribed Los Katíos National Park in the World Heritage List as an exceptional area of biodiversity, home to several threatened animal species and many endemic plants. Since 1998, the Committee has reviewed the property's state of conservation thirteen times, inscribing it on the List of World Heritage in Danger from 2009 to 2015 due to the presence of illegal activity, armed conflict, and lack of an effective management framework.

The present project responds to the common goals established in the "Action Plan for World Heritage in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region" (PARALC 2014-2024) and the "Action Plan for World Heritage in South America" (PAAS 2015-2020).

As a key strategy, a **Program of Pilot Projects in South America (PPPAS)** was established in the framework of the elaboration of the PAAS 2015-2020. This project was one of those selected by the State Parties in line with the Expected Result **ER2-A2: Development and implementation of participative projects (local communities) on sustainable development in World Heritage properties that generate positive effects in standard of living, poverty alleviation and inclusion of women and young people in the conservation of World Heritage.**



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The user agreements with several community councils and other partners to address overfishing and overharvesting of the wetlands, lagoons and rivers are important contributors to the sustainable management of resources, which are critically important both to the communities' livelihoods and to the conservation values of the property. However, as acknowledged by the State Party, these resources cannot comprehensively be managed at the scale of a relatively small protected area.

-- State of Conservation evaluation by World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies in 2017 (41 COM)

This project aims to fund a **series of workshops and consultations with the local communities to build a "Sustainable Resource Management Programme for Conservation and Local Livelihoods"** (*Programa para la Sostenibilidad de Recursos Naturales y Sustento Local*) and develop its first implementation steps. The project will include all 6 of the **indigenous and Afrocolombian communities** that overlap with the property and/or live in the buffer zone, namely the indigenous communities of the 'Wounaan people of Juin Phubuur' and 'Kuna-Dule of the Arquía Indigenous Reserve', and the Afrocolombian communities of 'Bocas Del Atrato', 'La Larga Tumaradó', 'Puente América y Bijao', and 'Cacarica'.

The project will involve the participation of a local coordinator to ensure the effective implementation of the project's work plan, as well as the technical cooperation of a national or regional IUCN expert who will provide onsite and semi-permanent support to the national authorities throughout the project, acting as a facilitator for awareness raising on issues related to resource management and sustainable livelihoods for local communities in the context of the requirements for World Heritage properties and recent Committee decisions.

The benefits of this project will ultimately contribute not only to effective natural resource management, with the goal of maintaining the property's Outstanding Universal Value, but also to ensuring options for sustainable livelihoods of local communities who inhabit the area. In addition, it will contribute to the effective implementation of its management plan, mainly by addressing the problems that the communities face due to the lack of sustainable economic alternatives and the consequent impacts on the natural surroundings.

OBJECTIVES

1. Elaborate a **“Sustainable Resource Management Programme for Conservation and Local Livelihoods”** through a participative process of raising environmental awareness among local communities, documentation of their economic, social, and cultural practices, and the construction and socialization of a proposal of sustainable livelihood alternatives. These activities will be developed through workshops with all 6 of the communities living in the property and/or buffer zone:
 - A. **Activity: 6 workshops with the 6 communities to raise their environmental awareness, and to document their economic, cultural, and social uses and to identify sustainable livelihood alternatives compatible with the conservation needs of the property.** The local team of the National Natural Parks authority (PNN) of Colombia, as the national institution in charge of natural World Heritage and ensuring the site's Outstanding Universal Value, will facilitate the workshops, along with the IUCN expert, followed by the gathering of inputs **to analyse and develop the productive alternatives.**
 - B. **Activity: 1 work session** with the IUCN expert and the team of Los Katíos National Park, the Pacific Coast Territorial Directorate, and the Central Level of PNN **to analyse the results of the first workshops.** In addition, the objective is to develop a worksheet to **organize the schedule and distribute the responsibilities** to build the proposal of sustainable alternatives and the draft Programme.
 - C. **Activity: 6 workshops with the six (6) communities to discuss and agree upon the sustainable livelihood alternatives and the draft Programme.** These sessions will involve the participation of the IUCN expert. The final results will be socialized with the communities at the two collective assemblies (see Objective 4).
 - D. **Activity: Initial implementation phase of the productive livelihood alternatives,** which could aim to a) make a model project with 2 communities (indigenous community of Wounaan people of Juin Phubuur and the Afrocolombian community of Bijao), or b) develop a joint funding for common necessities that the communities share (for instance, support for the consolidation of a productive and commercialization system). The PNN authority will coordinate a fundraising strategy to obtain additional resources to complement the present projects efforts for future implementation.
2. **Implement an educative capacity-building course for the design and implementation of an effective management structure in Los Katíos,** in accordance with the international standards and the use agreements with the local communities, for both PNN staff and community leaders. This course will strengthen the dialogue and promote knowledge exchange among the actors involved.
 - A. **Activity: Implement a capacity-building course to develop planning, management, and conservation skills regarding natural and cultural heritage** for twelve (12) workers of Los Katíos National Park, six (6) workers of PNN of Colombia (Pacific Coast Territorial Directorate and Central Level), four (4) workers of regional environmental authorities, two (2) members of NGO, and twelve (12) community leaders.
3. **Organize a technical workshop with Darién National Park of Panamá from both properties to exchange management and conservation strategies of the two natural World Heritage properties.** The purpose of the initiative is strengthening the joint efforts to highlight the significance of the World Heritage designation, identify and protect shared Outstanding Universal Values, build proposals to engage local communities in the protection of the properties, and include local traditional knowledge in the governance schemes.
 - A. **Activity:** Technical 3-day workshop between the two World Heritage properties in Los Katíos National Park with the participation of 4 personnel from each property.
4. **Socialization with the local communities the results obtained during the project and of the sustainable livelihood alternatives developed in the document “Sustainable Resource Management Programme for Conservation and Local Livelihoods”.**
 - A. **Activity:** 2 community assemblies gathering the 6 local communities.

5. **Elaborate and disseminate the “Sustainable Resource Management Programme for Conservation and Local Livelihoods”, and the results achieved during the project.** The document will contain a chapter for each community and include its local knowledge regarding environmental conservation, sustainable resources management, and its particular challenges.
6. **Strengthen the local capacities of environmental communication teams** to reinforce local actions and broadcast the results through **audiovisual pieces** with the support of the Communication and Environmental Education Office of PNN (GCEA).
 - A. **Activity:** Strengthening of the community-based program of environmental education and communication network of the PNN authority called “**Ecoparches**”. The project will equip the 2 Ecoparches that currently exist in the local communities with the “**Community Video Kit**” designed by PNN and offer 3 video-making workshops for each of the communities during the workshops for the design of productive alternatives.
 - B. **Activity:** **Elaborate 1 audiovisual piece of the project** between the communities and GCEA. This video will be both a documentary material and **an environmental awareness campaign of the Los Katíos UNESCO World Heritage Site**, highlighting topics such as the alliance with the communities and their traditional knowledge, the properties’ Outstanding Universal Value and achievements, and the significance of UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention.

RELEVANCE

The 6 local communities living in or near Los Katíos National Park have unique and rich material, cultural, and spiritual uses of the natural resources inside the protected area. The local communities belong to **3 different ethnic groups**: Afrocolombian, Wounaan indigenous people, and Kuna-Dule indigenous people. Inside the property lives the Juin Phubuur indigenous community of the Wounaan people, meanwhile the others live in the adjacent territory or buffer zone.

Although the Park authorities implement integral strategies to attend the situation, the **population increase and the permanent use of fishing, forestry, and agricultural resources** cause effects which, as time goes by, might generate significant impacts on the conservation state of the World Heritage property, as signalled by previous Decisions of the World Heritage Committee.

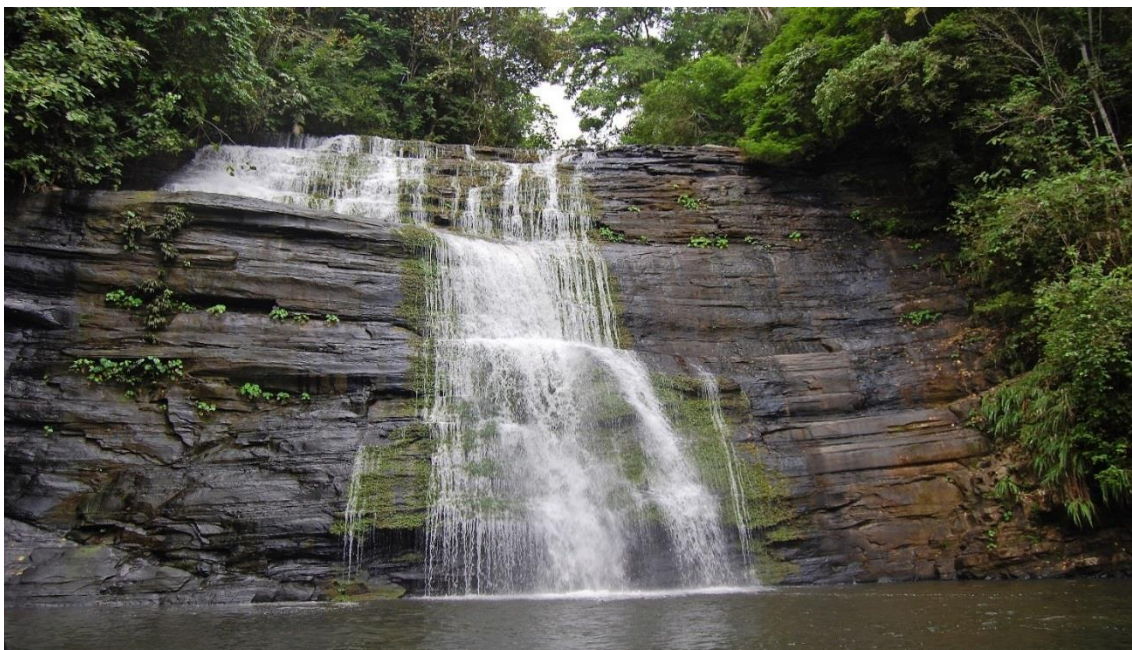
In this context, the project establishes as a **priority the development of the management capacities of the PNN team, other involved national institutions, and the community-based organizations** that have been supporting the site’s management. Additionally, it is crucial to establish new strategies that **raise the local communities’ awareness of the natural values, its sustainable uses, and the importance of the conservation of the World Heritage property**. Furthermore, it is necessary to identify and develop the first steps of sustainable productive livelihood alternatives, with the direct participation of the concerned people, in order to have feasible community-based structures that **contribute both to reducing the pressures on the protected area, and strengthening local livelihoods, thereby providing a highly relevant and necessary contribution to the existing management plan for Los Katíos, and strengthening its overall implementation**.

OUTCOMES

The main expected outcomes of the project are the following:

1. **Strengthening of the management skills** of the PNN staff, leaders of community-based organizations, and regional environmental authorities.
2. **Environmental awareness of all the communities** that live inside and near the protected area regarding the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and impacts on the OUV.
3. **Elaboration of the “Sustainable Resource Management Programme for Conservation and Local Livelihoods”** based on the workshops with the communities. The document (in Spanish, and a condensed version in English) will have a chapter for each community that summarizes their environmental conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, local knowledge, their challenges, and the productive livelihood alternatives accompanied by a corresponding budget and work plans for future implementation.

4. **Implementation of a community education and communication strategy** for environmental conservation, sustainable development, and local livelihoods. The project will equip the 2 community networks of environmental education and communication called "Ecoparches" and will offer video production workshops for the 6 communities. As a result, the Communications and Environmental Education Office of PNN will develop with the communities an audiovisual piece to communicate the project's process and results.
5. **Produce a report** regarding the results of the technical exchange workshop among management authorities of Los Katíos National Park of Colombia and Darién National Park of Panama.
6. **Initiate implementation of the productive alternatives** for the local livelihoods and sustainable management of Los Katíos' natural resources. Possibilities include: a) pilot with the productive alternatives of 2 communities (namely, the indigenous community of Join Phubuur of the Wounaan people and the Afrocolombian community of Bijao), or b) develop a joint funding for common necessities that the communities share.
7. **Elaborate a final report** (English and Spanish) that summarizes the results of the different activities and results achieved during the project.



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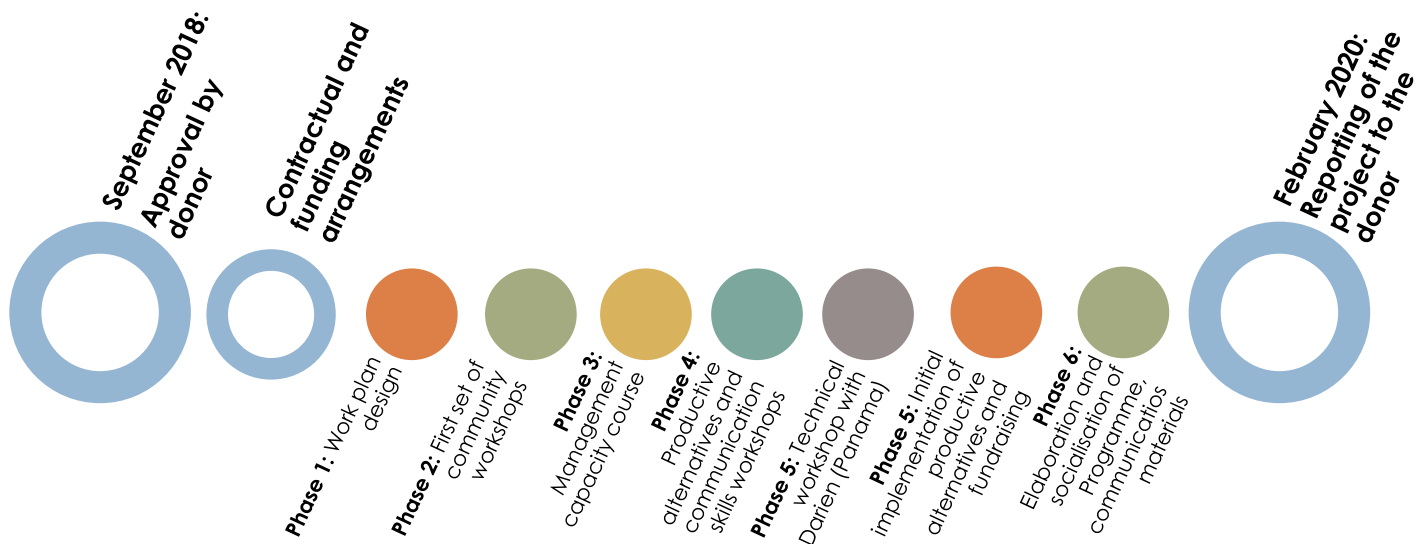
TENTATIVE BUDGET

An estimated overall extra-budgetary funding of USD 125.000 is needed for the implementation of this project. These funds will cover the following estimated costs:

- 12 workshops with the communities
- 2 collective community assemblies
- Capacity-building course for management authorities
- Technical cooperation workshop with Darien National Park (Panama)
- Environmental education and communications process with Ecoparches
- Fees and travel expenses for the IUCN expert
- Fees and travel expenses for national project coordinator
- Elaboration and translation of reports, audiovisual pieces, and other contemplated documents
- Elaboration, publication, and distribution of the document "*Sustainable Resource Management Programme for Conservation and Local Livelihoods*"

TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND VISIBILITY

The following timeline (18 months) can be envisaged for implementation of the project:



A communication and visibility plan will be developed in consultation with the donor and will include (but not limited to) the options below:

Visibility material		Placement / Event	Outreach	Audience
Information on the project	Logo	LAC Extra-budgetary webpage: whc.unesco.org/en/activities/831	LAC Community	
Reports to the World Heritage Committee	Logo	43rd session (June/July 2019)	WH Committee members, Observers, NGOs, site-managers, press	Approx. 2.000 participants from 193 countries
Side-event	Logo + speech		WH Committee members, Observers, NGOs, site-managers, press	Approx. 2.000 participants from 193 countries
Article on the World Heritage Review	Logo	"World Heritage Review" Magazine and "World Heritage Information"	Public	Approx. 20.000 targeted subscribers

CONTACTS

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