



STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

Los Katíos National Park

(1994, Ref. 711)

COLOMBIA

43 COM



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State of Conservation Report

Los Katíos National Park- COLOMBIA

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UPDATED REPORT ON THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF LOS KATÍOS NATIONAL NATURAL PARK, COLOMBIA

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In compliance with the Decision 41 COM 7B.11 regarding Los Katíos National Natural Park, a Decision that was rightfully made by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) during its 41st session of June 2017 at Cracow, Poland, Colombia submits an updated report of Los Katíos National Natural Park state of conservation, as well as a detailed account on the implemented measurements in order to achieve the recommendations of the mentioned Decision, so it can be examined by the World Heritage Committee at the 43rd session of 2019.

The report is composed by a description of the initiatives and achievements undertaken with the communities, local and national entities and international organizations, together with a portfolio that contains the evidences of those actions made by the stakeholders to support the effective management of the WHS Los Katíos National Natural Park (PNN Los Katíos).

It is important to highlight that PNN Los Katíos has a desirable state of conservation, a conclusion supported by the land coverage multi-temporal assessment (2012-2017) made by National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNNC), which analyzes the protected ecosystems based on the category, attributes and indicators of each one of them (High Dense Terra Firme Forest, High Dense Floodable Forest, Dense Floodable Grassland).

The report evidences that the Property is decidedly moving forwards with the consolidation of both human and financial resources to materialize its missionary objectives and to cover the operation expenses. Likewise, it demonstrates that the partnership approach has been strengthened with the neighboring ethnic communities (Indigenous and Afrocolombian) and with local and national institutions in order to guarantee the necessary joint landscape conservation management. Several local and national scenarios, encouraged by National Natural Parks of Colombia, together with the communities and other stakeholders, have been crucial to position the common objective of heritage preservation, such as the “Pact for the Conservation of the Natural World Heritage – Los Katíos National Natural Park”.

In addition, the report analyzes de feasibility of PNN Los Katíos expansion towards the Darien Protective Forest Reserve, having in mind an environmental and sociocultural context of both the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP) and the collective territories of Indigenous and Afrocolombian communities that frame and support this World Heritage Site.

It also summarizes the achievements made through the Use and Management Agreements and the Special Management Regime, as complex strategies of collaborative conservation of the natural resources, shared management and governance strengthening with the ethnic communities. These agreements count with the full support and surveillance of National Natural Parks of Colombia (PNNC) as well as of the coordination, monitoring and evaluation instances established for each one of them.





Subsequently, the report includes the progress made between Colombia and Panamá with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding the 29th of September 2016, an important step to guarantee the conservation of the transboundary heritage.

Finally, the report shows an analysis regarding the development projects, which do not neighbor directly with PNN Los Katíos, as well as its monitoring actions, concluding confidently that they neither affect the Property or its Outstanding Universal Values.

2. CONSERVATION STATE OF LOS KATÍOS NATIONAL NATURAL PARK

The Natural World Heritage Site “Los Katíos National Natural Park” has a desired conservation state. This conclusion is supported by the ecological integrity scientific analysis, which is based on the prioritization of the “Target Conservation Values” (VOC)¹. For those VOC ecosystems of coarse filter, the assessment is based on a space-time study for the period (2012-2017) and, for the composition indicators, structure and function of National Natural Parks, it is based on the FRAGSTAT software, in accordance to the technical criteria of PNN Los Katíos work team. Having in mind the guidelines given by PNNC, the integrity analysis was made upon the coverage data defined for PNN Los Katíos.

Table1.1. Category, attributes and indicators, determined according to the coverage data for PNN Los Katíos associated ecosystems.

ECOSYSTEM	CATEGORY	ATRIBUTE	INDICATOR
High Dense Terra Firme Forest	Composition	Heterogeneity	Natural Unit Areas (ha)
High Dense Floodable Forest	Composition and Structure	Spatial Configuration	Proportion of natural units (%)
			Number of natural areas
			Index of the biggest areas
Dense Floodable Grassland	Function	Connectivity	Effective Core Area
			Connectivity among fragments
			Longitudinal continuity
			Altitudinal continuity

Source: PNN Los Katíos team, SIG-DTPA, SGM-PNNC and the DTPA Specialized professional on Management Plans.

Regarding the High Dense Terra Firme Forest, the 2012-2017 analysis shows a high standard of changes for the proportion of natural units and for area loss of this coverage, a result which influences the size of the biggest area and the effective core area. Nevertheless, the state of conservation for this ecosystem coverage is **Desirable** because the 2017 limit clarification process showed that the changes of coverage due to anthropic pressure were located outside the protected area, preserving still its function of ecological connectivity.

¹ In spanish, VOC stands for Valores Objeto de Conservación.





The analysis for the High Dense Floodable Forest coverage registered an **Increase** of the current coverages due to the inclusion of the new category denominated “Heterogeneous High Dense Floodable Forest”. Because it was not interpreted for the 2012, the analysis showed negative or non-desirable values for the indicators of size of the biggest area, effective core area and connectivity among areas. Having in mind this new coverage, the metrical logic and the *in situ* expeditions of Los Katíos work team, the state of this ecosystem is **Desirable**.

Regarding the Dense Floodable Grassland, the absence of coverage associated changes allow to conclude that the state is **Desirable**. Nevertheless, because of the scale variation of the images used for 2007-2012 (1:100.000) and 2012-2017 (1:50.000), PNN Los Katíos carried out a fieldwork that verified and confirmed the spatial analysis results.

As a final step of the ecological integrity analysis, the protected area is given a final qualification according to the values and grade of each of its VOC, obtaining a total amount of **3.83 over 4.0** (see table 2). Because of this, the ecological integrity of Los Katíos National Natural Park has a **Desired State of Conservation**. To strengthen the conservation and minimize the pressures and/or threats to the Target Conservation Values, it is needed to improve the management schemes associated to prevention, surveillance and control, as well as the strategies of spatial management.

Table 2. General valuation of PNN Los Katíos according to the coarse filter Target Conservation Values (VOC).

VOC	VALUE	QUALIFICATION	FINAL VALUE OF THE PROTECTED AREA	FINAL QUALIFICATION OF THE PROTECTED AREA
High Dense Terra Firme Forest	4.0	Desirable	3,83	Desirable
High Dense Floodable Forest	3.5	Desirable		
Dense Floodable Grassland	4.0	Desirable		





3. ANSWER TO THE DECISION 41COM 7B.11 OF THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

4. Strongly encourages the State Party to:

a) Further consolidate human and financial resources and the partnership approach, bridging gaps between the government and civil society and among governmental institutions, both at local and national levels.

Colombia has achieved an increasing trend regarding the human and financial resources in order to guarantee the preservation of Los Katíos National Natural Park heritage (2016-2018). In 2016, PNN Los Katíos counted with \$USD 155.939, a budget composed by the sum of \$USD 8.581 of operating resources (those that finance the basic operation of the protected area, as well as the payroll, public services, taxes, among others) and of \$USD 147.357 of investment resources (those destined to the achievement of the missionary goals of National Natural Parks of Colombia).

In a two year time frame, the operating resources multiplied 2,46 times in 2017 and 2,28 times in 2018 in relation with 2016. The investment budget grew 1,5 times in 2017 and 2,0 times in 2018 in relation with 2016. In conclusion, Los Katíos National Natural Park has enjoyed of a growing budget tendency, thus strengthening the capability of achieving the missionary objectives of the protected area, the operating costs and the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Values.

Table 1. Budget of Los Katíos National Natural Park, identifying the Operating and Investing Budget, including the General Budget of the Nation (PGN) and the National Environmental Fund (FONAM) (both of the Colombian State). The rate of exchange applied was \$3.000 Colombian Peso for \$ 1.00 US Dollar.

	2016	2017	2018
OPERATING	8.581	21.119	19.594
General Budget of the Nation	8.581	21.119	19.594
INVESTMENT	147.357	222.089	295.260
Environmental National Fund	109.110	85.041	68.700
General Budget of the Nation	38.248	137.048	226.560
TOTAL	155.939	243.209	314.854

In regards to the human resources, Los Katíos has been working to strengthen its permanent staff. As of 2018, the protected area counts with:

- One (1) Head of the Protected Area
- Two (2) university professionals
- One (1) technical-administrative
- Two (2) qualified operators





Additionally, Los Katíos counts in 2018 with the following contractual staff:

- One (1) professional for the implementation of the European Union Local Sustainable Development project
- One (1) social professional for the implementation of the Special Management Regime and Use Agreements action plans
- One (1) environmental educator technician
- One (1) support technician for the EU Local Sustainable Development project
- Two (2) administrative technicians
- Nine (9) operators for the activities to exercise the environmental authority in Los Katíos

Complementarily, National Natural Parks of Colombia has materialized several actions and achievements regarding the partnership approach, bridging gaps between the government and civil society and among governmental institutions, both at local and national levels.

First, Los Katíos has destined its own resources to support the covenants with the ethnical authorities. Second, PNNC has secured additional resources with cooperation projects and donations that strengthen the property and both the communities and other allies. Third, PNNC created the “*Pact for the Conservation of the Natural World Heritage – Los Katíos National Natural Park*”². Led by the protected area, this Pact for the Conservation is composed by several local, national and international stakeholders to support the preservation of PNN Los Katíos heritage and the achievement of its commitments as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thus, the Pact seeks to strengthen alliances and effective conservation actions to sustain and deepen the basis on which the Decision 39 COM 7A.19 of removing Los Katíos from the List of World Heritage in Danger was taken.

First, the resources that Los Katíos has saved to materialize the covenants with the ethnical authorities (both Indigenous and Afrocolombian) are directly destined to the implementation of the already signed Special Management Regimes (REM) and Use and Management Agreements (AUM) action plans. A total of fifty million Colombian pesos (USD \$ 16.667) was destined for the AUM with Afrocolombian communities, and thirty million Colombian pesos (USD \$ 10.000) for the REM with the Wounaan indigenous community, an amount that represents 15,8% of PNN Los Katíos budget. With this resources, the organizations of these communities made progress learning the concepts and application of co-funding, optimization and transparent use of public resources and the achievement of goals and products. In addition, these exercises were crucial to consolidate the “State of the relation reports between Afrocolombian communities and Los Katíos National Natural Park”, as well as the “Report on the Special Management Regime implementation” for year one (1).

Regarding the procurement of additional resources to those given by the National Budget, Los Katíos secured a donation of USD \$ 139.337 from the European Union project “Local Sustainable Development, agreements for the conservation, good living and peace”, benefiting thirty (30) of the Juin Phubuur of the

² In spanish, “Pacto por la Conservación del Patrimonio Mundial Natural – Parque Nacional Natural Los Katíos”.





Wounaan indigenous people and families fifty (50) families of neighboring communities (please see “*Annex A.5– EU Project - Implementation Report*”). In addition, the FAO – BIOCARIIBE Connection Project donated goods equivalent to USD \$ 62.540 to improve effective management and equip the fluvial and land mobility (monitoring and surveillance). With this, the Property is making progress in the consolidation of financial resources that strengthen the conservation and effective management actions.

Additionally, with the idea of enhancing income generation alternatives and the participative conservation with the communities, CODECHOCÓ³, CORPOURABÁ⁴, PNN Los Katíos, DTPA of PNNC⁵, Unguía Municipality, and Turbo Municipality are creating the “Ecotourism Corridor of Ciénagas”. This project, sponsored by the BIOCARIIBE Connection Project – GEF and implemented by FAO, has the objective of planning ecotourism at the wetlands complex in the influence zone and inside of both the protected areas of Lago Azul-Los Manatíes Regional District of Integral Management (DRMI) and Los Katíos National Natural Park. This proposal counts with the approval and active participation of PNN Los Katíos neighbor communities. Currently, the project is making progress in the formulation of the participative ecotourism diagnose in the wetland corridor and the design of the ecotourism experiences for visitors thanks to the recruitment of a professional through the BIOCARIIBE Connection Project.

Moreover, National Natural Parks of Colombia formulated the project “Strengthening Sustainable Resource Management and Local Livelihoods in Los Katíos National Park”, with the objective of investigating, identifying and developing environmental, sociocultural and economically sustainable alternatives for the Indigenous and Afrocolombian communities and the reinforcement of the protected area’s conservation and sustainable management. For the effective implementation of this project, several funding strategies have been made to reach a total of \$USD 125.000, mainly the support of the World Heritage Center by publicizing the fundraising call at its official online platform to find international donors, as well as arrangements to achieve public and private counterparties led by PNNC, a task that can be potentiated through the “Pact for the Conservation” (for more information, visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/944/> and see “*Annex A.1. - Project UNESCO - PNN Los Katíos*”).

Third, Los Katíos National Natural Park has led the creation and implementation of the “Pact for the Conservation of the Natural World Heritage – PNN Los Katíos”, an alliance among PNNC, civil society, local authorities, national authorities and international organizations to support, with effective actions, the achievement of the partnership approach and the Property’s commitments with the UNESCO convention. In summary, the list of the “Pact for the Conservation” allies, which is continuously growing, is composed by: National Natural Parks of Colombia, the four Community Councils⁶, two Minor Councils, the two Indigenous Reserves⁷, the three Municipalities⁸ that have jurisdiction in Los Katíos, CORPOURABÁ, CODECHOCÓ, the National Authority of Aquiculture and Fishery (AUNAP), the Environmental Investigation

³ Regional Autonomous Corporation for the Sustainable Development of Chocó (Corporación Autónoma Regional para el Desarrollo Sostenible del Chocó).

⁴ Corporation for the Sustainable Development of Urabá (Corporación para el Desarrollo Sostenible de Urabá).

⁵ Territorial Directorate of the Pacific, National Natural Parks of Colombia (Dirección Territorial Pacífico).

⁶ “Bocas del Atrato”, “La Larga Tumaradó”, “Puente América y Bijao”, y “Cacarica”.

⁷ “Juin Phubuur” del pueblo Wounaan y “Arquía” del pueblo Kuna-Dule.

⁸ Turbo, Riosucio y Unguía.





Institute of the Pacific John Von Neumann (IIAP), the National Learning Service (SENA), the University of Antioquia, the National University of Colombia, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (please see “*Annex A.2. – Memoirs meeting Pact for the Conservation of Natural World Heritage – PNN Los Katíos*”).

After the signature of the Pact in June 2016, PNN Los Katíos led an exhaustive strengthening process to highlight the relevance of UNESCO, its convention, the inclusion of the protected area on the World Heritage List and the heritage preservation, with the idea of fostering the local appropriation. In parallel, the Pact has made regular meetings to deepen the link among the communities, the local authorities and the national authorities and, thus, guarantee collective and individual actions to sustain the protection of the Outstanding Universal Values (please see “*Annex A.2. – Memoirs meeting Pact for the Conservation of Natural World Heritage – PNN Los Katíos*”).

Finally, Los Katíos National Natural Park works with the neighbor communities in social scenarios to position before the National Government the urgent satisfaction of the communities’ basic needs. Among others, the protected area accompanied the community leaders in the “Institutional Minga for the Cacarica River”, made the 25 September 2017 in Bogotá, where twenty six (26) Governmental institutions dialogued to establish commitments for the resolution of the unsatisfied basic needs crisis in Los Katíos landscape (please see “*Annex A.4. - Memoirs of the Institutional Minga for the Cacarica River*”).

b) Further assess the feasibility of extending the Los Katíos National Park and possibly the property so as to include the Serranía Del Darien National Protection Forest Reserve (Colombia) and potentially other areas.

Since 2014, National Natural Parks of Colombia has been working to declare nine (9) new protected areas and enlarge five (5) existing areas of the System of National Natural Parks (SPNN) to strengthen and consolidate the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). This areas correspond to the portfolio of conservation priorities made by PNNC, which are recognized as reserves of natural resources with the 1310 Resolution of 2018.

The identification of the areas that should be declared or enlarged obey to a technical and scientific prioritization of PNNC, which is formalized by the “National Table of Conservation Priorities of the Memorandum of Understanding for the SINAP consolidation”. Afterwards, these areas compose the portfolio of conservation priorities of PNNC. The enlargement of Los Katíos National Natural Park is not contemplated in the portfolio of conservation priorities, an inclusion that could be considered after developing a scientific and technical assessment that should be discussed at the mentioned “National Table of Conservation Priorities”. Thus, the analysis to justify the enlargement of PNN Los Katíos should include both the biophysical criteria considered for the declaration of new protected areas, as well as the socio-economic and cultural variables.

The conservation state analysis of the neighbor zones of PNN Los Katíos has concluded that these zones count with a good conservation state, thus they do not necessarily need the enlargement of the protected





area. On the other hand, the protected area is surrounded by the Collective Territories of ethnical communities such as the Indigenous Reserves of Arquía and Peranchito and the Collective Territories of Community Councils of Afrocolombian Communities of La Larga, Tumaradó and Cacarica River Basins. Their spiritual, natural and material conception guarantee the preservation of the neighboring zones and guarantee the possibility of stablishing management agreements that are coherent with the mission and conservation purposes of the National System of Protected Areas –SINAP, specially PNN Los Katíos.

Unlike the Indigenous Reserves, the Decree 622 of 1997 does not allow an overlap among a National Natural Park with an Afrocolombian Collective Territory figure. Because of this reason, it is not possible to make an enlargement process of PNN Los Katíos to these areas, as shown with map number 3.

At the northwestern zone lies the Darien National Protective Forest Reserve, a national level conservation figure of the National System of Protected Areas with the direct management of CODECHOCÓ (please see Map 4). Having in mind that the Darien Protective Forest Reserve preserves a high biodiversity, which includes flora and fauna endemisms, the environmental authorities have agreed and prioritized the strategy of guaranteeing a complimentary management and conservation of both protected areas. With this common objective, the environmental authorities have been working to strengthen the effective management of the Reserve in a complimentary exercise with PNN Los Katíos to build a corridor of socio-ecosystemic connectivity among both protected areas to preserve the flora and fauna that is present at the Reserve but absent at PNN Los Katíos.

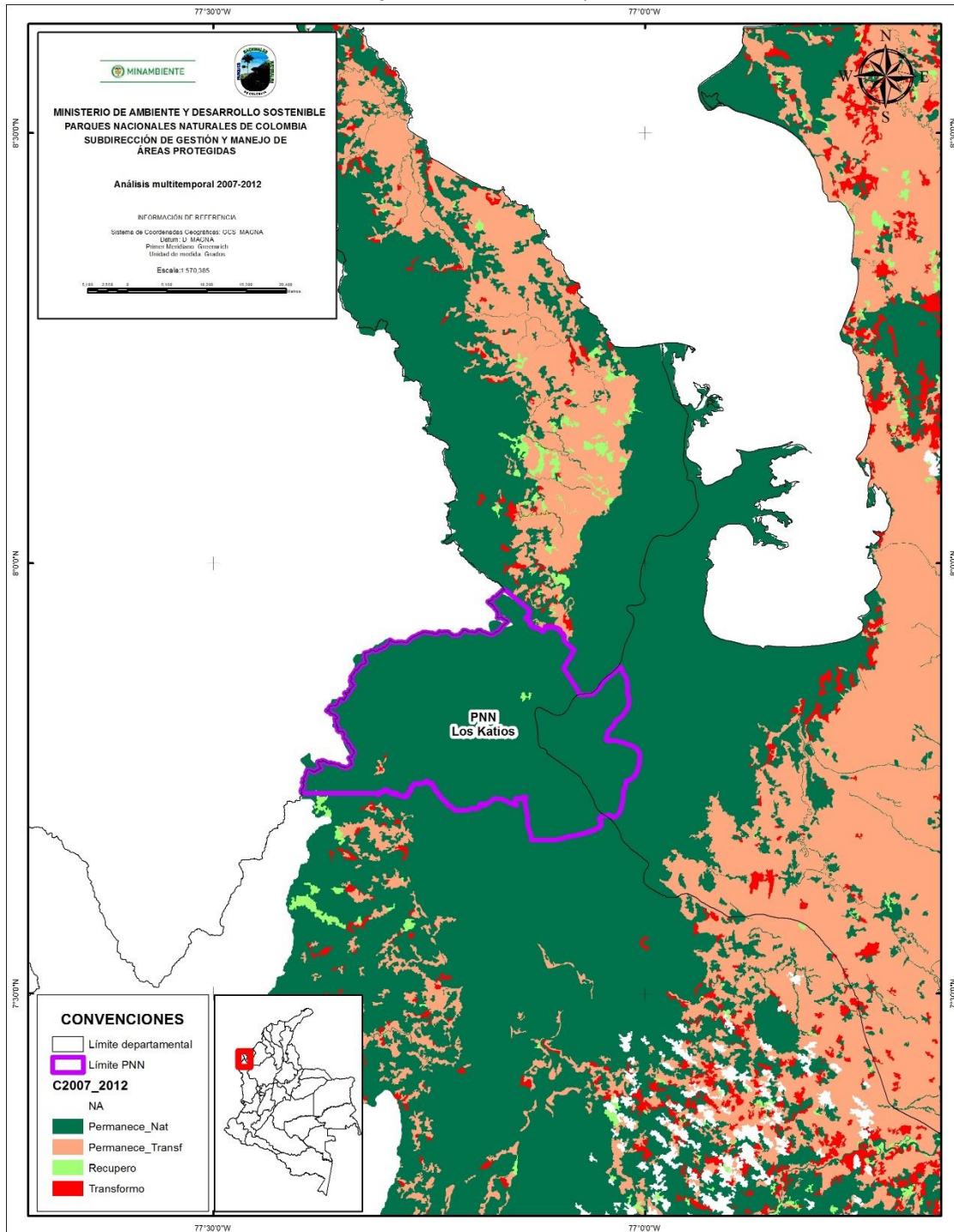
In addition, the local environmental authority has been developing the route to declare two protected areas that strengthen the local system of protected areas. One of them, “Serranía de Abibe Regional District of Integral Management (DRMI Serranía Abibe)”, is located at the eastern zone of PNN Los Katíos. The most immediate DRMI zone has a crucial buffer function because it will be the preservation zone of this new protected area (please see Map 5, and “Annex C.3 - Poligons of DRMI Serranía Abibe and DRMI Humedales 2018”).

With the purpose of offering graphical evidence, the results of the analysis of the conservation state for the protected area and the location of the ethnic collective territories are hereunder shown.



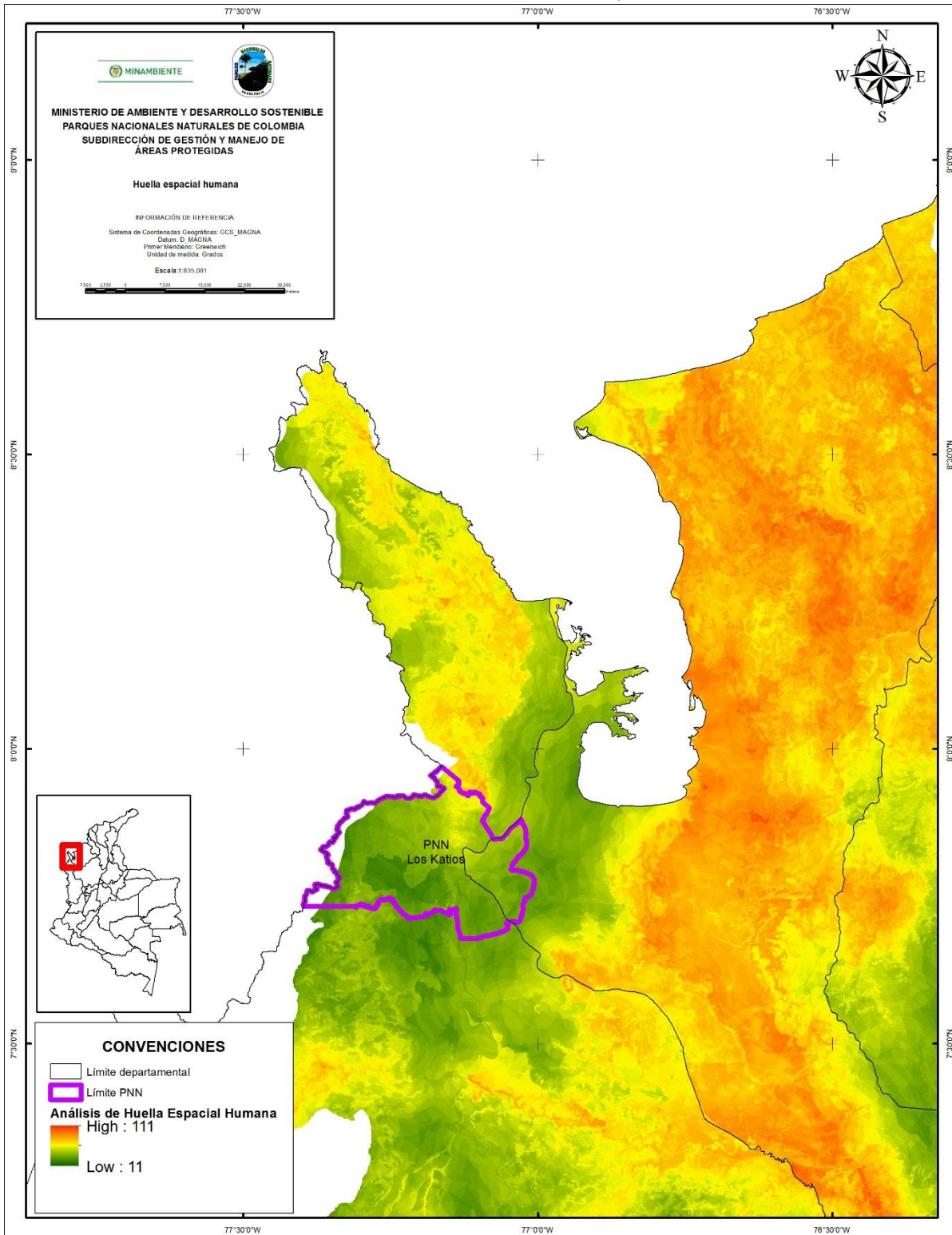


Map 1. Coverage Multi-temporal Analysis, 2007-2012



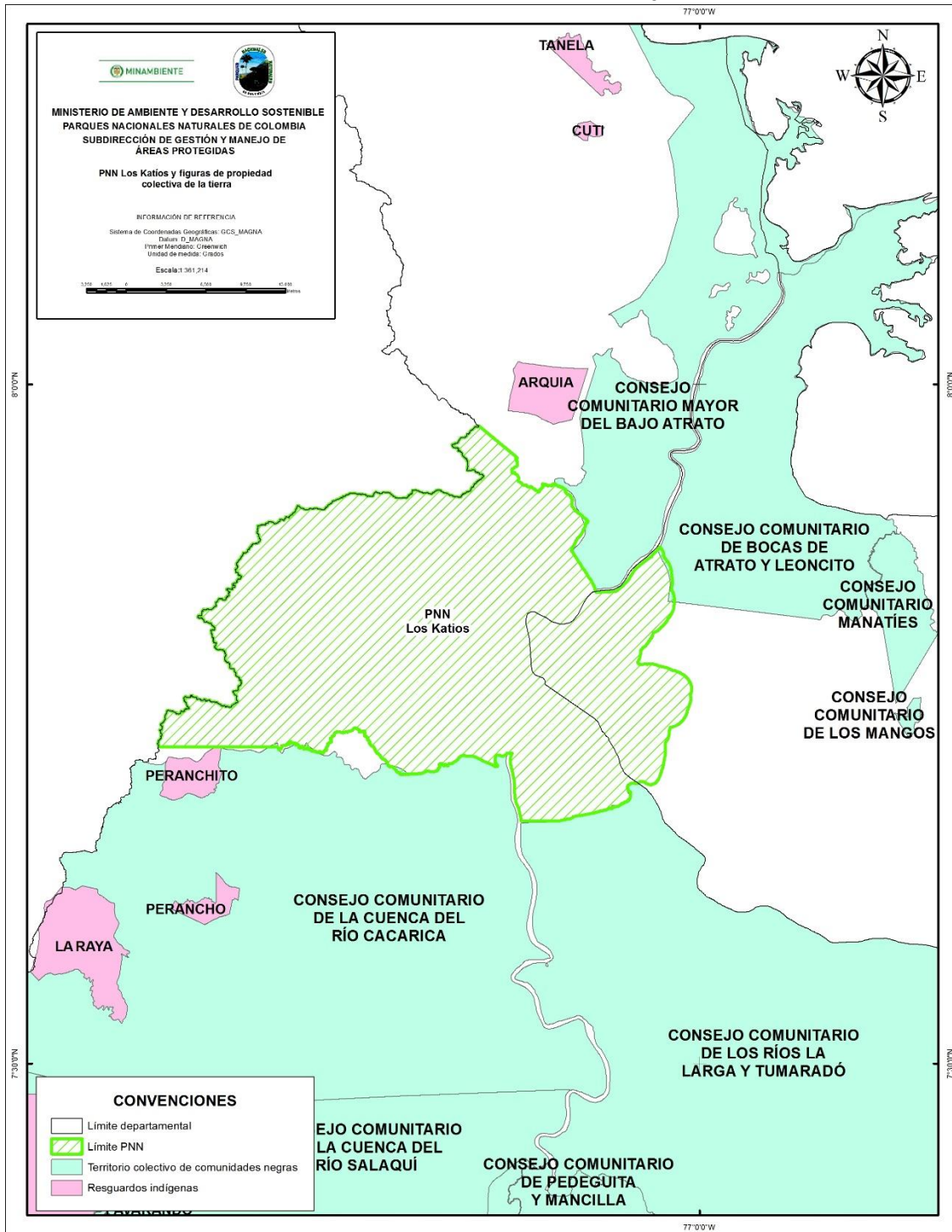


Map 2. Spatial Human Footprint Analysis





Map 3. Collective Territories of Ethnic Communities that neighbor PNN Los Katíos





c) Further integrate the property with the emerging regional protected area system and continue the promising efforts to define a functional buffer zone for eventual formalization under the World Heritage Convention.

Framed in the consolidation of an integral conservation strategy at the regional scale of the northern zone of the Colombian Pacific, PNN Los Katíos is part of the following management instances: 1) the Regional Subsystem of Protected Areas of the Pacific – SIRAP Pacífico⁹ (regional scale); 2) the Departmental System of Protected areas of Chocó – SIDAP Chocó (departmental scale); and 3) the Local System of Protected areas of Unguía municipality (local scale). At these instances, PNN Los Katíos has an important role because PNNC is the public entity in charge of the administration and management of the System of National Natural Parks (SPNN) and of the coordination National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). For instance, PNN Los Katíos exercises the technical secretariat in concert with CODECHOCÓ of the SILAP Unguía. The coordination of the actions among other conservation figures and PNN Los Katíos is made in the periodical meetings of these regional and local scenarios (please see “*Annex C.1. - Memoirs of the meetings of SILAP Unguía*”).

On the other hand, PNN Los Katíos works together with the local communities to support important conservation processes, several of which have a buffer function for the protected area. At the northern zone, the State Party is working to consolidate the buffer function at the collective territory of the Bajo Atrato de Unguía Mayor Community Council, which was declared also as the “Lago Azul-Los Manatíes Regional District of Integral Management”, and is managed by the Community Council with the assistance of CODECHOCO. This Council is implementing its management plan in an effective and articulated fashion in relation with PNN Los Katíos conservation objectives.

Likewise, with the “Implementation Project of the Socio-ecosystemic Connectivity Approach for the Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Caribbean Region of Colombia” (GCP/COL/044/GEF), the State Party has been consolidating the connectivity corridor among the protected areas of PNN Los Katíos – PNN Paramillo – SF Acandí, Playón y Playona¹⁰. At the northern zone of this corridor, neighbor of PNN Los Katíos, the authorities have developed the following actions:

- Implementation of the Agroforestry Productive Systems and institutional-community strengthening: “Río Acandí Seco, El Cedro and Juancho Basin Community Council” (Acandí Municipality) and “Bajo Atrato de Unguía Mayor Community Council” (Unguía Municipality).
- Consolidation of the Eco-touristic route in the Ciénagas de Unguía Corridor.
- Management Effectiveness Improvement of the “Lago Azul-Los Manatíes Regional District of Integral Management” and the “Wetlands for León and Suriquí Rivers Regional Natural Park”

These actions imply the conservation of the ecosystemic connectivity of the neighbor zone, thus contributing to the buffer function of the PNN Los Katíos (please see “*Annex C.2 - Memoirs of V and VI Committee - BIOCARIBE Connection Project*”).

Regarding the eastern neighboring zone of PNN Los Katíos, CORPOURABÁ has the institutional commitment to declare a protected area at the Wetlands of León River and, thus, comply the Resolution 1814 of 2015 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. Currently, CORPOURABÁ has been implementing the

⁹ In Spanish, “Subsistema Regional de Áreas Protegidas del Pacífico –SIRAP Pacífico”

¹⁰ Los Katíos National Natural Park, Paramillo National Natural Park and Flora Sanctuary Acandí Playón y Playona





route of declaratory of the polygon of the “Serranía de Abibe Regional District of Integral Management (DRMI Serranía Abibe)” and the “Humedales Regional Districts of Integral Management (DRMI Humedales)”, a total area of 77.893 hectares that has a buffer function. The process is in Phase II where the technical team of the public entity are running the information analysis and building the definitive support documents (please see “Annex C.3 - Poligons of DRMI Serranía Abibe and DRMI Humedales 2018” and “Annex C.4 – Memoirs of Local socialization of DRMI Serranía Abibe and DRMI Humedales”).

At southern zone, of PNN Los Katíos neighbors with the collective territory of Cacarica River Basin Community Council of Afrocolombian Communities. In the Cacarica Council self-government instrument, the community defined the borderline zone between the two territories as a conservation area with use-restrictions, thus seeking to benefit the protected area and the neighbor communities. In addition, in the VI title of the internal rulebook, which defines the use, management and conservation of natural resources, the community defined protection zones, prioritizing the wetlands that neighbor with PNN Los Katíos as well as the riparian corridors that help as biological corridors.

Additionally, PNN Los Katíos is articulated with the La Larga and Tumaradó Rivers Basin Community Councils to support the declaratory of an ethnical conservation area at the southeastern zone, CODECHOCÓ jurisdiction. At the eastern zone, CORPOURABÁ is making progress towards the declaratory of the regional protected area, which has an ecological buffer function.

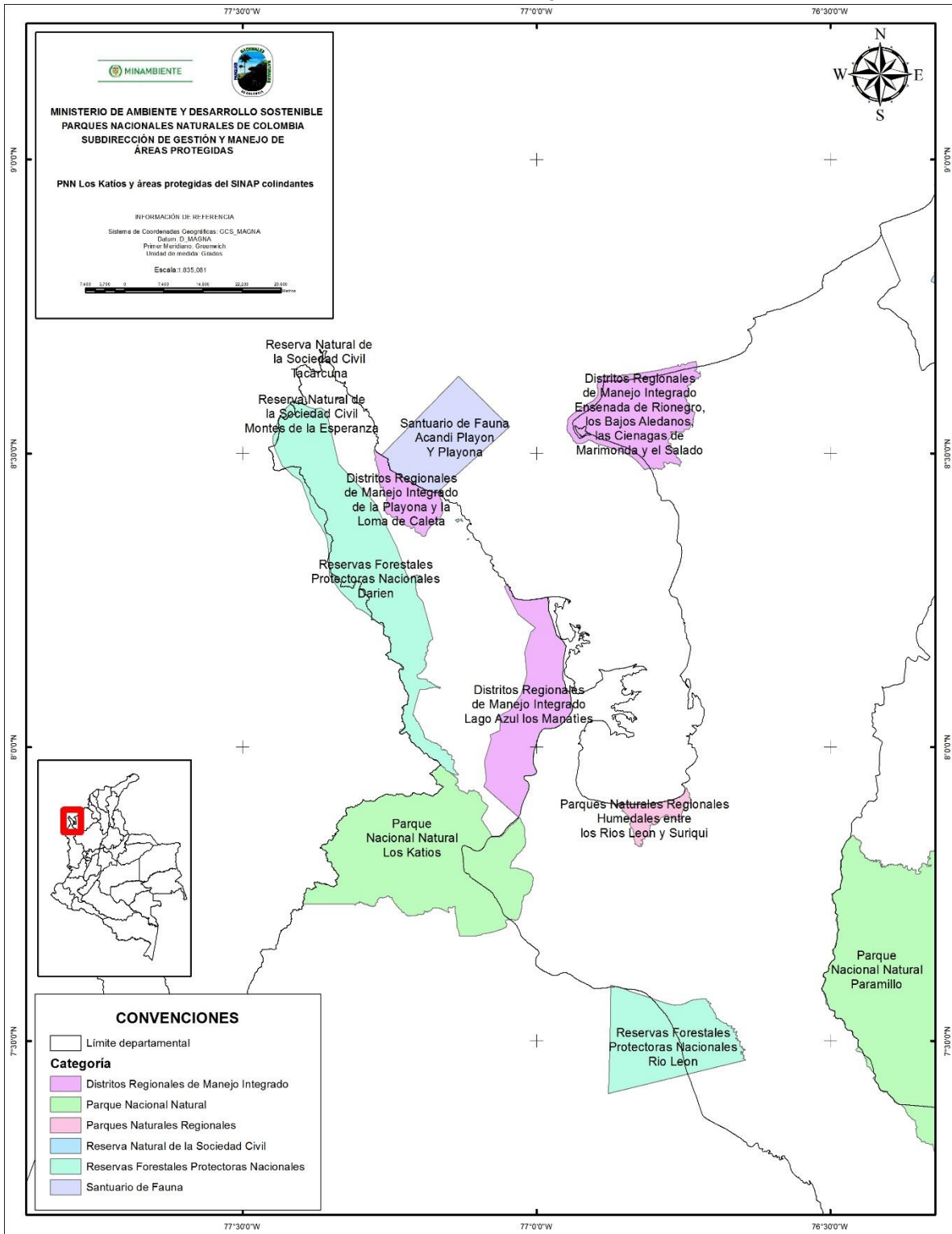
In summary, PNN Los Katíos is part of local and regional instances such as SIRAP Pacífico, SIDAP Chocó and SIDAP Unguía, supporting the consolidation of these systems in several inter-institutional scenarios and through several actions with those authorities responsible for the management and administration of regional protected areas. In addition, the protected area works coordinately with the Indigenous Reserves and the Territories of Afrocolombian Communities. Finally, at its influence zone, there are several SINAP protected areas such as Regional Natural Parks, Protective Forest Reserves, Regional Districts of Integral Management and Natural Reserves of Civil Society that compliment and articulate the conservation actions at the buffer zone.

With this, Los Katíos National Natural Park is integrated with the region’s protected areas and systems, working in alliance with both ethnic and institutional regional authorities, guaranteeing the conservation objectives of both the National Park and of the regional protected areas and the Ethnic Territories.



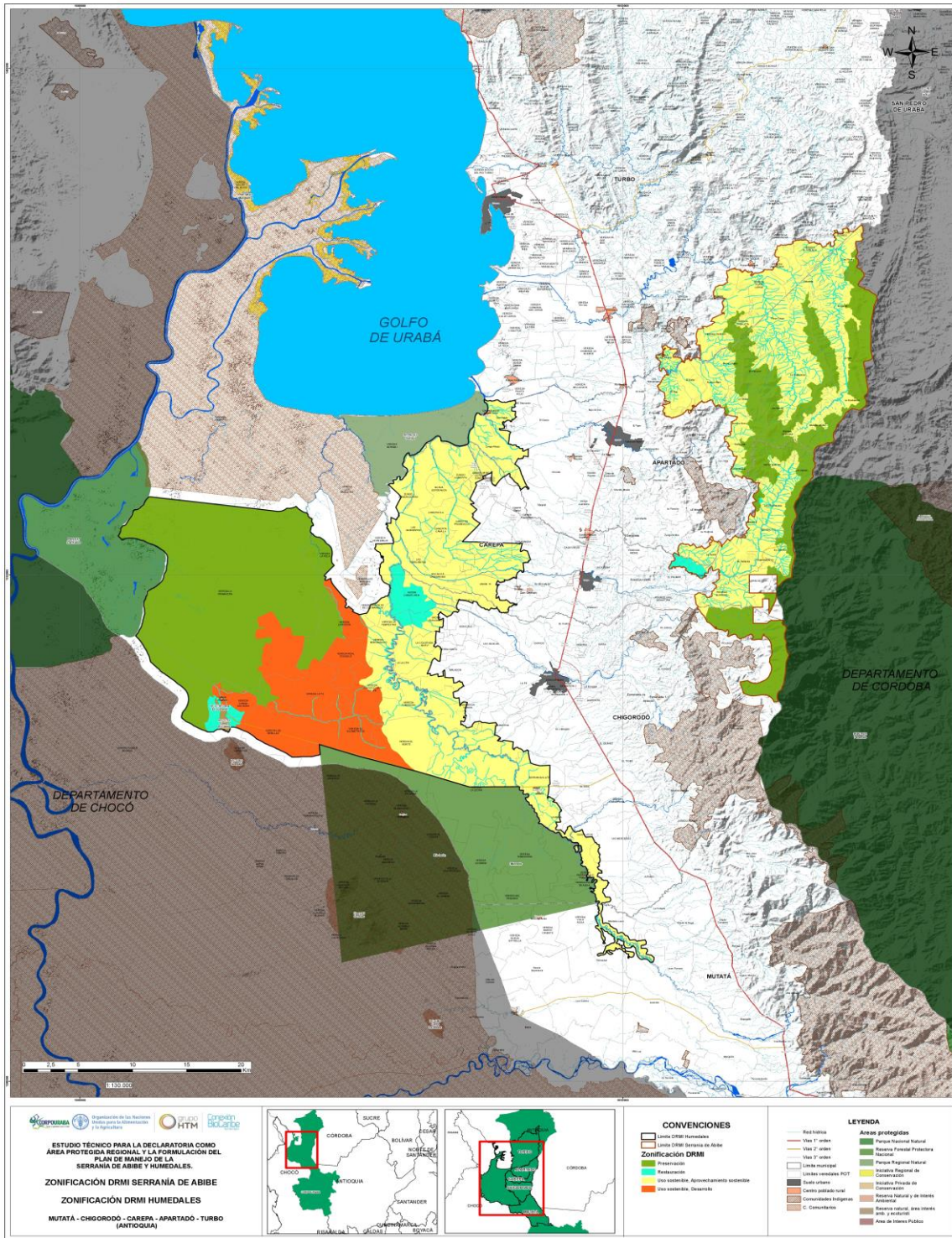


Map 4. SINAP protected areas that neighbor PNN Los Katíos.





Map 5. Poligons of DRMI Serranía Abibe and DRMI Humedales 2018





d) Monitor the implementation of user agreements jointly with the involved communities, in particular the “Special Management Regime” in the Wounaan community of Juin Phubuur, and adapt the agreements to emerging needs as appropriate and required.

On October 2016, National Natural Parks of Colombia formalized the Special Management Regime (REM) with the Indigenous Reserve Juin Phubuur of the Wounaan people, an agreement composed by the strategic lines of territory, governance, culture and heritage. The territory line is related with the restoration, traditional practices, sustainable uses and risk management. The governance line prioritizes the internal strengthening, the exercise of authority, the life quality and the coordination mechanisms. The cultural line contemplates the self-investigation, the knowledge management and the cultural management of the territory. Finally, the heritage line corresponds to the positioning of the UNESCO World Heritage matters.

The REM creates the “Concertation Table Chief Isaac Chocó Quiróz”¹¹, an instance in charge of the orientation and decision making about its implementation, monitoring and evaluation, in other words, the Directive institution for the coordination among the ethnic authority of Juin Phubuur and the environmental authority of PNN Los Katíos. To the date, the Concertation Table has had three (3) meetings where the three levels of management at National Natural Parks of Colombia¹² and the Leaders of the Indigenous Reserve of Juin Phubuur of the Wounaan People participate.

In addition, the 25th of May 2017, National Natural Parks of Colombia and the Indigenous Community of Juin Phubuur of the Wounaan People signed the Association Covenant No. 11 with the objective of “joining technical, logistical and financial efforts to implement the Year 1 Action Plan of the Special Management Regime subscribed among the community of Juin Phubuur of the Wounaan People and PNN Los Katíos” (please see “Annex D.3 – Association Covenant 11”).

During 2018, the implementation of the second (2nd) year of the REM Strategic Plan was agreed at the “Concertation Table Chief Isaac Chocó Quiróz”. At the official meeting of the Concertation Table the authorities presented the Implementation Report of 2017 and agreed the work plan for 2018. To the date, several actions have been developed (please consult “Annex D.1. - Implementation Report REM 2017” and “Annex D.2 – Implementation Report REM 2018”).

The Concertation Table counts with a technical instance that is in charge of executing and monitoring the REM Annual Operative Plan. The REM implementation process monitoring is made permanently by the environmental authority of PNN Los Katíos and the Indigenous authority of Juin Phubuur that compose the technical instance, which have decided to analyze and agree adjustments as the context changes or the territorial dynamics demands it.

¹¹ In spanish, “Mesa de Concertación Cacique Isaac Chocó Quiróz.

¹² Central level, Territorial Directorate of the Pacific and Los Katíos National Natural Park.





e) Further integrate local user agreements with comprehensive management of fish populations within and beyond the property.

With the aim of strengthening integration among the protected area and neighbor communities in order to manage and maintain the fish population, PNN Los Katíos has subscribed two (2) Use and Management Agreements with the “Tumaradó Minor Community Council” and the “Puente América Local Community Council”, formalized at 2012 and 2014 respectively. These agreements contemplate several work areas, such as the joint monitoring of the hydro-biological resources, which has been developed successfully. At June 2018, the agreement made with the “Tumaradó Minor Community Council” was evaluated and ratified, a result of the community’s commitment with the fulfilment of Use and Management Agreement and the positive results evidenced by the effectiveness analysis.

Additionally, PNN Los Katíos and the “Bijao Local Community Council” signed a Concurrence of Wills at 2015 with the aim of strengthening the relation among the protected area and the ethnic territory, the institutional articulation among the parties to preserve the Property and the community as such to guarantee the consolidation of sociocultural processes.

All the agreements count with a consented Implementation Action Plan for 2018, which guarantees the planning, implementation, monitoring and adjusting processes. As a result of the agreement implementation, the PNN Los Katíos and the communities have been able to harmonize the practices and to organize the use of natural resources that the communities make inside the protected area (please see the “*Annex E.1 - Implementation Report of all the Use and Management Agreements*”).

Regarding the fishing management outside the protected area, the National Authority of Aquiculture and Fishery – AUNAP, issued the “Opening Act No. 00000002” of 13 March 2018 “by which the process of Urabá Gulf Fishing Management at the coastal limit of the Department of Antioquia and the Darién Chocoano is opened”. Likewise, it defines the office responsible at the AUNAP of developing the fishing ordering.

This is of paramount importance for PNN Los Katíos because the fishing ordering process is made at the neighboring zone. Hence, the conservation actions that the protected area authority and the communities make at the wetlands and lower Atrato River will have continuity at the Atrato River mouth of the Urabá Gulf (please see “*Annex E.2 – AUNAP Opening Act No. 00000002 of 13 March 2018*”).

Regarding the fish population state at the lagoons and Atrato River, a surveillance is made throughout participative processes with the fishermen at the Puente América and Tumaradó disembarkation points. The document “Fishing Information Analysis collected at PNN Los Katíos, 2017” concludes: the fishing art used is the trammel, generalized in the Atrato region due to the capture efficiency and the reduction of the fishing time investment. Currently it is made with ‘thread eye’ of 3 to 5 points, maintaining at least the most abundant species registered with the monitoring of viable populations over the medium size of sexual maturity. Nevertheless, in accordance with the monitoring of this year, the bocachico (*P. magdalenae*) average Medium Size of Capture (TMC), a ‘Target Conservation Values’ (VOC) of PNN Los Katíos, was of 30 cm, a size a little bit larger than the one registered for the Atrato River by AUNAP (29.45)” (please see “*Annex E.3 - Fishing Information Analysis collected at PNN Los Katíos, 2017*”).





The most important aspect of the monitoring process is that the results are obtained, analyzed and socialized with the communities, who offer feedback regarding the coordinated management decision-making with Los Katíos National Natural Park as environmental authority. In addition, is important to highlight the support of AUNAP, an entity that has worked coordinately with PNN Los Katíos in different activities such as the “support the implementation of the Use and Management Agreements of Hydro-Biological Resources with the Community Councils of Tumaradó and Puente América: [...] support and the evaluation on the implementation [of these agreements]; the biological studies of Bocachico (*Prochilodus* sp) for the determination of minimal reproductive sizes, an investigation made with Tolima University, with the support of WWF and financed by AUNAP; issuance of identity cards for the artisanal fishermen of the Tumaradó and Puente America Community Councils and training about fishing regulations and responsible fishing; among others” (see “*Annex E.4 – AUNAP Report*”).

f) Further refine the assessment of options to manage the impacts and risks posed by the artificial connection between the Leon and Atrato Rivers, while respecting the socio-economic importance of the canal.

With the declaration of the conservation figure located at the zone of the Río León wetlands of 77.893 hectares, in fulfillment of the Resolution 1814 2015 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, CORPOURABÁ includes in its Management Plan the appropriate actions regarding the impacts and situation management attention at the artificial canal of León and Atrato Rivers. The declaratory of the protected area and its' afterwards management is key to determine the accurate actions.

The deviation of León River was made forty (40) years ago, approximately. Along the project, the institutions in charge did not made a base line of the biodiversity conservation state before making the deviation. Because of this reason, nowadays is not possible to scientifically asses which variables have been affected and the degree of affection for each variable. Furthermore, the restauration of the León River original watercourse would generate new negative impacts because the biodiversity related with the past watercourse and the one related with the current have adapted either to the new watercourse or to its absence.

5. Also commends the States Parties of Colombia and Panama on efforts to strengthen communication, coordination and cooperation in the management of the two contiguous properties of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darien National Park (Panama) and also encourages both States Parties to formalize a specific Memorandum of Understanding in this regard.

Colombia and Panamá signed the 29 September 2016 the “Memorandum of Understanding among the Ministry of Environment of the Panamá Republic and National Natural Parks of Colombia to develop governance, management and conservation complimentary actions regarding the natural protected areas at the frontier zone” (please see “*Annex 5, MOU Colombia-Panamá 2016*”).





The objective of this memorandum is to “*stablish and deepen the relations in terms of the conservation of transboundary protected areas, in order to develop complimentary actions regarding the conservation needs of the neighboring natural protected areas at the frontier zones and the Frontier Integration Zones (ZIF) of Colombia and Panamá*”.

National Natural Parks of Colombia has sent official communications to Panamá in order to dialogue and agree the necessary actions to materialize the agreements that arise from the Memorandum of Understanding. Currently, National Natural Parks of Colombia has the certainty that Panamá is proceeding with the necessary internal actions to answer these communications and, with this, make a reality the joint World Heritage conservation management, a task which both parties manifested their wish to achieve together on that historic year when the Memorandum of Understanding was agreed and afterwards signed.

6. Reiterates its request to the States Parties of Colombia and Panama to ensure that the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the electricity transmission corridor includes a specific assessment of potential impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of both properties of Los Katíos National Park (Colombia) and Darien National Park (Panama), in line with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to submit the results of the ESIA to the World Heritage Centre as soon as they are available and before taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

In the first place, it is important to state that this project is not planned to be developed inside Los Katíos National Natural Park. Nevertheless, in the table of technical cooperation between PNNC and the National Authority of Environmental Licenses (ANLA), leaded in PNNC by the Group of Procedures and Environmental Evaluation of the Sub-directorate of Management and Operation of Protected Areas, PNNC has consulted ANLA about the current state of the project “Electric Interconnection Colombia-Panamá”, with the file number “ANLA NDA0934” and under the responsibility of the Electric Interconnection – S.A. ESP of Colombia, associated with the Electric Transmission Company S.A. of Panamá.

In the Technical Table it was evidenced that, after the Act number 5917 of 26 December 2014 “*By which it is evaluated an Environmental Diagnose of Alternatives and it is defined an alternative*”, no other action has been made by the ANLA, which is why presumably the project is currently with no administrative actions.

In any case, CORPOURABÁ, as the environmental authority with competence in the territory of the Electric Corridor, asked the ANLA through the official communication 100-06-01-01-3904 to send information about the current state of the project. The ANLA, is the public entity in charge of the licensing process, the environmental impact assessment and the environmental diagnose of alternatives, according to the judiciary stage in which the project is and if the institution that is making the licensing process is required to include in the environmental impact assessment an evaluation of the possible impacts on PNN Los Katíos and PN Darién OUV and the route to compensate them, specifically at the area that is in the buffer zone. Currently, CORPOURABÁ has been asked to wait for the administrative process so an answer can be given.





7. Requests the State Party to fully assess the possible impacts of the planned port projects (Puerto PISISI and Puerto Antioquia), in line with IUCN’s World Heritage Advice Note on Environmental Assessment, and to report on the development of both projects to the World Heritage Centre, and before taking any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

The competent authority to grant an environmental license for both Pisisí and Antioquia Ports is the National Authority of Environmental Licensing (ANLA), as established by the Decree 1076 of 2015 (Only Regulatory Decree of the Environmental Sector and the Sustainable Development). The article 2.2.2.3.2.2., states that the ANLA has competence in “6) the maritime and port sector, specifically in a) the construction, enlargement or operation of maritime ports; b) the deepening dredging activities of the port access canals” (see “Annex 7.3 – Decree 1076 of 2015”).

After making the analysis of the environmental impact assessment of the projects and receiving concepts of the corresponding local environmental authorities, ANLA gave environmental license to both Puerto Pisisí and Puerto Antioquia through the Resolution 00297 of 21 March 2017 and 0032 of 25 January 2012, respectively. According to the Resolution 00297 of 2017, “the environmental impact assessment and the afterwards evaluation that is made by the ANLA, constitutes itself as an essential instrument for the selection of needed measurements for the adequate management of the real impact of the project on the environment”.

In this regards, for both projects a consultation was made to the environmental authorities about strategic and sensible ecosystems, as well as protected areas. For example, quoting Puerto Pisisí example, “inside the influence area of the project, the consultation regarding the areas of environmental sensibility recognized by the National System of Protected Areas was made with National Natural Parks of Colombia (UAESPNN), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) and the Biological Resources Investigation Institute Alexander Von Humboldt (IAVH), finding that the project’s area does not overlap with no protected area. Analyzed this information in the ANLA SIGWEB, it was proven that effectively the influence area of the project, both inland as marine, does not overlaps with any legally constituted protected area of the National System of Protected areas among those defined or related by the Special Administrative Unit of the System of National Natural Parks” (please see “Annex 7.1 – ANLA - Res. 00297 of 2017”).

Likewise, ANLA determined that the environmental license of Puerto Antioquia “should frame its actions in the Management plan of the Protective Forest Reserve of the Wetlands of León and Suriquí Rivers, adopted in the before mentioned agreement, which constitutes itself as the technical instrument guide for the area’s environmental planning, management and development and establishes coherent actions to the area’s realities and the general guidelines for the conservation, planning and use of the natural space (please see “Annex 7.2 - ANLA - Res. 0032 of 2012).

This is because the “Wetlands between León and Suriquí Rivers constitute a natural biological corridor of fauna and flora between PNN Los Katíos, the wetlands of the Atrato River complex, the Mangrove System of the Atrato Delta, the interior marine waters of the Urabá Gulf, the Natural Reserves of Civil Society at the





Darién and the Serranía del Darién that crosses the Colombia-Panamá frontier" (Resolution 0032 of 2012). In this regards, the project is framed in the Management Plans of the protected areas.

CONCLUSION

The management of the World Heritage Site, Los Katíos National Natural Park, is been applied strictly and with elements of an exemplary governance in order to achieve the conservation public functions of both the State and the Ethnic authorities by the means of the implementation of participative and heritage protection actions that involve local, national and international stakeholders.

One of the most important achievements is the integration with existing and future protected areas and with the agreements with the Indigenous and Afrocolombian Communities, which constitute a comprehensive buffer zone that secures the World Heritage Site from anthropic intervention.

With these management schemes, Colombia is making progress in the consolidation of a solid protected area management, positioning Los Katíos National Natural Park as a Natural World Heritage Site that can articulate the necessary environmental actions that guaranteed the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Values of the property in a desirable conservation state.


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