IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION REPORT

BOLIVIA

REMOVING OBSTACLES TO DIRECT PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN *IN SITU* BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



GEF MSP GRANT No. TF051578

INDEX

I.	Basic Data		
	(1) Date of Completion Report	Page	04
	(2) Project Title	Page	04
	(3) GEF Allocation	Page	04
	(4) Grant Recipient	Page	04
	(5) World Bank Manager/Task Team	Page	04
	(6) Goals and Objectives	Page	04
	(7) Financial Information	Page	05
II.	Project Impact Analysis		
	(1) Project Impacts	Page	06
	(2) Project Sustainability	Page	15
	(3) Replicability	Page	18
	(4) Involvement of Key Stakeholders	Page	19
	(5) Monitoring and Evaluation	Page	20
	(6) Cost-Effectiveness	Page	20
	(7) Special Circumstances	Page	21
	(8) Institutional Capacity / Partner Assessments	Page	22
	(9) Evaluation of Incremental Costs Analysis	Page	23
III.	Summary of principal lessons learned	Page	24
IV.	Annex 1: Private Preservation Units Supported Through This Project	Page	29
	Annex 2: List of Project Publications	Page	37
	Annex 3: Project Action Map	Page	38

ACRONYMS

PROMETA: Protección del Medio Ambiente Tarija (Tarija Environmental Protection)

SERNAP: Servicio Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (National Protected Areas Service)

INRA: Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria (Agrarian Reform National

Institute)

PPA: Private Protected Area

NPPR: National Patrimony Private Reserve

PCU: Private Conservation Unit

TCO: Territorio Comunitario de Origen (Origin Common Land)

FAN: Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (Nature's Friends Foundation)

POP: Plan de Ordenamiento Predial (Property Zoning Plan)

NGO: Non Governmental Organization

RAP: Rapid Ecological Evaluation

SIF: Superintendencia Forestal (Forestal Superintendence)

SIA: Superintendencia Agraria (Agrarian Superintendente)

SNAP: National System of Protected Areas

REMOVING OBSTACLES TO DIRECT PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN *IN SITU* BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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Implementation Completion Report

- I. Basic Data:
- (1) <u>Date of Completion Report</u>: December 31st, 2005
- (2) <u>Project Title</u>: REMOVING OBSTACLES TO DIRECT PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN *IN SITU* BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION
- (3) GEF Allocation: US\$680.000
- (4) Grant Recipient: PROTECCIÓN DEL MEDIO AMBIENTE TARIJA PROMETA
- (5) World Bank Manager/Task Team: Gabriela Arcos
- (6) Goals and Objectives:

The objective of this project was to consolidate methodology, policy and innovative procedures in order to facilitate and develop private conservation initiatives that will contribute to globally-significant biodiversity conservation in high-priority eco-regions in Bolivia. The project proposed an alternative course of action over a three-year period in order to produce the following four outcomes: i) Regulatory and incentive framework strengthened; ii) Benefits of private conservation instruments and incentives demonstrated in three pilot areas and through land acquisition experiences; iii) Landowners outside of pilot sites enabled and encouraged to participate in private conservation; and iv) Project impact maximized through the dissemination of results in Bolivia and elsewhere in Latin America. The goals and objectives have not been modified throughout project implementation.

The project has been successful in removing obstacles to the direct participation of the private sector in biodiversity conservation in Bolivia through the implementation of specific strategies under the above indicated outcomes. It has carried out an analysis of existing national and international incentives (financial and non-financial) for private landowners, applicable to *in situ* biodiversity conservation and suitable for the development of an integrated strategy of models for their application in public and private territories in Bolivia. This has allowed the declaration and establishment of private protected areas, conservation easements and national patrimony private reserves, with the development of the corresponding legal instruments.

In order to broaden the range of available information for private landowners interested in creating and managing private conservation units, PROMETA designed a Monitoring Manual that will allow landowners to monitor biological and socioeconomic aspects of the areas once

created in addition to a Manual for the Formulation of Management Plans that covers each legal figure for private conservation as well as characteristics of each area.

Four private pilot areas have been created, meeting one of the most important project goals. All these areas, in addition to contributing to conserve a representative sample of important ecosystems such as the semiarid Chaco, have provided the opportunity to establish bi-national private conservation units, combine conservation activities with sustainable forest management, and allow biodiversity conservation through the purchasing of land and establishment of biological corridors. In other cases, the establishment of the pilot areas resulted in very important demonstrative initiatives, where a wide variety of "non-traditional" stakeholders such as the municipal government and students from Agricultural Schools came together.

One hundred areas and key private owners have been identified as potential models and promoters of conservation activities. Due to the broad dissemination of the different activities of the project, PROMETA has been contacted by additional private landowners requesting technical and legal support to establish protected areas.

Informative and training workshops were held, resulting in the creation of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum, which provided an important and previously non-existent space for networking, discussion and exchange of ideas about private conservation. Landowners, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other related stakeholders were able to establish contacts with international cooperation organisms for the development of future operations in private conservation.

(7) Financial Information

Table I: Initial and Final allocations by Components

Project	Co-Financer PROMETA and OTHERS TNC, USAID, TINKER Project GEF PROPIETARIOS		THERS ID, TINKER,	Total		
Component	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Regulatory and Incentive Framework	108,231.71	87,770.42	65,150.00	9.728,89	173,381.71	97,499.31
2. Creation and Management of Pilot						
Areas	300,667.35	299,394.61	270,400.00	499,864.76	571,067.35	799,259.37
3. Capacity Building for New Initiatives.	193,362.75	178,184.81	66,050.00	53,487.03	259,412.75	231,671.84
4. Dissemination	77,738.19	116,465.96	11,200.00	2,051.47	88,938.19	118,517.43
TOTAL	680,000.00	681,815.80	412.800,00	565,132.15	1.092,800.00	1,246,947.95

The difference between the 680,000 US Dollars received from GEF and the 681,815.80 spent are 1,815.80 dollars paid in interests by the *Banco Industrial S.A.* on the Project Special Account.

PROMETA's and other partners' contribution increased considerably more than originally planned, mainly due to the high cost when buying private properties with TNC resources in the Ecological Corridor Baritú-Tariquía.

Table II: Co-financing and leveraged resources

			Co-Fin	anaon			
Component	GEF		PROMETA a		Total		
Component	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	
1. Consultancies	264.500,03	262.500,16	58.000,00	26,809.88	322.500,03	289,310.04	
2. Goods	156.953,93	153.470,13	40.000,00	3,344.13	196.953,93	156,814.26	
3. Services	258.494,63	265.794,10	124.800,00	6,311.14	383.294,63	272,105.24	
4. Contingencies	51,41	51,41	,	,	51,41	51.41	
5. Works			40.000,00	40,000.00	40.000,00	40,000.00	
6. Subprojects (land acquisition)			150.000,00	488,667.00	150.000,00	488,667.00	
TOTAL MSP	680.000,00	681.815,80	412.800,00	565,132.15	1.092.800,00	1,246,947.95	

II. Project Impact Analysis

Overall Project Impacts

The project has demonstrated an effective and real contribution to complement the conservation efforts of the National Protected Areas System (SNAP), not only in quantitative terms (by protecting more than 90,000 hectares), but also in qualitative terms. The project has facilitated the identification, creation and management of areas in ecoregions of Bolivia considered critical for biodiversity conservation: SW Amazon Moist Forests, Tucumano-Boliviano Forest, Chiquitano Dry Forest, Puna and the Semi-Arid Chaco. Furthermore, the project has supported the identification, creation and management of private areas in buffer zones of national protected areas—Pilón Lajas Biological Reserve, Sama Biological Reserve, Amboro National Park, Carrasco National Park, Manuripi National Park, Tariquía National Reserve—and in and around biological corridors such as Madidi-Amboro Yungas Corridor and Tariquía-Baritú Tucumano-Boliviano Forest Corridor. Finally, the conservation activities were supported in the Beni Savannas, an ecoregion previously unrepresented in the SNAP (see project action map in Annex 3).

In addition to the creation and management of four Pilot Areas (El Corbalán, Laguna Verde, Los Laguitos y Alarachi), three other areas were also created and managed (La Capilla, Itika Guasu y El Charal). Each of these seven areas has a different vocation and distinct characteristics:

- El Corbalan is a NPPR, and its vocation includes scientific research, seasonal waterway protection, sustainable cattle ranching, and is a binational UPC model.
- Laguna Verde is a Conservation Easement established between 2 NGOs (PROMETA y FAN), and a local *campesino* family (the Pintos), where in addition to the participation of traditional stakeholders (dominant and

subordinate properties), representatives of the municipal government and the subprefecture of Comarapa, SERNAP, the local *campesino* association, the Champignat Agricultural School and other organizations also participated. The area's vocation is ecotourism, and it also represents an effective contribution to the SNAP's efforts as it forms part of the buffer zone of Amboro National Park.

- Los Laguitos is in the process of forming a NPPR, with an Integral Management Plan that demonstrates the compatibility of biodiversity conservation, ecotourism, and Amazon nut production. The area is located in the Bolivian Amazon, a critical area for conservation.
- Alarachi is an area that consists of three NPPRs, forming part of the binational Tariquía-Baritú Ecological Corridor (Bolivia-Argentina). It was acquired by PROMETA thanks to The Nature Conservancy's "Adopt-an-Acre" program. The area has an important vocation as an ecotourism destination, and it contributes to the SERNAP's efforts in the Tariquía National Reserve.
- La Capilla, a conservation easement established between PROMETA (dominant property) and Mr. Milton Bass Werner (subordinate property) for the protection of the Puna ecosystem. It is located in the buffer zone of the Sama Biological Reserve, where biodiversity conservation activities are effectively combined with productive activities such as sustainable llama ranching and low impact agriculture.
- El Charal, an area that is being constituted as a NPPR, is the property of the Bolivia Exporta Foundation, and is located in the buffer zone of the Pilón Lajas Biological Station, with organic agriculture as its vocation.
- Itika Guasu is an area located inside a Guaraní TCO. It is being created as a PCU in order to contribute to the conservation of a raw material—a species of palm tree—used by Guaraní women in their handicraft weaving. The area is an example of how private conservation can be used as a tool for territorial management and the inclusion of social groups in the private conservation sector.

The main beneficiaries of the project were the individual and collective landowners that carry out conservation activities or have the potential or will to become involved. More than 100 private landowners were identified, and these are now members of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum. As far as individual landowners are concerned, four benefited from direct support to their properties as Pilot Areas, and 16 additional landowners benefited from direct support to existing and potential NPPRs and other PCUs (see details of properties in Annex 1).

With respect to collective landowners, an important impact of the project without a doubt is the inclusion of social stakeholders in the private conservation domain. Collective landowners or social stakeholders (Indigenous *TCOs* and *campesino* communities) had not previously been taken into account for private conservation activities in the country, giving private conservation the erroneous image of being reserved for large, individual landowners of a higher socioeconomic stratum.

The country's social groups were opposed to all "private" activity in the country, and therefore to private conservation, since the term was associated with the intense process of privatization that had occurred in the country during the previous decade. Thus, the inclusion of these stakeholders and the establishment of a private protected area within the Guaraní TCO "Itika Guasu" have helped to change this concept, and instead to show that private conservation can be an important tool for territorial management and sustainable development.

(1) Project Impacts Table

REMOV	REMOVING OBSTACLES TO DIRECT PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN IN SITU BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION							
Project	Consolidate methodologies, policies and innovative procedures in order to facilitate and develop private conservation initiatives							
Objective			t biodiversity conservation in unprotected, high-priority ecoregions					
Project	Indicators	Revised indicators	Results					
Components	established in the project							
Strengthen regulatory framework and incentives for private conservation.	 Proposed incentives developed and discussed. The document "Practical Private Conservation Manual" distributed to pilot areas' owners, government agencies (SERNAP, INRA). 	No change	 Proposed incentives for private conservation in Bolivia were developed and discussed. The consultancy document consists of three parts: a) Supporting information on economic matters, environment, conservation, current legislation, etc.; b) Assessment of all sectors affected directly or indirectly by in situ biodiversity conservation; c) Proposed incentives for in situ biodiversity conservation, taking into account two aspects: Removal and mitigation of negative incentives and promotion of positive incentives. Following several points of this proposal, and with the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum, a support program to private landowners was implemented (see Component III). Procedures were developed for the creation of Private Protected Areas (APPs) and Conservation Easements; information relative to the procedures for the constitution of Natural Patrimony Private Reserves (NPPRs) was organized; all of this information was published in both the preliminary and second versions of the Practical Private Conservation Manual. Furthermore, guides for the formulation of management plans and for monitoring in Private Conservation Units (PCUs) were developed and published. All of this information was discussed and validated by private landowners, experts and government institutions (such as SERNAP), and later compiled and published in the second (final) version of the Practical Private Conservation Manual. PROMETA participated along with 7 other organizations from Latin America in the development of the document "Conservation Easements: Conventional Thinking", which served as the basis for a study on conservation easements in Latin America as a tool for private conservation. Based on the Practical Private Conservation Guide, an informative guide aimed at 					

				•	collective private landowners (indigenous properties-TCOs <i>Territorios Comunitarios de Origen</i> as well as <i>campesino</i> communities) was developed, and a script was written for an iterative theater production with which to disseminate the topic and raise awareness among these landowners. Both guides were distributed to landowners (individual and collective, respectively), owners of pilot areas, members of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum, government organizations (SERNAP, INRA, etc.), sectorial organizations, and others.
Demonstrate the benefits of private conservation instruments and incentives through pilot area experiences.	•	PPAs and NPPRs created and registered. Two management plans published and presented. Conservation easement contract drafted and signed. Land titles for the Baritú- Tariquía Binational Ecological Corredor transferred to PROMETA.	The PPA figure is not legally recognized at the moment. The legislation that would regulate the creation and approval procedure has not been approved by the government. PROMETA developed a proposal and submitted it to the corresponding authorities for consideration however, due to the current sociopolitical climate, the topic of private conservation is not a priority, therefore the proposal has	•	By means of the present project, the "El Corbalan" Pilot Area I has been strengthened as a NPPR. In addition to conserving a representative sample of the semiarid Chaco, it represents the first private conservation area under binational management in Latin America, by combining management and conservation efforts with the adjacent "Cañada el Carmen" area in Paraguay. With respect to the management of the area, the Management Plan has been formulated, published, and is undergoing implementation. Protection agents have been hired; the area has been equipped and fenced; infrastructure has been built to ensure optimum operation; and different documents have been developed as management tools: A Financial Sustainability Plan, a Monitoring Plan, an Ecotourism Plan, and guidance for scientific research in the area. All of these plans are undergoing implementation. With the declaration of Pilot Area II of the project, "Laguna Verde", an agreement was reached among two conservation organizations (PROMETA y FAN), local landowners (the Pinto family), and the Municipal Government of Comarapa, with the goal of joining efforts to achieve the area's conservation by constituting it as a conservation easement, and to undertake complementary activities such as ecotourism. A Management Plan was developed and published for the area, after having been discussed and validated by key stakeholders. The area now has a protection agent; a guard station was built and equipped with radio communications; nature trails were constructed; and signs were installed. A Monitoring Plan was formulated, the process of limit verification has begun, a Financial Sustainability Analysis was carried out, and a poster and brochure were printed and distributed.

not yet been considered. Thus, the first indicator would be: "NPPRs and conservation easements created and registered."

• Following a first period of collaboration with local landowners, Amazon nut producers and forest communities in the Amazon nut region of the department of Pando, PROMETA decided to work with Mr. Daniel Priest, a private landowner with some experience with conservation and ecotourism on his property, as well as some experience with Amazon nut production.

This was the manner in which "Los Laguitos" came to be chosen as **Pilot Area III** for the project, and taking into account the area's vocation, an integral Management Plan for conservation, ecotourism and sustainable Amazon nut production was formulated. In this plan the complementary nature of these three activities is clearly shown. As part of PROMETA's support to strengthening the area and demonstrating the application of incentives in PCUs, a guard station and nature trails were built, and signs were installed. Furthermore, a Financial Sustainability Analysis and Property Zoning Plan were carried out, and the area was promoted by means of a poster and a brochure.

The area is in the process of being recognized as a Natural Patrimony Private Reserve, and the owner is considering establishing a usage agreement with neighbors to expand Amazon nut production.

• Pilot Area IV was created with the objective of showing conservation management by means of land purchase. For this purpose, 5,000 hectares were purchased in the Alarachi, Bolivia area of the binational Tariquía-Baritú Ecological Corridor (Bolivia-Argentina). The land was purchased as part of PROMETA's participation in The Nature Conservancy's "Adopt-an-Acre" program. The total area consists of three properties: Cuyambuyo, Cayotal y Alarachi. The Tariquía-Baritú Ecological Corridor is a mechanism designed to facilitate natural connectivity between the Tariquía National Reserve in Bolivia, and Baritú National Park in Argentina, and to prevent further fragmentation of the Tucumano-Boliviano Forest ecoregion.

The following additional activities were carried out for the strengthening and management of the area: Training of the protection agent in fauna and threat monitoring; research with academic and scientific organizations including the Noel Kempff Mercado Natural History Museum (Bolivia), University of Glasgow (UK), and

					the OIKOS Foundation (Argentina). Guides to birds and butterflies for the Tariquía-Baritú Ecological Corridor were compiled, published and distributed, as well as a poster and brochure. Inter-institutional agreements were signed with national universities to carry out the following studies: Implementation of permanent parcels, floral diversity, monitoring for one of the area's conservation targets, installation of native specie greenhouses, and quality of water with bioindicators. As part of the declaration process of the three NPPRs in this pilot area, a Property Zoning Plan (POP) was formulated for each of the three properties (Alarachi, Cuyambuyo and Cayotal), and the plans have been submitted to the Agrarian Superintendency for approval. Finally, case studies for Pilot Areas I and IV have been written and published with the aim of disseminating the processes, results, achievements and lessons learned. Additionally, the Management Plans for Pilot Areas I and II have been published and disseminated to key stakeholders.
Promote and facilitate the participation of private landowners outside of pilot areas in private conservation activities.	•	100 revised copies of the "Practical Private Conservation Manual" and other visual materials presented to key landowners 100 private landowners, NGOs, and community	The name "Bolivian Private Conservation Group" was changed to the "Bolivian Private Conservation Forum," following consultations with landowners and sectorial organizations; therefore, the second indicator is "100 landowners,	•	Based on the consultancy "Preliminary assessment of the ecosystems of national and regional importance for biodiversity conservation and the identification of initiatives for private conservation," and also on visits to different areas around the country, approximately 100 potential areas and key private landowners that are carrying out or could carry out private conservation activities were identified. Based on this list, informational workshops were held for the creation of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum, including training workshops on private conservation topics. In March, 2005 the Forum was established with the objective of creating a space for networking, discussion and idea exchanges about private conservation, in which landowners, governmental and non-governmental organizations and other related stakeholders interested in the topic could interact, exchange experiences, and establish contacts with cooperation organisms. Subsequently, an informative workshop about the topic and the Forum initiative was
		groups	NGOs, and		held with members of Fegasacruz and sectorial organizations, and was followed by a

•	participate in events of the Bolivian Private Conservation Group 10 requests for	community groups participate in events of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum."	second workshop that brought together all of the Forum's members, more than 100 people, including private landowners currently undertaking conservation activities, potential private landowners (individual and collective), government organizations, (SERNAP, SIF, SIA), NGOs, international cooperation organizations, and experts from México, Colombia, Peru and Costa Rica, generating a rich exchange of ideas and experiences on the topic (see published summary).
	support fulfilled		Up to this point, members of the Forum had been identified, large quantities of information had been distributed, and the members were participating in networking and exchange activities. However, the approval of this initiative by key stakeholders—individual and collective landowners—was still required. With this goal in mind, a group of landowners with leadership potential was identified from within the Forum's membership, and this group developed a plan for the Forum that included objectives, scope, activities and responsibilities for the Forum's first year. Finally, a process of active participation has begun as a result of the work carried out by the leadership group.
			Throughout this process, PROMETA has followed up on the results and agreements achieved by the landowners and members, and offers constant support in order to strengthen the Forum.
			 Among the private landowners identified throughout this process, a selection was made to identify the ones with the greatest potential located in areas that are considered critical for biodiversity conservation. Eleven of these landowners were given technical assistance in the form of Rapid Ecological Evaluations (RAPs); seven were assisted with Property Zoning Plans (POPs), and five with economic feasibility and sustainability studies. Technical and legal assistance was also provided for the creation and management of PCUs.
			 An analysis of all existing PCUs in Bolivia (41) was carried out in order to measure the real contribution of private conservation to biodiversity conservation in the country. The results of this activity have been published and disseminated among key stakeholders.

			 More than 100 people (nearly all of the membership) attended the National Conference of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum held in September 2005. During this conference, the second version of the Practical Private Conservation Manual was distributed, along with the video "Roaming with Nature" (about tools for private conservation in Bolivia), and the video "Will for the Future" (about private and municipal conservation). In addition, topical posters and brochures were handed out, and the Forum's web page was presented: www.foroconservacion.org The Bolivian Private Conservation Forum has established contacts with all of the private conservation networks in Latin America, through its participation in the first conference of the Latin American Private Conservation Network (REDLACONPRI) held in
			 Venezuela in May 2005. Finally, a database has been created with information on possible sources of funding for
			• Finally, a database has been created with information on possible sources of funding for private conservation units in Bolivia.
Document and disseminate project results via Internet	Information and project results disseminated to	No change	• The results of the project have been compiled and summarized in a project document which has been disseminated in print and electronic versions to all national and international stakeholders involved in the topic, including the Bolivian government.
and e-mail to key stakeholders, national and international NGOs, local	national and international stakeholder groups and key audiences in Bolivia.		• As a result of the technical support provided to private landowners with the Rapid Ecological Evaluations and other efforts, a publication has been developed about "Support to Private Conservation to Biodiversity Conservation in Bolivia," that explains the importance of private conservation in the country and the important elements that it protects.
authorities and academic institutions.			 A guide to butterflies and another to birds in the Tariquía-Baritú Ecological Corridor were published.
Said results will also form			A guide to birds of the Tajzara basin was published.
part of the			• A presentation of the project's achievements and its materials produced was given in La

dissemination		Paz, Santa Cruz, and Tarija.
campaign to		
attract the		
general public,		
and the public		
near key		
protected		
areas.		

Process of Introducing Conservation Easements as a legal figure in Bolivia

Conservation Easements have only recently been applied in Bolivia and, as in other countries with a civil code based on Roman law, this civil instrument is perfectly applicable to biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource use in rural private properties. The condition is that it must be established between two properties, which may or may not be adjacent. With respect to existing experiences, the first registered conservation easement was created in Santa Cruz in 2001. In 2004 PROMETA created the first conservation easement under active management, "La Capilla," and in 2005 the third conservation easement, "Laguna Verde," was created (Pilot Area II of the project).

Concerning the historical process of developing the application of conservation easements in Bolivia, first an analysis of civil legislation was carried out in order to determine the aptness for conservation purposes. The discussion and dissemination process began in September 2000, when PROMETA held its first event to discuss private conservation with support from The Tinker Foundation. Later, a second event was held concerning private conservation instruments in Bolivia in November 2002, with support from the Environmental Law Institute. One of the conclusions of this event was that the steps for the creation and implementation of voluntary easements, as established in the civil code for conservation purposes in rural properties, should be clearly defined. Finally, during the present project, a proposal for the constitution and implementation of conservation easements was formulated, disseminated, analyzed and agreed upon by relevant public and private stakeholders.

(2) Project Sustainability

The sustainability proposal presented in the project was conceived from three dimensions—environmental, financial and social. The likelihood of achieving overall sustainability is high, taking into consideration both the establishment of over 90,000 hectares of private protected areas as well as the development of the Private Conservation Forum, a space that facilitates the collaboration of all stakeholders. In terms of financial sustainability, the project will draw from lessons learned in pilot projects, though ultimately the country will have to incorporate conservation activities into economic development plans to maintain long-term benefits.

Environmental Sustainability

As an indicator of the environmental impact and thanks to PROMETA's work, there are approximately 90.000 ha where activities of private conservation are being conducted in different ecoregions. There are also more than 80 additional proprietors (both potential and active owners of PRNPs) that are participating in the activities of the Private Conservation Forum in Bolivia with results that can be seen in the big movement favouring a move towards the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable development of the country.

The existence of 12 ecoregions has been recognized in Bolivia, reflecting the heterogeneity of the landscapes and variety of ecosystems. Five of these ecoregions have been subdivided and differentiated into 23 different ecological regions. Out of these ecological regions, 9 have been included in the targeted area of the project in the Tucumanian-Bolivian forest where the majority of the conservation initiatives are found. Although the territory is not very extensive, it is limited to a narrow strip of the oriental mountain range, thus making the area very important. This ecosystem is of vital importance for the conservation of water springs due to its physiographic characteristics—this eco-region is the source of water for many communities, towns, and cities.

The Yungas, an eco-region rich in species, constitutes the center of diversity of the orchid family as well as the center of diversity of other sensitive groups such as the ferns and the bryophyte. The Yungas constitutes the most important center of endemism in Bolivia with a high diversity of endemic species.

In South America the Chaco ecosystem is shared among three countries, 15 % of which can be found in Bolivian territory. This eco-region possesses a unique vegetation and fauna; this is why it was ranked among the 35 most significant habitats in genetic resources and as a priority in the geographic regional area for the conservation of biodiversity.

Due to its ample distribution in the country, the low land ecosystems composed of the Andean Amazonic, Mountainous regions, Chiquitos, and Beni and Pantanal flooding Savannahs forests are not represented in the SNAP-Bolivia. This representation is incipient and its protection and conservation of its biodiversity and resources is not guaranteed in the long term. These ecosystems, some with and others without any human interaction (such as the Mountainous regions), possess little affinity with other ecosystems in such a way that the area has unique endemism. The flooding Savannahs are unique in the world and are huge wetlands with a great diversity of birds, mammals, and fish.

The Amazonic forests, in the pre-Andean and sub-Andean case, are fragile areas because they are river basin sources that constitute the transition zone with the Precambrian plain. This eco-region in general is one of the most complex ones and is among the richest in plant and animal species in the country. It is recognized on a worldwide scale because of its contribution to reduce the effects caused by the climatic changes.

Finally, the Puna is a very sensitive ecosystem that has been historically subjected to the overgrazing of sheep and horse livestock in the southwest section of this ecosystem. Its handling and conservation are considered to guarantee the richness and sustainability of the native grasslands of pasturing for the native fauna of this eco-region.

Financial Sustainability

The financial sustainability of the project is focused on two levels: sustainability of the pilot areas and sustainability of the new initiatives. To guarantee the financial sustainability of the pilot areas I and II of the project, from an economic perspective, a long term financial sustainability plan has been elaborated for each in which the investment and necessary financial sources to fulfil the agreement in the management plans are clearly established. Likewise, to guarantee the financial sustainability of both pilot areas III and IV as well as the new initiatives, the possible incentives to be applied in Bolivia in this sector have been analyzed and developed.

A list of possible financial sources has been developed in the different items for the UCPs, and eco-tourism has been prioritized as a real alternative for incrementing the income in those areas. An analysis geared toward demonstrating the economic potentials in four areas through the agreement with CONACINE to rent natural places for national and international shooting was developed. This same service was offered to Bolivian advertising companies in agreement with eco-tourist agencies and operators.

The sustainability of the areas is believed to be strongly related to the insertion of the biodiversity conservation sector into the country's economic development policies. It is for this reason that PROMETA has considered as short- and medium-term strategies the promotion of this aspect, by integrating sustainable productive activities into PCU management.

Social Sustainability

The social sustainability of the project is primarily based on the involvement of key stakeholders in all of its processes. Examples include their participation in the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum and their involvement in different processes, such as in the validation of the Practical Private Conservation Manual and in the strategic and financial planning for the Forum. The Forum is considered to be a very important space for the sustainability of the overall process that is now strengthened and underway in Bolivia. This space also has the great potential as an opportunity for civil society to form contacts and pressure the government to begin to take the necessary actions with respect to private conservation.

On the other hand, the implementation of pilot areas has stimulated the involvement of landowners and neighboring communities. In pilot area I, an assessment of the area's buffer zone and neighbors was carried out. These same stakeholders participated actively in the formulation of the binational El Corbalan—Cañada el Carmen Site Conservation Plan (the Paraguayan owners of the "Cañada el Carmen" Private Protected Area also participated actively), as well as in the formulation of the Management Plan for El Corbalan.

Sustainability of Project Conservation Units – Pilot Areas

With respect to the creation and management of PCUs, through project implementation it has been determined that the definition of a clear "vocation" is important for the sustainability of each area. In the case of El Corbalan, Pilot Area I, its economic vocation has been determined to be that of sustainable cattle ranching. As a result, a model ranch has been implemented in the sustainable usage zone within the area. The ranch will be a demonstrative model of the compatibility between sustainable natural resource management by the private productive sector and biodiversity conservation, two concepts that generally have been kept totally separate in the Bolivian mindset. It is expected that the impact of this undertaking will be of much importance to ranchers in the Bolivian Chaco region since one of the main environmental problems of the area is desertification caused by inappropriate ranching practices. On the other hand, this area presents a unique demonstrative case in that it is a binational private conservation area.

In Pilot Area II, all of the processes included the participation of all local stakeholders. In addition to the participation of the owners (the Pinto family), representatives of the municipal government of Comarapa and of the subprefecture, SERNAP, students from the Campagnart School, technical personnel of Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza, representatives of CIAT, members of the Comarapa natural resources conservation committee, as well as *campesino* associations all participated in the formulation and implementation of the area's Management Plan, and in the design and construction of other activities. All of these people are key stakeholders in Comarapa and are very involved in the protection and conservation of the Laguna Verde, which has become the pride of the town.

The implementation of Pilot Area II, Laguna Verde, was also very important for demonstrative purposes since it brought together a wide variety of "non-traditional" stakeholders such as the municipal government and students from the Champagnat Agricultural School of Comarapa. As the area is considered to be natural heritage by the municipal government, as well as being the source of water for the local population, the community is extremely interested and involved in the process. Furthermore, the value of incentives in the form of technical and legal support for the area's implementation and management has been clearly demonstrated.

Following an initial period of collaboration with local landowners, Amazon nut producers and forest communities in the Amazon nut region of the department of Pando, PROMETA decided to work with Mr. Daniel Priest, a private landowner with some experience with conservation and ecotourism on his property, as well as some experience with Amazon nut production. This was the manner in which "Los Laguitos" came to be chosen as Pilot Area III for the project. Taking into account the area's vocation, an integral Management Plan for conservation, ecotourism and sustainable Amazon nut production was formulated. In this plan the complementary nature of these three activities is clearly evident. Neighbors of the area mainly took part in activities related to Amazon nut management since they are the ones who carry out the activity on Mr. Priest's property. By means of this process, Mr. Priest and his neighbors arrived at agreements in favor of sustainable non-wood product forest management based on Amazon nut production, in addition to ensuring biodiversity conservation in the forest. The area is in the process of being recognized as a Natural Patrimony Private Reserve, and the owner is considering establishing a usage agreement with neighbors to expand Amazon nut production.

Because of its rich biodiversity and scenic beauty, Alarachi, Pilot Area IV, has a great vocation as an ecotourism destination. For this reason, the basic necessary infrastructure was built, including a lodge, nature trails, and the design of ecotourism routes in the area. In order to transport groups of interested tourists, a bus with a capacity of 25 passengers was acquired. Additionally, protection activities are continuously being carried out by protection agents. With the implementation of Pilot Area IV, the project demonstrated that under current conditions in Bolivia, undeclared protected areas are not feasible. The main reasons are the lack of legal assurances and security for properties in relation to the social movements that carry out spontaneous colonizations. For this reason, since sound legal backing was required, the NPPR figure was applied to this pilot area. The limit verification process is currently underway.

(3) Replicability

By means of the present project, a basis has been created with which to replicate pilot and other PCU experiences in areas identified in Bolivia as having high potential for biodiversity conservation. This basis consists of a set of legal and technical tools available to landowners for the creation and management of Private Conservation Units—all of these tools are presented in the Practical Private Conservation Guide and in other materials published over the course of the project such as videos, pamphlets and posters. Other project activities demonstrating significant potential for replication include the development of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum as well as the establishment of privately owned pilot project areas.

The Bolivian Private Conservation Forum has been created in order to consolidate the main stakeholders of the sector and to provide networking opportunities among them, and with international cooperation agencies, government and similar groups (networks and fora) in Latin America. Additionally, some incentives have been developed for landowners, and efforts have been made to raise awareness about the incentives.

A significant amount of effort was put into strengthening pilot areas with an emphasis on replication potential. With these areas PROMETA has successfully demonstrated the feasibility of putting into practice the variety of legal private conservation figures such as NPPRs, conservation easements and usufructs, as well as their subsequent registration in the corresponding entities.

From the management point of view of these areas, there is also great replication potential in their economic and productive activities, such as in the case of sustainable cattle ranching in El Corbalan or ecotourism in Los Laguitos, Laguna Verde and Alarachi.

The project has trained and equipped private landowners with the necessary tools and information with which to adequately create and manage PCUs. Nevertheless, in order to fortify the sector and guarantee its sustainability, it is very important that the **next steps** include the following:

- the incorporation of private conservation in the country's productive development efforts and campaign to reduce poverty
- the further development of incentives
- the fortification of alliances and strategies with all other biodiversity conservation efforts in the country and in the region
- demonstration of the compatibility between private conservation and Bolivia's current and future land reform policies
- the continuation of support and assistance to private landowners and to the Forum
- the generation of alliances between private conservationists and local stakeholders

(4) Involvement of key stakeholders

The project's key direct stakeholders are considered to be those groups that benefited directly from its activities. These groups include private landowners, non-governmental organizations, government agencies, and other key audiences for the project's dissemination campaign.

Based on the consultancy "Preliminary assessment of ecosystems of national and regional importance for biodiversity conservation and the identification of initiatives for private conservation," as well as on visits to different areas around the country, approximately 100 potential areas and key private landowners that are carrying out or could carry out private conservation activities were identified. In addition to biological criteria, the situation of land titles was taken into account, as well as the properties' conservation status, and the level of interest and environmental awareness of the landowners.

As a result of these efforts, a list was compiled of landowners that are currently involved in private conservation in Bolivia (30 NPPRs), and also a list of potential landowners, all of which were included as members of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum. Among the potential landowners, two were identified as pilot areas and 15 as candidates for supporting activities (RAPs, POPs, economic analysis, etc.). The group of potential landowners is made up mainly of cattle ranchers (their associations in 5 departments were incorporated), *campesino* communities, indigenous TCOs and other properties found in important areas of biodiversity, ecological corridors, buffer zones, etc.

Likewise, non-governmental organizations related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, international cooperation agencies, and key government agencies were also identified as key audiences and invited to participate in the Forum: SERNAP and the Foundation for the Development of the SNAP, General Biodiversity Directorate, Viceministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Forestry and Agrarian Superintendencies, and the National Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA). These groups participated in the presentation and validation of key documents, in workshops for the creation and planning of the Forum, and in the events where the project's results were presented. The information generated during the project was presented to these entities.

(5) Monitoring and Evaluation

A system of internal monitoring and evaluation was developed to guarantee the effective implementation of the project; this system is complementary to and compatible with the GEF-World Bank's monitoring and evaluation system. The internal monitoring and evaluation system consisted of annual planning and monthly reviews with all members of the project team, and semester reviews of progress toward the fulfillment of the project's goals and objectives.

The GEF-World Bank carried out four evaluations that allowed for the adjustment of some project activities in accordance with the country's socio-political situation, and for the periodic follow-up on project achievements. In addition, three external audits that followed the disbursement procedures were used as effective monitoring and evaluation tools, especially with respect to administrative procedures.

The monitoring and evaluation of the results of the project has been based both on established indicators in the project document and other indicators suggested by the team according to the raised objectives and the activities deemed necessary to fulfil each one of them. These activities were introduced in a general work chronogram with a temporal timing of 3 years (the amount of time that the project is going to last). The chronogram was reviewed monthly, and was also reviewed more in-depth at the end of every implementation period of the project. As a result of this chronogram, the indicators proposed in the project document were fulfilled and even exceeded to a great extent. Likewise, as a complementary support to the monitoring system, the achievements of the project were evaluated periodically by the World Bank team.

An emphasis on the monitoring of the indicators was made, taking into consideration qualitative aspects as well as quantitative ones. For example, in the case of the number of owners that are members of the Private Conservation Forum or the number of owners that realize conservation activities, an exhaustive selection was made between the owners of the lands in the prioritized areas for conservation in Bolivia and the same criterion was used for the extension of the lands under private protection, meaning that when we talk of approximately 90.000 hectares that were promoted towards private conservation through the project, we are referring to an addition of extensions located in critical sites for the conservation in Bolivia.

(6) Cost - Effectiveness

As a result of the investments made in the development and dissemination of technical and legal tools, the creation of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum, and the creation and management of pilot areas, a basis has been established with which to replicate experiences in other private areas of interest for biodiversity conservation. This aspect has been clearly demonstrated with the 30 requests for support received and fulfilled by PROMETA via technical and legal assistance to these areas (RAPs, POPs, and economic sustainability analyses). In addition to all these supported initiatives, there is potential for replication of all the experiences to all potential landowners identified and those still to be identified by the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum.

Furthermore, the inclusion of social actors into private conservation was achieved. Prior to this project, collective landowners or social groups (*indigenous* TCOs and *campesino* communities) had not been taken into account for private conservation activities in the country, thereby

projecting an erroneous image that this activity is reserved only for large, individual landowners of a higher socio-economic stratum.

Without a doubt, one of the main achievements of this project was that it initiated a movement in favor of biodiversity conservation in Bolivia involving civil society, whose organizations themselves have been strongly motivated and strengthened as a result of all of the tools and concepts developed during these three years of project implementation.

(7) Special circumstances

Socio-political situation in the country

During the project's implementation period, the country suffered three serious socio-political crises (February 2003, October 2003 and June 2005) that affected the project and delayed the implementation of some activities. Two of these crises resulted in changes in government that were followed by the change of all authorities in the environmental agencies. These activities were rescheduled and later successfully carried out.

Nevertheless, these socio-political crises have also generated opportunities for private conservation. For example, as a result of these events, a Constitutional Assembly is being organized and the idea of departmental autonomy has been introduced. These two reforms represent a ripe scenario in which to re-propose biodiversity conservation topics including private conservation at different decision making levels, and possibly to introduce topics not formerly contained in national agendas.

Land titling—legal security of land tenancy in the country

One of the main requisites for constituting and registering Private Conservation Units in Bolivia is that their limits not be in conflict (with neighbors, overlaps, etc.), and that their property rights be clearly demonstrated. These requirements are fulfilled by means of a limits verification and titling process that is being undertaken by the National Agrarian Reform Institute. The process is much too slow: In ten years, only 13% of national territory has been processed, leaving massive territories with important biodiversity values unprocessed. This means that most private properties do not yet qualify as potential PCUs.

Due to the legal insecurity of private property in the Amazon nut producing region of the Department of Pando, the planned activities for Pilot Area III had to be reprogrammed several times. For example, the definition of the PCU was changed three times, and the project finally had to overcome problems associated with the inadequate technical rules governing Amazon nut production, as well as the narrow vision on the part of INRA with respect to the justification of the Social and Economic Function of land relating to forest conservation and sustainable use of forest products.

Absence of regulations for the procedure and inscription into the SNAP of private protected areas

In spite of the fact that the regulations were not approved for the declaration and inscription of private protected areas into the SNAP, PROMETA has worked with SERNAP to promote their approval, and will continue to do so in support of this goal.

(8) Institutional Capacity / Partner Assessments:

Technical capacity

PROMETA is a private, not-for-profit organization, whose mission is to "contribute to the conservation of the environment to improve the quality of life of the Bolivian people." In this sense, one of the strategies of the organization is biodiversity conservation, and since 1990 it has been working in four of Bolivia's 21 national protected areas with five operational programs: Protection and vigilance support to sustainable production, investigation, environmental education, and strengthening of local organizations.

Since 2000, PROMETA has integrated the topic of private conservation into its organizational strategy, and has formed and trained a legal-technical team that developed, prior to the present project, a preliminary analysis of legislation and technical tools for the declaration and management of Private Conservation Units in Bolivia, which was followed by some workshops for the discussion and exchange of criteria on private conservation.

Beginning in the same year, members of PROMETA's technical team participated regularly in different international workshops and conferences about private conservation, acquiring great capacities on the topic, and at the same time, positioning the organization nationally and internationally as the reference point on private conservation matters in Bolivia. As a result, PROMETA has been invited on various occasions to participate in international private conservation projects and initiatives by the following organizations: SEPA association of conservation organizations of America—IDEA, Paraguay; PRONATURA, Mexico; CEDARENA, Costa Rica; CEDA, Ecuador; Fundacion Neuquen, Argentina; CODEFF, Chile; Foundations of Success, USA, Land Trust Institute, USA, Environmental Law Institute, USA, MIIS, USA. PROMETA participated in a study of private conservation in Latin America, promoted by the ELI, the Alliance of Private Conservation Networks of Latin America, and others.

Nationally, several of the landowners identified as having potential conservation areas in the present project took the initiative to contact PROMETA due to their interest in the topic. Furthermore, PROMETA is a partner of, or has signed agreements with, the main conservation organizations in the country, such as The Nature Conservancy, FAN, CIPA, LIDEMA, FCBC, IYA, SAVIA, etc. In many cases, these alliances have facilitated the implementation of the present project, such as the case of implementing Pilot Areas II and III, in the creation and strengthening of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum, and in the identification of potential areas in critical areas for biodiversity conservation.

Administrative capacity

PROMETA's accounting and administrative systems are adequate and contain the standard controls over goods and assets, and provide adequate information about the financial position and project results in accordance with World Bank requirements.

(9) Evaluation of Incremental Costs Analysis:

With the implementation of the project, PROMETA was able to fulfill all of the established goals, as well as reaching additional goals. These are summarized in the following table:

Component	Cost category	Costs US\$	Global benefits	Additional achievements
	Baseline	70,000	Procedures for the creation and management of private conservation units defined.	Technical tools adapted for their application in
	GEF Alternative		Procedures and incentives for the creation and management of private conservation units established and validated.	Private Conservation Units. Introduction of two new legal figures: Conservation easement and usufructo. Legal
Regulatory framework and incentives	Increment	111,150		analysis for the establishment of PCUs in collective properties like TCOs.
	Baseline	1 700 000	Private landowners of NPPRs and NGOs with inadequate land management and without measurement of results	In addition to the four pilot areas programmed in the project, three others were established, for a total of
Pilot areas and	Bassino	1,700,000	Best practices identified to improve management and measurement of results in existing and new conservation	seven pilot areas created and managed, each with different characteristics of
land acquisition demonstration	GEF Alternative Increment	2,294,250 594,250	_	employed and type of property
	Baseline	90,000	Private conservation strategies defined Private conservation	POPs, RAPs, and financial
	GEF Alternative	381,050	strategies and instruments formulated, discussed, tested and applied.	sustainability analysis carried out in 15 properities in addition to
New initiative development	Increment	291,050		pilot areas. A total of 91,242 hectares supported by conservation activities of the project.
	Baseline	150 000	SERNAP and judicial authorities knowledgeable about private conservation legal instruments	
		1.00,000	Private landowners have the necessary information to replicate pilot experiences and to apply legal instruments and	
4. Dissemination	GEF Alternative Increment	246,350 96,350	incentives	

III. Summary of principal lessons learned

1. Establish adequate legal figures to remove obstacles for the creation of private protected areas

Taking into consideration the current socio-political situation in the country, a detailed legal analysis carried out by PROMETA through the project identified the following as the most appropriate legal figures for the establishment of private protected areas in Bolivia: i) Natural Patrimony Private Reserve, ii) Conservation Easement, and iii) Usufruct. All of these figures have provided an important degree of legal security to landowners, given that they allow the legal registration of PCUs by the authorized governmental agency.

While the first two figures have been previously tested in other countries and similar situations, the usufruct has been introduced as a new legal figure based on the analysis carried out under the project. It consists of a real right of limited duration on the property of another. The holder of a usufruct has the right to use and receive profits from the activities developed in the property. It is fully recognized in the Bolivian civil code in its articles 216 through 248. It can be constituted on rural properties—an ideal situation for establishing private conservation units, given that the property's owner can "give" the property in the quality of a usufruct to another legally recognized person or organization, which can then use the property for the development of conservation and sustainable use purposes.

The benefit of this alternative is that it offers an alternative for a landowner interested in conserving the property but unable to do so for lack of financial resources, insufficient technical knowledge, or other reasons. The landowner has the option to grant the property as usufruct to another person or environmental organization, which in turn will carry out conservation activities. The usufruct can be registered in the real estate registry and be opposed by third parties.

The main obstacles identified for the strengthening of the private conservation sector in Bolivia are illegal human colonization, government vision of the justification of the Economic and Social Function of land, government disincentives, and economic needs of landowners. The most important aim of further research and the creation of new legal figures is to provide legal security to landowners regarding property rights—no figure should attempt to undermine property rights or give place to situations such as land traffic.

2. Create incentives for private conservation

The consultancy document "Analysis and development of incentives for private conservation in Bolivia," carried out as part of the present project, demonstrated that government incentives for private conservation in the country are practically non-existent. The exception is the rural property tax exemption applicable to NPPRs, and even this is not an effective incentive. Additionally, it was shown that there are more disincentives than incentives, such as a minimal cost per hectare for permission to clear cut forest areas. This reflects the parochial vision of the INRA with respect to recognizing conservation activities as a valid justification of the Economic and Social Function (FES) of land, etc.

The land policy framework of 1996-2006, while pointed in the right direction to make land tenure more equitable, secure, and sustainable, was implemented in an inconsistent and often ineffective manner. The implementation of the INRA Law 1715 has fallen far short of expectations, particularly in reverting underutilized lands to the State for distribution, and in improving equity in land distribution. Land taxation is failing to create an incentive structure to improve land

utilization and open up land markets. Indigenous land titling has advanced, but the process has been characterized by conflict and many claims have not been addressed. A system of protected areas is operating, but some of the protected areas are being logged illegally and are subject to clearing for cattle ranching, soybean cultivation and small farmer agriculture. New approaches are called for with the same goals but with better tools and more effective institutional arrangements. Instead of the legalistic, process-driven experience of the past, which has not proven sufficient or effective, policy and institutions should be driven by specific objectives and institutions held accountable for their achievements.

Land policies need to work to support a model of growth and poverty reduction that generates employment, improves living standards, promotes social inclusion and a positive investment climate, and maintains environmental sustainability. The unequal distribution of land and capital in the fertile and expansive lowlands, segmented and exclusive land markets, the problematic management of forests and indigenous territories, and a scarcity of arable land and poor connections to market in the densely populated highlands, tend to keep employment low in rural areas and perpetuate rural poverty.

Under this context, both for individual and collective private landowners, the cost-benefit issue plays a fundamental role at decision making time over what to do with a specific property. Among the identified landowners there is a small minority that practice conservation out of a "love of nature," combined with the fact that their economic situation allows them to allocate resources to this end. However, it has been seen that for the majority, mainly collective landowners, the incorporation of conservation into national economic activities is indispensable, either through the search for national and/or international markets for biodiversity products, the promotion of ecotourism, economic policies that favor this sector, etc.

New approaches are called for to improve the use of natural resources and promote an inclusive development of agriculture, making good on the promises of decentralization for local services, indigenous autonomy and forests and conservation. This needs to be closely linked to a pro-poor system of administration of justice. Land is one of the flashpoints of conflict and has an important role to play in contributing toward growth and equity in Bolivia. The way that land access, land use, and land administration are handled will likely determine the probabilities of improved productivity, employment and equitable growth. The different legal alternatives offered through the project to establish private conservation units are an initial step towards establishing a good incentives package for landowners.

3. Develop an integration space for stakeholders such as the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum

A national land titling process is currently underway in Bolivia, and for this reason, private landowners are looking for legal security for their properties so that they are not overtaken by squatters or expropriated. Some landowners have tried to obtain legal security by creating Private Conservation Units for this purpose only, and with the intention of later making the properties productive without much concern for environmental sustainability. Faced with this situation, the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum was constructed as an integration space for stakeholders interested in private conservation, and the organizers have been careful not to allow the Forum to provide support to landowners for the purpose of obtaining legal security. This risk has been minimized through the participation and involvement of all interested sectors, and the process itself of training and planning of the Forum has avoided the incursion of personal interests.

4. Identify and clarify the advantages of private conservation

It is estimated that once the land titling process has concluded, approximately 50% of Bolivian territory will legally be in private hands; it is clear that a large portion of critical and important areas for biodiversity conservation will belong to private landowners. On the other hand, SERNAP currently lacks the necessary organizational and financial structure to be able to adequately protect all critical areas. Thus, private conservation has the great advantage of being able to fill the following voids—Conservation in non-public land, and support and complementary nature to SERNAP's activities.

Private conservation presents greater possibilities for attracting and working with different sectors such as the forestry sector, Amazon nut producers, cattle ranchers, farmers, *campesino* communities, TCOs, etc., and to commit them to sustainable management of their activities.

5. Strengthen the role of the state in private conservation

Due to many factors, the government has not yet assumed a position as head of the sector of biodiversity conservation with respect to private and municipal conservation in the country. The creation of stronger linkages to the state is considered to be highly important. Following the vast experience and working relationship of PROMETA with SERNAP in the co-administration of national protected areas, several attempts have been made to involve the state in project activities, including its participation in training workshops, document validation, exchange of criteria, and the creation of the Bolivian Private Conservation Forum. This contact should be strengthened in the future to achieve the approval of policies, instructions and decrees that allow for greater recognition of civil society and local actors in biodiversity conservation.

6. Link private protected areas to key economic and social issues

Through the development of adequate legal figures and the process of establishing private protected areas, the project team realized that such processes could not take place or be achieved without considering key aspects of the Bolivian national economy and social context. One of the most important experiences was related to the identification of landowners and pilot areas in the department of Pando in 2003. One of the significant impediments to private conservation in Pando was the lack of definition of property rights, due to the slow and conflictive process of land titling underway by the INRA. Following an extensive effort on the part of the nut producers, the government finally legalized the implementation of Amazon nut management plans in 2005, paving the way for viable economic activities on this and other private protected areas.

It was clearly evident from the beginning that there was a need for a legal framework to provide a justification of the economic and social function of the conservation of low impact productive activities such as Amazon nut gathering, which is considered by INRA as an extractive and unregulated activity. These characteristics generated legal insecurity and impeded land titling in accordance with the interests of this productive sector despite the fact that the department of Pando harbors rich biodiversity and that activities such as Amazon nut collection is compatible with biodiversity conservation.

At the same time, the national coordination group of the Federation of Campesinos has been looking for free land in the country with which to carry out colonizations. They found support in the INRA law to demand land in the department of Pando, representing a threat to biodiversity conservation in this territory. In this sense, the latent danger is that the lands of the humid tropical forest become colonized lands and that the new tenants will use the land in unsustainable ways.

Likewise, other impediments in the zone to establishing biodiversity conservation as a priority include, on

the one hand, the constant change of authorities that interrupt the continuity of activities and provoke leaks and losses of information. On the other hand, another impediment is the fact that there is no strategic development plan for the Department of Pando to guide activities towards the valuation of the region's great natural wealth and biodiversity.

The Amazon nut productive chain is of the utmost importance for the department of Pando. Seventy percent of the population depends on it for a significant part of their livelihood, and it generates on average some 30,000 permanent jobs, benefiting around 8,000 families (80% women and 20% men), 15,000 harvesters, as well as plant employees and transporters. This in turn creates a ripple effect in indirect employment. In 2003, the contribution of Amazon nuts to GDP was more than US\$36 million. Of all the Amazon nut production in the country, 20% is carried out in the Iturralde province of La Paz and the Vaca Diez province of the department of Beni; the remaining 80% is carried out completely within the department of Pando, which is the greatest producer (1.5 million cartons of Amazon nuts per year—1 carton = 23 Kg.).

The INRA hopes to grant titles equivalent to 50 hectares per landowner in the Amazon nut region; however, the producers declare that the minimum surface area necessary to guarantee the subsistence of a family based on production rates is 500 hectares per family, a size that allows for collection on foot, and at the same time yields some rubber collection, hunting, and subsistence agriculture. For commercial production, more than 500 hectares would be required, including some minimum investment in collection infrastructure.

The vision of Pando to solve the problem is to approve an instrument that incorporates Amazon nut producers into the Forestry Law, in order to legalize the activity. As such, in 1998, in Puerto Rico, Pando, a first seminar was held to solve the problem, and the voids in the current legislation were recognized.

In October 1999, during the government of General Hugo Banzer, Decree No. 25532 was issued, by means of which the Amazon nut establishments were recognized as forest concessions. Nevertheless, because of a series of disagreements between the Amazon nut sector and the government with respect to the contents of this decree, it was never applied.

Continuing their struggle, the producers achieved the legalization of Amazon nut production. With Supreme Decree No. 27572 issued on June 17, 2004, a disposition was put into effect that regulates the land titling procedures in the northern Bolivian Amazon region, taking into account the production of non-wood forest products and the sustainable use of renewable natural resources. The most important aspects of this decree are:

- Grant to each producer or family 50 hectares and a forest concession for non-wood forest products in public land with a surface area of no more than 15,000 hectares.
- Grant 500 hectares to *campesino* communities that live on Amazon nut production, a size calculated based on the minimum unit per family.

What remained unclear and was not regulated by the decree was Amazon nut production on private property.

Finally, on March 28, 2005, the Ministry of Sustainable Development through the Viceministry of Natural Resources and Environment approved technical regulations for the formulation of management plans for Amazon nuts (*Betholletia excelsa Humb&Bonpl.*) with Ministerial Resolution No. 77/2005. This resolution fills the gap in the Forestry legislation and allows for the implementation of Amazon nut management plans. Currently these regulations are being applied with the formulation of the Amazon nut Management Plan on Mr. Daniel Priest's property (Pilot Area III of the project).

7. Actively monitor other administrative aspects

There were some problems concerning the reception of disbursements on the programmed dates, which in some cases delayed the implementation of activities. In addition, the focus of the first audit was not considered adequate, being that it was too theoretical and not sufficiently oriented toward the achievement of the project's objectives.

In relation to the support provided by the World Bank in administrative and technical matters of the project, it is important to emphasize the invaluable cooperation and willingness of the Project Manager who on many occasions facilitated these processes.

IV. Financial Management Status

2003-2004 Financial Statements

The Financial Management Specialist has reviewed the audit report issued by the firm Berthin Amengual & Asociados on the 2003 and 2004 financial statements of the Project.

Project Financial Statements

Overall conclusion. This report contains the information required and the figures shown for funds received during the period under review, in general matching Bank records. The work performed by the auditors complies with the terms of reference approved by the Bank and therefore the report is acceptable to the Bank. You will find below a summary of the results of the review and a letter addressed to the Recipient communicating those results.

Audit opinions. The auditors issued unqualified (clean) opinions on the Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds, the Statement of Cumulative Investments, the SA Statement.

Compliance issues. In general, the auditors reported that PROMETA complied with the terms of the agreement and applicable laws and regulations, except for the fact that a certain contract, in which ToRs were supposed to be sent to the Bank in observance of the agreements reached in a supervision mission, did not receive the Bank's no objection. However, this situation is being clarified and monitored through the review and approval of the procurement plan.

Internal Controls. The auditors reported some minor issues that the entity needs to address.

January-December 2005

Overall conclusion. The report contains the information required and the figures shown for funds received during the period under review, in general. match with Bank records. The work performed by the auditors complies with the terms of reference approved by the Bank and therefore the report is acceptable to the Bank. However, the review of the report has revealed that SA funds were used to make payments after the project closing date. AS discussed, this amount of US\$ 24,105 may need to be refunded to the Bank with PROMETA's own resources.

Audit opinions. The auditors issued unqualified (clean) opinions on the Statement of Sources and Uses of Funds, the Statement of Cumulative Investments, the SA Statement.

Compliance issues. In general, the auditors reported that PROMETA complied with the terms of the agreement and applicable laws and regulations. However, they did not reported as non-compliance the use of SA funds after the closing date.

Internal Controls. The auditors' report on internal controls did not report any internal control issue. All the issues reported last year have been corrected.

ANNEX I

PRIVATE PRESERVATION UNITS SUPPORTED THROUGH THE PROJECT

Pilot Area I: El Corbalán

Located in Gran Chaco province in the Department of Tarija, the approximate area of El Corbalán is 4,500 hectares. It was elected as Pilot Area I due to the fact that it was one of the first existing private initiatives in Bolivia. It was acquired by PROMETA in 1996 with the goal of initiating preservation tasks in a representative zone of the Dry Chaco. In 2001 it attained the legal status of Private Reserve of Natural Patrimony (PRNP).

Once the area was constituted, management and consolidation activities were initiated. The 2004-2009 Management Plan was elaborated, published and implemented. The Financial Sustainability Plan, Monitoring Plan and Eco-tourism and Focusing Plan for Scientific Research also were implemented.

In 2001, IDEA of Paraguay and PROMETA–IYA of Bolivia signed a framework agreement to establish a trans-frontier private preservation area. In this way, the first bi-national preservation area was constituted in Latin America, combining management and preservation efforts between Paraguay's "Cañada El Carmen" and Bolivia's "El Corbalán" units. The goal for the future is to declare the area a "Parque de Paz" due to the historical importance of the Chaco War (1932 – 1935).

Pilot Area II: Laguna Verde

"Laguna Verde" is pilot area II of the project. It is located in the Department of Santa Cruz, in the Municipality of Comarapa; it has an approximate extension of 130 hectares. This area preserves a forest Estate containing high species diversity within the Bolivian Tucumanian Forest.

Given the area's characteristics—its being a representative zone of the area due to the presence of humid forest that allows water interception and recharge, its scenic beauty, and its having productive and agricultural units with the collaboration of Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza (FAN) (Friends of Nature Foundation)—it was granted an Ecological Civil Right of Way for the preservation and sustainable management of local resources.

This Right of Way was established among the proprietor (Pinto family – Servant Property) and PROMETA – FAN (Domineering Property). The experience resulting from this area's implementation is of high importance for demonstrative ends since it engaged different actors—the Servant Property and Domineering Property—than those traditionally involved.

Ecotourism and environment education were identified as potential area vocations when the Management Plan was elaborated and published, after having been validated by the key actors. A guard station was also built and equipped, in addition to interpretation paths with signs and fencing to mark the area's boundaries.

This area also has a Compound Ordinance Plan, Financial Sustainability Analysis, Monitoring Plan and promotional material.

Pilot Area III: Los Laguitos

Daniel Priest is the proprietor of "Los Laguitos." This property is located in the department of Pando and spans an area of 415 hectares, of which 175 were legally designated a Private Reserve of Natural Patrimony (PRNP) and oriented toward the preservation and sustainable management of the chestnut. In the remaining 240 hectares, ecotourism and sustainable fishing activities are practiced.

The Reserve is located in the zone that belongs to the Amazon Forests of Pando. Both the Amazon Jungle and the Chestnut were targeted for preservation not only for their ecological significance, but also because the forest represents the main source of food, housing and income (primarily in the form of wood and non-wood products) for the people of Pando.

The area has small lakes and bathing resorts that permit family recreation and sport fishing activities, demonstrating its high ecotourism potential. In this way, the area demonstrates the potential complementariness of preservation activities and ecotourism.

In "Los Laguitos" area management activities were initiated with the elaboration of the Integral Preservation Management Plan, which focused on Ecotourism and Chestnut Sustainable Management. A Guard station, an interpretation center, and marked paths were built. The area has undergone a Financial Sustainability Analysis, and it has Compound Ordinance Plan and promotional materials.

Pilot Area IV: Alarachi

Pilot Area IV, located in the Department of Tarija, is owned by PROMETA and has an extension of 5,000 hectares. It is composed of three farms: Cuyambuyo, Cayotal and Alarachi. Its importance arises from the fact that it is part of the Tariquía–Baritú Bi-national Ecological Corridor, linking Tariquia National Flora and Fauna Reserve in Bolivia with Baritú National Park in Argentina. Moreover, this area has the potential to prevent fragmentation of the Tucumanian-Bolivian eco-region.

Alarachi, due to its bio-diverse richness and its scenic beauty, has significant eco-tourism potential, and its preservation complements SERNAP's efforts at Tariquía Flora and Fauna Reserve in Tarija. Key infrastructure was provided to enhance ecotourism prospects—a lodge was built, interpretation paths were constructed, and a bus with the capacity to carry up to 25 tourists was purchased.

While a proposal for the implementation of an eco-tourist circuit in the area was elaborated, environmental education and eco-tourism strategies were consolidated. Agreements were reached with national universities to develop implementation studies for permanent parcels, flower diversity, nursery installation for native species, and a water quality study with bio-indicators.

Management studies were undertaken by academic and scientific institutions, among them, Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado (Bolivia), Glasgow University (England) and OIKOS foundation of Argentina.

A Guidebook to Fowls and, separately, to Butterflies were elaborated and published, and a case study that explains the creation, consolidation, strengthening and management processes of the Tariquía–Baritú Ecological Corridor was published. There are also promotional materials.

Other areas and private preservation initiatives supported by the Project

In addition to the creation, consolidation and implementation of four pilot areas, the creation and/or management of three additional areas through the project was supported: La Capilla, Itika Guasu and El Charal. Also, 22 preservation initiatives were supported.

La Capilla

The Ecological Civil Right of Way, constituted in 2004 among the neighboring proprietors of PROMETA (Domineering Propriety, with a surface of 53 hectares) and Milton Bass Werner (Servant Propriety, with a surface of 64 hectares), had the objective of protecting the eco-system of the Puna. It is located in the zone of influence of the Biological Reserve of Sama Mountain Range of Tarija and belongs to the region of Northern Puna – Semi Humid Puna.

In this area a Rapid-Ecological (RAP) Evaluation and a financial sustainability analysis was done that identifies the area's potential for self sustainability—lima bean cultivation and the sustainable management of the Llama were identified. This area is a clear example of existing compatibility between bio-diversity preservation and productive activities

Itika Guasu

With the support of the Garfield Foundation and the project, negotiations were made with the Itika Guasu Original Community Land (OCL) of the Guaraní people for the consolidation of a private preservation area within its territory. The OCL has an area of 68.000 hectares and has an approximate population of 3800 inhabitants.

Following the constitution of this area, there is likely to be a concerted effort to preserve the palm species, which is of great importance for Guaraní women due to the fact that it is raw material for their crafts.

To work in this Guaraní OCL an inter-institutional cooperation agreement was signed among PROMETA, the CERDET¹ and the Itika Guasu "Tembiaporenda" Indigenous Association through which the three institutions commit themselves to improving efforts for palm preservation. Following this agreement, visits to the OCL and different studies were undertaken to determine the zone where the protected area will be declared. Discussion sessions were held about private preservation with members of GPA (Guaraní People Assembly) and Tembiaporenda association members. This experience shows how useful private preservation can be as an instrument of territory management for community proprietors.

El Charal

This compound consists of 300 hectares, of which 227 have been constituted as Private Reserve of Natural Patrimony (PRNP). The area is located in the Southwestern part of the Department of Beni, forming part of the buffer zone of the Biosphere Reserve and Pilón Lajas Indigenous Territory (BRPLIT) and the Vilcabamba-Amboró Corridor.

¹ "Centro de Estudios Regionales de Tarija", Non Governmental Organization, non profit that has been working from many years ago with the Indigenous people of Department of Tarija.

The area is property of Bolivia Exporta Foundation, an entity dedicated to the promotion, increase and diversification of exports.

The area's goal is to preserve an important transitional sample between the Yungas and Amazon flora to contribute to the protection of natural processes in the buffering zone of the Biosphere Reserve and Pilón Lajas Indigenous Territory. The Compound Ordinance Plan was elaborated to determine the potential and to plan management of natural resources.

Agüita Clara

The private preservation unit "Agüita Clara" is the property of Luis Bascopé. Located in the Department of Beni, the area consists of 5,954 hectares. It is located in the Amazonic Southwestern Forest eco-region and the Amazonic Forest Sub-eco-region. With the aim of supporting the area's preservation objectives, a Rapid-Ecological evaluation was conducted.

Estancias Espíritu

Estancias Espíritu Wild Life Refuge is property of the Elsner brothers. It is located along the Southern extreme of the Yacuma River of the Department of Beni. It has an area of about 30.000 hectares.

The area was surveyed with a Rapid-Ecological Evaluation due to the fact that it corresponds to the flood Savanna eco-region not represented in the National Protected Area System

La Batalla

"La Batalla" is a private preservation unit located at Km. 200 of the municipality of Guayaramerín in the Department of Beni.

This area, property of Hilda Mansilla, spans 5954 hectares. The area is located in the Amazonic Southwestern Forest eco-region; it consists of Amazonic flood forest.

In the area a Rapid-Ecological Evaluation was made, supported by a financial sustainability analysis that identifies main uses and economic potentials such as ecotourism and medicinal plants. Currently, sustainable forestry and cattle activities are practiced.

Caraparicito - Yagüapoa

This Private Reserve of Natural Patrimony is located in the Cordillera province in the Department of Santa Cruz. This area, property of Ronald Larsen, covers 2334 hectares and belongs to the Tucumanian-Bolivian Forest eco-region. A Rapid-Ecological Evaluation was done.

Refugio Ocorotú

This private preservation unit, property of Ovidio Roca, is located to the Northwest of the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra in the municipality of Buena Vista. It is located in the sub-Andean Amazonic forests and the Chiquitos Dry Forest ecoregions.

A Rapid-Ecological Evaluation and financial sustainability analysis were done, and ecotourism, research tourism, and tree fern and palms cultivation were identified as sources of income generation.

San Sebastián

"San Sebastián" Private Reserve of Natural Patrimony is owned by Lutz Werding. It is located in the Municipality of Concepción in the Department of Santa Cruz. It has an area of 1705 hectares and it is located in the Chiquitos Dry Forest eco-region. The area was supported by a Rapid-Ecological Evaluation.

Santa Rosa-San Antonio

The Santa Rosa and San Antonio farms of 2146 and 2430 hectares, respectively, are located in the Department of Santa Cruz, Municipality of San Matias. Three ecoregions are represented in these sites: Chiquitos Mountainous Regions, Chiquitos dry Forest and Great Pantanal Flooding Savannas.

This private preservation unit is property of Guillermo Bauer, and was supported by a Rapid-Ecological Evaluation.

Yatiguigüa

Yatiguigua is a Preservation unit, property of the Wachtel family. It is located in the Municipality of Choreti in the Department of Santa Cruz. It has an area of 2854 hectares and it is located in the mountainous Chaco Forest eco-region.

The area was supported with a Rapid-Ecological Evaluation, and with the elaboration of the Compound Ordinance Plan through which different uses and capacities have been defined. Furthermore, a financial sustainability analysis has been developed that identifies the area's ecotourist potential.

This private preservation unit forms part of the Haciendas del Chaco Network, which forms an eco-tourist circuit.

Cuyambuyo

Cuyambuyo Private Reserve of Natural Patrimony, property of PROMETA, is one of three areas that form part of the Alarachi Natural Reserve (Pilot area IV of the project). It is located in the Municipality of Padcaya of the Department of Tarija with an approximate area of 120 hectares.

The main objective of the area is to link the Tariquía–Baritú Bi-national Ecological Corridor, and to complement preservation efforts and objectives of SERNAP's Tariquía Flora and Fauna Reserve. It is in the Bolivian-Tucumanian Forest eco-region.

In the area a Rapid-Ecological Evaluation was made, and the principal vocations identified include ecotourism and scientific research.

Sidras

This preservation unit, property of the Conzelmann family, is located in the Arce province, Department of Tarija with an approximate area of 619.5 hectare. It is located in the Bermejo Sector, also known as the Tariquía-Baritú Bi-national Ecological Corridor. The area was supported with a Rapid-Ecological Evaluation.

Cabañas de Max

This compound, property of Max Raña, is located in the Municipality of Entre Rios in the Department of Tarija. It has an area of 53 hectares and belongs to the Bolivian-Tucumanian Forest eco-region.

In this area a Compound Ordinance Plan was elaborated with the aim of natural resource preservation planning and bio-diversity conservation in accordance to the compound's potential. This study made it possible to identify and determine potential uses and ecological right of ways that affect the surroundings of the area. Currently eco-tourist activities are being pursued.

El Cabildo

This area, property of Cecilio Oliva, is located in the Municipality of Padcaya, Department of Tarija. It has an area of 650 hectares and belongs to the Bolivian-Tucumanian Forest eco-region.

This area was supported with the elaboration of a Compound Ordinance Plan with the aim of orienting natural resource preservation planning and biodiversity conservation in accordance to the compound's potential. It is also hoped that this plan will identify and determine potential uses and ecological right of ways, to designate places for developing cattle fattening in order to obtain class A meat, and to develop an eco-tourist plan, taking into account native forest of bush pine trees and Khewiña. Rupestrian paintings exist inside the compound.

Nueva Naradavan

The area "Cooperativa Nueva Naradavan Ltda." is located in the Municipality of Villa Tunari, Department of Cochabamba. It has an area of 1496 hectares and corresponds to the Yungas ecoregion that represents the rainiest area of Bolivia.

A Compound Ordinance Plan was elaborated to support the unit with the principal preservation values: the formation forests of the Corani Yungas, wild fauna, and rivers or water systems. Thus, the area has great eco-tourist potential, and proprietors have a project already elaborated to pursue this activity.

Avispas - Chapare - Cochabamba

Property of Luís Ramiro Mariscal Anzoleaga, this area is located in the Municipality of Villa Tunari, Department of Cochabamba. It has an area of approximately 212 hectares and belongs to the Yungas eco-region. A Compound Ordinance Plan was elaborated to support the area.

El Paraíso del Tordo

Property of Juan Tárraga and Ursula Wiedemann de Tárraga, this area is located in the Municipality of Entre Rios, Department of Tarija. It has an extension of approximately 172 hectares and belongs to the Bolivian-Tucumanian eco-region.

A Compound Ordinance Plan was elaborated to support the area. The compound's right of way was identified, as was dominion of proprietary species of this bio-geographic province.

Its proprietors have been pursuing preservation and eco-tourist activities for many years, with the objective of offering recreation and environmental education to the visitor through observation and study of natural and cultural values. The area is part of Haciendas del Chaco Network.

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROJECT PUBLICATIONS

- Practical Manual of Private Conservation (1st Edition) Explained summary about legal procedures for the constitution of Private Reserves of Natural Patrimony, Private Protected Areas and Ecological Civil Right of Way.
- Practical Guide of Private Conservation (2nd Edition) Edition that is made of four volumes: Legal Guideline for the Constitution of Private Conservation Units, Guideline for the Elaboration of Handling Plans in Private Conservation Units, Guidelines For Monitoring in Private Conservation Units, Booklet about Private Conservation Forum in Bolivia.
- Let us protect our natural resources Informative pamphlet about main concepts related to private conservation, its importance and legal aspects. Edition directed to collective private owners.
- Let us Paint Nature Complementary publication to the informative pamphlet about private conservation that contains drawings and illustrations to paint that reflect aspects of private conservation, its importance and legal aspects. Edition directed to children of Original Communitarian Lands and Peasant Communities.
- Management Plan of Pilot Area I: El Corbalán Area Management Tool that exposes characteristics of the same, its action programs, chronogram and budget for 2004 2009 periods.
- Management Plan of Pilot Area II: Laguna Verde Area Management Tool that exposes characteristics of the same, its action programs, chronogram and budget for 2006 2008 periods.
- Fowl Guideline of Pilot Area I: El Corbalán Publication about main species of fowl identified in the area with photographs of each one of them.
- Fowl Guideline of Tariquía-Baritú Ecological Corridor Publication about main species of fowl identified in the area (which includes pilot area IV of the project: Alarachi) with photographs of each one of them.
- Fowl Guideline of Tajzara Basin Publication about main species of fowl identified in Tajzara Basin, belonging to the Biological Reserve of Sama Mountain Range.
- Preliminary List about Day Butterflies in Bolivia Scientific document that shows up to date list of day butterflies in Bolivia, revised by specialized researches.
- Private Conservation Contribution to the Conservation of Bio-diversity in Bolivia Publication based upon in modeling as well as Quick Ecological Evaluation studies, realized in existing private conservation units in Bolivia. Text exposes main values that are preserved in legally established areas in the country and show photographs of many of them.
- Memoir of the National Encounter of the Private Conservation Forum in Bolivia Proposals, results and agreements of the National Encounter of the Private Conservation Forum in Bolivia, realized at September 6th, 2005, in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

- Biological Enhancements. Preliminary Studies of three places for one era in the Tariquía-Baritú Ecological Corridor (Bolivia-Argentina). Document that shows biological studies realized at Alarachi National Reserve (pilot area IV of the project), El Cajón (Tariquía Flora and Fauna National Reserve, Tarija) and Finca Los Toldos, private area in Argentina.
- "Andando con la Naturaleza" video ("Walking with Nature"), in which legal tools and procedures are presented for private conservation making in Bolivia
- "Voluntad de Futuro" video ("Will of Future"), about private and municipal conservation.
- Five micro-programs on private conservation to be broadcast through public television.

ANNEX III

