

A Collective Action to Recognize Commons and to Adopt Policies at Multiple Government Levels¹

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Abstract

Any successful attempt at poverty alleviation requires the involvement of all stakeholders in the process. Environmental goods and services are common goods that require common rules to minimize loss. To improve communities' livelihoods and promote conservation, WWF Colombia has developed an innovative empowerment process with the aim of mobilizing organizations and communities to collective action. The process involves a range of actors and aims to encourage them to sign concrete commitments.

This process, co-ordinated by WWF, is known as the *Conversatorio*, a space to resolve conflict over common goods related to livelihoods, governance and conservation. It is a call for dialogue and negotiation. The *conversatorio* process requires intervention at three levels. At the local level, the process requires training, and facilitated negotiation and conflict management amongst interested parties to encourage equitable resource use practices to emerge and promote access to information and participation on decision making. The second and third levels are the regional and national level. Sound governance systems and policy frameworks are needed to promote and increase access to social services.

The *conversatorio* aims to promote a social change when individuals or communities recognize their problems and wants to defend their rights against privatization of commons. WWF Colombia had been replicating this methodology of work with *conversatorios* in 4 different places and communities. More than 60 agreements have been signed among communities, institutions from local, regional and national level, and in some cases with private companies which are compromising to defend commons and redistribute benefits towards a more equitable access and distribution. This presentation explores and analyze lessons learned of these collective action as mechanisms to increase management of commons and how governments recognize them implicating adoption of new policies at different scales.

Key words: *Collective actions, governance systems, partnerships, environmental services*

¹A special thanks to Maria Cristina De Vargas, Tatiana Rodriguez and Sandra Valenzuela Director WWF Colombia program, for its corrections style, as well as, its efforts for the realization of this document, in the same way Carmen Candelo Director of governance & livelihood program for his leadership and teachings in the development of these CACs

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I. Introduction

In Colombia, like any other rich natural resources areas in the world, the commons are inhabited by a population with high level of poverty, with inadequate livelihood alternatives. The geographical location of those communities is usually lacking attention by government entities, which evidence the deficient levels of education and basic health attention. In addition, the problems from political violence, social inequalities and powerful economic groups make this population more dependent of the commons as a livelihood.

In this context, any successful attempt to alleviate poverty requires the involvement of all stakeholders in the process, to facilitate their own conscience and action about the management of environmental resources. To improve communities livelihoods and promote conservation, WWF Colombia with partners institutions have developed an innovative empowerment process with the aim of mobilizing communities, organizations and authorities to a collective action around the commons.

The “Conversatorio for Citizen Action” –CAC- methodology has been ascending in the practice experience from a mechanism to resolve conflicts to a collective strategy to recognize and take responsibility about social and environmental fields, providing skills to the communities to have a better communication with local and national authorities and in this way, more governance. Additionally, the process gives power to the authorities since they consent to commitments that are being followed by the communities, generating a dynamic of the real action in functions of the governmental institutions.

The CAC methodology applied around commons as mangroves, river basin and lake basin in four geographical areas, have resulted in a process of recognition of the stakeholders, offering opportunities to communicate to each other and establish joint working arrangements of action and policies for environmental conservation that improve the quality of life for the inhabitants of the area.

II. Methodology

Following the objective of empowerment capacities in local organizations and communities to procedure as active part in their own development, through actions with influence in the political decisions about commons and collective welfare, in the Governance and Livelihoods Program, WWF has been working with ASDES³ in conflicts resolution projects and found the CAC -Conversatorio for Citizen Action- like a mechanism for negotiation, participation and dialogue between different levels of stakeholders.

³ Corporation Assessorial for Development, that works humans rights and laws for improve livelihood

The CAC process methodology is protected by some principles and fundamentals rights of the 1991 Political Constitution of Colombia. Also CAC process is an opportunity to apply the Law 134 of 1994 of Mechanism of citizen participation and, Law 136 of 1994 of Municipalities that reconfirm the importance of citizen participation and community organization. Colombian Constitution opened participation spaces as expression of sovereignty, as inclusion of the civil society in the concept of Colombian State. However, about the political culture of the country, entities and communities eventually perform the effort necessary for citizen participation in local governance process, especially because the history is full of experiences that show big difficulties to find a valid representative person to talk with, in the institutions and in the communities.

In this context, the CAC methodology is a political education process as well, because it provides elements to create speakers with more knowledge about legal, social, economic and environmental issues in local and national reality (Candelo, 2007). From the communities' side, the stakeholders improving skills and arguments to negotiate with entities day by day found more elements to work together, as well as more people watching over their fulfilments.

It is important to make emphasis about the "Conversatorio's" name. This name comes from the key event where communities, entities and government institutions make agreements about actions that benefit the commons conservation. Those agreements could be in the environmental, developmental, social or political way. The methodology is a process that has other steps accordingly relevant to the success of this meeting event. "The Conversatorio is a complex process, it requires the establishment of the citizen's and the state's capacity to engage and to participate more effectively where the relationship and dialogue has generally been limited" (Beardon 2008).

The CAC methodology starts with a diagnostic of problematic situations, which through a training analysis process will be defined as specific questions to ask to the authority institution responsible by law and has the competence of action. When those questions are clear, and the community is ready to negotiate and the convocation for the "Conversatorio" event is ready to start. The meeting dynamic is based on a "question system" where the community is represented by leaders responsible to make specific questions to the pertinent entity, aim to create agreements of collective action in the solution of the problematic situations identified before by the community as priority. Around those questions, entities and authorities are responsible to answer in a clear way, which makes easier the definitions of agreements to resolve the problematic situation mentioned. In the last part of the "Conversatorio", the signature on the agreements is a protocol that helps in the next step that follows the process after the event.

The CAC process to be defined prior the questions includes diagnosis of local reality including the relevant problematic situations, the identification of possible solutions, roles and functions and the definition of different actors implied, knowledge and skills qualifications. In order to converse properly with the different stakeholders, the community improves its structure, self-confidence, and training skills. They negotiate,

make agreements and follow them after the signature of concrete commitments in the “link document”.

By policy WWF finds in the community a partner organization to work together, this is the principal guarantee to keep a continuous process, it is the best way to go into the community and show from the start the logic of the process: self empowerment to self governance. The community is in charge and responsible of self-development. In the different experiences, partners’ entities and WWF have been working with a local base organization or with a “group” of people from the different municipalities related with the common goal. The “leader base team” is the manager for logistic and daily activities including but not limited to meetings convocation, replaying workshops and training experiences in their own locality, researching primary information and motivating activities to impulse more people participation. The leader team is the principal mediator about communication and information between the people and the entities that impulse the CAC process.

In addition, to build collective social governance the CAC process co-ordinated by WWF requires lobby intervention at three levels from the different actors involved. At the local level, the process entails training. It facilitates negotiation and conflict management among interested parties. It also entails resource use practices to emerge and promote access to information and decision making. It is also important to motivate local authorities and Mayors to participate actively. Sound governance systems and policy frameworks are promoting community access to social services and participation in the building process to a better quality of life.

The second and third levels are the regional and national level, where persistent communication about the process and invitation to meetings are relevant steps to make links for collective action. Moreover, in the regional and national level is possible to find or if is necessary to “reclaim” crucial information for better planning actions around the commons. This second hand information could be take from investigations, institutional management plans, statistic departments, laws and regulations and could be applied in the actions or in the “requirement” of action to the entities. At those levels the activities are directed to make “visible” the problem of the local realities, to inspire entities planning programs with more actions and inversion of resources in solutions for local problematic situations.

With strong emphasis in the first level, which presents reduced tools for negotiation and effective participation, the CAC process has three central steps. However, to create the “work net” necessary for effective actions in long term, the permanently work around the three levels is necessary in the follow steps:

1. Preparation:

In the four experiences done until now, community and local organizations supported by WWF and ASDES, concentrated the first efforts in the recognition of environmental and

social problematic situations that generate conflicts. This process of identification and analysis of context, problems, causes and possible solutions; gives the opportunity to talk about the “vision of the future” as the ideal situation to have from the welfare collective concept. Around those key issues identified begin the stakeholders’ identification and analysis of the possibilities to approach them to the process.

This is the base to start the knowledge preparation: providing information and tools around Colombian Constitution, Laws, political and citizen actions; functions and aims of different governmental and private entities entailing those problematic situations; legal and institutional mechanism to build collective solutions. The training process is around environmental problems, conservancy actions, social cartography, alternative managements, communication skills and relevant activities to improve collective action.

Aim to training for a good negotiation of real and possible commitments in the Conversatorio meeting, the preparation step is defined by the own community; however this step lasted about two to three years in the four experiences done. During this time a considerable amount of events for community training took place. The techniques and tools used in the workshops were selected concerning to the needs of each community including skills, diagnosis process, knowledge and ability to negotiate with powerful argumentation. To understand the reality and the possibilities of change, is important the use of collective and practical exercises in workshops about experimental economic games, DRP –participative rural diagnosis-, Colombian Constitution, laws and regulations, social cartography, entities responsibilities, communications skills between community and civil servant, research information process, environmental forums, expeditions to recognize the situation of others in the locality, and all the relevant issues necessities to empowerment the knowledge of the community about the commons management.

To facilitate the visualization and analysis of information, in the preparation process the information about priorities, stakeholders and institutions is summarized in a different matrix that smooth the progress to the main questions used in the CAC Event.

The Diagnosis matrix shows issues of interest, problematic situations, institution or entity related, and the aim of change, this “vision of the future” is the principal key for negotiation (Candelo 2007).

Interest issues	Actual problematic situation	Future situation desire to get	Institution or entity related with

The second matrix has all the legal concerns of the situation and all the legal aspects about the responsibility of different governmental entities, and their responsibilities.

Interest issues	Institution or Entity related with	Legal context

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The third matrix is centred on entity or entities to ask about the problematic, making a definition of the question to be taken to the Conversatorio.

Themes	Entity Invited	Name of “questioner” from the community
Problematic situation with context characteristics		
Question (ask about action, time and economic resources)		

Other important action in this preparation step is the lobbying with different actors to share the process to generate more appropriation; at the same time the process engender alliances, good will and consent from more actors. It is also the time for approaching and invitation of public and private entities that will be implicate in the necessary commitments and actions to improve the collective common actions.

The duration of the preparation correlates with the hard process of building civil society in a context characterized by poverty, low levels of basic education, vast distances usual in rural places, and the absence in the continuity of community and government authorities to have a permanent dialogue about the action. Aspects as low political culture, low appropriation by the people of the Constitutional mechanism, in addition to the high levels of corruption and “opportunistic” work or “promises” in crucial moments of political elections, are issues which make more difficult the improvement of the collective management of social and commons reality in rural communities.

Permanent remain about process goal in the Conversatorio meeting, result essential motivation to keep the interest of rural communities, because as they said is a great percentage of population “tired” from the institutional intervention without any clear arriving point. People make a big effort on moving, plus stopping their own work and responsibilities to go to the workshops and activities that about shortage in concrete results make feel the assistance and participation in those kinds of events as a “waist of time”. However when they see a clear objective with possibilities of action including governmental entities, as well as the leader community organization in the process is easier to keep their proactive participation. In addition, what keeps them motivated is the possibility to follow up concrete results in fulfilment of the signed commitments on the “link document” result of the event.

This Preparation step comes to an end when the community has adequate levels of skills, abilities and organization logistic to negotiate with the entities. Some indicators are: agreement about the people to represent the community, about the organization’s structure, about the information and knowledge to discuss the questions and the problematic situation related. Finally the participation date is set in a clear way with the purpose of everyone’s assistance (Candelo, 2007).

2. Negotiation:

The negotiation step is defined by the expectation day: the Conversatorio Meeting, where communities, public and private entities and authorities congregate to recognize the community needs and interests besides the aims of entities to reach agreements in specific commitments for actions on management of commons.

The dynamic of the conversation starts with one person from the community who had the question prepared in the previous step and is named the “questioner”. The questioner reads the synthesis of environmental and social context, approaching to the legal obligations (by law) for the public or private entity that the question is directed to. As a request, the question promotes or is aimed to the change for the “desire vision of the future” that the community built in the preparation step.

It is desirable that people in attendance from entities are available to take decisions and make commitments which implicates the real possibilities and resources that the entity actually has. After the Question, the person representing the entity would answer with elements and actions to decrease the problematic situations. The answer would involve actions to be accomplished and to be promoted by the entity, time to be used for and money would be invested on those actions.

Keeping the memories from issues and topics given by the answers, is an advanced task for the secretary team of the event, the group is responsible to give form to the “link document” that will be sing at the end of the entity intervention by the public or private employer representing it in the Conversatorio meeting. Moreover, like control and vigilance entities as “Defensoria del pueblo” and “Personeria” representing individuals are present in the event as well, and they will sign the compromise document, to facilitate the legal validity of the commitments, and the follow up phases.

Usually, the community and entities assistance and the discussion in each question, takes one complete day. It is possible to present and attempt to resolve many relevant circumstances that are not always taking in signed agreements, but are already exposed to the different entities.

One relevant element in this step is the media assistance and its relation with the event, the media information will do marketing for commons management topics, and it will eventually get more participation interest in other sectors of the society. Is through the media, that the visibility of the CAC process could be known and be heard by other communities and entities. Also, the media could be a straight force to transform the commitments in real actions, working as a control mechanism helping the acquisition of goals in the last step of the follow up process.

3. Follow up:

Following up the commitments is perhaps the most important step to obtain real results motivating continuity and advance in the scope of the collective commons management. The responsibility of this step is in the new small group integrated by individuals that have been organizing the Conversatorio event. They work better as a team with the presence of people from different regions which guild ties implicated with the central problematic situation.

This “follow up” group review and check constantly the fulfilment from the public and private entities and if is necessary remain the agreement, and as a last mechanism they are training to use legal tools for demand it.

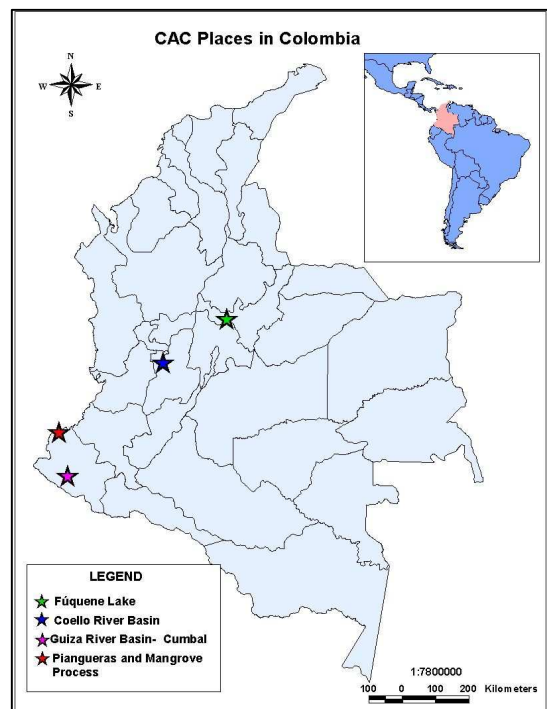
Colombian constitution provides two useful tools to apply for social participation that are “Right petition” and “Tutela”, both of them could be apply to ask for information or to reclaim the fulfilment of commitments signed, that are a legal obligation at specific time and resources to be done.

III. Experiences Context Location

WWF and ASDES together applied the CAC methodology around four commons. Each one has been having different entities and organizations partnerships, from the local and national level to build up the process according to particular characteristics of each region and community.

a. Mangroves and Piangueras

The first experience was developing in Nariño, the southwest department of Colombia. The Pacific coast region with around 145000 km² between Panama, Colombia y Ecuador, is one of the most loaded biodiversity areas in the planet, and has precipitations ranges flanked by 2000 and 13000mm, and is rich in forest with 58% area remains a virgin forest (WWF, 2006). In this context is located the 10th bigger

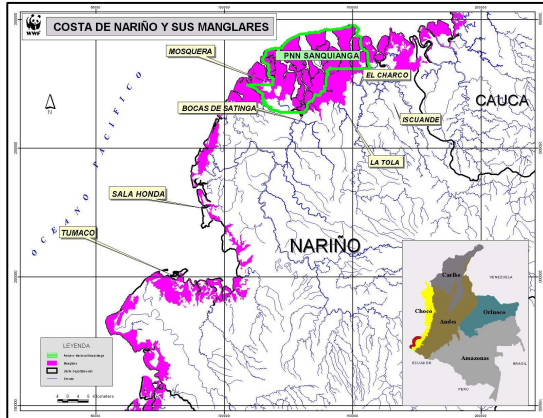


Font: WWF Colombia. 2008

and wide barrier of mangroves in the world with top commons values about biodiversity and water resources, without refer to the gorgeousness of the communities around.

Aiming to conservation and sustainable management of mangroves and the hydro biological resources, making emphasis in the Anadara tuberculosa, named Piangua in the region, started the first practical experience of CAC methodology, having as work

partners the governmental entity of Natural National Park Sanquianga and the local base organization Chonapi integrated by afro-american habitants of the area.



Font: WWF Colombia. 2002

The Piangua is bivalve mollusc that grows and lives in basin of mangroves -between roots into the mud- and it's a nutritional key food for near to 10.000 people distributed in around 125 communities, is the livelihood for different groups, incorporated specially by women who use it to consume or to commercialize. The communities in the region face a complex situation including marginality, poverty, low levels of education reflected in the small percentage of alphabetization, pressure from illegal extraction, presence of armed illegal groups and few alternatives of livelihood. Regarding the reality it was necessary the

promotion of collective work for this strategic conservation area.

The region has one of the 54 Natural National Park present in Colombia. By law the Natural Park Sanquianga is state property where the use of resources is just justified in terms of self-consume, below the rules of a National Park Management Plan, which should be designed with the participation of the communities that live inside and in the borders area or Sanquianga park. This reason by law, as others by livelihood make them work together in the identification of different stakeholders including community, local organizations, public and private entities crucial for the conservation of the mangroves.

Working together intends to inspire the appreciation of values, goods and services that the ecosystem provides to everyone in this specific area; from values as natural resources and ecosystems, including the biological "niche" of species, to the values of commons which provide economic security and preserve ancestral cultural knowledge. However, the social spaces to share and to recognize those values together are unfortunately few (Roldán 2004).

A principal problematic situations found in this experience was the lack of municipally Systems for Environmental Management, water and solid waste without control, high toxic levels in the mangrove, Management Park Planning without community participation, lack of technical information to make better decisions, exploitation of Piangua with no control to consume and illegal exportation to Ecuador. Also some social issues identified were the low level of alphabetization, the risk for kids who spend the majority of time with mothers working in mangroves, with minimum health assistance and lacking educational plans at this municipalities.

Regarding the low level of education in the community about the social, cultural, organizational and political scopes, this first experience was the longest one since the

preparation process took almost five years before the Conversatorio meeting. Items as the strong “oral” culture of the region, the lack of skills to write and read, the neglect from entities, the “no-self-importance” feeling in the people and, the deficient social organization required to start the process by basic levels of education and training.

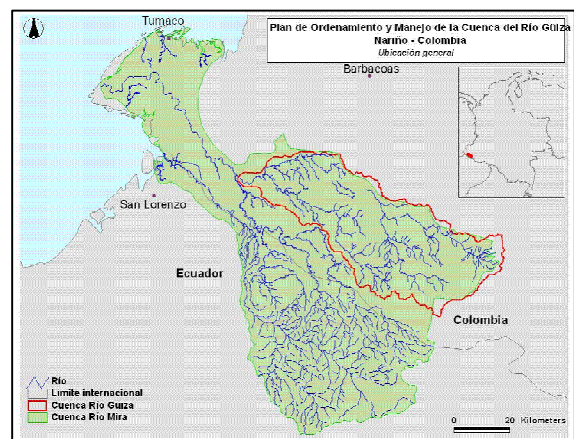
Methodologies as exchange of knowledge, participative diagnosis, social organizational strengthening, learning-making, played roll games in the dialogue with entities. Experimental economic exercises, political, constitutional and legislative training was necessary to apply around commons and society organization. Some particular items of work in this case, had been social civil rights including afro-ethnic rights, collective management of commons, legislation on property of lands and natural park areas.

In the negotiation day, December 11th of 2003, was possible to obtain 50 commitments signed by different public entities related to environmental management system, mangroves conservation, pedagogic rules applied in ethno-educative activities, actions to reduce the high level of illiteracy, warranties about health assistance, alternative productive projects and diagnosis of Piangua exportation to Ecuador.

Besides the fulfilment of agreements, relevant events happened in the follow up step, as the biological research done by universities and national parks entity, welfare projects as the school for kids in Bazan and the supplying motors for boats to smooth the work conditions. And with especial significance in this step, the CAC process acquired a national dimension making out the effort of the community work, throughout the Conservation National Prize given in 2006 by Environmental Minister in the category of Sustainable use and Management of Mangroves. Additionally the community presented a postulation to Ventures competition⁴ and won the 3rd place as Planning project of Business with social profit.

b. River Basin and Native Communities

In Nariño department, was progressed the second experience around a middle river basin at Pacific piedmont of Colombian in the south west. The goal was to work with the conservancy and management of high and middle river Guiza basin, having as partners entities like FES – civil organization from the Natural Reserve named The Planada, which works in research and environmental education.



Font: WWF Colombia 2005

The area comprises near 60.000 ha and 300.000 persons between farmers, indigenous (Awa ethnic) and afro-colombian people, the majority subsists from agriculture activities.

⁴ Competition financed by Colombian economic groups.

As principal problems identified with the community were indiscriminate water and solid (711 ton/year of solid residues), intensive forest degradation, inadequate agro-economic activities, overexploitation and increase of the pressure on resources and contamination of the origin power water, threat of species extinction danger as other indicator that show the high level of vulnerability in the river basin system and the fragility in the future sustainability of the regional ecosystem. This environmental situation is translated in social problems, in welfare ambits like alimentary security, health and the economy.

The CAC worked to get management and zoning under integral focus, potable water for human consumption, defined and highlighted reserve areas for water protection and conservation. To reduce levels of water pollution the team have been working in an Integral Plan of solid waste management and hospital waste, because this problem led the community to the risk of death. Other goal was getting coverage in basic sewer for the majority of residents in the area.

The most important regional economic activity is the production of Panela⁵, but is still produced lacking the knowledge and application of appropriate technologies. Furthermore, among this activity and other factors is a high index of respiratory diseases and parasitism that requires the implementation of environmental sanitation systems, including planning of timely basic health assistance.

The foothills region has particular geological and soils characteristics, including geological faults in the 40% of the basin, making it a high warning area about seismic and volcanic activity. It is important to bring knowledge to the communities about their environment and the potential risk, through Disaster Prevention and Care Plan.

The preparation step in this experience had the advantage of the training that some people accomplished before through Program of Public and Citizen Policies Formation. The CAC process around the Management of the middle and high basin of Guiza River, had an operating committee, which during two years was at the forefront of their preparation, determining principles, philosophies, methodologies and characteristics of the process and doing research about the problematic subjects mentioned above.

The invitation list of stakeholders and questions to take into the Conversatorio Event, were team agreements as a result of weekly preparation workshops, visits, interviews, exchanges, play rolls and memory recover activities as the photography crowd. Moreover in order to meet other basin areas and to go deep in the substantive issues the Water Forum was given, where it was possible to work with the strong “oral” culture of the community.

This experience was marked by several events of public order, including the murder of a community leader Martha Portillo committed by illegal groups days before the event

⁵ Panela is an unrefined food product, typical of Central and South America, especially Colombia, which is basically a solid piece of sucrose and fructose obtained from the boiling and evaporation of sugarcane juice.

negotiation. The murder was not related to the CAC process; however it defined the location and the attitude in the Conversatorio event.

The negotiation event took place on October 27th, 2006 in a capital city outside the basin. With the participation of several entities, it was possible to achieve the signing of 36 agreements related to the topics mentioned in the following table:

- | |
|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Integral Solid Waste Management Plan: 5 commitments2. Basic Sanitation and Water Management: 5 commitments3. Potable Water: 5 commitments4. Improving of Basic Health Assistance and scope: 5 commitments5. Care and disaster prevention: 5 commitments |
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Font: Cantillo & Gonzalez 2008

The monitoring agenda recognizes the following issues about each topic talked in the Conversatorio event: Baseline (initial situation presented at the CAC), Future vision

(target), Institutional commitment (commitment signed), Results for the first year, activities to do, actors involve (stakeholders and possible alliances) and execution time of the activity.

The main achievements of the commitments fulfilled are: Land purchase for the strengthening of micro basin areas, construction of new slaughterhouse which includes the wastewater treatment plant, sewer construction, conformation of a support committee for disaster prevention and mitigation, solid waste treatment plant, and training in business administration. Furthermore, other achievements are the Programs for protected areas and Environmental education in schools; as well as the inversion for the Zoning and Management Plan for the Guiza river Basin, including the property documentation for wasteland territories and the regular monitoring quality of water, hospital waste and environmental health.

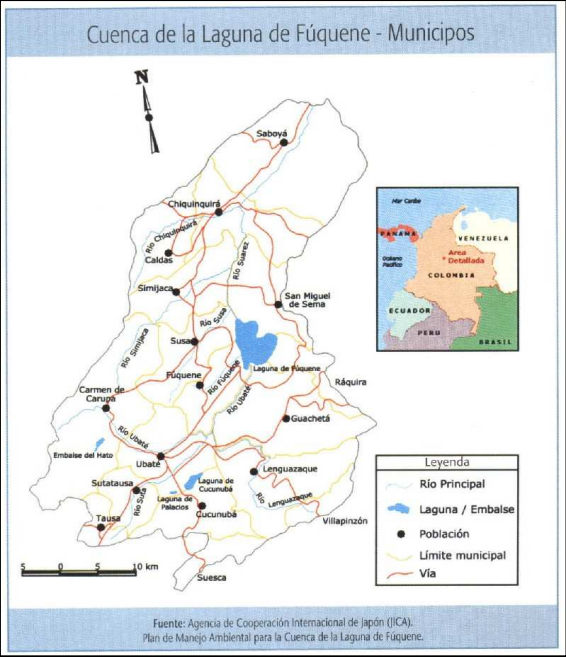
Collective action and the fight for poverty alleviation

In the 2004 the association between Andes University, International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and WWF Colombia decided to work together in Sustaining Collective Action which links Ecological and Economic Scales (Scales project), “combines strategic research on water, poverty and collective action with action research aimed at empowering the poor to engage with environmental authorities and to participate effectively in multi-stakeholder negotiations” (Peralta, et al 2006) in addition to the hypothesis was “the collective action to multiple scales can be an important impact helping communities with scarce resources to gather upper basin with the intention to go out of poverty. Within the activities raised for the development of this project began the process of CAC in two watersheds important for the country, Coello and Fúquene basin.

c. Fishermen actions to protect a Lake basin protection

In the east cordillera of Colombian Andes, two hours distance from Bogotá country capital city, is the location of “Fuquene” lake basin. With around 1.752 km², the lake basin covers around 18 municipalities and support around near 200 miles of habitants.

In the upper basin, people living in mining and agriculture-mainly commercial and



traditional potato-growing. In the middle basin, communities are engaged in agriculture and also livestock. For its part, besides the last activity, in the bottom of the basin people were also devoted to agro-industrial development. Precisely here, where the imposing gap, 50 companies are located in dairy products.

Because of these activities and other actions, the body of water has decreased its size by 75%, and the population in the lower basin feeds its aqueduct from the Laguna and the population receive contaminated water, affecting their welfare and that of nearby towns.

However, over time, state entities have failed to take forceful actions to correct the problem, while organizations that at one point were the cause of the situation, now trying to counter it. So, this entire institutional context has generated a "historic distrust" against state entities and the occasional timely and non-governmental entities.

In addition, the treatment of the problem becomes complex when farmers assume that the problem originates in the lower basin from cattle raising, while cattle raisers believe that originates in the upper part by the chemical inputs used by farmers. In turn, the fishermen who derive their food and means of survival from the Laguna, perceived decline of resource, as well as artisans rush (plant that also grows there), affecting the diversity of the region

Another of the impacts is evident in the quality and quantity of water consumed by people of Chiquinquirá, a nearby village who live mainly from tourism, now its waters are polluted and are becoming increasingly scarce

In this scenario, the SCALES project began its development with support from “Fundación Humedales”, local entity executing the project. These organization works to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystem and its associated facilities. Particular attention is paid to wetlands and focusing its work in local communities.

The preparation process of the Conversatorio of Citizen Action (CAC) began with a poverty study that characterized and identified the municipalities with urgent requirements. With these communities, we conducted economic experiments. The experiments were designed in such a way that we gathered information about collective action in the basin.

After the experiments were conducted, we discussed the general situation of the basin. We measured the impact of the actions carried out in the high basin, as well as the scarcity people is facing because the way the resources have been used.

With these activities, the Fundación Humedales initiated the preparation process, which lasted approximately two years. During that time several activities were conducted, such as strengthening the villager as a citizen, through knowledge of the Constitution and actions that can and should do to get a better quality of life, as well as proper recognition of state-owned entities present in the region. Likewise, developed activities that strengthened the communicative ability of the group and the process, in addition to routes within the basin so that the different actors have in present the problems of the basin and the vision of it. These routes were essential for success in the appropriation of the situation, because usually people only know their local problems without taking into account the regional vision, namely, the vision of the basin.

The group in which it focused most of the work done by the Fundación Humedales was the group of fishermen, located at the bottom of the basin. They already had a prior relationship, with some of the high and middle Lagoon basin communities.

From these procedures we identified the issues to tackle in the CAC. Basically, they were:

- The implementation or enhancement of environmental management systems
- The operation and / or construction of plants for sewage treatment and basic sanitation
- The search for focused actions to reduce contamination on the lagoon
- The paramos conservation
- The quality of water and aqueducts of each village
- Improving the quality of life for residents

This is how the February 28, 2007 negotiation was conducted. 10 government entities attended and 25 agreements were achieved, which will point to each of the items mentioned above. "At this stage of negotiating the great strength is the visibility and positioning of the relationship that acquired both communities involved and the Fundación Humedales. The entities were able to perceive that people know their territory, their problems and their rights" (Cantillo & Gonzalez 2008).

In this negotiation event, the civil society presented two specific projects directed towards the reduction of the problem and the strengthening of relations between state entities and the community, therefore require coordinated action to develop it. Precisely this was one of the accords of special importance within the Conversatorio.

During the follow-up phase, it has been obtaining community participation in several projects and processes promoted by public and private entities concerning the reduction of contamination, prevention of drying and preservation of water from Fúquene Lake, as well as best practices in cattle raising and agriculture to reduce the impact of contamination in the basin.

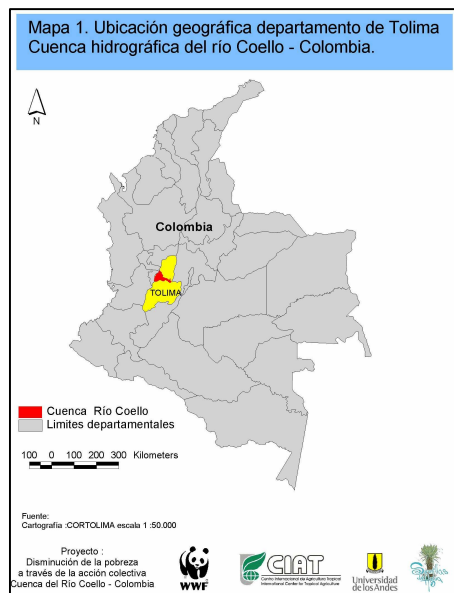
Among these projects are highlighted:

- The use of biofertilizer from composting of aquatic weeds in the lake;
- The biodiversity monitoring in the lake (there is presence of migratory birds, as it happens in many of the wetlands of these savannas)
- The consolidation of fishing regulation

Particularly, the case of fishing regulation has been very important both for NGOs, government entities and the community; see another actor as an ally active in the development of the proposed tasks. It has built a bond of communication and action that was damaged and almost invisible in the context of the situation.

d. Basin of Coello river

The fourth CAC was in Coello river basin, it was about its management and conservation. The basin has an area of approximately 190,000 hectares, occupies the central part of the Department of Tolima. In this develop agro-industrial and domestic activities benefiting a population of approximately one million inhabitants.



Despite its importance and strategic location, the capacity of this basin, as a provider of environmental goods and services, is threatened. This threat is given by conflicts arising from the improper management of soil, contamination from several sources such as organic matter, the excessive use of pesticides, expanding the agricultural frontier, monocultives, unsustainable practices such as slash and burn and the extraction of material towed from rivers, contamination from the cement industry and the water abstraction for irrigation district benefiting mainly rice corps, leaving aside the use of the water: the welfare and human consumption.

Likewise, there is an inequitable distribution of water resources, as well as the access to other public services and education, therefore this affects the quality of life for its residents.

The population is engaged in different productive activities such as agriculture, forestry cattle raising, and other cattle activities, mining and trade. (Cantillo & Gonzalez 2008). For the community one of the main motivations for participate in this process was the

possibility to analyze and make progress in resolving social and environmental problems of the basin.

The organization that promoted the local implementation of the CAC was a corporation Semillas de agua, an organization that works on developing social processes for the improvement of living conditions of men and women and the environment, through participatory and concerted actions of protection, restoration and conservation natural resources, with emphasis on production systems.

These performances was accompanied by leaders of 6 municipalities of the upper, middle and lower basin, among them members of small association of small farmers called APACRA, working for and to implement clean agriculture and food security.

In this process of preparing the group of entities realize studies about poverty in the municipalities, in there identified with the main villages which would work, with them were conducted economical experimental exercises, in there we obtain was able to identify small-scale solutions that benefit the community in front of problems that affect everyone, and to get we need must work together, combining efforts to achieve better results.

Training and work in political and civic capacities, an environmental and legal issue was provided to the leaders. The aim of these activities was to develop new skill and strengths for the day of the negotiations. Some of the achievements for these negotiations were the closure of a mine in the high basin that was contaminated the river that provide water to the community

It was conducted among many other activities that strengthened the villagers to understand the situation and appropriated a meeting called "Water Forum" in which they exchanged ideas and information about theme obtaining in the community awareness in front of his management; one of the main activities that led to understand and work on the concept of basin and the problems that affect everyone was a travel for the basin, where the settlers toured the upper middle and lower reaches of the basin, making assessment of the condition of resources and noting the problems specific to each sector of the basin; and workshops where the communication among other things, they identified a picture and the following slogan for the process: "Upstream, downstream, Coello, music, life and work".

The negotiation was on May 10, 2007 and through questions to be convened achieved 30 agreements between the 14 entities convened, to address the problems affecting the basin, its people and resources. The event highlights the participation of a private company, an irrigation district, with which agreements were reached in front of the abstraction of water in rice cultivation leaving aside human consumption of it.

To follow up the agreements a committee defined by the community, meets every two months or so. In that meeting they review the commitments of the entities, their level of compliance and complementary actions being undertaken, either from the community,

from the State or jointly between the two players, because the process of CAC this was a working channel which was opened and has been successful in carrying out actions to mitigate the problem.

Among the main findings it noted community participation in the Councils of Basins, instance where taking management decisions by them, linked the interests and needs of this process CAC in the action plan of the corporation, entity to administer natural resources in the area, the acquisition of properties and the alliances between regional and national instances for the conservation of paramos⁶; sampling and learning in handling pesticides present in productive activities.

Leaders of the process are identified as actors empowered, trained and committed to protecting the basin, as well as the ability to perform vigilance (“veedurías”), build alliances and generate dialogue within their communities to get better management of the basin and the decline of the situations that affect it.

IV. Social Changing to improve the Collective action to Commons Management

As it is mentioned by other authors about the CAC methodology, it could be very soon to speak about “social change” in the active process of CAC, even more difficult it is to explain causes and demark lines between different changes and reasons. However, it is possible to identify new dynamics and relational elements, like new attitudes that could contribute to social changes around local commons management, and from that point to social changes in other dimensions.

It is important to make emphasis on the Colombian context where many powerful forces legal and illegal, draw visible and invisible limits to the consolidation of those social changes. The social process should be recognized and validated by other actors and dynamics, to grow smoothly into the mixing of forces, without generating feelings to be “dangerous” for others. “The reality that began to emerge through combining the different voices was one of very limited space for change or action” (Beardon 2008)

The CAC process strengthening people abilities and community organization aim to be for qualified speakers and active participators in their welfare and the commons management. This goal, required to develop and to enable people to recognize their problems better, as well as know the environment in which they live and the causes of the problematic situations. The collective search and analysis of information about context, problematic situations, reality and future vision; allow the “grow up” of the community from the typical demanding attitude to be responsible stakeholders of they own welfare in harmony with the environmental context.

This collective recognition, in activities like expeditions around the River Basin, incorporated appropriate issues and facts about environmental resources, where usually the lack of regulations to access and exploitation is identified as a significant

⁶ Neotropical ecosystem

cause for faster decrease of resources. In addition, CAC process stimulates the recognition of values in biodiversity and in favourable actions on nature conservation. Changes in behaviour and organization about use and management of resources, is reflected in the conception of actions. They recognized that it should be a collective work to improve commons management to protect their livelihood and their location of life. This new approach involve changes in values and principles in relation with commons, embracing a new social conscience about problematic situations and resources as a common issue to take care in a collective way, because the deteriorate situation affects everyone and is responsibility of all of us equally.

The knowledge about environmental problematic situations, the process of going into concepts as management and conservation of natural resources and the understanding of the problems causes encourage the communities to plan and effect practical actions about all them. Although the process has the objective of negotiation with public entities responsible of upgrading the quality of life for the communities, the CAC methodology implies to learn issues that change conscience, actions and relations with the commons and the context, becoming people more active to execute solutions for self-improving their quality of life. The CAC process as a whole unit, and in each of its stages generates empowerment in the people that participated, increasing their surveillance and control of activities, turning their actions in a liable relation with commons environment.

This situation is reflected in the community commitment during CAC process about social control not collecting smaller size of Piangua mollusc, allowing the normal reproduction cycle of the mollusc. Other examples are in Natural Park area and Water resources protected by law in Colombia, that as natural resources are State property and the civil society is important stakeholder in the actions. The experiences developed are examples of inclusion of civil society, like in the fist experience with Piangua. The job of the women start to be recognized as a productive activity by entities and people that did not know before about the mollusc and the work of this community. Also, in Fuquene and Coello experiences, the community has been invited to participate in important governmental spaces of interlocution and planning about the regional development.

On the other hand, because the process takes account of different actors identifying shares, interests, rolls, motivations and possibilities of action, the CAC methodology allow the recognition of “the others” to work with, taking as a reference the exigencies of the Constitutional and legislative framework. Along this lines, is engender the change in the way of relation with entities and people around, because the local actors start to know each other, and with the entities is easier to understand their responsibilities and possibilities of work. Everybody starts to be aware of their own responsibility about the problems, either in generation or mitigation. The actors make out the “others” as real stakeholders of the process, sound as community know functions and roles of entities, while entities meet a potent speaker in the community, whom explain real problems, needs, priorities and possible solutions to work around. Some institutions take the “risk” assuming the future vision of the community as a joint goal to work for.

The process generates confidence and rights vindication by the pacific way covered by law, concerning the straighten process of entities, in the way that entities are called to do the job assigned as a function to be. The CAC process does not look to create new functions; the goal is to impulse the “real” job of entities in fulfilment of their duties. That is a relevant change in Colombian political culture because we are still a country where many politicians are negligent in their responsibilities. Also the knowledge and active solicitude from the people is a political cultural change, in the way that civil society gets conscience of the importance of change. The empowerment process brings visibility to the people and facilitates to be heard by others, at the time strengths personal confidence, and community capacity and organization.

In special for the communities, the possibility to speak straight to entities is a vast magnitude fact, because people lived the “liberation of the word”, discovering new meaning possibilities of freedom, independence and autonomy, when they could express themselves to participate in decision about their own reality. The communities had been creating self-confidence in the preparation step, and during the negotiation and exchange with entities they validity this confidence, in particular through the implementation of agreements. “I feel with a lot of expectations for the fulfilment of the commitments, because is not just the entities job, is too that we multiply this learning with our communities”, said a leader in Coello experience.

As well as the implementation of the agreements made is at first point related to mitigate causes problematic situations, but is working too as a probe that the communities had been listening, and in this way is possible to recover the thrust in the entities by the people. This new dynamic of get knowledge, speak properly, be listen by others and see the results in real actions, promote more participation in the communities, as well more consciences in the entities that work in the common context. The communities begin as leaders of the commons and developments management, together with entities that fulfilment their duties. While the entities make more respect for the depth and the value of local and popular knowledge (Beardon, et al 2008). In Guiza Basin experience, the governmental institution Corponariño, notified that after the CAC process start to see in the community another allied about the better magnitude of institutional work, receiving the feedback from the people organized.

However, for the situations where entities are not with a collaborative attitude about the CAC process, or when the agreements are not fulfilment, the communities are training in mechanisms and legal skill that is possible to use if is necessary. That is again a change in double way, because the people have appropriation about Colombian Constitution and forms to apply; while entities feel more control and vigilance by the civil society.

V. Improve Commons Management to adopt Policies at Multiple Governmental Levels

The CAC methodology was developed in places where the context has similar characteristics, such as the strong reliance on commons, and the high levels of multiculturalism and multiethnic inhabitants of the regions, people with different backgrounds to use natural resources. Also, some social aspects such as high percentage of lack and vulnerability around basic needs, high levels of illiteracy, and lack of continuity in the social organization are regular characteristics of CAC locations.

As well as several rural Colombian areas with this vulnerable context, from the experience the relation with the governmental entities is based in mistrust, about the violation of agreements, absence of representativeness of the communities' intentions or needs in the planning decision, including actions "imposed from outside" to communities that do not understand the reason of being of these investments.

An important frequent characteristic is the relation of each one of these communities with the territory, where is fundamental the value as part of their culture, courage and ancestral livelihood, that enclosed the feel of safety within their territory and the exercise of sovereignty within it. According to Wilches-Chaux, 2006, security "is the result of complex interactions between multiple factors, which are guaranteed to members of present and future generations, the necessary conditions for exercising the right to life with quality and dignity" including that security is an ongoing process of construction, essentially by civil people.

This concept of territorial security integrated topics as food security, sovereignty, ecological safety, legal certainty institutional, economic and social security. In this way, according with the scale of the territorial security feelings and facts appropriated by the community, is possible to strengthen the expression of civil society as State, facilitating the election of a good government as manager of the State's resources for the benefit of the whole community (Wilches-Chaux 2006)

The CAC experiences have given tools for building and strengthening this concept of State. Using basic methodology to build knowledge and abilities in process like identifying problems, recognizing entities and responsibilities, making lobby, searching for answers, promoting willingness and getting commitments, implementing jointly actions and, monitoring and tracking the shares. In this way CAC experience increased political culture which allows communities to generate appropriate and strengthen actions generating alliances with State entities, facilitating control and actions around the commons management close with the government authorities.

In this way, the CAC process strengthening development creates opportunities for the communities to improve their quality of life through agreements and actions holding by government and other entities. In this way, this empowerment includes strengthening local base vision, respect spaces, times and cultural richness in the context of ancestral territory, generating conditions for a new community position to develop actions that will generate real change and influence in reducing poverty.

This idea connecting with the mentioned concept of poverty expressed by Amartya Sen, where poverty is a deprivation of civil liberties, the CAC experience opened possibilities to work effectively decreasing poverty, because strengthens civil society to access to opportunities or claim for them if is necessary, as declare the National Constitution. In this way, the whole process strengthens policy themes and actions, thereby the freedom of the people.

The empowerment of grassroots organizations to develop relationships with state entities that can reach agreements and joint work, require that local organizations must qualify on specific topics, becoming in a process to increase self confidence of people, allowing a dynamic of horizontal relationship with governmental and no governmental entities, also motivating facts of real service to civil society.

However, this active participative attitude from the communities generate sometimes in the entities “fear” about the consequences and changes in rules, policies or decisions below the traditional dynamic of work. About that is so important to build during the CAC process public spaces for continue dialogue and relation where do agreements around the real resources and possibilities from the entities to work together in the community problems.

From this generation of State, in the CAC experiences development was possible move from the local public policies to the prioritisation of regions and basins for investment of resources in regional and national level. This situation contributes too, as action against the country violence because one of its justifications is the “invisible stage” of the State and of the needs of local communities.

Likewise, this “new” dynamic of joint work could reduce costs about the regional agreements with resources from community and among similar organizations in different municipalities or levels, improving quality of life of communities in an effective and peaceful process around commons interest, working as a very important example for the Colombian reality, that as the same time motivate multiplication of the experiences and investments of other institutions in process started.

Until is possible, is important to respect the time of communities and understand local realities, however, one of the limitation of the projects is the long duration that required special financial resources, particularly limited for the last step of follow up. Nevertheless, one of the methodological advantages of CAC is referred to the empowerment of the local organizations, where the external resources are visualize as important but not indispensable for the continuity of the process. Is the situation, when the entities implement compliance of the agreements, they have the political will of local organizations making lower transaction cost in some projects.

In a similar way is possible to find the concept of rural development as a process where the inclusion of community cultural and environmental background is indispensable for the reduction of problematic situations and unsatisfied basic needs in a continuous process to improve quality of life. From this perspective, the CAC methodology starting

with Constitutional law training, participative diagnostic, planning and the joint execution activities to build and implement management plans around the commons allow the social construction of new policies in different levels, starting by the social base.

This situation, reflected in the CAC experiences engendered an active position from communities against the privatization of water resources, as well as the articulation of activities in local, regional and national investment, policies or planning for territorial management in a concerted and coordinated work to joint by local organizations, and regional and national entities. Is still so soon to talk about, however the feedback from entities and communities show a new path, attitudes and spaces to build State.

In each of these regions, the relationship between community, entities and public authorities was characterized by the lack of articulation and communication generating distance and deficiencies in monitoring and control around investment, agreements and projects. This context is one of the bigger changes through the CAC process, where participative and communicative process was empowerment, allows the generation of new collective policies of commons management.

For example in Güiza river basin, over the difficulties of the CAC process from the violent actions of illegal groups, between the agreements was with the local environmental authority to support technically and economically the management plan of the river basin, meant that regional and national levels included Güiza river basin as priority to investment. Also, because the experience start to be pass on other governmental entities started to recognize this geographical place founding an experience of collective commons management among different ethnic and cultural population. This experience is in particular relevant because the region has a high presence of indigenous, afro-american and half-breed communities, who started the process working around the local needs permitting the inclusion of cultural background in the management agreements.

Likewise, CAC experiences achieved agreements of wills and articulation of projects to share basic sanitation of the municipalities, water sewage treatment and solid waste management plans, including the strengthening of organizations from government and non-government entities, such as agreements to optimise the environmental management of some private companies.

CAC exercise shown social issues like people had learned to value themselves, to liberate the word, to discover the meaning of freedom as self management, independence and autonomy. Also the governmental entities and authorities did a job of putting institutional willingness to take action and generate improvement in quality of life to everyone, from dialogue, social organization, and monitoring about cultural and practical changes that benefit the conservation of natural resources.

In Colombian context CAC experience has become in a resource methodology to implement for management of other commons, although it has some difficulties about the absence of habit or skills in organizations and civil society to engage dialogue, the

CAC process is a tool to get closer to doing so. Constantly aiming to strengthen democracy, to recognize and protect ethnic, cultural and biological diversity, to generate active participation and access to rights exercise, through the creating and strengthening of alliances that allow the potential territorial common governance.

VII. Conclusions

As is mentioned in this document and is noted by Candelo 2007, the CAC “like a mechanism for citizen participation and negotiation strategy, allows the communities through a process of empowerment abilities and preparation, to summon the relevant entities, to show to others the social and environmental needs, to dialogue around these issues and to generate commitments for the conservation, use and management of water resources under the concept of sustainable development”. This idea includes the application of several recommendations given by Ostrom (2000) in the principles to design institutions of long-term duration of Common Resources, as well as elements that will be mentioned in the following paragraphs.

In this way, the CAC process make a forward step building “institutions for long term” (Ostrom 2000), through the continuous process in the prospect of homeland security and strength the recognition of everybody as State, making the pertinent difference in front of Government concept. Also, given possibilities of sustainability over time to the response about these realities characterized by: strong dependence on common resources, high levels in multiethnic and multicultural mixture, high levels of poverty, illiteracy and poor quality of life, little cohesion of local organizations to establish consistent rules for internal management and no functional story of relationship with entities to management the common resources.

Undoubtedly this work shows a gesture that is problematic in many places around the world. Today, the common resources shared by groups or communities that remain directly from them are in danger risk of disappear as a result of economic forces regional, national and global. Likewise, the political developments of each nation, region or locality, and the lack of legal recognition of collective property rights of ethnic communities and peasants, are a threat to the ecosystem conservation and survival of these groups.

In this sense, it is vital to think about managing these resources at the local, regional, national and global levels, taking as a fundamental principle of equity and the right of communities to access these environmental goods and services.

Indeed, the form of government that embodies CAC process, as opportunities for participation and negotiation, is an opportunity to ensure that communities are recognized and established a relationship and horizontal communication as with civil society institutions of the State, becoming in allies of the same. This "social change" generated from the qualification of governance arises under criteria of equity and participation.

This requires a further strengthening of capabilities that enable "fill gaps" in front of political, economic, social and environmental issues and thus achieve agreements and negotiations without conditions between the different partners who generate "game rules" or internal or external standards (state-enterprise sector - non-governmental civil society) is uneven. It is therefore necessary to explore local management agreements sustained through larger regional networks that can represent a wide range of interests of national governments and international organizations.

While the four cases presented here reveal a change in relations between the State and organizations of civil society, it is worth noting that in some process changes were most evident in different ways:

In Fúquene experience, the change in the dynamic relationship between the State and Civil Society was one of the most representatives. For long time in these rural communities grew a feeling of distrust in front of the institutional intervention. Always stated that the actions taken were not more than a collection of isolated activities without significant results, manifesting felt that, for example, attend meetings convened by entities meant a waste of time and neglect to domestic labor, because "never came to anything concrete."

However, the methodology proposed by CAC made the difference, because is not reduced to a simple exchange of ideas, demands and alternatives, is a mechanism for safeguards agreements framed in law and which are made to be follow, motivating the communities to continue the process. In fact, this last phase can be carried out entirely by the communities, about the preparation stage where is strengthen the capacities and empowering such a way that would not require the accompaniment of any outside entity. Also, something that generates difference in this process is the validity of the agreements, because if that fails to completion the agreement, the civilian population may resort to legal mechanisms to enforce compliance, for the reason that would be a dual action of negligence in their lawful duties.

Counting that in Colombian context, many legal and illegal powers hamper the scope of social changes, CAC process look like an alternative as was evident in Guiza experience, where validation and participation of different entities in the process to seek results was vigorous, even with the rude manifestations of armed conflict in the area for many years. This problematic situation generated distance, alienation and passivity of state and private entities against the development of activities and actions that attack or mitigate the problem. However, through the CAC process the entities start to be more commitment with the local development.

For the communities participating in the four CAC, the self-recognition as generators of alternatives and solutions to their problems represented a change in the ways of seeing, thinking and acting in front of their environment. As well as was a great opportunity for them to identify their rights as citizens and members of ethnic communities and peasant about the resources, this is a guarantee of sustainability.

For example, in the CAC about the mangroves conservation, the piangua was recognized as economic activity, with gender perspective, allowing the generation of specifically actions to handling of this problematic situation. Against the lack of State presence, the woman working in this activity (piangueras) was the best people to raise and work proactively in the proposal, development and implementation of strategies to resolve the situation that affected them.

Furthermore, this experience is support by the Colombian Constitution that has the mandate of civil society as active part in the management and conservation of resources, as well as by other entities that will jointly become aware of their responsibilities in the generation or mitigation of problematic situations.

A sample of this interesting aspect is noted in Coello CAC where private sector participation generated discussions that fuelled analysis based on the validity of data, information and the adequacy of the actors involved. This situation played a key role around discussion and signing of commitments from the company administering of irrigate crops of rice District, around privatization and conflicts related with reduction of water resources in river basin Coello, making emphasis, in this case, in the agro-industrial production versus the Constitutional priority of human consumption of the resource.

In each of the CAC experiences is possible identify the articulation of local and regional entities around this vital space to work together around problematic situations, because issues like handling solid or liquid waste, investment in land for conservation or actions to strength and improving the quality of life of communities, are situations that go beyond the political-administrative division of spaces and responds more to environmental and cultural divisions. Therefore, it requires the generation of national and regional agreements, showing a real chance to work around common and specific motivations, enhancing the impact of actions taken.

In the process, some difficulties presented were around logistical and operational items, such as carrying out actions under the project funders, often untimely of responses from local processes or high transport costs to be assume about do the process in areas with large dispersion in the settlements. Also, others limitations are related to local or regional characteristics that delayed or impeded the development of methodology as: low levels of political formation in communities and policyholders, low levels of internal organization, presence of armed actors, some leaders jealousies generated by usually marginalized sectors that are now empowered, and the high turnover of public authorities. Those aspects prevent or delay the process rise, and generate some extra cost in the transaction of the methodology (Candelo 2007).

CAC process confronts entities with the compliance of legislation, as well as their duties with civil society, screening as obvious errors in the system, patronage, corruption and negligence of officials that clearly show fear to face the reality and the population;

likewise, the people found their roles around their problems and awareness of their responsibility as citizens and as the principal managers of their welfare (Candelo 2007)

As a methodology, the CAC invites to joint the management of common resources, as a different proposal that calls to dialogue between authorities and civil society, habit uncommon in the Colombian context. It is also a space to execute rights of democracy to recognize and participate in decisions and to protect the ethnic, cultural and biological diversity, generating active participation and access to apply legal rights, through the creation and strengthening of alliances to enhance the territorial governance.

This process of increasing governance creates spaces to alleviate the deprivation of liberty, that in long-term means the decrease in high levels of poverty in these rural communities, an the reduction of the passivity of local organizations and members of State entities that are engaged in a political system characterized by strong inertia related to the reality of the country. In this way, CAC process promote the active role in communities and authorities to build a social policy with skills to act and participate in a freely, responsible and autonomous way.

VIII. Annexes

Some relevant elements about the practical experiences are resuming in the tables below:

CAC	Mangroves and Piangua	High and middle basin of Güiza River	Basin of Fuquene lake	Basin of Coello river
Aspects				
Location	Coast of Nariño department with mangroves in 7 municipalities: Santa Bárbara, La Tola, El Charco, Olaya Herrera, Mosquera, Francisco Pizarro and Tumaco	Coastal piedmont of Nariño. Mallama Ricaurte, Barbacoas municipalities and Altaque corregimiento	Lake located between the Ubate river and Suarez river, 18 municipalities of Boyaca and Cundinamarca	15 communities in 6 municipalities in Tolima, Cajamarca, Ibagué. San Luis, Rovira, Espinal y Coello.
Area	150.000 ha	113.600 ha	197.000 ha	190.000 ha
Common pool resource	Piangüa (<i>Anadara tuberculosa</i>) and mangroves	High and middle basin of Güiza River	Water of Fuquene lake Basin	Coello river Basin
Recipient population	10.000 habitants	30.000 habitants	200.000 habitants	300.000 habitants

Local organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chonapi Fundación (Chontaduro, Naidí y Piangüa) (NGO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ groups of community leaders supported by FES Social-La Planada (NGO) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ “Los Fundadores”, Fúquene Fisherman association ➤ Guargua Paramo⁷ communities ➤ Farmers and Artisans from diverse municipally ➤ Humedales Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ groups of community leaders from the region ➤ Neighbor’s community association of Ibagué, Cajamarca, San Luis, Rovira, Coello y Espinal Municipalities ➤ Semillas de agua Foundation (NGO)
Other entities participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WWF Colombia ➤ Natural National Park Sanquianga ➤ ASDES – Corporation of development consultancies ➤ Javeriana Pontifical University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WWF Colombia ➤ FES Social-La Planada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Entities from SCALES project: CIAT, WWF Colombia and Andes University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Entities from SCALES project: CIAT, WWF and Andes University
Date of negotiation	December 2003	October 2003	February 2007	May 2007
Present entities compromised by agreement		3 mayors 8 public authorities	5 mayors 6 public authorities	4 mayors 8 public authorities 1 private company 1 academic institution
Number of these entities	14	11	11	14
Number of agreement	54 commitments	36 commitments	27 commitments	30 commitments
Items of negotiation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Municipal environmental management system – SIGAM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Water for human consume ➤ Arranging of river basin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aqueducts and municipal premises to ensure the quality of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Municipal environmental management system –SIGAM ➤ Conservation and

⁷ Neotropical ecosystem

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Solid Waste integrated Management Plan -PGIR ➤ Hospital waste Environmental Management Plan ➤ Mangroves Management and Zoning Plan ➤ Sanquianga's National Park Management Plan ➤ Fulfilment of research goals from the INVEMAR National Marine Research Institute ➤ Research with communities and value of the traditional popular knowledge ➤ Surveillance and control in the size of Piangua Collecting ➤ Retributive taxes and regulations on the market about the exportation of piangua to Ecuador ➤ Sustainable Productive Alternatives ➤ Child Protection ➤ Health, Education and Foment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wastewater Management ➤ Health of the community ➤ Farming sector ➤ Solid waste Environmental Management Plan ➤ Disaster Prevention and Cares Plan 	<p>water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Wastewater Treatment and Optimization Systems ➤ Municipal environmental management system – SIGAM ➤ Maintain continuity in the Monitored of the quality and quantity of water in Fuquenes lake. ➤ Incorporation of communities in conservation systems for Guargua paramo ➤ Community participation in the researcher project of CAR governmental entity, about the transformation of lake weeds in fertilizer product. ➤ Citizen Participation in the Fisher and Environmental Zoning Committee ➤ Citizen participation in the Fisher Zoning Plan of Fuquene Lake. 	<p>protection of the river hidroresources and Ecosystem use and transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Organization ➤ Water and Waterwaste Management and treatment Systems
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	Assistance ➤ Empowerment of the Piangueras Organizations			
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