

Biodiversity Challenge Funds: Case Studies Webinar

Central & South America



Webinar panellists



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Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- **Case Study 1: IWT075**
- Questions
- **Case Study 2: 26-021**
- Questions
- Final Questions

Case Study 1



Project Reference:	IWT075
Project Title:	Reducing macaw trafficking in indigenous territories of the Honduran Moskitia
Lead Partner:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Project Duration:	April 2019 – March 2022
Country(ies):	Honduras



Reducing macaw trafficking in indigenous territories of the Honduran Moskitia

Lessons learned



- For many years wildlife trafficking has been driving Honduras's national bird, the scarlet macaw, towards local extinction. Despite existing legislation, trafficking have continued in the country's last macaw stronghold, the Moskitia, where an estimated 600 individuals survive.

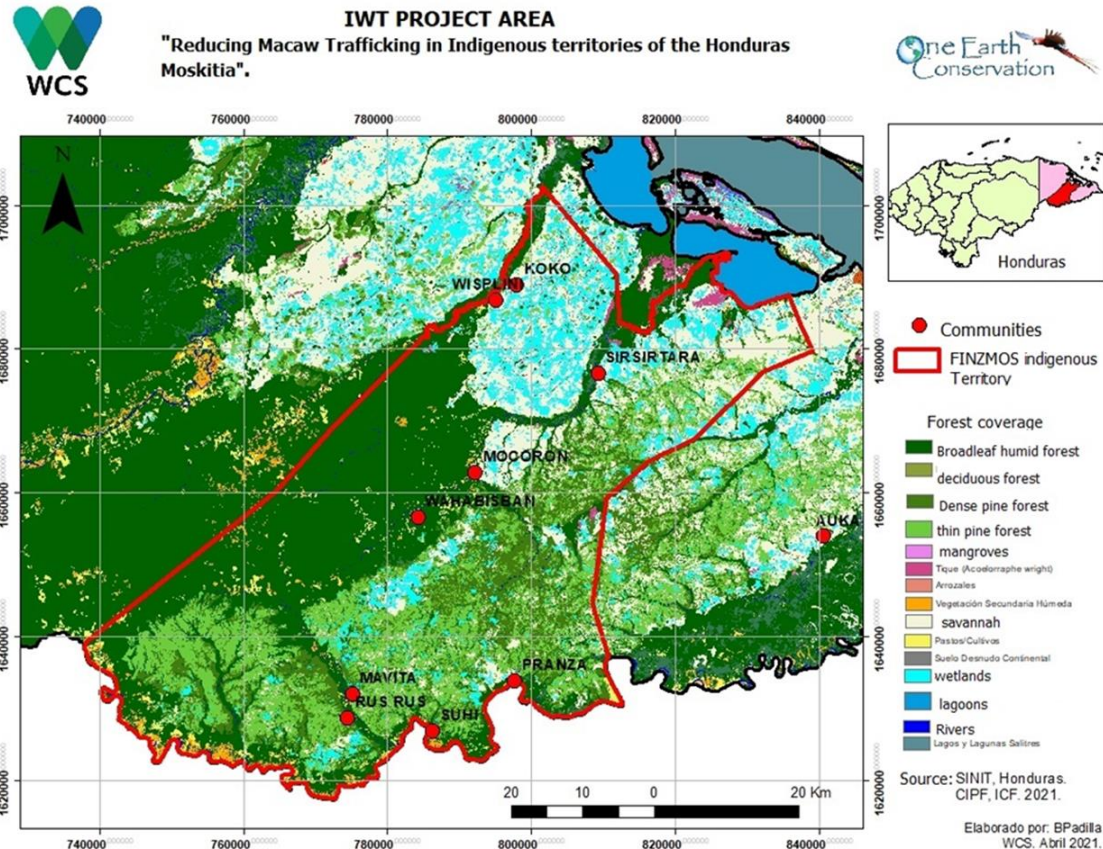


Can we make a difference?

- WCS Honduras Program partnered in 2019 with One Earth Conservation NGO, lead by Dr. LoraKim Joyner who has been working in La Moskitia in the protection and conservation of psittacines, with a focus on Macaws in the pine Savannah forests for several years before the start of this project. WCS has also joined efforts with the local Honduran NGO, INCEBIO, led by Biologist Hector Portillo, who is collaborating in this initiative with Dr. Joyner from One Earth Conservation for more than 6 years.



The area of actions for our project is the region known as Mabita-Rus Rus, in the Caribbean Pine Savannah and broadleaf forests of la Moskitia, Honduras.



Our goal

- To reduce wildlife trafficking, strengthen management and enforcement of indigenous territories, and improve local livelihoods for approximately 4,200 people across 3,300 km² of the Honduran Moskitia by providing technical support to 11 indigenous communities, decreasing nest poaching, and coordinating enforcement with government agencies.



- **IMPACT:** Reduced wildlife trafficking in the Honduran Moskitia leads to stabilization and persistence of macaws and other critical wildlife, and improved security and livelihoods of indigenous peoples



- **Outcome** Improved nest protection, law enforcement, and community conservation agreements result in reduced scarlet macaw poaching and trafficking across 3,300 km² of the Honduran Moskitia and benefit 4,200 indigenous Miskitu people.



What have we achieved?

Indicator 01 states: Reduced wildlife trafficking: Scarlet macaw nests poached in Miskitu territories covered by the project reduced by >50% over the project lifetime. We fulfilled this indicator in 2019 diminishing poaching rate to 9%. The project has expanded our work from 6 to 11 communities. All active macaw nests in the 5 additional communities were being poached before this expansion and are being currently protected. Baseline:145 nests protected and 21 % poached. Current figures shows a poaching rate of 15% for the season of 2020-2021



- Indicator 0.2 states: **Improved territorial patrolling to reduce IWT**: By the project's end, well-trained community patrol and protection committees patrol at least 80% of the total area of the 6 core community territories annually using SMART and other methods, and voluntarily patrol in the other 5 communities. Baseline: 36% of the total territory is patrolled effectively in the core area of 6 communities.
- Currently the Project has expanded the number of hectares from 198,000 in 2018 to 456,147 hectares, which accounts for a 230 % of increment. The 6 core communities forests are being patrolled reaching 80% of the total area, and in occasion reaching the entire area (100%).

0.3 Improved livelihoods: Community-driven small-scale local development projects benefit 4,177 people in 11 communities, and are linked to IWT reduction commitments.



Through Conservation agreements containing specific sustainable livelihood activities agreed with each communities we benefited directly 2,514 persons. As seed banks increase and render more seeds for planting and harvesting grains this particular activity will have a “spill over” effect, benefitting more families within each community by the multiplication of seeds distribution through the communal seed banks and also through trade (selling) of the harvest. The following chart shows the communities and people (dissagregated by sex) benefitted through this actions:

	Community	Sustaniable livelihood activity agreed through conservation agreement.	Beneficiary families	Total estimated benefited persons		
				M	F	Total
1	Mabita	Support in the preparation of firebreak trails and other anti forest fire Works to protect pine tres identified as containing macaw nests. Firefight activities if forest fires occurs.	24	59	73	
2	Rus Rus		27	67	82	
3	Wahabisban	Support in the cleaning of Mokoron River watercourse, (filled with post hurricane debris) and support for establishment of a community bank of staple food seeds (rice and beans)	52	127	158	
4	Corinto	support for establishment of a community bank of staple food seeds (rice and beans).	61	151	185	
5	Mocoron	support for establishment of a community bank of staple food seeds (rice and beans).	146	361	442	
6	Sirsirtara	support for establishment of a community bank of staple food seeds (rice and beans)	147	364	445	
Sub-Total			457	1,129	1,385	2,514

Additionally to this conservation agreements sustainable livelihood activities, OE and INCEBIO also provided wages and economic benefits through direct hiring and construction activities according to project's plans. One Earth hired 78 different patrollers across 11 communities, for an average family size of 5.5, so we estimate 429 persons benefited through patrol wages. Women and children make up 75% of these 429 persons. Additionally, other activities were also taken in account in terms of wages and local labour provided during the life of the project for 226 persons for a total of 655 persons.



- the grand total for this indicator would be 3,169 people benefitted. This means a 75.8 % of accomplishment for the indicator. (100 % = 4,177 persons).
- These figures can be explained by several reasons:
 - - Pandemic had a negative effect on the amount of people benefited by direct wages and awareness campaign, since public activities were banned during two years, affecting One Earth investments on this area and preventing the hiring of more persons.
 - - Conservation agreements were not signed with two target communities: (Pranza and Suhí). These were two communities where issues and quarrels among different community groups made impossible to reach a consensus over the kind of sustainable livelihood actions the project could invest. Also lack of leadership on Pranza and little interest by local persons on conservation activities, prevented us to develop feasible conservation agreements with them, impacting the final number of benefitted people we could have reached.

- Impact in our logical framework application was defined as: “Reduced wildlife trafficking in the Honduran Moskitia leads to stabilization and persistence of macaws and other critical wildlife, and improved security and livelihoods of indigenous peoples”.
- We have diminished poaching rates in the critical habitat for red Macaws (*Ara macao*) in the pine forest savannah of la Moskitia, Honduras (As stated in Annex 2 , report from our partner One Earth Conservation), expanded the patrolled forest area in more than 200 % and put “more boots on the ground” to continue protection of Macaws and other endangered species. Moreover, we have helped partners and indigenous leaders to establish closer ties and more fluid coordination with Armed Forces, ICF and Environmental prosecutor’s office attorneys, setting the stage for a more effective collaboration in the field.
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- In terms of human development, we have influenced the local economy of 6 indigenous communities located on one of the highest poverty level regions in Honduras, with little opportunities for remunerated work, and far from more infrastructure developed areas in the country (far from markets).



- Our project benefited 3,169 indigenous people from these communities, creating an impact that will last beyond the project due to the establishment of community seeds banks that –if managed properly- will expand with every harvest, benefitting more families within the communities where these were established..



- Up to the date of this report, we could not include more people since harvest occurs two times per year and next harvest will occur close to the end of the year and data will not be available until then. We believe we will reach the 100 % of our objective of benefiting 4,100 people in a year after the end of the project



What didn't go according to plan?

- We were unable to take to court any relevant case of wildlife trafficking. We managed to involve authorities in more controls and checkpoints and to pursue specific cases, but so far no formal investigation have rendered the expected results.
- Poaching rates were diminished from 20% in 2017 and 2018 to 9% in 2019 when project started, nevertheless it raised up again to a 15 % for 2021 and 2022.

For the future:

- With the learnt experience, we are in the process to foster a higher-level strategy to help Honduran government agencies to establish specialized investigation units focused on environmental crimes (including wildlife trade) and foster the creation of an environmental tribunal in the country, setting the basis for a more efficient role of the state in dealing with wildlife trade.

A photograph of several colorful macaws perched on and flying around a large pine tree against a blue sky. The macaws are vibrant with red, blue, and yellow feathers. The pine tree has a thick trunk and dense green needles. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

Questions? Comments?

Thanks!

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Case Study 2



Project Reference:	26-021
Project Title:	Biodiversity conservation, vicuña health and local livelihoods in Apolobamba, Bolivia
Lead Partner:	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Project Duration:	April 2019 – March 2022
Country(ies):	Bolivia





**Wildlife
Conservation
Society**

BOLIVIA



Biodiversity conservation, vicuña health and local livelihoods in Apolobamba, Bolivia

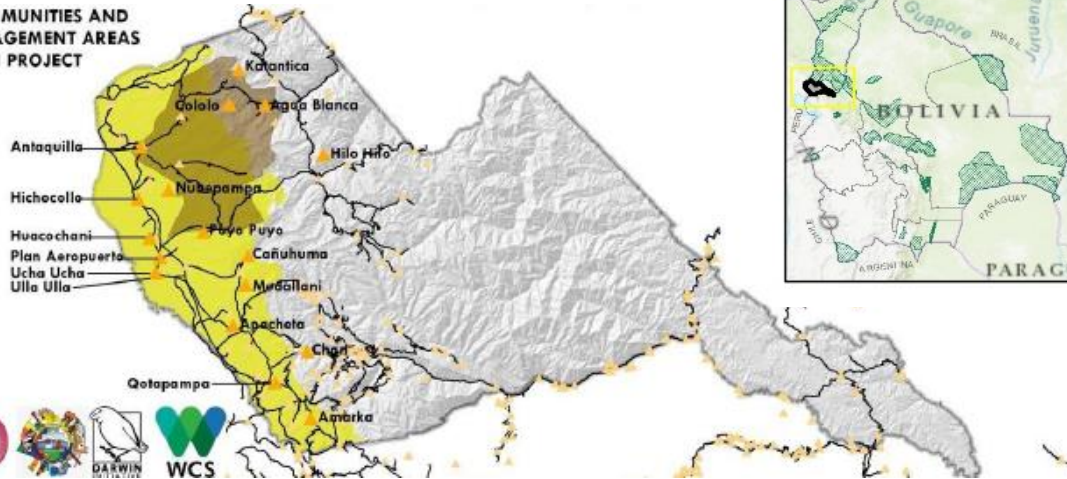
Oscar Loayza, Humber Alberto, José Luis Mollericona,
Lilian Painter & Natalia Mérida
WCS – Bolivia
Julio 2022



Introduction

- ▲ Project communities
- Communities
- ⚡ Roads
- National Natural Area of Integrated Management Apolobamba
- ⊕ Marka Cololo Copacabana Antaqui Indigenous Territory
- 🦊 Vicuñas management areas

MAP OF COMMUNITIES AND VICUÑA MANAGEMENT AREAS
DARWIN PROJECT



- ## APOLOBAMBA
- ✓ KBA Tropical Andes Hotspot
 - ✓ 560 – 5760 m above sea level
 - ✓ Highest forest worldwide, grasslands and wetlands
 - ✓ Endangered and endemic species
 - ✓ **Main VICUÑA population density in Bolivia**



Project outputs

- Completed diagnostic of **peatland and their water sources**; native pastures and associated biodiversity indicator species
- Completed diagnostic of **vicuña health** condition and mange prevalence as an indicator of carrying capacity and climatic trends
- Apolobamba protected area, Marka Cololo Indigenous organization and the regional association of vicuña managers establish a pasture, peatlands and their water sources, and **vicuña health management plan**.
- Increased **resilient livelihoods** through improved business capacity and quality control of the regional association of vicuña managers of Apolobamba.
- Good practices are shared for **sustainable and resilient management of pastures**, peatlands and their water sources, biodiversity conservation, improved vicuña health, and resilient livelihoods with other vicuña manager associations and in coordination with the biodiversity national authority (DGB-AP).



Lessons learned

Strengthening coordination among vicuña management **STAKEHOLDERS** at the national, departmental, regional and local levels.

- ✓ DGBAP
- ✓ SERNAP
- ✓ APOLOBAMBA

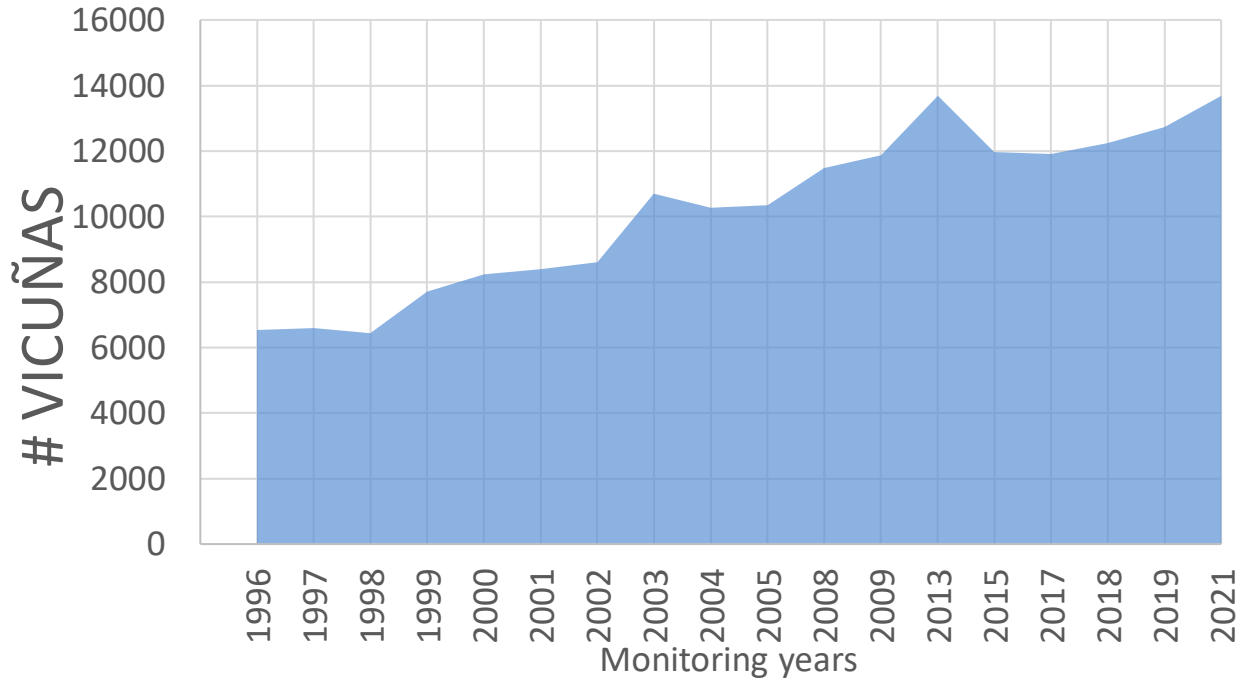
- ✓ WCS
- ✓ PROMETA, CI
(technical support)

- ✓ La Paz Government
- ✓ Pelechuco Government
- ✓ Charazani Government
- ✓ Curva Government

- ✓ ACOFIVB (National Org. Vicuña Handling)
- ✓ Association Vicuña Handling Communities Apolobamba
- ✓ Local communities



Consolidation of vicuña population monitoring in the Apolobamba ANMIN (1996-2021)



AÑO	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2008	2009	2013	2015	2017	2018	2019	2021
POBLACION DE VICUÑAS	6.536	6.593	6.442	7.710	8.245	8.391	8.602	10.694	10.280	10.350	11.475	11.878	13.697	11.978	11.915	12.243	12.734	13.692
CRECIMIENTO		1%	-2%	16%	6%	2%	2%	20%	-4%	1%	10%	3%	13%	-14%	-1%	3%	4%	7%



Strengthening of good management practices and animal welfare in the process of harvesting vicuña fiber

The application of best management and animal welfare practices has been strengthened throughout the process of **HARVESTING VICUÑA FIBER** (installation of capture infrastructure, herding, capture, shearing and release of vicuñas), support in **FLEECE MANAGEMENT**, and in the **COMMERCIALIZATION** of vicuña fiber.



Very favorable results obtained in vicuña management

- Apolobamba has the highest harvesting rate in the country.

Year	N° of Shearing Events	No of Vicuña Sheared	% of vicuña sheared
2018	30	667	5%
2019	52	3030	24%
2021	78	4999	37%

- The Apolobamba Regional Association has consolidated itself as the main organization in production of fiber at the national level.

Year	Fibre Harvest (kg)
2018	101.07
2019	444.602
2021	814.31

- Social participation in vicuña management activities has been strengthened and encouraged.

Year	N° of Shearing Events	Social Participation		TOTAL
		Women	Men	
2018	30	733	1034	1767
2019	52	2375	1716	4091
2021	78	2594	4330	6924



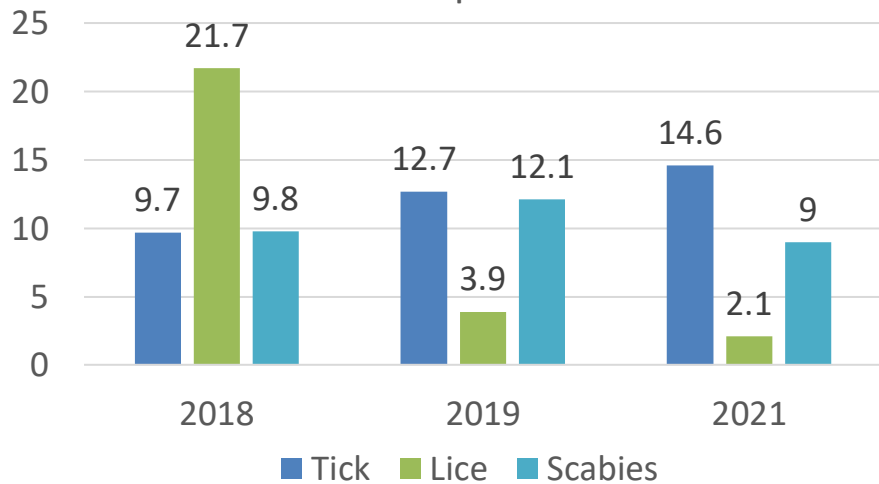
Training courses and workshops to strengthen the management of vicuña

- **Handling of the fleece** and initial selection of vicuña fiber.
- **Mechanized shearing.**
- Technical guidelines and good vicuña **management practices.**
- Animal **health and sanitation.**

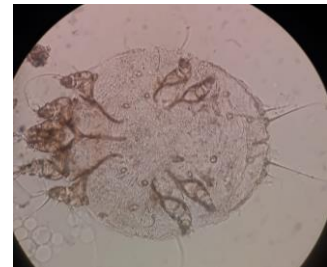
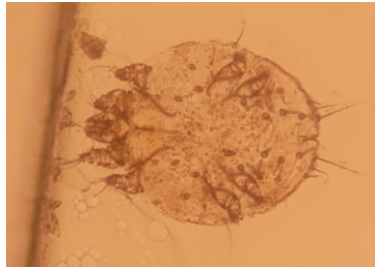
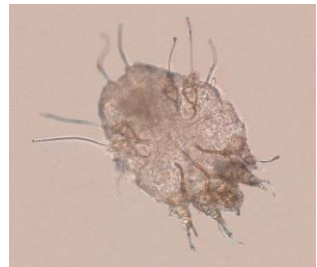
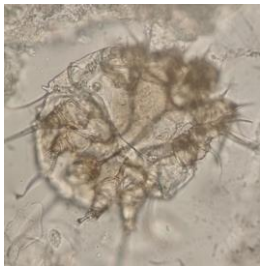


SARCOPTIC MANGE IN VICUÑAS

Prevalence of ectoparasites in vicuñas



According to studies conducted by WCS in 2018, 2019 and 2021, the parasitic prevalence of vicuñas was very similar, indicating a good population health status of this species in Apolobamba.



Close relationship, coordination and trust between local partners and the project

The technical intervention during project implementation has **valued, respected and identified with the LOCAL CULTURE**, customs and traditions that are the essence of the community, which facilitated the implementation of the project.



Return of results of use, studies and agreements to the communities.

- Vicuña **health studies** (with emphasis on mange).
- Baseline study of **grasslands and wetlands**, **biodiversity indicator species**.
- Pasture and **wetlands management plan**, **vicuña management instruments**.
- Vicuña habitat protection and **conservation agreements**.
- Vicuña **fiber management** and utilization reports.
- Vicuña protection agreement with **local gold mining workers**.



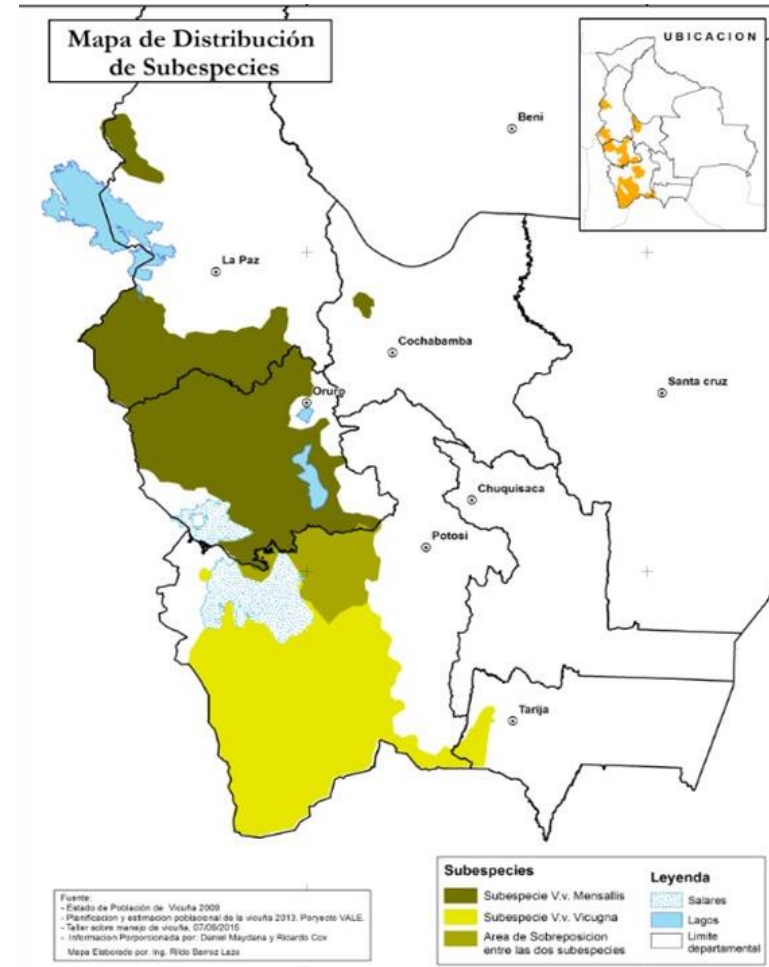
The vicuña management instruments generated by the project had a national scope, thanks to the recognition and appropriation by state authorities

- Pasture and wetland management plans.
- Technical instrument for vicuña management.
- Protocol for good practices during vicuña management.
- Guide for mechanized shearing.
- Guide for fleece management.
- Biosecurity protocols and others.



What we would have liked to know when the project began?

In Bolivia, vicuña management is carried out by 111 communities in the departments of **La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, Cochabamba and Tarija**. They are represented by **ACOFIV-Bolivia**. Thanks to the project, we were able to establish a cooperation agreement with ACOFIVB that allowed us to carry out **cooperation activities** and propose health studies in other vicuña populations at the **national level**.



Cooperation activities between WCS and ACOFIV

- Regional Association of Vicuña Handling Communities **Tomave-Potosí**.
- Regional Association of Vicuña Handling Communities **Colcha K-Potosí**.
- Regional Association of Vicuña Handling Communities **Wila Khollo- Oruro**
- Vicuña Handling Community Ayllu **Collana Bajo-Oruro**.
- Vicuña Handling Community **Villa Remedios- La Paz**.



What we would have changed in the project if we had been able to do so?

- **Mining** is currently one of the main threats in the region, so from the communities and as a project, we need to generate **more agreements**, commitments and follow up on the implementation of responsible mining, with mercury reduction in the sector.
- Although the project has worked on this issue, the **participation gap** between **men and women** is still very large and requires greater dedication.
- Greater strengthening and attention is required for **management, governance, leadership, organizational strengthening, autonomy** and other issues within their communities and associations.



What else would change with what we know now at the conclusion of the project?

- Strengthen the **autonomy and management** by local vicuña stakeholders
- Promote a more active **participation of local governments** (municipalities), so that their programs and projects incorporate issues of conservation, management and use of vicuña wool.
- Continue to consolidate **coordination** between vicuña management **communities and the protected area** (park rangers) to guarantee effective conservation and protection of natural resources, with emphasis on the vicuña as an umbrella species for conservation.





**Thank you
very much!!**



We Stand for Wildlife™



Thanks for listening!

Upcoming Deadlines:



Main Stage 1: Monday 25 July
Extra: Monday 3 October



**Main, Extra & Evidence
Stage 1:** Monday 22 August



Fellowships: Monday 17 October

