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| Danish organisation | Aktion Amazonas |
| Title of the intervention | People Acting for Bolivian Amazon (PABA) |
| Partner name(s) | ACEAA Conservación Amazónica |
| Amount applied for | 500.000 kr. |
| Country(ies) | Bolivia |
| Period (# of months) | 1st August 2022 – 31st January 2023 (18 months) |
| If re-submission or in continuation of a previous intervention, please insert journal number | *20-3088-CPS* |

1. Objective and relevance (the world around us)
* What is the main purpose with the intervention, including challenges that need to be addressed?

The project is an upscaling of an ongoing CISU funded project ‘Building climate change adaptation capacity in Bolivian Amazon Forest communities based on diversification of livelihoods linked to non-timer forest resources (NTFR)’, which since 2018 has been implementing activities to strengthen two pilot communities in the municipality Porvenir in Bolivia’s northern amazon region Pando with a focus on organizing, equipping and training the communities in sustainable extraction and commercialization of native Amazonian palm fruits and berries (Asaí (Eurterpe precatoria), Buriti (Mauritia flexuosa) and Pataua (Oenocarpus bataua)), in parallel to supporting the elaboration of a technical proposal for sustainable community forest management, to ensure long-term and sustainable extraction of forest resources in the two communities. The impact objective has been to strengthen community resilience to market and climate fluctuations and to economic interests by diversifying HH income. Phase one has already shown positive impact on community forest in terms of conservation while a solid groundwork for improving adaptive capacities for livelihood improvements and organizational capacities has been laid. Among other things, the support for forest management based on the extraction of Amazonian palm fruits and berries (Non-Timber Forest Resources (NTFR))[[1]](#footnote-1) has resulted in the two pilot communities together with three other neighbouring communities and with support from ACEAA applying for and receiving municipal commitments for the establishment of one common area under joint protection covering the entire territory of the five communities with the purpose of conserving community forest resources. The community area is categorized as an area where sustainable production is allowed, however on nature’s terms. This means, for example, that conventional mining and logging is illegal - two industries which otherwise pose a threat to forest, livelihood, and biodiversity. The area is called *‘Área Natural de Manejo Integral del Bosque de Porvenir (ANMIB Porvenir*)’ and covers a contiguous territory of approx. 30,000 ha. It is a crucial result which can be of great importance for nature and the people who live in the forest.

 The next natural and crucial step is now to scale up efforts to support all five communities in their joint efforts to protect their forest from external pressure from economic activities and industries. The upscaling will build on results and experiences and not least the Community Productive Organizations established in the two pilot communities and use the community members of the two pilot communities as trainers of trainees and their knowledge of eco-harvesting, processing and commercialization capacities build up with support from the current project to promote social justice through training in and organization around sustainable extraction of NTFRs thus strengthening the communities climate change and economic resilience. In addition, the upscaling will build on prior local marked NTFR potential analysis (which, among other things, showed potential for increased cross-border sales of Asai and increased local demand for specially processed Amazon berries and nuts) and buyer agreements conducted and entered with support from the ongoing project in addition to first initial steps to create a coherent management plan which in a project continuation will be further strengthened. All together does the initiated activities provide a foundation for creating real income increase with the right support thus improving livelihood and strengthening conservation efforts for the benefit of people and biodiversity of ANMIB Porvenir and beyond.

* Describe the context of the intervention:

Spanning 6.7 million km2 (twice the size of India) the Amazon Biome is virtually unrivalled in scale. Not only does the Amazon encompass the single largest remaining tropical rainforest in the world, but it also houses at least 10% of the world’s known biodiversity, including endemic and endangered flora and fauna, while its river accounts for 15-16% of the world’s total river discharge into the oceans. Equally impressive are the unfathomable numbers of mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles found across the biome. The Amazon is also home to more than 30 million people living across a vast region. And yet, during the last half century, the seemingly endless Amazon has lost at least 17% of its forest cover, its connectivity has been increasingly disrupted, and numerous endemic species have been subjected to waves of resource exploitation. If the devastation continues, researchers fear that the tropical forest areas in South America will disappear - they call it 'tipping point'. That is, a point where the forests can no longer recover themselves and instead end up as dry savannah. Climate change is further pushing for this negative development (Lovejoy and Nobre, 2018). Yet, as those forces grow in strength, we are also finding that the Amazon plays a critical role in maintaining climate function regionally and globally and provides ecosystem to thousands of communities depending on its resources to sustain their life in terms of economy, nutrition, food security and valuable services such as erosion prevention, flood control, water filtration, fisheries protection, and pollination - functions that are particularly important to the region's poorest people, who rely on natural resources for their everyday survival. The growing degradation of the Amazon – especially due to expansion of agriculture activities and exploitation of timber products – therefore not only threatens the world's largest tropical rainforest ecosystem but also those people whose livelihoods are closely linked to the forest and the forest's resources. All together this makes the protection of the ecological integrity of Amazon forest a key to sustainable development and climate change adaptation and the main reason why the ACEAA-Aktion Amazonas partnership is engaging in protecting and sustainably managing the forests of the northern Bolivian amazon region Pando and in the long term encourage the creation of nature corridors, where biodiversity can flourish and migrate freely, by protecting and connecting indigenous peoples' territories and community forests with national parks and other protected areas. More than a third of the world's remaining pristine forests, known as intact forest landscapes, are found in areas that are either managed or owned by indigenous peoples. **Zooming in on Pando** eight indigenous nations are found spread over an area of 63,827 square kilometers making Pando one of the smaller of Bolivia's nine regions and the least populous department in Bolivia, the most tropical and the most isolated, due to an absence of effective roads. Although Pando is rich in natural resources, the poverty level of its inhabitants is high, due largely to the lack of roads effectively linking the province to the rest of the country. The local communities largely depend on commercialization of NTFR as their main income. Bolivia alone stands for 75% of the world’s production of Brazil nuts (Bertholletia excelsa) which substitute a crucial income for rural households in the Pando-region composing more than 50% of HH income in some areas. The linkage of regional and local development activities to sustainable production of NTFRs based on eco-harvesting of naturally occurring species and not plantations as in Brazil (Guariguata et al. 2017) makes the forest degradation less alarming in the Pando region as in other parts of the Amazon basin although other economic activities as agriculture, timber and cattle poses a threat to the forest cover of the region in terms of habitat conversion due to agricultural expansion, land encroachment for livestock, uncontrolled logging and unplanned colonization. In addition, there is continued increased mining activity in Pando to the detriment of humans and nature.

The linkage of regional and local development activities to sustainable production and the local population's dependence on NTFRs also poses an interesting paradox as it makes the rural and indigenous families *vulnerable* to fluctuations in market prices and climate (according to ACEAA, fluctuations in climate alone can result in a decline in income of up to 50% measured on a community’s total annual NTFR production), while also more *resilient* to economic interests in search of natural resources in community or indigenous territories, as eco-harvesting of native amazon berries and nuts represents a great economic opportunity for local communities giving them a solid incentive to turn down offers to sell land, resources or provide access to mineral extraction. It reduces the pressure on indigenous peoples' territories and rural community land from various political and industrial interests that are all too often put above the environment, climate, and wildlife and provides the local population with an alternative to the often-short-term destruction of nature's resources. Support for the diversification of rural families is therefore a key conservation strategy allowing indigenous and rural families of the Pando region to supplement their income from Brazil nuts with other Amazon berries and nuts thus strengthen their resilience to both fluctuations in market, climate, and economic interests and by that contribute to sustainable forest conservation and improved livelihood.

Bolivia is a constitutional Plurinational State with the president as head of state with constitutional checks and balances, a threefold division of power, regular and semitransparent and democratic elections, and a large degree of decentralization of central power with various government agencies managing and enforcing nature conservation at different levels. However, large turnover in the civil administration and general poor level of education among public employees and low wage levels make the system vulnerable to corruption and weaken the institutions' capacity to monitor and enforce legislation. The Bolivian national state is composed of 36 nations and especially the indigenous peoples’ rights to territory and self-government are important as some of the biggest and best-preserved forest areas are found on indigenous territories. In 1991, the Bolivian government signed the ILO Convention 169, a major binding international convention protecting indigenous rights and in 2007, the government passed Law 3760, which approved the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. However, the government is to a large extent disregarding indigenous rights.  Participant partners will navigate within this semi-well-functioning political framework where especially green NGOs must be careful to criticize and confront central power as they, among other things, are audited every year by the authorities who review organizational strategies and projects and extend or revoke the organizations' NGO licenses depending on whether their activities are political and run counter to the state's development plans. For this reason, the project addresses problems with forest destruction and degradation in a less confrontational way by supporting sustainable development in communities based on NFTRs to showcase and encourage a sustainable approach to development and nature conservation and a general emphasis on the value of intact ecosystems and the connection between nature conservation, healthy livelihood and local development in public campaigns instead of politically attacking central government’s settlement and expansive agricultural and mining policy by demanding a complete stop to forest burning, land encroachment, colonization and logging. However, there is also a recognition that a strengthened civil society can create change, which is why one of the projects focuses on empowering of communities to defend their territories and influence conservation policies using new technologies.

* Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising

The challenges with deforestation in Bolivia are human rights and poverty related. Gaining increased territorial control of the forests is key to combating deforestation and it is directly interrelated with rural and indigenous peoples’ ability to stand together against the erosion of their territorial rights as well as their prospects of improving their economic situation in an inclusive and a sustainable way. However, the rural and indigenous families struggle to establish proper and well-functioning organizational structures that represents them. That’s why the project focuses on building Community Producer Organizations and empowering community groups to defend their territories through training in rights and advocacy and introduction to new surveillance technologies, besides commercialization of NTFRs. Illegal activities taking place in both indigenous territories, on community lands and in protected areas happens with and without the "blessing" of local forest authorities. A stop to this requires, among other things, that local populations know their rights, know about current forest and environmental legislation and are familiar with complaints mechanisms and not least can document the environmental violations and make the outside world aware of these but also that the local population possesses a certain standard of living and knowledge of the importance of nature conservation making them more resistant to pressure from economic and political interests. The project focuses on both solutions cf. the project's outcome 1 and 2.

* What climate- and environmental conditions do the partnership and/or the intervention need to respond to? And how have the partners responded to it?

The project is implemented in a forest area in Bolivia, where communities base their livelihood on access to forest resources, why protection of community forests is not only important for biodiversity, but also for the continued maintenance of their livelihood and climate in terms of CO2 uptake, mitigation of local consequences of climate change and ensuring access to important ecosystem services such as drinking water. The project is in line with CISU's new sustainability model, as the project partnership works to achieve a long-term vision of nature conservation through organizing and training civil society, as well as to carry out advocacy efforts to improve the living conditions of local communities, strengthen food security, secure that future generations have access to these valuable natural resources and contribute to climate mitigation through avoided deforestation.

The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)

* Describe the experiences, capacities, and resources of participating partners of relevance for the intervention (including the Danish organisation, the local partner(s), as well as other actors).

***Aktion Amazonas:***  Aktion Amazonas (previously under the name of EAA until April 2022) is a Danish non-profit nature and development organization concerned with sustainable management and protection of unique and valuable natural areas in South America in partnership with local NGOs and in close collaboration with both civil society actors, local authorities, and the private sector. Aktion Amazonas has since 2014 worked to promote sustainable coexistence between people and nature, ensure global diversity of species, and strengthen locally anchored ownership and sustainable solutions to degradation of nature through activities based on three interdependent strategic efforts in South America; land use management, promotion of social justice and strengthening of social and indigenous peoples' rights.

Aktion Amazonas has a project team with specific knowledge and practical experience with promotion of indigenous and social rights in a South American context and development of nature-based community IGAs from several both ongoing and successfully completed CISU funded projects in Bolivia besides more general experience with the development community in Latin America. The project team collaborates with the finance and communication teams on PRO and project controlling.

The secretariat is managed by an executive director and head of finance, who are responsible for the day-to-day operations and management and is supported by professional volunteers with competencies in communication, finance, and project management. In addition, several volunteer resource persons assist with professional advice, capacity building of partners and quality assurance of project applications on an ad hoc basis. All volunteers have been carefully selected for their qualifications to ensure high standards in all aspects of the organization’s work including project implementation and management of funds.

In 2019, Aktion Amazonas led a humanitarian intervention in 2019 to help families affected by the wildfires in the Chiquitano Region. In relation to the intervention, Aktion Amazonas was assessed by DERF for its organizational capacity, which was given sound advice for the following reasons: *"[...] Aktion Amazonas is considered to have a relevant level of experience, expertise and/or capacity. It is the assessment that Aktion Amazonas will be able to [...] ensure documentation of results and registration of learning for enhanced humanitarian response and managing risks, security, and safety with organization, staff as well as beneficiaries'.*

Aktion Amazonas’s international development and nature conservation efforts are built around the implementation of a four-year strategy, prepared in collaboration between the Board of Directors and the Secretariat and regularly evaluated and adjusted by the Secretariat with the approval of the Board.

***ACEAA:*** ACEAA is a Bolivian NGO founded in 2012 whose mission is *"to contribute to the management of territorial spaces in the Amazon, generating knowledge and skills in local actors, to conserve ecosystems and sustainably manage biodiversity*". It implements its actions based on three main strategies: i) Empower people, ii) Protected wild places and iii) Put science and technology to work. In the first strategy, ACEAA supports to build sustainable and resilient livelihoods that protect standing forests and strengthen environmental governance that improves protection and management of natural resources. ACEAA has defined the Bolivian part of the Amazon as the organizations geographical area of intervention composed by 24 municipalities in the departments (districts) of Pando, Beni, and La Paz with most activities in Pando where ACEAA has a central office besides its regional office in La Paz (www.conservacionamazonica.org.bo). ACEAA has extensive experience in supporting the consolidation of value chains of NTFR in the Amazonian Forest of Bolivia, advising on the development of planning instruments, evaluating the productive potential of promising NTFR, developing market studies, promoting better harvesting practices, processing processes and transport, while promoting links between local NTFR-harvestersand processing companies, among others. ACEEA also generates technical information on Brazil nut and Asaí palm at the Pando level, helping communities, authorities, and other stakeholders to make informed decisions on the management of these resources. ACEAA also supports communities in territorial planning, strengthening of local organizations of NTFR production, titling of indigenous territories and the creation of protected areas, using science-based tools. ACEAA has promoted these processes in various indigenous and peasant communities and is currently supporting more than 25 communities in Pando, in addition to being one of the institutions that advises and supports the *Federation of Asaí and Amazonian Fruit Handlers* - the primary community lead agency bringing together various community enterprises throughout the Department of Pando.

ACEAA pushed for the creation of various protected areas in the Department of Pando, with a total of more than 400 thousand hectares, ANMIB Porvenir included, with a purpose of promoting the comprehensive management of NTFR as a strategy that promotes the conservation of the Amazon Forest. In each of the areas, ACEAA supported in the beginning of the conduct, generating planning documents, strengthening the capacities of municipal governments, establishing socio-environmental monitoring systems, and reducing threats, among other actions. ACEAA also incorporates a climate change approach in resource management and territory management, being the leading institution of a project within the framework of the Euroclima+ Program and produces the information for “Observatorio de Frutos Amazónicos y Cambio Climático” ([www.frutosamazonicos.org.bo](http://www.frutosamazonicos.org.bo)), which is the leading source of information in the department. ACEAA works in close cooperation with private sector stakeholders, local authorities, and other community actors in alliance with other organizations at local, national, and international level. The work is funded by international donors, allowing to implement long-term actions at ACEAA´s intervention areas.

* Describe any previous acquaintance or cooperation between the partners, and how these experiences have fed into the development of the proposed intervention.

In 2018 ACEAA and Aktion Amazonas entered into a formal partnership agreement and has science 2019 collaborated on the implementation of the CISU-funded project ‘*Building climate change adaptation capacity in Bolivian Amazon Forest communities based on diversification of livelihoods linked to non-timer forest resources (NTFR)’*, collaborated on the implementation of the CISU-funded project, whose results and learnings now form the basis for an upscaling to new communities and audiences. The previous cooperation has strengthened the partnership and provided Aktion Amazonas with an even greater local knowledge and understanding of the cultural and political dynamics in the area of intervention which altogether will benefit the project positively, just as experience with development and implementation of sustainable indigenous community territory management plans, training in and organization around sustainable extraction, processing and commercialization of NTFRs as well strengthening of social and indigenous peoples' rights and territories and 'empowerment' of communities through organization, training in evidence-based advocacy and awareness raising helps to qualify the implementation of a phase two intervention. Ind addition, has Aktion Amazonas, ACEAA and a third local Aktion Amazonas-partner conducted a strategy workshop in April 2022 to discuss a future multinational conservation strategy, which further underpins the partnership's common visions and long-term commitment to forest conservation in Bolivia and beyond.

* Describe the contributions, roles, and responsibilities of the partners and other actors. Justify substantial payroll costs, and if payroll costs are included for the Danish organisation, describe the tasks and why Danish personnel are best positioned to undertake these tasks.

Aktion Amazonas is as per contract formally responsible for the entire project to CISU and will take the lead in planning the intervention implementation and carry out monitoring and supervision, technical assistance, financial controlling as well as project evaluations and follow-up on the project. Aktion Amazonas is also responsible for project related information, communication, and knowledge sharing in Denmark with the purpose of increasing the understanding and knowledge of Danish development assistance, its results and strengthening the awareness of global development thematic and issues of national concern. In addition, Aktion Amazonas is responsible for arranging and facilitating the final external audit at the end of the intervention and coordinating the external evaluation. Furthermore, the Aktion Amazonas Project Team will be responsible for being updated on new policies, guidelines etc. from CISU and DANIDA that are relevant for guiding the project work and on new methodological approaches. Both Aktion Amazonas and ACEAA will be responsible for being updated on ‘best practices’ within the broader context of development cooperation and conservation in general. However, ACEAA in particular will be responsible for being updated on development in local and national politics which can potentially influence the intervention so that the intervention can be adapted in a timely manner if necessary. The two organizations have together prepared a result framework with indicators and targets based on the ToC of the intervention and not least to ensure common understanding and expectations of the intervention finance management and align expectations regarding formats and frequency of reporting as well as preferred channels/media for communication and knowledge sharing agreed on at the governance workshop. In addition, the partnership will discuss a plan for PSHEA and risk management with inspiration from Danida’s Guidelines for Risk Management. The project is supervised by Aktion Amazonas’ head of Project and Finance and managed by professional volunteer project coordinators, to ensure timely, adequate, and high quality in project implementation, management, and reporting. ACEAA contributes to the collaboration with their extensive local knowledge of the region, their network as well as a well-established organizational infrastructure in the Pando region with a local office, equipment and cars that will serve the project. ACEAA is responsible for the implementation of the intervention, cooperation with stakeholders, achievement of results, hiring and line management of adequate staff, quality assurance of deliveries, monitoring, financial and narrative reporting internally and to Aktion Amazonas as well as sharing of lessons between partners. Finally, Aktion Amazonas will strengthen ACEAA within the field of strategic and organizational communications, advocacy and forest surveillance and monitoring using ToC. ACEAA has allocated a project coordinator responsible for the implementation of the intervention accompanied by ACEAA's 'supporting team' of experts. The ACEAA Institutional Coordinator also forms part of the project team responsible for the implementation of the current project and the dialogue with Aktion Amazonas.

* Describe how the intervention will contribute to developing the relationship and collaboration between the partners.

The two organizations formed a five-year Partnership Agreement (2019-2024) which sets out the framework and visions for the collaboration. The Partnership Agreement aimed to formalize the collaboration and formed the framework for a long-term strategic alliance, where the parties will mutually complement their organizational competencies based on a shared interest in protecting the biodiversity of the Amazon Rainforest and its ecosystems, while promoting sustainable development, particularly among indigenous people (the partnership agreement in Spanish can be shared on request). The collaboration between ACEAA and Aktion Amazonas will thus continue around the development of various projects both CISU-funded and privately-funded - also after the end of the current conservation intervention applied for. And with the long-term common goal of establishing Connectivity in the Pando Region there is ample opportunity and reason to continue and further develop the collaboration based on lessons learned and shared ambitions.

Target groups, objectives, and expected results (our intervention)

* Describe the composition of the target groups

According to data from the National Institute of Statistics, the municipality of Porvenir has 7,948 inhabitants, of which 744 inhabitants would be found in the five project communities. The inhabitants of the region are mostly decedents of rural settlers from eastern Bolivia, who arrived in the 19th century to work in the rubber extraction industry. The other central group are descendants of the indigenous Tacana people that over time and due to aggressive assimilation policy and discrimination, gradually lost some of their sociocultural characteristics and today consider themselves as mestizos and refer to their communities as ‘peasant communities’. The families depend on local ecosystem services and their community livelihood is based on agriculture and forest resources, just as most of the households can be classified as poor with an average income below the national poverty line gained from among other sale of NTFRs. The project communities have been chosen based on the communities expressed interest and predisposition to form part of the project, just as the communities' strategic location close to the border with Brazil and a relatively easily accessible Brazilian market besides the communities' access to some infrastructure providing a basis for building small scale micro businesses as these successes depend. The acceptance and predisposition of the municipality of Porvenir to work constructively to support the community protect area of ANMIB Porvenir has also been crucial for the choice of project area, as the political situation in Bolivia makes it challenging for green NGOs to operate freely. A constructive collaboration with local authorities is thus necessary for a project of this nature to succeed.

The projects direct target group:

1. LSC members and individuals trained in advocacy, management, and documentation of environmental infringements are enriched with knowledge and skills: 40 persons trained, primarily community authorities including young leaders in projection (20 men and 20 women, of which at least 10 people are young). Of the 40 trained 10 form part of the LSC.
2. Individuals trained in the extraction, processing, and commercialization of NTFRs: 82 persons trained (40 men and 42 women)
3. Community support to conserving biodiversity strengthened via awareness raising workshops use of recordings from game cameras: 100 members of project communities (50 women and 50 men) of which at least 10 people are young and 26 representatives from the 13 communities located around the ANMIB Porvenir (13 women and 13 men).

4. Regional support to strengthen connectivity gained at dialogue meetings: 30 representatives from indigenous territories, management committees from areas like AMNI Porvenir, institutions responsible for management of conservation areas under regional administration and municipality (10 women and 20 men – this is an estimate as the project no influence has on the elected representatives)
In total: 278 individuals will benefit directly from the intervention (143 men and 135 women) of which at least 20 people are young.

The projects secondary target group:

**82 families benefitting from training in the extraction, processing, and commercialization of equivalent to 410 people. All 744 inhabitants of the five communities benefiting from:**

- being stronger financially as communities vis-à-vis potential buyers of their territories.
- potentially fewer environmental infringements in their territory.
- sustainable management of community forests and natural resources.

- awareness about the value of intact ecosystems and the connection between nature conservation, healthy livelihood, and local development.

In total 1.154 will benefit indirectly from the project of which 410 people are benefited by both NTFR's training and general better protection and management of ANMIB Porvenir.

* Describe how the target groups will participate in- and benefit from the intervention.

The project approach continues to be rights-based in that it enables communities to raise their voice to influence the decision-making government duty-bearers at the local level and strengthen the capacities of government entities to fulfil their obligations as duty-bearers and address the demands and challenges raised by the right-holders. The LSC’s therefore consist of *both* delegates from the five communities *and* the Municipality to ensure long-term protection and mutual understanding of nature conservation and sustainable development. From the communities the delegates will be representative people with leadership capacities. The political context of Pando has experienced major development and changes this last year. After the subnational elections on March 7th, 2021, Gresly Justiniano Durán was elected the youngest mayor in all of Bolivia (26 y.o) and the first female member of the municipality. The changes in the political arena have had a positive impact on the local communities. Progress is slow but objectives are met including the updating the municipal management plan with participation of community authorities and other municipal actors. The project uses this favorable and good collaborative environment in an otherwise politically very fragmented political landscape. In terms of promoting connectivity both representatives from indigenous territories, management committees from areas like AMNI Porvenir, institutions responsible for management of conservation areas under regional administration and municipality are represented at dialogue meetings to ensure consensus. The project also has a focus on promoting gender equality and supporting women empowerment with requirements for meaningful representation of women in organization and project activities. Gender distribution is considered when forming the groups and ideally half of the members of a group are women and the other half are men. Similarly, marginalized/vulnerable groups are included and empowered to take part in community decision-making and income-generating activities, as equality as a cross-cutting issue not only refers to gender but also to households and individuals. Furthermore, the project aims to involve young people in income-generating and management activities. This contributes to counteract the increasing migration of young people to the urban areas, where there is a demand for unskilled and typically poorly paid work. The participation of all ages and both genders are not only inclusive, but it also follows the reality of the communities. Harvesting, processing, and selling forest resources requires the participation of all family members. For instance, it is necessary to climb the palm trees to harvest the fruits (an often-dangerous endeavour), which is typically practiced by young men - while the fruits are carried out from the forest by men of all ages. The shelling, processing, packaging, and sale of the final product is typically done by women. Finally, due to the educational level that exists among young people, the administrative management and negotiation skills with potential markets will focus on young men and women. In this way, the success of the initiative lies in working together. In relation to the promotion of social justice, the project uses community members from the phase 1 pilot communities as trainers of trainees as our experience shows that communication and training between community members is more effective (and credible) than if the training is done by outsiders. Finally, management and connectivity conservation plans, and value chain strategies are implemented with the involvement of communities and local authorities and other stakeholders to ensure local anchoring.

* Describe the objectives and expected results.

The theory of change for the project is thus that *by* strengthening social and indigenous peoples' rights and 'empowerment' of local communities through information, organization and training in evidence-based advocacy and not least the introduction of new monitoring technologies to document environmental violations and generating sustainability and climate change resilience of local community livelihoods based on training in and organization around sustainable extraction, processing and commercialization of NTFRs in addition to taking steps towards connecting ANMIB Porvenir with other protected areas and indigenous territories in the region, *then* the communities will enhance their territorial resilience, strengthen the protection of community forests and ecosystem services and improve forest health status while reducing community poverty and *thus contribute to* achieving the impact objective of the project: **Preventing deforestation or degradation of the forest area ANMIB Porvenir and secure regional ecological connectivity for the benefit of people, climate and biodiversity.**

*From outcome to impact:* The intervention is designed around three mutually dependent outcomes: (O1) civil society stakeholders empowered to jointly defend and manage their territory, (O2) *s*ustainability and climate change resilience of local community livelihoods are increased based on democratic organization and benefit sharing around productive diversification and marketing of NTFR and (O3) steps towards linking ANMIB Porvenir to other protected areas, which are expected to contribute to the impact objective by strengthening local communities making them less vulnerable to climate change and changing market prices and more resilient to external pressure on the community forests from private buyers exploiting poverty and lack of knowledge of rights to buy community land or access forest resources in protected territories. The long-term goal of strengthening the ecological connectivity in the Pando region will fight fragmentation, strengthen biodiversity, ensuring species are able to move between protected areas and maintain genetic strength for the benefit of forest and ecosystem services. In addition, cohesive areas under coordinated protection will make a common front against for example the mining industry currently posing a mayor threat to environment as mineral extraction typically takes place in rivers and the consequences can be felt many hundreds of kilometers downstream in terms pollution. The Aktion Amazonas/ACEAA partnership uses communal forests as ‘stepping-stones’ between protected areas and indigenous territories.  The five project communities are strategically situated in close connection to the indigenous territory ‘TCO – Yaminahya-Machineri’ and alongside the river Tahuamanu, whose riverbanks can serve as a natural connection to other community-protected forest areas to the east.

*This builds on the following assumptions:*1. It is assumed that there are good relations between the communities, which allows the establishment of joint spaces for decision-making and consensual planning and that conditions exist to bring together representatives of the communities to form the LSC.
2. It is assumed that empowerment and increase in HH net income from exploitation of NTFRs strengthen communities’ resilience to economic interests.

3. It is further assumed that communities through capacity development will manage forest resources sustainably and in a transparent and inclusive manner and avoid elite capture.

4. Finally it is assumed that forest authorities at national and regional level possess both capacity and integrity to enforce environmental law and rights despite major challenges with poverty and corruption.

* What is the strategy of the intervention?

From outputs to outcomes: The operational part of the project strategy is based on a number of outputs each leading to one of the intended outcomes:
i) Outputs 1.1-1.3. relates to (1) Organizing, equipping, and training of Local Surveillance Committee (LSC) consisting of representatives from communities and the municipality to survey and document environmental infringements and monitor community forest and rivers conservation status, (2) LSC members and individual’s advocacy skills and knowledge on environmental laws and rights and capacities to exercise influence on municipality and departmental forest and natural resource management policies enhanced and (3) forests health status assessed using game cameras and recordings strategically used in territorial land use planning, advocacy and awareness raising, which will lead to outcome 1: **Local communities and Municipality empowered to jointly defend and manage their territory.**

ii) Outputs 2.1-2.3. relates to (1) development of climate-smart value chain strategy and continued strengthening of the Associations of the ANMIB Porvenir, (2) capacity building of families to sustainably extract naturally occurring palm fruits and nuts, and (3) the elaboration of a territorial land use plan of the ANMIB Porvenir,which will lead to outcome 2: **Sustainability and climate change resilience of local community livelihoods increased based on democratic organization and benefit sharing around productive diversification and marketing of NTFR**.

iii) Outputs 3.1 & 3.2. relates to (1) Mapping and developing a connectivity conservation plan for areas to be conserved and / or protected to link ANMIB Porvenir to other protected areas/TCOs in the region, (2) building broader support for connectivity through advocacy/awareness raising efforts beyond the municipality of Porvenir and (3) community support to conserving biodiversity strengthened via awareness raising workshops and use of recordings from game cameras, which will lead to outcome 3: Steps towards linking ANMIB Porvenir with other protected areas and indigenous territories in the region taken to secure ecological connectivity.

The intervention contributes to the Development Triangle by combining capacity, strategic services, and advocacy as mandatory to deliver the intervention outcomes. Through this intervention the 5 communities of Pando will diversify their livelihood and reduces their vulnerability to climate change effects on harvest of NTFR as well as withstand external pressure and interest in the forest areas. This effort is supported by a focus on empowering and involving the communities to be defenders of their territory through training and organization and building capacity of ACEAA through collaboration, knowledge exchange and collaboration based on equality. The investment in equipment to achieve the outcomes will be transferred to the partner in Bolivia when the project is finished.

* What are the plans for systematising experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention?

Aktion Amazonas's project monitoring is based on the project's Theory of Change. At the outcome level, sustainable changes are measured and reported once a year, while progress in project implementation is continuously monitored via online meetings between ACEAA and Aktion Amazonas and via quarterly reports, which measure activities completed under the outcomes and briefly describe the most significant outputs witnessed as a result of activities implemented each quarter. Measurement at both outcome and output level will take place based on several clearly defined indicators and targets set out in the project's results framework.In connection with the development of the project, Aktion Amazonas has developed monitoring formats, which also measure lessons learned, assumptions and risks. Aktion Amazonas works with a format for annual reporting on outcome level and quarterly reports that measure at output level.At monthly partner skype meetings, progress of projects and challenges are discussed, and work plans, and Results Framework are updated or adjusted, if necessary, to improve the project. In addition, Aktion Amazonas holds internal project meetings at the secretariat to discuss progress in project implementation. Further, monitoring is followed up by project visits from Aktion Amazonas’ project team to check whether the project is achieving expected results as planned. The project visits have a quantitative objective to document the implementation of the project's more tangible goods and services by on-the-ground-inspection. Simultaneously these visits are also the qualitative objective to document the various parties’ views of the project’s development and achievements through face-to-face interviews with the target groups. In addition, documentation of the project progress is collected through photos and participant registration forms from meetings and workshops, reports, and other "products'' listed as means of verifications.  All information is shared through Google Drive for Aktion Amazonas and ACEAAs projects to access, respectively.

Project-related information work in Denmark

The information work in Denmark is carried out to inform members, volunteers, stakeholders, and other followers through Aktion Amazonas' website, electronic newsletter, Facebook, and annual report about the results of the organization's nature conservation and development work. With the public information and results from the intervention will be available at the website (www.eaango.dk), Facebook and press work. The information material will include photos, articles and will also be included in Aktion Amazonas’ annual report. Information about results distributed in Bolivia is more targeted on nature conservation in order to:

(1) Strengthen the support for Aktion Amazonas' work in particular, and the Danish development assistance in general. (2) Contribute to increase knowledge and understanding of the development and nature conservation issues associated with Aktion Amazonas' work. (3) Increase the awareness and support for promoting and preserving biological diversity and sustainable coexistence between humans and nature.

1. Supplementary financing

 Not apply

1. NTFR refers “to goods of biological origin other than timber, and other services derived from forests, other wooded land and trees outside forests". UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization has removed the phrasing “and other services” in its latest revised definition and replaced the word Non-Timber with Non-Wood. EAA however believes that services as ecotourism can be crucial in forest protection, and we don’t want to exclude all woody raw materials for e.g., carvings. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)