**1.** **Objective and relevance (the world around us)**

*1.1. Main purpose of the intervention*



The Chiquitano Dry Forest (CDF) is the largest patch of healthy and best preserved tropical dry forest ecosystem in South America alive today (*Bryant et al. 1997; Portillo-Quintero & Sánchez-Azofeifa 2010. Extent and conservation of tropical dry forests in the Americas. Biological Conservation. Volume 143, Issue 1, January 2010, Pages 144-155*), and one of the most biologically diverse dry forests in the world (*Parker et al. 1993)* and critically endangered *(Ferrer-Paris et al 2019 An ecosystem risk assessment of temperate and tropical forests of the Americas with an outlook on future conservation strategies. Conservation Letters 12 (2): 110 pp*) extending over more than 24 million hectares. The forest takes its name from the indigenous groups, Chiquitanos, which inhabited them at the time of European colonization. The forest-region is situated roughly in the centre of the South American continent with most of the Chiquitano Dry Forest lying within the eastern lowlands of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, (around 16 million hectares) and smaller patches extending into the western Mato Grosso, Brazil (the Pantanal wetlands and the woodlands of the Cerrado). Situated at the southern limit of the moist Amazonian forests, the Chiquitano Dry Forest marks a ecological transition zone between the Amazon rainforest and the drier thorny scrub forests further south in the Chaco ecoregion and straddles the watershed divide between the two major basins in South America: Amazonas and La Plata making the CDF important to protect for its function as ecological transition zone.

The zonal vegetation is dry forest characterized by the tropical deciduous forest described as a warm sub-humid tropical climate with relatively stable temperatures (24° to 30° C) and a long dry season (winter) followed by a season of heavy rainfall (summer). Opposite to the trees in moist tropical rainforests the trees in a dry forest shed their leaves during the dry season and come into leaf at the start of the rainy season.

The Chiquitano Dry Forest has a high range of biodiversity in the country with preliminary 1,200 registered species of vertebrate animals (fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals) yet only 20% of the forest's biological diversity is known. However, its value lies not only in its unique biodiversity. The forest also stores carbon and provides ecosystem services in the form of fresh water, wood, pollinators, food, and medicines to hundreds of communities depending on its resources to sustain their life in terms of economy, nutrition and food security. The causal link between healthy ecosystems and human living conditions is well documented, just as unspoiled ecosystems with high biodiversity values are more resilient to fluctuations in climate and natural disasters, while avoided deforestation have been found to be one of the most efficient ways to combat climate change. At the same time and during the last four-five decades, scientists have revealed clear links between human overexploitation of nature and escalating human-nature interaction to the emergence of aggressive virus species like HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Marburg’s Disease, SARS and COVID19, making the protection and sustainable management of forests crucial for both people, climate and nature and a necessary investment in the future of mankind.

Yet the extent and quality of the world’s forests continues to decline. According to FAO’s Global Forest Resources Assessment (2015) the world’s forest area has declined from 31.6% of global land area in 1990 to 30.6% in 2015 primarily due to population growth and a continuing growing middle class and in the wake of this an increased demand for food, goods, and land. Dry forests are the most endangered tropical forest in the world (*Janzen 1988*) and the CDF is no exception. Despite being considered globally outstanding for its biological distinctiveness the CDF ecoregion is critically threatened and faces an uncertain future (*Dinerstein et al. 1995)* and maintaining its ecological integrity is key to sustainable development and climate change adaptation in eastern Bolivia *(Vides-Almonacid & Justiniano 2011*), resulting in CDF last year being declared a conservation priority for South America by the IUCN World Conservation Congress (*WCC-2020-Res-006*).  Habitat conversion due to agricultural expansion, land encroachment for livestock and unplanned colonization are the major threats to the CDF. Habitat degradation comes next in the form of uncontrolled logging and the forest conversion rate is almost 100 hectares per day. Until 2019 the total loss of natural vegetation cover in the department of Santa Cruz was approximately ​​6.2 million hectares, placing the CDF forest in the unfortunate category as one of the most threatened forests in South America. With this trend, projections estimate a total loss of 7.1 million hectares (43%) by 2040 (*Maillard et al, 2020*).

In addition, uncontrolled forest fires threaten both the biodiversity and people living in the Chiquitano Dry Forest and the adjacent ecoregions including the Amazon. Small, controlled fires have long been a seasonal occurrence in Bolivia. They are routinely used as a tool to maintain pastures, burn off spent crops, clear brush, and forest, fertilize soil, and burn trash. But the fires in 2020 - like those in 2019 - have been anything but routine and have prompted the Bolivian government to declare a state of emergency two years in a row and there is no indication that the fires will decrease in strength in 2021 or in the future - on the contrary. In 2019, four million hectares of forest and savannah were lost to the flames and in 2020 NASA Earth Observatory could document escaped fires burning unchecked in several ecosystems, including the Pantanal wetlands in the eastern part of the country; the dry Chiquitano forest in the southeast; and the Beni savanna and Amazon rainforest areas in the north.

The fires are largely the result of intentional burning to convert forest to farmland by typically migrants from the highlands and have in Bolivia increased in strength and scope after the Supreme Decree 3974 was issued by the former Bolivian president in July 2019. Following the Supreme Decree, the amount of controlled burning allowed by farmers increased five-fold, from five hectares per year to 20. Same month the president signed the Supreme Decree 26075 expanding land demarcated for livestock production and the agribusiness sector to include Permanent Forest Production Lands in the regions of Beni and Santa Cruz. These changes in regulations have together with increasingly higher temperatures and lower than average precipitation due to changes in the regional climate contributed to the vast extent of the fires seen in recent years (*Romero-Muñoz, A., M. Jansen, A. M. Nuñez, M. Toledo, R. Vides Almonacid & T. Kuemmerle. 2019. Fires scorching Bolivia´s Chiquitano forest. Science vol 366, issue 6469 pp. 1082)*.

Over the longer term, deforestation of tropical forests can have a broader impact, affecting global climate and biodiversity. These changes are however more challenging to observe and forecast from local effects, since they take place over a longer time scale and can be difficult to measure. The most immediate impact of deforestation occurs at the local level with the loss of ecological services provided by tropical forests and related ecosystems. Such habitats afford humans 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, just as forest loss reduces the availability of renewable resources like timber, medicinal plants, nuts and fruit, and game.

**To reduce the impact of deforestation in the CDF-region** the project focuses on contributing to the protection and sustainable management of indigenous community forests in the indigenous territory TIOC CIBAPA - Central Indígena del Bajo Paraguá. The indigenous communities in the CDF-region are key to promoting forest protection in a fragmented landscape and have acquired a function as ‘Safe Havens’ in an eco-region where most forests under municipal or private ownership are cleared to create space for agriculture and livestock production, new settlements and logging concessions among other things, encouraged by the central government.   The impact objective is to include the TIOC in a corridor of connectivity as a strategic ‘steppingstone’ between three protected areas in Northern Chiquitania by sustainable management and protecting the TIOC. In the long run, it is FCBC and EAA's long term vision and goal to realize the *Gran Corridor of the Chiquitano Region*, where the Northern Chiquitania Corridor of Connectivity will play a key role (see map, fig. 1).

Ecological corridors are key to protecting biodiversity and a major component in successfully fighting fragmentation and strengthening biodiversity, ensuring species are able to move between protected areas and maintain genetic strength. But actually, wildlife has many reasons to travel across landscapes and between large, protected havens. Daily movements, seasonal migrations, shifting habitats, escaping natural ecosystem disturbances, or the need to adapt to climate change are all possible.

The indigenous territory TIOC CIBAPA - Central Indígena del Bajo Paraguá is situated in the northern Chiquitania between the national park Noel Kempff Mercado (Natural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO) on its eastern side, and the two nature reserves: Natural and Cultural Heritage of Copaibo de Concepción and Natural Heritage Conservation Unit Ríos Blanco y Negro Wildlife Refuge to its western side. The protected areas together with the indigenous territory TIOC CIBAPA - Central Indígena del Bajo Paraguá makes up an important conservation block connecting ecosystems of the CDF-region, the Cerrado in Brazil, and the Amazon Rainforest.

**Fig. 1.**


The indigenous territory includes three indigenous Chiquitano indigenous communities and one indigenous Guarasugwé community covering a total area of approximately 378.000 ha almost entirely covered with well-preserved forest. The Guarasugwé nation is the smallest of Bolivia's 36 legally recognized indigenous nations and is considered extremely vulnerable and in danger of extinction. Together with the widespread poverty among the indigenous communities within the territory this has been decisive for deciding on the project implementation site.
Official figures from the Bolivian Population Census 2001 estimates that approximately 62% of the total population of Bolivia consider themselves to be of indigenous descent *(Bolivian Census 2001, Los pueblos indígenas de Bolivia*). However, this majority of the population remain highly marginalized in economic terms and continue to live in extreme poverty. In particular indigenous women and young people are vulnerable and overrepresented in the poverty, unemployment and inequality statistics - and the Santa Cruz region is no exception.
In addition,  the TIOC CIBAPA has been chosen as the project implementation site based on the communities expressed interest and predisposition to form part of the project and due to the communities already early initiatives and experiences with sustainable development market products from Non Timber Forest Resources (NTFR) which the project can successfully build on, qualify and scale up. Finally, but not least, the territory’s strategic location and opportunity to act as a steppingstone between the protected areas forms part of the decision to choose the territory as project site.
The latter however requires the territory being managed sustainably and withstand external pressure from private buyers exploiting poverty and lack of knowledge of rights to buy indigenous community land or acces forest resources in indigenous territories and the continues pressure from the ever-increasing and extensive forest fires that ravage the region every year and environmental infringements. Therefore, and with the long-term goal to strengthen the ecological connectivity the project aims at:

**‘Protecting and sustainably managing communal forests of the indigenous territory TIOC-central Bajo Paraguá as steppingstone between protected areas in the Northern Chiquitania’.**

The project thus feeds into the first of the EAA's and FCBC's three long term priority conservation actions in the next decade: *The creation of biological corridors between national parks and protected areas in the region using indigenous community forests as steppingstones.* The two other long term priority conservations guiding the EAA/FCBC partnership are strategic efforts to expand the forest area under formal protection and enforce sustainable management of forest material extraction on municipal and privately owned land.

*1.2. Context of the intervention*

The land distribution in the Santa Cruz region is geographically divided into municipally owned areas, areas owned by the state (e.g., national parks) and big areas privately owned by ranchers and agriculture companies (> 500 ha), smaller individual properties (< 500 ha) and areas owned by communities. However, a new social category has also emerged in recent years - the so-called ‘*colonos interculturales*’ - migrants from primarily the highlands and the interior of the country - who legally or illegally settles in the Santa Cruz region looking for land to cultivate and an opportunity to escape from poverty and unemployment that is prevalent in the highlands. Many of the settlers are of Aymara and Quechua origin. Their demands for land are the basis of many conflicts and clashes between the indigenous and peasant inhabitants and the settlers. The relocation was intensified under the former President Evo Morales, who encouraged the "colonization" of the Santa Cruz region by people from the highlands (La Paz, Oruro, and Potosi) as a deliberate strategy to alleviate poverty problems in the highlands and to expand the government's electorate to the lowlands especially to the department of Santa Cruz where the desire and demand for autonomy is most prevalent. It goes against both regional and municipal autonomy, but the government takes into account, among other things, its own group of voters which weighs heavier than the rules for regional and municipal autonomy making the re-colonization a politically sensitive issue.

Looking at Bolivia from above, the country is divided into nine departments which are further divided into municipalities. Santa Cruz is the largest of the nine constituent departments, occupying about one-third (33.74%) of the country's territory. The departments and municipalities have extensive autonomy and control over fiscal lands. However, the national government disposes of natural resources and designates and manages natural areas. Zooming in on indigenous territories and communities’ indigenous people in Bolivia have a constitutional right to own territories called Original Peasant Indigenous Territory abbreviated TIOC after the designation in Spanish ‘*Territorio Indígena Originario Campesino* (*TIOC*)’.
A TIOC is defined as an ancestral territory where common lands or a community of origin was constituted. The legal recognition of a territory includes the right to self-government - a formal structure through which indigenous communities may control the administration of their people, land, resources and related programs and policies, through agreements with national and regional governments. The traditional indigenous leaders are elected by the community for a period. The leadership role rotates, and it is a requirement that everyone at some point in his or her life bestrides a leading role in the community as a contribution or service to the community.  The forms of self-government however, where enacted, are diverse and self-government remains an evolving and contentious issue in Bolivia law, policy, and public life. The legal recognition of a territory also accompanying subsequent rights, why as for example indigenous territories and communities are *not* subject to carry out Social Economic Function (FES) on their territories such as private landowners and agricultural companies who are obliged to produce for the agricultural market or carry out productive activities for the economic benefit of society to agricultural production to maintain the land ownership in compliance with the FES.  If they e.g., leave land untouched to nature, they lose the right to their land. Bolivian laws however recognize indigenous people’s rights to traditional use of the forests allowing indigenous people to maintain the forests of their territories as part of their ways of life and currently constitute an opportunity for both conservation and local development. Land under public ownership is however currently in the process of being assigned to peasant productive organizations with intensive production systems. This is causing an escalation and intensification in cultivating the land in the Chiquitano region and is resulting in more and more deforestation to include new land for agriculture or for the short-term economic gain from sale of timber.

With a population of about 10.67 million people and 35 distinct ethnic groups, Bolivia is one of the most culturally diverse countries in Latin America, and the poorest country in South America. While widespread poverty persists throughout Bolivia’s three main geographic zones, the regional distribution of poverty displays one constant feature: the poorest regions are the ones comprised of the most indigenous peoples. Critical factors like long-term lack of access to social services (education and health) and productive assets (land) have impeded indigenous peoples from significantly improving their living conditions. The main social indicators (illiteracy, maternal and child mortality, and primary and secondary school enrollment rates) indicate that indigenous peoples have significantly less access to social services than non-indigenous peoples.

This also applies in Santa Cruz and for the indigenous Chiquitano people who, together with the region's four other indigenous nations, for the most part live in poverty without access to basic service. They instead live off the forest (hunting, fishing, and gathering other wild resources) and as subsistence farmers and only rarely generate a harvest profit that can be sold in the local market. Many choses to sell their labor force to ranches and forest concessions or supplement their income with sale of ceramic and wood crafts or cotton fabrics. However insufficient land, scarce production and long periods of droughts forces especially the younger generation to migrate to the cities in search of work. This makes the communities more likely to - or even feel compelled to - sell land and natural resources to private investors. Fortunately, there is still an adequate availability of natural resources whose sustainable use could generate economic opportunities that promotes gender equity and indigenous cultural, why the project focus on entrepreneurship (support to development of nature based IGAs) as a way to generate job opportunities and an alternative income to subsistence agriculture, strengthening community resilience to climate changes.

In addition to adequate availability of natural resources just as important there exist a market and community experiences in exploiting non-timber forest resources or wild resources - a growing tendency in the communities searching for complementary options to improve their economic income. Several communities have already ventured into the area of developing nature-based community enterprises with the support from FCBC. The NTFRs exploitation ranges widely from; extracting palm oil from native palm trees for cosmetic and medicinal uses, over manufacturing blankets (mantillas) using roots and fruits to give natural colors to their garments, to the use of fruits from the native tree Isotoubo to make shampoo. Most of these activities are carried out by women and children in the family context, contributing to the visibility of their work in rural families, while supporting and keeping alive traditional knowledge, culture, and traditions. The project builds on these experiences and will use the increasing ecotourism in the region as a selling point to tourists. This provides an opportunity to give value to family production based on NTFRs directly in the communities though focus primarily is on organizing and strengthening the capacity of the community production associations providing them with technical skills, market knowledge and a platform from which they can upscale.

However, despite indigenous original autonomous control over indigenous territories, illegal activities are taking place in their areas - typically illegal logging, just as the community forest will not forever be able to withstand the pressures of an advancing agriculture threatening the livelihoods of indigenous peoples.

An advancing agriculture in particular poses a threat, though the soils of the region, in general, are not suitable for mechanized agriculture according to the Bolivian Land Use Plan (Plan de Usos del Suelo de Bolivia). Yet the agricultural land encroachment for animal husbandry and crops farming by small and big scale farmers continues with an estimated impact of up to 45% deforestation in the next 25 years.

But as the situation stands now, there is little to suggest that political winds are blowing in a more sustainable direction in favor of less deforestation1. On the contrary. According to the Amazon deforestation maps, from maaproject.org, updated as of January 27, 2021 Bolivia ranks second among countries with the greatest loss of primary forest in 2020 amplified by forest fires. Political organization and training of indigenous peoples in rights and advocacy is therefore as important a focus of the project just as support for the development of nature based IGAs will strengthen their territorial resilience, improve their standard of living, and enable them to assert their rights in society which will contribute to less inequality and more equality. Training in prevention and mitigation of the consequences of uncontrolled forest fires is a shorter necessity than a long-term strategy rooted in the fact that the annual forest fires are a reality the project must act on if the project's intentions and long-term visions are not to literally go up in flames.

*1.3 Describe whether the intervention takes place in a stable or fragile context*

The project takes place in a relatively stable context. 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.

In 1991, the Bolivian government signed the ILO Convention 169, a major binding international convention protecting indigenous rights. In 2007, the government passed Law 3760, which approved the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Especially in Bolivia, the indigenous peoples’ rights are important because the biggest forest areas are located in the territories of the indigenous people. However, the government is disregarding these rights in the lowlands as a consequence of their strategy to combat poverty in the highland. The strategy causes the government to remain passive when landless peasants settle down in the forest. It also involves the investment in infrastructure, which makes it easier for settlers to enter the indigenous peoples’ territory in the lowlands.

As elaborated in chapter three, the project addresses these political challenges and seeks in different ways to mitigate the consequences of, for example, settlements, forest fires and the pressure on indigenous peoples' territories within the framework of a semi-well-functioning political framework where NGOs must be careful to criticize and confront central power.

NGOs in Bolivia 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. At the same time, the controversial presidential election in 2019 exhibited that the Bolivian democracy has its challenges undermining the population's trust in the authorities. In addition, communities have in general communication and access difficulties limiting their opportunities to participate in different decision-making and execution instances of local economic development, poverty reduction actions and local and national government programs. Women are further excluded by their traditional roles in the family.

There is therefore still a very good reason to continue strengthening civil society to play an active democratic role and advocate for its rights, which is why the project focuses on strengthening both indigenous peoples' advocacy skills capacity and livelihood improvement. This enables the project to meet a here-and-now need for concrete solutions to deforestation while at the same time enabling the target group to address the underlying causes of deforestation.

*1.4 Describe how this intervention will strengthen civil society organising to advance social justice*

The challenges with deforestation in Bolivia are human rights and poverty related. In order to combat deforestation, gaining increased control of the forest is key, and it is directly interrelated with the indigenous peoples’ ability to stand together against the eroding of their territorial rights as well as their prospects of improving their economic situation in an inclusive and a sustainable way. However, the indigenous peoples struggle to establish a proper and well-functioning organizational structure that represents the, why the project focuses on empowering the members of the four indigenous communities to defend their territories through training in rights and advocacy and introduction to new surveillance technologies. The illegal logging that takes place in both indigenous territories and in protected areas happens with and without the "blessing" of local forest authorities. A stop to this requires first and foremost that the indigenous peoples 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. The projects supports and strengthen the communities to bring the illegal activities occurring in their territory to the outside world's attention through evidence based advocacy and dissemination of infringements and in coordination with indigenous organization in particular the Indigenous Organization of the Chiquitano People (OICH) and thereby raising awareness of the problems and pressuring the appropriate authorities to put an end to illegal activities and respect their territorial rights.

*1.5 What climate- and environmental conditions do the intervention need to respond to?*

The project is implemented in a forest area in Bolivia where intense deforestation has an impact on both community livelihood, biodiversity, and climate. The aim of the project is to protect indigenous community forests as 'ecological safe havens' for biodiversity and local nature-based development to improve the indigenous rural families' livelihood and enable them to manage their territory sustainably and protect their forest livelihoods from external commercial interests in the future. Furthermore, 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 in order to improve the living conditions of local communities, strengthen food security, conserve the Chiquitano Dry Forest forest, secure that future generations have access to these valuable natural resources and contribute to climate mitigation through avoided deforestation.

**2. The partnership/collaborators (our starting point)**

*2.1 Describe the experiences, capacities and resources of participant partners*

EAA is a Danish non-profit nature and development organisation concerned with sustainable management and protection of unique and valuable natural areas in Bolivia in partnership with two local NGOs and in close collaboration with both civil society actors, local authorities, and the private sector. EAA have for six worked to promote sustainable coexistence between people and nature, ensure global diversity of species and strengthen locally anchored and sustainable solutions to degradation of nature through activities based on capacity building and training, public awareness, and advocacy at local and regional levels (<https://www.eaango.dk/sadan-arbejder-vi>).
EAAs project team has specific knowledge and practical experience with 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. In addition, both the project team and EAA's Advisory Group include professional biologists and people with professional knowledge of advocacy and communication, which is a clear strength for the project and its link between nature protection, monitoring, and evidence-based advocacy. EAA and FCBC have also previously collaborated on the implementation of fire prevention and mitigation strategies in local indigenous communities in connection with the implementation of a DERF grant.
In relation to the DERF funded intervention, EAA was assessed for its organizational capacity, which was given sound advice for the following reasons: *"[...] EAA is considered to have a relevant level of experience, expertise and / or capacity. It is the assessment that EAA will be able to [...] ensure documentation of results and registration of learning for enhanced humanitarian response and managing risks, security and safety on a par with organization, staff as well as beneficiaries”.*These experiences and insights will surely inform the project, so that it steers free of potential pitfalls and incorporates good practices to ultimately ensure its longevity. Furthermore, it should be highlighted that professionalism is held in high regard at EAA and volunteers must all have relevant academic education or other relevant educational backgrounds plus Spanish and English language skills to work at the Secretariat. The Secretariat is currently run by nine persons, all of whom have been carefully selected for their qualifications, experiences and competences within either project management, communication, advocacy, or finance to ensure that all the functions of the Secretariat are covered by professional volunteers. Such professionalism ensures high quality and efficiency in the project implementation and management of funds. Several of the members of the Secretariat have years of experience from different positions in the NGO sector (nature conservation, development, and humanitarian aid) in Denmark and abroad including Latina America and Bolivia in particular. These resource-persons provide EAA with an extensive network and the necessary competencies for managing projects, funding, and creating long term results in the field of development, nature conservation, advocacy, policy work and awareness raising. These experiences and skills will all be brought into play in implementing the project in partnership with FCBC.

FCBC is a non-profit organization based in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, whose scope of action encompasses the entire department of Santa Cruz. FCBC focuses on the ecosystems that are the most environmentally vulnerable, especially those situated within the Chiquitano Dry Forest ecoregion, the Cerrado tropical savanna ecoregion2 and the arid subtropical Chaco ecoregion of low forests and savannas. For more than 20 years FCBC has been developing and carrying out activities in different fields of conservation and sustainable development, achieving results that have had a great socio-economic and environmental impact (<https://www.fcbc.org.bo/acerca>).

Since its foundation in 1999 FCBC has promoted the design and implementation of around 500 projects and initiatives of varying sizes and durations. This work has been developed mainly in the Chiquitania region, in close collaboration with civil society actors and authorities and in alliance with local, national, and international organizations. FCBC has invested more than 10 million US dollars - of own and external funds - benefiting more than 60 thousand people directly and around 100 thousand people indirectly. In doing so, FCBC has built a local reputation and accumulated knowledge that allows the good results to continue and for these results to reach beyond the immediate scope of each project. Support for the development and promotion of NTFRs is one of FCBC's core competencies and a permanent part of the organization's focus on Sustainability as one of three strategic focus areas together with Conservation and Nature Restoration. FCBC consists of professionals in the fields; natural sciences, cartography, and geomatics, besides forestry sciences (timber and non-timber) and sustainable management of natural resources (including provision of safe water for human use, ecological kitchens with low consumption of wood, sustainable livestock, management of native and foreign bees, among others), in addition to specialists in protected areas. The project will draw on all these competencies.

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

Since 2017 the FCBC/EAA partnership has been implementing several CISU financed projects with the purpose of improving living conditions for marginalized primarily indigenous groups in the Department of Santa Cruz through locally rooted eco-tourism, support to sustainable territorial management and building organizational capacity. FCBC/EAA has further led a humanitarian effort in 2019 to help families affected by the wildfires in the Chiquitano Region. The intervention was focused on the distribution of clean water and seeds and the prevention of new wild forest fires through the establishment and training of community-based emergency brigades in firefighting. The previous cooperation has strengthened the partnership, just as the cooperation on developing ecotourism in indigenous communities has provided both organizations with valuable experience and given EAA a even greater local knowledge and understanding of the cultural and political dynamic in the area of intervention which altogether will benefit the project positively. This project builds directly on the experience from previous interventions - both in relation to the development of nature based IGAs, but equally a great understanding of indigenous culture and the dynamics of communities.

*2.3 Describe the contributions, roles and responsibilities of the partners and other actors*

EAA is as per contract formally responsible for the entire project to CISU and will take the lead in planning the project implementation and carry out monitoring and supervision, technical assistance, financial controlling as well as project evaluations and follow-up on the project. EAA 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, EAA is responsible for arranging and facilitating the final external audit at the end of the project and coordinating the external evaluation. Furthermore, the EAA 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 EAA and FCBC will be responsible for being updated on ‘best practices’ within the broader context of development cooperation and conservation in general. However, FCBC in particular will be responsible for being updated on development in local and national politics which can potentially influence the project so that the project can be adapted in a timely manner if necessary.

The project is initiated with a joint governance workshop to ensure common understanding and expectations for reporting and project finance management and not least to ensure that the project gets off to a good start. During the workshop, a work plan with milestones and a detailed results framework on output level will be developed. Also reporting formats and frequency will be designed and preferred channels/media for communication and knowledge sharing agreed on at the governance workshop. In addition, the partnership will discuss a plan for SHEA.

The project is managed by EAAs head of Project and Finance with support from and in consultancy with EAAs Advisory Group of experts. EAAs head of Project and Finance has a professional background in business administration and 20 years of experience in project management and financing from the development sector from different positions in NGOs and institutes in Denmark and abroad including in Bolivia. It makes it possible to link monitoring trips with financial control of the project and partner, thereby saving travels and not least CO2 and contributing to the project's sustainability.

FCBC contributes to the collaboration with their extensive local knowledge of the region, their network as well as a well-established organizational infrastructure in the Santa Cruz region with local offices, equipment and cars that will serve the project. FCBC is responsible for the implementation of the project, 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 EAA as well as sharing of lessons between partners. Furthermore, FCBC will share information about political changes and other developments in Bolivia, along with potential changes in their own organization, knowledge, and data, which are relevant and useful for the project. Finally, EAA will strengthen FCBC within the field of strategic and organizational communications, advocacy and forest surveillance and monitoring using Theory of Change. FCBC has allocated a full-time project coordinator responsible for the project implementation accompanied by FCBC's 'supporting team' of experts. The FCBC Institutional Coordinator also forms part of the project team responsible for the implementation of the current project and the dialogue with the EAA.

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

In terms of strengthening the partners’ capacities after the intervention period FCBC and EAA have jointly drafted and signed a five-year Partnership Agreement (2017-2022) with the option of extension - which sets out the framework and visions for the collaboration. The Partnership Agreement aims to formalize the collaboration and form the framework for a long-term strategic alliance, where the parties mutually complement their organizational competencies based on a shared interest in protecting the biodiversity of the Chiquitano Dry Forest and its ecosystems, while promoting sustainable development, particularly among indigenous people (the partnership agreement in Spanish can be shared on request). The collaboration between FCB and EAA will thus continue around the development of various projects both CISU-funded and privately-funded - also after the end of the current corridor project applied for. And with the long-term common goal of establishing a Gran Corridor of Connectivity in the Chiquitano Region, there is ample opportunity and reason to continue and further develop the collaboration based on lessons learned and shared ambitions.

*2.5 Describe how the intervention will contribute to strengthening the partners’ relations to other actors*

As the local implementing partner FCBC is responsible for executing the project activities and thus participates in all training sessions with and facilitates and coordinates meetings between local civil society and Government stakeholders and representatives from the communities. This proactivity will increase FCBC's visibility and help strengthen relationships between local authorities, government agencies and civil society organizations. The wider project target group (see cap. 3) includes the Indigenous Organization of the Chiquitano People (OICH)  with whom the community authorities and FCBC will cooperate for advocacy besides authorities of the municipality of San Ignacio de Velasco where the territory is located and therefore refers to and not least forest authorities; Representatives from the Forest and Land Supervision and Control Authority in Santa Cruz (ATB for its Spanish abbreviation ‘Autoridad de Fiscalización y Control de Bosques y Tierras’) and representative from the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA for its Spanish abbreviation ‘Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria’) in Santa Cruz.
In addition, FCBC holds the presidency of the Chiquitano Model Forest - a network of voluntary representatives from regional and local governments, civil society organizations, local organizations and productive sectors of Santa Cruz working toward the sustainable management of the Chiquitano forest‐based landscape and natural resources through the Model Forest approach. This network provides the project with access to a platform to address some of the threats to the Chiquitano Dry Forest including the threats to indigenous forest of the TIOC CIBAPA,  and to enter into dialog with neighboring migrant communities and private owners in the purchase of solutions besides the possibility to coordinate early response to forest fires more broadly between a range of stakeholders.
Furthermore, FCBC has entered into an agreement with the Chiquitano Dry Forest Observatory regarding access to data that can help detect forest fires and logging activities, just as communities can report threats and potential events occurring in their territory to the observatory. Chiquitano Dry Forest Observatory is an online platform providing information on the state of conservation and restoration of the Chiquitano Dry Forest and related ecosystems and on the different threats that put its ecological integrity at risk.

**3. Target groups, objectives, strategy, and expected results (our intervention)**

*3.1 Describe the composition of the target groups and how the target groups will participate in - and benefit from the intervention*

Specify approximate number of people in primary (the persons who will participate in the activities of the intervention) and secondary (persons who will be affected by the activities of the intervention without having participated in them) target groups disaggregated by e.g., gender, social groups, or other relevant factors

The main target group of the project are the Chiquitano and Guarasugwé indigenous living in the four communities making up the indigenous territory TIOC CIBAPA - Central Indígena del Bajo Paraguá in the northern part of the CDF-region.  The Guarasugwé indigenous nation/ethnic group number 125 according to a census in 2012 *(Censo de Población y Vivienda 2012 Bolivia Características de la Población. Instituto Nacional de Estadística, República de Bolivia (in Spanish). p. 29)* giving the project an urgency and a necessity that goes far beyond the project's impact objective and changes that will be achieved at outcome level. It is also about securing the future of the Guarasugwé indigenous. It is a responsibility which is neither FCBCs nor EAAs but which we take extremely seriously and add an extra dimension to the importance of the project.

In the four communities live a total of 1,650 people divided into approximately 330 HH. They live semi-isolated in large forest areas with sparse infrastructure and are geographically scattered. However, a major road has been built not far from the border of the Indian territory that connects Santa Cruz with the region of Beni. The road is planned to be paved from this year and will lead to greater activity in the area - not necessary for the good. The main beneficiaries are women, men and children who are directly dependent on the forest and local ecosystem services. Livelihoods are primarily based on agriculture and forest resources. Most of the households can be classified as poor though poverty is not evenly distributed. The project will ensure that no one is left out of benefits or negatively affected by project activities. Marginalization and vulnerability are often related to other factors than economic poverty. Access and rights to vital natural resources (such as wood, water, and land) and to decision making are crucial for inclusion and livelihoods, why the project focuses on support for both the development of nature based IGAs which in addition to increasing families' income, can create employment opportunities for the younger generation, as an alternative to migrating to the cities in search of unskilled and often poorly paid work as day laborers.

The ideal situation is that communities and the individual members of the communities work together to seek and use opportunities, ask for support from Government and other duty bearers (e.g., agricultural extension support) and seek funds where available. To achieve this ideal, the project will focus on building a strong foundation of knowledge and technical skills in the communities which they can use going forward in the long-term process of lifting a community out of poverty and defending indigenous and territorial rights.

The projects direct target group:

**Members of the fours indigenous communities of the TIOC CIBAPA**

* Individuals trained in the extraction, processing, and commercialization of NTFRs: 120 persons trained (50 men and 70 women).

* Individuals organized in voluntary firefighting brigades receive training, firefighting equipment and knowledge in fire prevention and mitigation: 60 persons trained (40 men and 20 women).

* Individuals trained in advocacy, indigenous rights and documentation of environmental infringements are enriched with knowledge and skills: 130 persons trained, primarily community authorities including young leaders in projection (60 men and 70 women, of which at least 8 people are young)

In total: 310 individuals will benefit directly from the intervention (150 men and 160 women)

The projects secondary target groups are divided in two main secondary target groups:

**Families benefiting from a potential increase in income from sale of NTFRs (120 x 5)**

In total 600 people will benefit from a potential increase in income from sale of forest resources.

**All inhabitants of the four communities benefiting from:**

- being stronger financially as communities vis-à-vis potential buyers of their territories.
- fire prevention and mitigation and thereby increased chance that they will less likely avoid losing some or all crops, livestock and property and not least community forest to the flames.
- potentially fewer environmental infringements in their territory.
- support for development and implementation of Territorial Plan for Sustainable Management of Community Forests and Natural Resources and a Fire Risk Management and Recovery Plan.
- information about the value of intact ecosystems and the connection between nature conservation, healthy livelihood, and local development.

In total 1,650 will benefit indirectly from reduced pressure and threat to their territory and natural resources.

The wider target group is:

The wider target group includes other civil society organisations/NGOs in particular the Indigenous Organization of the Chiquitano People (OICH)  with whom the community authorities and FCBC will cooperate for advocacy besides authorities of the municipality of San Ignacio de Velasco where the territory is located and therefore refers to and not least forest authorities; Representatives from the Forest and Land Supervision and Control Authority in Santa Cruz (ATB for its Spanish abbreviation ‘Autoridad de Fiscalización y Control de Bosques y Tierras’) and representative from the National Institute of Agrarian Reform (INRA for its Spanish abbreviation ‘Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria’) in Santa Cruz.

In addition, the project includes the wider public of San Ignacio de Velasco through an awareness raising campaign about forest fire prevention based audiovisual communications as presentations, radio spots and billboards. The awareness raising strategy has been chosen as the municipality of San Ignacio covers a huge area and inhabitants live scattered. In addition, illiteracy is widespread and access to communication devices differs. To reach a wider section of the local population, it has therefore been decided to base the information work on audiovisual communication.

FCBC will benefit from increasing capacity to support and monitor impacts and changes of conservation and livelihoods. EAA will reach out to its members and to the Danish public in its daily communication and through specific activities (details in Chapter 4).

*3.2 Describe how the target groups and relevant actors have been involved in the development of the intervention as well as the partners’ legitimacy to act as champions of the target groups’ cause.*

FCBC has as local partner more than 20 years of experience working in the CDR-region and in the project site of implementation for the last three years, allowing FCBC over the years to build up a great deal of trust among the local peasant and indigenous population and not least among the various local and regional authorities, NGOs, and civil society organizations. This trust is crucial for the project - especially in relation to a collaboration with indigenous people where intercultural understanding and sensibility is necessary. At the same time, for historical reasons, there is an embedded distrust of "outsiders'' among indigenous communities, which is a barrier for NGOs, local organizations and authorities who want to enter into project collaboration with the communities. However, FCBC's many years of development and nature conservation work in the region - and not least due diligence emergency response in the wake of forest fires in 2019 and again in 2020 - and the trust FCBC has built through persistence, transparency and not least results has removed this potential barrier of project cooperation.
The four indigenous communities were involved in the early stage of the process of developing the project through two information workshops in the TIOC with representatives of the four communities, where the corridor concept was presented and explained and where the community representatives could express their livelihoods needs and how they experience the threats to their territory. At the same time the visits were used to assess the community’s degree of experience with extraction and processing of NTFRs, assess the number of inhabitants (exact official figures do not exist) and the internal organization of the communities. This information has formed part of the initial analysis before developing the ToC.

*3.3 Describe the strategy of the intervention*

The theory of change for the project is thus that *by* involving local communities and settlers in forest fires prevention and mitigation while providing the indigenous communities with opportunities for increasing incomes through nature based IGAs and empower them to enforce their indigenous territorial rights *then* the communities will enhance their territorial resilience and strengthen the protection of community forests and ecosystem services they depend on while reducing community poverty and thus contribute to achieving the impact objective of the program: **Communal forests of indigenous Chiquitanos and Guarasugwe protected and sustainably managed strengthening connectivity between protected areas in Northern Chiquitania.**

Outputs to outcomes: The outputs are organized in three components, which each lead to one of the three intended outcomes:

i) Outputs 1.1 - 1.3 relates to (1) Support to development of sustainable nature based IGAs (2) Increase community knowledge about the value of intact ecosystems and the connection between nature conservation, healthy livelihood and local development and 3) support to development of a territory plan for sustainable management of community forests and natural resources, which will lead to outcome 1: **Enhanced sustainability of community livelihoods.**

ii)  Outputs 2.1 - 2.3 concerns (1) Enabling volunteer community firefighting brigades to protect indigenous community forests from the recurring and extensive forest fires that the region experiences annually and (2) Increasing public awareness of the consequences of forest fires and (3) Supporting communities in developing and implementing Fire Risk Management and Recovery Plan, which will lead to outcome 2: **Improved fire risk management and recovery capacities in communities.**

iii) Outputs 3.1 & 3.2. relate to (1) Skills development in advocacy and training on indigenous rights, (2) Documentation of environmental infringements using new technologies to back the communities demand for enforcement of environmental laws and indigenous rights and (3) Establishing of Local Community Groups (LCGs) responsible for the dialogue with authorities and regional and national indigenous organizations, which will lead to outcome 3: **Indigenous communities empowered to defend their territories.**

Outcomes to impact: The enhanced livelihood sustainability, improved fire risk management and recovery capacities and empowerment of indigenous communities to defend their territories,  are expected to contribute to the impact objective by reducing the external pressure on indigenous community forests from private buyers exploiting poverty and lack of knowledge of rights to buy indigenous community land or access forest resources in indigenous territories, uncontrolled forest fires, logging and agricultural expansion thus contributing to preserve the indigenous communities as ‘ecological safe havens’ and stepping stones in a fragmented and nature degraded and divided landscape.

Assumptions:

1. It is assumed that an increase in HH net income from exploitation of NTFRs reduces external pressure on indigenous community forests from private buyers exploiting poverty and lack of knowledge of rights to buy indigenous community land or access forest resources in indigenous territories.
2. It is also assumed that communities through capacity development will manage forest resources sustainably and in a transparent and inclusive manner and avoid elite capture.
3. It is further assumed that forest authorities at national and regional level possess both capacity and integrity to enforce environmental and indigenous law and rights despite major challenges with poverty and corruption.



The project contributes to the Development Triangle by combining capacity, strategic services, and advocacy as mandatory to deliver the project outcomes. Enhancing sustainable community livelihoods to reduce external pressure on indigenous territories from the agribusiness sector and settlers and building and strengthening community resilience to forest fires through training and inputs of a more technical nature are two crucial outcomes directly contributing to the project's impact objective.

This effort is supported by a focus on empowering the indigenous communities to be defenders of their territory through training and organization and building knowledge capacity of FCBC to ensure the latest knowledge about the conservation status of the CDR, threats to the regions' ecology and socio-economic and cultural challenges as a solid basis for advocacy for forest protection, indigenous rights, and social justice.

The project further support the following of UNs Sustainable development goals: The project's strong focus on developing sustainable income-generating activities contributes to end poverty (Goal 1) while the projects impact objective to protect and sustainable manage indigenous communal forests contributes to both taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (Goal 13) and to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (Goal 15).
 In addition, the project builds on an active and formal partnership between EAA and our regional partner FCBC in Bolivia and thus contributes to strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development (Goal 17) while the projects central focus on empowering indigenous people to defend their territories and rights and efforts to find peaceful solutions to conflicts between highland migrants and indigenous/peasant communities in Santa Cruz feeds in to Goal 16. The project's cross cutting focus on gender equality means that the project also contributes to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (Goal 5). Finally, the project contributes to promoting sustainable, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all (Goal 8). The project specifically contributes to "higher economic productivity through diversification, entrepreneurship and the promotion of micro-enterprises" (targets 8.2 and 8.3).

*3.4 Describe the objectives, activities, expected results and indicators of the intervention*

With the long-term goal to strengthen the Gran Corridor of Connectivity in the Chiquitano Region (The Jaguar Corridor) the project strategy is to protect and sustainably manage indigenous communal forests as ‘steppingstones’ between protected areas.  The Gran Corridor of Connectivity covers the entire Chiquitano region, and its realization is the long-term goal of a shared vision of FCBC and EAA. The impact objective of the project is therefore to contribute to this long-term goal by *‘protecting and sustainably managing communal forests of indigenous Chiquitanos and Guarasugwé as steppingstones between protected areas in Northern Chiquitania’.*

The project strategy to protect and sustainably manage indigenous communal forests as ‘ecological steppingstones’ builds on a three-pronged approach to (1) **Enhance sustainability of community livelihoods, (2) Improve fire risk management and recovery capacities in communities and (3) Empower indigenous communities to defend their territories.**

**Component 1: Enhancing the sustainability of community livelihoods is achieved through** support to the development of nature-based income generating activities and information about the value of intact ecosystems and the connection between nature conservation, healthy livelihood and local development and support the development of a territory plan for sustainable management of community forests and natural resources.
The income-generating activities focus on the extraction, processing, and commercialization of NTFRs and TFRs in local and regional markets in Bolivia. In close cooperation with the target group the project carries out market analysis which, among other things, assesses the demand for different NTFR/TFR products and the availability of NTFR/TFRs in the communities. The communities are organized in producer associations which are also given the responsibility to share and reinvest a potential profit. Everyone can participate in the production groups, but it is the experience that it is typically a smaller group that is interested in participating in new activities. This changes over time with time when results begin to show.

Awareness raising activities are carried through audio visual communication as illiteracy in communities is high and Spanish for many is not their mother tongue e.g., radio spots as the individual HHs all with only a few exceptions have access to a radio and oral presentations in the communities accompanied by visuals.

The management plan for the indigenous territories is prepared in collaboration between FCBC and the traditional indigenous authorities with FCBC facilitating the implementation of the plan.  The harvesting of timber species will be oriented to those of high commercial value and with a low extraction rate in the indigenous forest.

The acquisition / inclusion of indigenous territories in the surrounding agricultural land is driven by economic reasons and the agribusiness industry's efforts to expand agricultural land and grazing areas. We have however assessed that it is not realistic for the project to enter into dialogue with representatives from this sector but will instead provide the indigenous communities with economic arguments to resist offers of land acquisition from the agricultural sector, as it is expected that the project will improve their livelihoods through increased income from sustainable and nature-based income-generating activities and

and gain greater understanding and insight into the social and ecological consequences of deforestation.

Main activities:

* NTFR supply and demand analysis (NTFR scope in the project area, local production capacity and consumption trends).
* Training in eco-harvesting, processing, and commercialization of NTFRs and income administration and facilitating the organization of producers in associations.
* Learning and exchange visits to other community driven NTFR initiatives.
* Participation in municipal and departmental fairs and events to display the community NTFR product(s)
* Awareness raising through audiovisual communications
* Preparation and implementation of a management plan for indigenous territory

**Component 2: Improving fire risk management and recovery capacities in communities** is achieved through training, organizing, and equipping volunteer community firefighting brigades to be able to protect indigenous community forest and by supporting the four communities in developing and implementing Fire Risk Management and Recovery Plans. The project will further raise awareness in the broader public of the San Ignacio municipality about fire prevention and the consequences of forest fires for people and nature through an awareness raising campaign.

Though many of the fires are intentionally ignited, many forest fires are also due to lack of knowledge about *chaqueo* among migrants from the highland departments referred to as *'colonos interculturales'* which by the central government allocate plots of land on municipal and regional lands. They do not necessarily come with knowledge of *chaqueo*, which has been practiced for generations by the indigenous peoples and campesinos inhabiting the Chiquitano forest region, why the fires often get out of control.

However, there is a great deal of uncertainty associated with involving representatives from the settlements in training and capacity building in controlled slash-and-burning (*chaqueo*) as not all settlements are legal or recognized by adjacent indigenous communities or the municipal authorities and there may therefore be reluctant both parties to cooperate. In addition, not all settlers are interested in controlled forest burning, as forest burning is a deliberate strategy to gain access to agricultural land. However, two intercultural communities adjacent to the TCO have shown interest in participating in the project. Their participation and new knowledge about firefighting and prevention as well as knowledge about the consequences of forest fires for biodiversity and ecosystem services can have a positive effect on other intercultural communities and act as inspiration. In addition, the project seeks to mitigate potential risk of conflicts over territory between indigenous communities and settlers by permanently working under the Action Without Harm approach (*Acción sin Daño*) creating spaces for Dialogue and Conflict Transformation.

Politically it can also be dangerous to advocate against illegal settlements and the central government's encouragement to burn forests - both for the communities and FCBC - especially considering that NGOs in Bolivia are audited every year by the authorities which review organizational strategies, etc. and extend or revoke the organizations' NGO license depending on whether their activities are political and run counter to the state's development plans.  The prevention and mitigation focus are therefore to target the communities and the broader public of the municipality through a campaign based on audio visual communications focusing on the importance of protecting the unique biodiversity and culture of the CDF-region from e.g., forest fires - not directly encouraging a stop for forest fires.

Main activities:

* Training and organizing volunteer community firefighting brigades.
* Awareness raising campaign informing the public about the consequences of forest fires.
* Supporting the four communities in developing and implementing Fire Risk Management and Recovery Plans.

**Component 3: Empowering of indigenous communities to defend their territories is achieved through** training in rights, training in advocacy and introduction to new surveillance technologies such as drones. The illegal logging that takes place in both indigenous territories and in protected areas with and without the "blessing" of local forest authorities requires first and foremost that the indigenous peoples 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. Too many illegal activities go "under the radar" and must be brought to the outside world's attention if the pressure on indigenous community forest, territories and protected areas is to be reduced.

In consideration of the sustainability of the project and in order to strive for continuity in the dialogue between the target communities and authorities and partners, community members are organized in Local Community Groups (one per community), which are to handle the dialogue with authorities and who are responsible for communicating environmental violations. It will underpin a visible and clearly defined representation in relation to management and business processes to which stakeholders can turn, ensure local anchoring and involvement as well as gather knowledge and build an institutional memory.

The establishment of the LCGs takes into account existing local governance systems and traditions practiced by the Guarasugwé and Chiquitano indigenous nations respectively.

It is encouraged that all community members are invited to become members of the LCGs. However, a maximum of one person per HH, as the basic idea behind the organization is to let the group members' efforts, learning and successes triple down in local society and benefit their respective families and communities. The EAA/FCBC project cooperation is rights-based in that it promotes transparent and inclusive forest management and helps enable communities to raise their voice to influence the decision-making government duty-bearers at the local level. In terms of engaging women, the cooperation has a clear strategy for engaging women with requirements for meaningful representation of women in LCGs, fire prevention and livelihood activities. Gender distribution is therefore taken into account when forming the groups and ideally half of the members of a group are men and the other half are women. Gender equality is further enshrined in FCBC’s statutes which state that “all forms of representation must involve at least one-third of each gender”. In terms of engaging vulnerable groups, the project's entire target group is considered vulnerable and marginalised - both geographically and politically. As previously mentioned, the Guarasugwé nation is the smallest of Bolivia's 36 legally recognized indigenous nations and is considered extremely vulnerable and in danger of extinction. In addition, poverty is widespread in the four target communities.

Main activities:

* Facilitate the organization of communities in LCGs
* Training in rights, advocacy and surveillance using new technologies
* Dissemination on issues related to conservation

Following targets and indicators has been formulated to document and ensure project progress and results achievement:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project objective** | Communal forests of indigenous Chiquitanos and Guarasugwe protected and sustainably managed strengthening connectivity between protected areas in Northern Chiquitania. |
| **Project theme/component 1** |  |
| **Outcome** | **Indicator** | **Target (end of project)** |
| Outcome 1Sustainability of community livelihood enhanced.  | 1.1. Community management instruments designed and agreed, that improve legal security for access to forest resources.1.2 No. of community groups that improve their capacities through management tools, training and improvement of production equipment and transformation of biodiversity resources. 1.3. Number and types of new products based on biodiversity under commercialization schemes that diversify income options. | 1.1. At least 4 instruments of community management for 100.000 ha of communal forest. 1.2. At least 8 community groups created or strengthened for NTFP and 2 Forest Management Committees, at least 2 of these groups are women's organizations1.3. At least 2 communities with forest management for timber products of high commercial value species and under low extraction rate schemes. |
| **Project theme/component 2** |  |
| **Outcome** | **Indicator** | **Target (end of program per country and/or core partner)** |
| Outcome 2Fire risk management and recovery capacities in communities improved | 2.1. # of first fire response brigades formed, reactivated, equipped and in operation coordinates with community authorities. 2.2. No. of communities that have established a planning, coordination, early warning and response system for fire management, fire risk management, and droughts.2.3. Population in the area of Bajo Paraguá in the Municipality of San Ignacio and its area of influence sensitized about consequences of forest fires through awareness campaigns. | 2.1. Four community fire brigades, with at least 20% female participation, reactivated or formed, equipped, and trained and coordinate with community and municipal authorities. 2.2. Four communities have fire, drought, and fire risk management systems (work plans, disaster risk management plans, others), with a gender perspective integrated. 2.3. 1,650 inhabitants of indigenous communities of Bajo Paraguá, 9,500 people of intercultural communities sensitized. |
| **Project theme/component 3** |  |
| **Outcome** | **Indicator** | **Target (end of program per country and/or core partner)** |
| Outcome 3Indigenous communities empowered to defend their territories | 3.1. Number of young people with leadership potential strengthened or trained through local scholarships and experience exchanges.3.2. Community members with capacity and technology to monitor and document forest infringements.3.3. Number of policies, management instruments and initiatives promoted within the framework of governance platforms. | 3.1. Ten young people with leadership potential (at least 4 women) have been empowered and have improved their capacities in relation to the management of their territories.3.2. 20 community members (at least 4 women) with capacity and technology to monitor and document forest infringements.3.2 At least 10 legal resources for territorial management and defense generated and in the process of being implemented, both by communal, municipal, and departmental authorities in relation to Bajo Paraguá. (complaints, pronouncements, communal regulations, municipal or departmental laws, etc.). |

*3.5 Describe how the intervention contributes to establishing sustainable and lasting improvements for poor, marginalised and vulnerable target groups and strengthening the partners’ capacities after the intervention period.*

Sustainability is a cross cutting issue all the way through the project and the project's three components where training, raising awareness and developing of organizational capacities will give the community members both skills, knowledge, and tools that they can use in the future and pass on to other members of the communities - also after the project is completed. Thus, the communities can continue to qualify and scale up the development of nature based IGAs, ensure sustainable management of their community forests and not least prevent and mitigate the consequences of forest fires. The reasoning behind the upscaling potential is based on the assumption that; experience and knowledge about value addition/improve product processing, quality improvement and bulking to strengthen market access and increase income, the association members will gain through training and practice, will be continued to be used when extracting, processing, and commercializing NTFRs (aka palm fruits).

Furthermore, the project contributes to sustainability by also involving target groups *outside* the project communities, including settlers and the wider public in the municipality where the project is implemented, with the aim of creating an awareness of the consequences of forest fires. This should contribute to reducing the extent and scope of forest fires in the long run. Finally, the project potentially contributes to the proactively averting environmental infringement on indigenous territories by organizing and training members of the indigenous communities. This will have a huge impact on both their livelihood, the environment and biodiversity and not least the climate.

*3.6 Describe possible conditions (risks) that can hinder or delay fulfilment of the objectives and what possible solutions are available to mitigate these risks.*
The main risks for the implementation of the Project are related to the social and political context. Two overall risks have emerged from the risk analysis: COVID19 and nature destruction (unsustainable natural resource extraction and large-scale infrastructure developments). These variables are monitored every 15 days by the FCBC team and if necessary, the Work Plan is adjusted in order to minimize the impact.

*COVID 19*

Despite the global COVID 19 situations, FCBC remains operational and implements and manages projects. Field visits are also possible, as long as local requirements for the use of medical face masks and hygiene rules and restrictions on distance and number of people allowed to gather simultaneously are complied with. These requirements and restrictions are complied with by, among other things, executing workshops in small groups and coordinating project progress via online meetings.

FCBC has developed its own Biosafety Protocol to protect both staff, communities and stakeholders. The protocol includes among other following measures: Vaccination of FCBC staff, realization of tests before field trips and the use of masks and alcohol-based hand sanitizers. To guarantee the safety of local staff and enable FCBC to comply with the local restrictions and guidelines, funds have been set aside in the project budget for the purchase of facial masks and rubbing alcohol.

*Nature destruction*

National (and local) development programs based on unsustainable natural resource extraction (like oil and gas), illegal settlements and large-scale infrastructure developments like construction of roads, dams, powerlines etc., sometimes driven by corruption and short-term gains, has the potential to and could in the worst-case scenario end up damaging the project forest sites (cf. content chapter 1.2.). The post COVID19 economic crisis has led to the prioritization of economic growth by national and sub-national authorities. Although municipal governments make efforts to promote environmental sustainability in their territories, the pressure from the local population for economic growth and the restriction of the national government to dispose of funds for environmental issues can lead to non-compliance with the municipal authorities' commitments.
To mitigate the consequences of nature-damaging development programs the FCBC/EAA Partnership deliberately works to build organizationally strong and locally based structures that can respond in a timely manner to unsustainable/illegal natural resource extractions on indigenous territories and indigenous community territories and enhance the LCG's rights knowledge and advocacy skills. In addition, permanent efforts will be made to sign agreements and engage municipal authorities, local sustainable production associations and community organizations in all Project activities so that they take ownership of the process. Experiences from our FCBC/EAA projects in Bolivia, show how such strong organization provides counterplay to external interests in unsustainable/illegal natural resource extractions: Currently a dispute is unfolding in one of our project areas in the municipality of San Ramon in the Department of Santa Cruz, where a private actor without permission has taken steps to start mining in an indigenous community territory. Gold mining will both pollute the rivers and damage the ecotourism that the project is developing together with the community members. However, a strong organization around ecotourism in a committee that includes both community members, private sector actors and city council members means that; formal appeal procedures have been initiated, the area's various administrative authorities are informed, and dialogue with municipality and regional government representatives is established. Supported by the EAA/FCBC Partnership the committee has received training in advocacy and complaint procedures. The same approach is implemented in this project (the actual organization of the target group is further described p. 18). Equally important is the great local support from the communities involved in the development of IGAs (e.g., ecotourism or NTFPs). Cf., the case described above the development of community-driven ecotourism has created local ownership for the project and a financial incentive to protect their territory from nature-destroying activities as the communities have invested time in the project and can see a financial return on their efforts. In short, the involvement of communities in IGAs has created a greater self-awareness and understanding of the link between sustainable development and nature conservation, giving the committee a strong mandate. Together with a strong organization, this is assumed to help mitigate and manage potential risks related to nature-destroying activities in and around project sites. In addition, locally driven advocacy can be supplemented by campaign(s) which can put external, public, and media-borne pressure on political and private actors. Should the need arise, the EAA/FCBC Partnership has the capacity to organize and execute such campaigns and draw on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) - a specific right that pertains to indigenous peoples and is recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
 In addition, FCBC has during more than 20 years of fruitful cooperation and presence in the Chiquitano region established good relations with forest authorities, local and national governments, which should reduce risks of forest destruction. And potentially destructive projects and plans will often be detected at an early stage (this is one of the reasons why purchasing and training the target group in the use of donors, GPS and cameras is one of the project's main activities, cf. component 3) improving the likelihood of counteractions and/or mitigation following due processes.

*3.7 Describe the plans to monitor, collect and use experiences along the way and at the end of the intervention.*

EAA'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 FCBC and EAA 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 takes place on the basis of a number of clearly defined indicators and targets set out in the project's results framework.

 In connection with the development of the project, EAA has developed new monitoring formats, which also measure lessons learned, assumptions and risks. EAA 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, EAA holds internal project meetings at the secretariat once a week where project implementation is discussed, and learnings and impressions from project visits are shared.

Further, monitoring is followed up by project visits from the EAA 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 EAAs and FCBCs projects to access, respectively.

A internal Mid-Term review will be conducted  to issue recommendations for the work ahead, based on both analyzing data collected during monitoring and the interviews conducted at the project visits in addition to an external evaluation will be carried out by a local consulting firm, independent from FCBC, to review project performance in order to provide greater insight into the operations and enable efficient and cost effective project delivery and management in addition to examine and provide feedback on the implementation processes given the prevailing in-country conditions, and to determine the extent of results achieved and the project is contributing to the change that it is designed to result in. A project level midterm/end of project evaluation also helps to identify obstacles to performance and provide justification for extension of the project. The evaluation includes field visits and interviews with EAA and FCB staff and other relevant stakeholders. Once the external evaluation report has been obtained, it will be published on the EAA website and shared with CISU.

 **4. Intervention-related information work in Denmark**

The information work in Denmark has as its overall objective to disseminate positive in local changes and progress in protecting and sustainable managing forests in the indigenous territory *TIOC CIBAPA - Central Indígena del Bajo Paraguá*, to reduce the impact of deforestation in the Chiquitano Dry Forest region,  in addition to raising awareness of the causes of the global loss of forest biodiversity and its link to global warming and poverty and highlight solutions to reverse this loss using Bolivia and project as case.

This is done in order to:

* Strengthening the support for EAA's work in particular and Danish development assistance in general.
* Contribute to increased knowledge and understanding of the development and nature conservation issues associated with EAA's work.
* Increase the awareness and support for promoting and preserving biological diversity and sustainable coexistence between humans and nature.

The information work is targeted at volunteers and members of EAA, and is primarily disseminated through EAA's website, electronic newsletter, Facebook, and annual report. The communication with the public will primarily be through www.eaango.dk, Facebook and press work. The information work is done by EAA's Campaign Team. Planned information activities and expected results 2021-2025:

A photographic portrait series about:

1. One of Bolivia's last indigenous people (the Guarasugwé nation) which with only 125 members left is on the brink of disappearing. The project works directly with the Guarasugwé nation to protect and conserve their territory.
2. The interplay between humans and nature based on the project's work to improve the living conditions of indigenous peoples through sustainable development and their struggle to preserve their territory,
3. And how indigenous peoples in 2021 uses modern technology and drones in the fight to monitor and protect territory and rights.

The portrait series will be carried out by a professional photographer in collaboration with EAA's own communication people and will also culminate in several articles. The portrait series will be disseminated through a webpage integrated photo exhibition module and promoted via social media and press release. The collection of photo material is a long-term investment and will be part of EAA's future dissemination work.

In addition, EAA will produce, layout and print annual reports which has shown to be one of the most important communication channels for EAA based on feedback and an important tool in EAAs efforts to strengthen its popular engagement and attracting volunteers and partners and strengthening relationships with members.