



ECOSYSTEM BASED VISION OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION FOR THE AMAZON BIOME: The challenge to maintain the ecosystem goods and services to societies, by keeping the integrity, functionality and biome resilience under the effects of human pressures in a climate change context

Proposal presented by REDPARQUES (the Latin-American Network for Technical Cooperation in National Parks, other Protected Areas, Wild Flora and Fauna), the Amazon protected areas directors and partners for governance and managing the potential funds coming to support the implementation of projects, such as the expression of interest presented through the LifeWeb Initiative

First draft prepared by REDPARQUES for consideration of the Protected Areas Directors of the Amazon Countries

1. Introduction:

The Latin-American Network for Technical Cooperation in National Parks, other Protected Areas, Wild Flora and Fauna -REDPARQUES- (composed by the National Directors of the protected area systems, now under the coordination of the Colombian National Parks Authority), in partnership with the CBD Secretariat, WWF and IUCN, and with the participation from Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization - ACTO and the Andean Community of Nations, among other organizations, has led the development of a work agenda for the development of an Ecosystem Based Vision of Biodiversity Conservation for the Amazon Biome. This technical, regional conservation vision, for the national systems of protected areas supports the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) of the CBD at the regional level in the Amazon, which builds on the progress of the PoWPA of each of the Amazon countries and the existing systems of protected areas, integrating with the indigenous reserves, territories or lands according to each national approach as well as including and promoting some trans-boundary conservation initiatives.

This approach builds complementarity across the national systems of protected areas and ensures greater representation of all ecosystem types, the maintenance of ecological services, and greater resilience of the Amazon Biome to the threats of climate change, all depending on the biome functioning as a whole. The eight countries and one overseas territory have agreed to strengthen technical elements that are broadly applicable and relevant for the protected areas of the Amazon. This initiative was officially supported by seven countries and one territory.

This initiative was built based on the declaration of the II Latin American Congress for National Parks and other Protected Areas (Bariloche, September 30th-October 6th, 2007) – after a seminar organised by the Colombian National Parks Authority and WWF, and a session with ACTO –, which states the importance of developing ecological networks and protected areas systems at all levels, with a particular emphasis on a (bio)-regional focus, including the case of the Amazon region, also recognizing all the work of initiatives such as the ACTO in the Biodiversity Action Plan. Moreover, it was supported at the IV World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, October 5-14, 2008), where IUCN approved the motion to “*Build a Vision for Conservation of the Amazon Biome*”. To support such initiative, the Memorandum of Understanding was between REDPARQUES, the CBD Secretariat, WWF and IUCN (November 2009, with the purpose of strengthening the technical support for the development of the conservation vision for the Amazon Biome and the implementation of the action plan on a regional level.

During the last Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya (Japan), in October 2010, REDPARQUES, countries and partners presented the progress in the development of the Ecosystem-based Conservation Vision for the Amazon Biome, consolidated in the Regional Report about the implementation of the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), as well as in the proposed Action Plan 2010-2020 that was supported by the Ministers of the Environment of the Amazon Countries ACTO and the partner organizations.



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Moreover, this initiative was recognized in the decision related to protected areas approved in Nagoya.

Seeking the support for the implementation of the action plan, REDPARQUES, Amazon countries and partners developed an expression of interest to the Life Web platform identifying funding needs for the short and medium term. The updated version can be downloaded at <http://www.cbd.int/lifeweb/project.shtml?did=6358>.

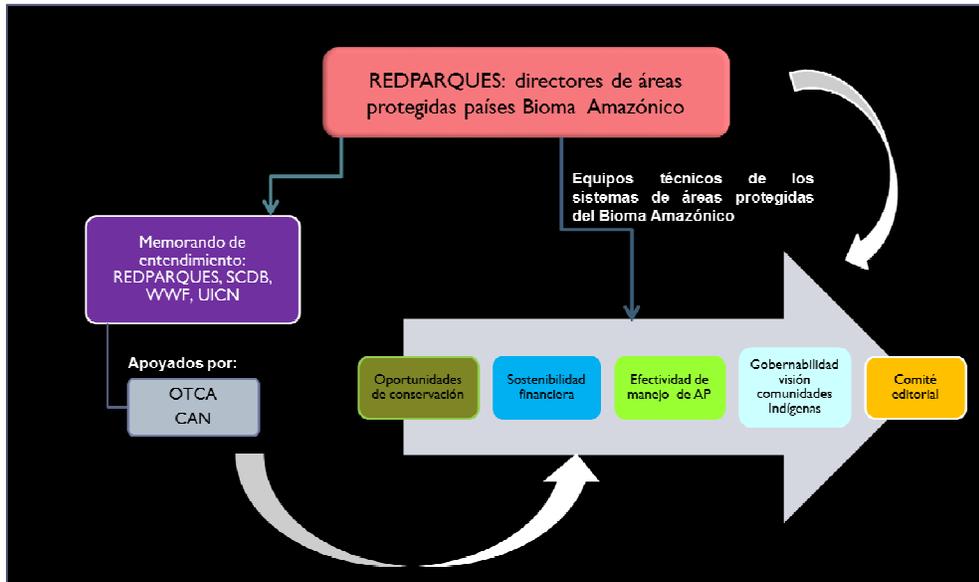
2. Governance Structure

During all this process, the protected areas directors under their coordination role of REDPARQUES develop a governance structure for the development of the initiative. In a meeting in August 2008 (Bogota-Colombia) with some directors and representatives of the National Systems of Protected Areas of the Amazon Countries, agreed on an agenda for implementing elements of the PoWPA at the regional level in aspect such as: regional conservation opportunities, integration of the vision of indigenous and local communities in this initiative, analysis of management effectiveness, financial strategy.

For the development of the initiative, a technical team was created based on the priority teams of the agenda, composed by representatives of the protected areas systems with the support of the partner organizations, who have continuous communications for the organizations of the workshop and provide elements for the regional report and action plan. This initiative was also reinforced in the meeting with the protected areas directors in august 2009.

Moreover, a committee was created under the coordination of REDPARQUES, who work in the preparation and consolidation of the report and work plan on behalf of the Amazon Countries, called "editorial committee". In august 2010, the document and action plan was presented and approved by the protected areas directors. The technical basis of the regional document is formed by the reports submitted by the Amazonian countries to the CBD, as well as technical papers, regional plans and programs related to the goals of the Program of Work on Protected Areas in the region, built by different players and the workshops reports scheduled in the framework of the construction of the Ecosystem Based Vision of Biodiversity Conservation for the Amazon Biome.

Considering the financial resources for the implementation of the initiative this has been resources allocated by the institutions that are part of the Memorandum of Understanding (REDPARQUES, the CDB Secretariat, WWF and IUCN). Moreover, the Netherlands Embassy in Colombia provided financial resources for all the preparations for the CBD COP 10. The national system of PA has provided matching funding represented in their technical involvement and support.



3. Institutional arrangement or governance structure proposed:

The institutional arrangement and financial structure for managing the funds, incorporates innovative public and private relationships and experiences that reinforces the leadership and participation of the directors and representatives of the national systems of protected areas strengthening their role for developing the conservation vision in the Amazon biome as well as complies with the fundamental tool for implementing the Convention of Biological Diversity. The following structure will be proposed for consideration:

Directive Board: The coordination and managing of the funds for the implementation of the action plan of the Ecosystem Based Vision will be led by the Board composed by the Directors of the National Systems of Protected Areas who will direct the course of the work and decided upon the financial priorities and managing and redirecting the financial funds. This committee is the maximum decision body, who will provide guidance to REDPARQUES or another supporting organisation, to implement the actions as well as monitors and supervise the implementation of the actions. The board will meet once and year and will approves major guidance, multi-year work-plans, approve contracts (and officially endorse if needed), etc.

Executive Program Committee: the Program Committee approves the action strategies, defines procedures and guidelines, establishes criteria for the signing of agreements and contracts, reviews and approves the annual operating plan, analyzes and advises on the technical and financial report. The committee will takes that decision over the implementation of the programme based on the major guidance from the Board. This will be coordinated by REDPARQUES with the participation of at least three National Directors of National Systems of Protected Areas selected by the Executive Board and with the support of the partner organizations. The purpose of the program committee is to ensure the fulfillment in the goals.

Financial secretary or executor: It is proposed that WWF Living Amazon Initiative (LAI), represented by WWF Colombia¹, will be the financial secretary for the committee and executive manager of the projects². It will be responsible for the financial management of the program and to monitor and provide information on the financial performance of the program. (WWF will act as executor for specific subcomponents, by means of arrangements for this purpose and work together in fundraising efforts).

¹ Considering the current coordination of REDPARQUES, which is currently in the National Parks Office in Colombia

² Considering the technical knowledge and experience of work in the Amazon Region, WWF Colombia representing WWF LAI



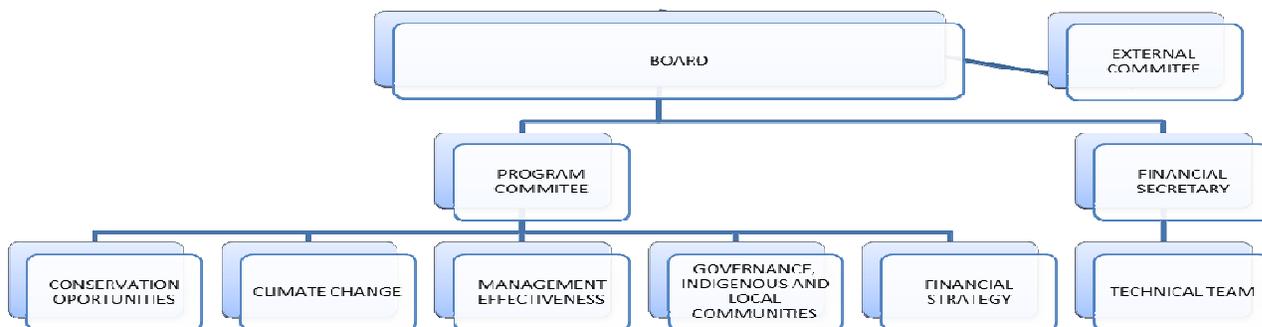
Technical implementation of the program: Since 2008, this Ecosystem Based Vision Work counts with four technical programmatic teams, with the support of the organizations (REDPARQUES, the CBD Secretariat, WWF and IUCN). More recently, National Directors decided the creation of a new technical team that will be deal in aspects of the role of protected areas in relation to climate change (mitigation and adaptation). Depending on the potential donors and projects, and considering the expertise of the countries and the national systems of protected areas, the program committee will define specific roles regarding the coordination of the projects and responsibilities. The technical programmatic teams, will prepare technical documents, carried out studies and projects, and analyse and evaluate the implementation of components, subcomponents and activities of the programme.

The supporting organisations, particularly WWF, IUCN and the CBD Secretariat, will collaborate, make studies, organise workshops and propose new fronts of actions, etc. The organizations will support the work of the programmatic teams.

Donors: different organizations that will be interested in provided funding for supporting the action plan base on the priorities defined by the executive board.

External Advisory Committee: composed by organizations interested in providing technical support for the implementation plan. During all this years, organizations such as:, TNC, WCS, USAID among others have played this role.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE





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ANNEX

Financial Secretary and Executor:

REDPARQUES considers that WWF has very good conditions to be the institution that will be responsible for the financial management of the program and to monitor and provide information on the financial performance of the program, under the following considerations: 1) International, national and regional experience and commitment in supporting the implementation of the Program of Work of Protected Areas; 2) Alliance and previous work experience with the National Parks Authority and REDPARQUES; 3) Experience and technical knowledge of the Amazon Region at a biome level; and 4) Financial and administrative experience and capacity, and presence in all of the countries of the Amazon Region.

4.1) International national and regional experience and commitment in supporting the implementation of the Program of Work of Protected Areas (PoWPA): Since the entry into force of the CBD, WWF has been supporting its implementation in the main areas of work: conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable distribution of benefits. Specifically, WWF has supported the implementation of the PoWPA at different scales, strengthening the protected areas systems throughout the world and in Latin America. There are outstanding initiatives in Central Asia, Europe, South America (Amazon) and West Africa, where working partnerships with government, civil society, scientific institutions, private sector and other stakeholders have contributed to support governments in developing joint action to ensure the conservation of ecological processes and reduce the pressures and threats against climate change.

4.2) Alliance and previous work experience with the Colombian National Parks Authority and REDPARQUES: Since 2000, WWF has been working in partnership with National Parks of Colombia with the shared aim of strengthening and consolidating the national system of protected areas, including engagement at a regional level to support the development of specific actions towards meeting conservation goals. WWF believes that protected areas are a key conservation strategy and the center of effective land use planning and management. The location of protected areas is essential for the conservation of ecological attributes and conservation goals (coverage, representativeness and connectivity).

Moreover, since 2007, WWF has supported the ACTO in developing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and in accordance with the recommendations of the Second Latin American Congress on Protected Areas Bariloche (Sept. 30-Oct. June 2007), WWF has supported REDPARQUES – The Latin American Technical Cooperation Network on National Parks and other Protected Areas, under the coordination of national parks of Colombia, represented by directors and technical systems of protected areas in the Amazonian countries supported by the CBD Secretariat, ACTO, CAN, WWF, IUCN and other organizations in developing a technical work agenda to implement the PoWPA at the subregional level, to complement the progress of the national systems, based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the REDPARQUES, WWF, IUCN and the Secretariat of the CBD. WWF has been essential in providing technical support for the development of all the regional workshops based on the main elements of the work program of protected areas (conservation priorities, funding, management effectiveness and participation of local communities) and supporting the consultancies which have generated a regional report and action plan (2010-2020).

4.3) Experience and technical knowledge in the Amazon Region at a biome level.

WWF has been carrying out groundbreaking conservation work in the Amazon for almost 40 years. However, as threats to the Amazon have grown and deforestation has continued and even accelerated in recent years, need to develop a unified strategy as a Network for the Amazon became clear, so that working together with the Governments, Private Sector, Scientific Community, Communities and Institutions, we could address the multitude of powerful and interconnected forces driving the destruction of the Amazon.



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The primary objective of developing a WWF Living Amazon Initiative for the Amazon Biome (LANI) is thus to redouble efforts as an organization on a scale equivalent and relevant to the scope of the problem at hand. WWF's vision in the Amazon, as detailed through the goals, objectives and strategies of the proposed LAI is: *An ecologically healthy Amazon Biome that maintains its environmental and cultural contribution to local peoples, the countries of the region, and the world, within a framework of social equity, inclusive economic development and global responsibility.*

To address these threats and drivers, over the next 10 years, WWF focuses its efforts on five transformational strategies: 1) **Shifting the paradigm of development** in the Amazon from the current model to one that is environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable; 2) Ensuring that **natural ecosystems are valued appropriately** for the environmental goods and services they provide and the livelihoods they sustain; 3) **Conserving the large landscapes** that are needed to maintain the ecological integrity of the Amazon through the establishment and strengthening of protected areas, indigenous territories and responsibly managed forests; 4) Ensuring that **agriculture and ranching are carried out following best management practices** on lands that are appropriate and legal; and 5) Having **transportation and energy infrastructure development planned, designed and implemented to minimize impact on natural ecosystems**, hydrological disruption and impoverishment of biological and cultural diversity.

4) Financial and administrative experience, capacity and presence in all of the countries of the Amazon Region.

WWF has a longstanding experience in managing funds from organizations such as USAID, EU, NORAD, USAID, DGIS, DfID and CIAT, among others, which collectively illustrate WWF Colombia's ability to implement large, complex projects entailing landscape level conservation and protected areas, conflict mitigation, sustainable livelihoods, responsible forest management, improving environmental governance, promoting ecosystem services mechanisms and working with indigenous communities.

In addition, WWF has presence in all countries of the Amazon region, through its offices in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Guyana's (with presence in Guyana and French Guyana) and Suriname and Bolivia, and has working relationships with partners in Venezuela. This will facilitate the development of actions in the countries given the relationship that exists with the governments and institutions – most of which have similar MoUs for the implementation of priority action of collaboration.

Similarly, WWF management would reduce transaction costs (bank fees) through work between offices, allowing greater flexibility as the contracts are made with funding from a single country (main receiver) that can run actions in different countries.

For this reason and considering the current coordination of REDPARQUES, which is currently in the National Parks Office in Colombia, REDPARQUES is proposing that WWF Colombia will be the Financial Secretary and Executor on behalf of the WWF LANI.