



# Case Study: Vilcabamba Amboro Conservation Corridor

**Presented by:**  
**Keith Lawrence, CI**  
**Report Author: Jordi Surkin,**  
**Grupo Nacional de Trabajo para la Participación**



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# Presentation Outline

- CI's approach to corridors & landscapes
- Background to the VACC
- 1. Getting started
- 2. Assessing the ecological landscape
- 3. Assessing protection & conservation status
- 4. Assessing resources & policies
- 5. Designing an integrated landscape
- 6,7 Strategies
- 8. Monitoring effectiveness

# CI Definition of a Conservation Corridor

**“A biologically and strategically defined sub-regional space selected as a unit for large-scale conservation planning and implementation purposes.”**

i.e. a much broader definition than some others use  
e.g. a “wildlife corridor”



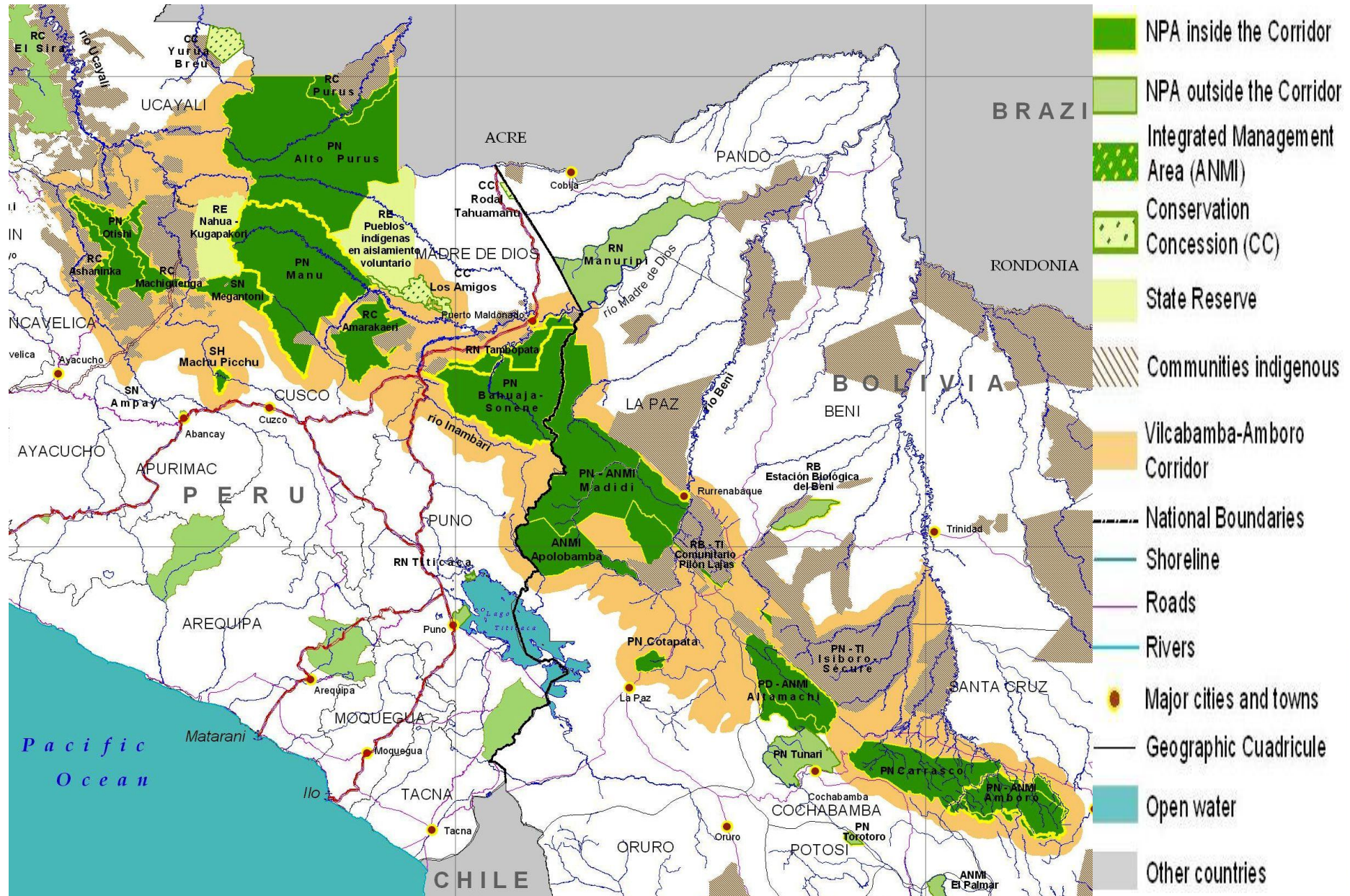
# Why have conservation corridors?

- Biodiversity: area-demanding & migratory species
- Ecological processes e.g. hydrology
- Resilience to change
- Opportunism
- Need to think about economics & land use
  - Opportunity costs
  - Conservation vs development
  - Threats / pressures





# Vilcabamba Amboro Conservation Corridor







# Background to the VACC

- Also some of Amazon Wilderness Area
- From 200m to more than 6,000m
- 30 million hectares
- World records for taxa such as butterflies and birds
- Approximately 6,000 species of plants
- 145 globally threatened species



# 1. Getting started

Late 80s:  
Tambopata-  
Candamo reserved  
zone established  
in Peru, near  
Bolivian border

1993, the 2  
governments signed  
a Cooperation  
Agreement (through  
Amazon Cooperation  
Treaty)

2000: CI  
began  
corridor  
design work

1990s: Government &  
private organizations  
set up Tambopata-  
Madidi transborder  
conservation complex

2003: Corridor  
implementation,  
national /  
binational  
workshops



# 1. Getting started

- One of 1st corridors CI had an active role in
- Long history of cooperation between Peru & Bolivia
- Need to develop a shared understanding/ vision of the corridor
- This has been difficult to achieve in Andes corridors



# Aims

“.... a mosaic of parks, reserves and sustainable use areas, which is managed to:

- 1) Ensure the survival of the **largest spectrum of species and habitats** in the region, and
- 2) Contribute to regional **sustainable development**, by means of its biological richness and environmental services.” *(CEPF and CI, 2003b)*



## 2. Assessing the ecological landscape

- More rigorous identification of scientific gaps & refinement of strategic planning: 2 scientific studies in 2004 and 2005
- Identified:
  - Species richness, endemism, conservation priorities (based on the IUCN globally threatened species)
  - State of conservation suitability (for example, extent of habitat fragmentation / degradation)
  - Social feasibility of protecting these areas & species



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## 2. Assessing the ecological landscape

- Connectivity has two distinct meanings:
  1. Maintain connectivity
  2. Connect fragments
- Need to thoroughly assess & allow for the implications of climate change across the corridor



### 3. Assessing protection & conservation status

- Diverse array of types of Protected Area
- Some very large
- Numerous indigenous territories or reserves
- PAs have a variable level of management effectiveness: often underfunded, understaffed & lack of adequate infrastructure

## 4. Assessing resources & policies

Weak policy frameworks

... but improving

Overlapping land &  
resource access rights



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# Policies / governance: Lessons

- Need to integrate corridor planning into policies & planning instruments from local to national levels ... and in agendas of partners
- In Bolivia, VACC has given local actors a sense of responsibility for conservation action
- Full involvement of all actors in corridor planning & implementation processes is fundamental
- Greater inter & intra sectoral coordination will help, especially with development oriented partners



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## 4. Assessing resources & policies

- Forest conversion to agricultural land / pasture
- Legal & illegal logging
- Mining, oil & gas concessions cover most of the corridor
- Cultural diversity, poverty & a growing population
- Recently, nature tourism has grown



## 5. Designing an integrated landscape

- Corridor design often driven more by donor priorities than a systematic analysis of conservation priorities
- Require strategies that take account of biological, social and political context
- E.g. VACC has characteristics of a wilderness area – requires different strategies to highly fragmented corridors (which would focus more on linking PAs through sustainable economic activities)



# 6 & 7. Strategies

- Municipal Land Use Planning: CI-Bolivia developed the land use plan for the Municipality of Apolo  
Can serve to harmonize conservation with the needs and objectives of communities;  
Increases local knowledge of conservation



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# 6 & 7. Strategies

- Community based ecotourism (Chalalan)  
Need to incorporate a value chain approach as well as a heavy emphasis on training to be successful;  
Alliances with the private sector & government are key to success





## 6 & 7. Strategies

- Management plan for Reserva de la Biosfera-TCO indigenous territory (with WCS)
  - livelihoods strategy
  - participatory mapping
  - Key opportunity for connectivity





# 6 & 7. Strategies

- Brochures & a film  
“Treasures without Borders” & “the green tent”
  - Communications need on-going & continued support
  - PAs need to budget for communications & environmental education



# 6 & 7. Strategies

- Transboundary coordination:  
Binational Technical Committee  
Need to understand dynamics of international relations  
& political realities;  
Exchanging experiences is a great way to strengthen  
transboundary coordination



## 8. Monitoring effectiveness

- No ME system in place at corridor scale
- CI has outcomes monitoring & intervention monitoring processes, plus indicators for donors:
  - Species & site level
  - Fragmentation indices
  - Edge effects
  - % of area zoned
  - Governance
  - Whether policies changed ...
- Bolivian government has *Medicion de efectividad de manaejo* of PAs, based on TNC scorecard







# Join CORNET: the Corridors Network

New email discussion list on conservation within corridors or landscapes

- ask questions
- hear about new publications / events
- promote your work & publications
- an open space to express opinions
- discussions on specific topics

<http://corridors.conservation.org>  
[klawrence@conservation.org](mailto:klawrence@conservation.org)