FINAL REPORT

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION INTERVENTION

PURPOSE

The final report is the Danish organisation's report to the Civil Society Fund. Therefore, the intention is that the Danish organisation fills in the report in cooperation with the local partner and uses it as an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the intervention.

The final report can be used as a tool in your partnership to enhance transparency and joint responsibility as described in CISU's thematic paper on *partnerships*, which is available at CISU's website: https://cisu.dk/temapapirer

The final report will be added to the Danish organisation's track record and will be taken into account in future assessments of applications from the Danish organisation involving the same or other partners in line with the Guidelines for the Civil Society Fund.

External evaluation: in the case of interventions with a total budget over DKK 2 million, the external evaluation report must be attached, unless it has already been forwarded to CISU.

The report can be supplemented by images, videos, documents, screen dumps from social media or other materials produced during the implementation that can be uploaded through ´Vores CISU´ together with the final report.

CISU aims to send feedback on the report to the Danish organisation no later than two months after receiving the report.

The report must not exceed 6 pages (this cover page is not included).

1. Outcomes and strategy

1. Objective 1: Communities have capacity and infrastructure to engage in ecotourism

FCBC has conducted various capacity building courses, especially in the initial phases of the implementation period, with a particular focus on cooking, attention to clients and local guides. Prior to COVID-19, FCBC managed to facilitate an exchange visit to the community Palmarito that has extensive experience with community driven ecotourism. The response from the community-members of Santa Rosa de la Mina was rather telling, not only did the visit give them an inside on how to organize and run an ecotourism project, it also confirmed that there was indeed a touristic interest for their culture and the type nature seen in their community. Hence the exchange visit also served to change the perception of the residents in Santa Rosa de la Mina and raised the appreciation of local culture, flora and fauna. This new perception of what was formerly considered trivial was further supported by a FCBC-sponsored calendar with pictures of local flora and fauna. In sum, the community has greater knowledge of its relationship with the surrounding natural resources, non-damaging uses of these resources and conservation as a basis for disseminating its riches and cultural experiences to tourists. Community activities have begun to develop demonstrating awareness and appreciation of the local culture. To a large extent FCBC and the group of beneficiaries have managed to establish an ecotourism infrastructure that provides activities for a one-day visit. These include the opportunity to try traditional cuisine, a guided hike to a local waterfall and lake with signage, the community mission chapel (traditional Jesuit architecture) and finally a newly restored community-house for gatherings and sale of handicrafts along with locally gathered and processed NTFP's, most notably shampoo made from isotoúbo. These activities have involved groups of artisans, those responsible for the mission chapel, those interested in training as tourist guides, tourist attention with food etc. The newfound appreciation of the local flora and fauna and the growing belief in the potential of the ecotourism project was illustrated when a few community-members decided to initiate an unauthorized mining operation at the waterfall that made up the destination for the tourist ecological hike. Community-members responded by organizing and filing an official complaint to the municipality in the hopes that the mining-activities would be halted (Appendix 2). Even though the municipality chose not to act on the complaint, considering that the community has traditionally been a mining site around which the community evolved, these efforts mark a definite change in perception.

2. Objective 2: EC has capacity to promote and integrate ecotourism into local planning and management instruments

The ecotourism project in Santa Rosa de la Mina was initiated in a political context characterized by positivity and collaboration, the first phase of the project greatly benefited from political and financial endorsement from the municipality. However, during the implementation of the second phase, Bolivia went through great political turmoil and after a time of political vacuum the ruling party was reinstated and shifty replaced all opposition with politicians and leaders loyal to the party. Therefore, the political context in the project-area has been greatly altered and the former political collaborators are no longer in office, this is true for all levels of government, department, municipality and locally. The current government prides itself with support for the mining industry, making it difficult for FCBC and the EC to exercise much influence on local planning and management instruments.

Many EC-members were part of the previous government and could therefore exercise a considerable amount of political influence, however they now find themselves as part of the opposition making it harder to reach the goals the project initially set out to achieve. Despite these difficulties the EC-members still wish to push for an ecotourism agenda and have expressed a desire to continue the work. To the extent possible within the national laws of natural resource-management, the objective of the EC promoting and

integrating ecotourism into local planning and management instruments, was largely fulfilled. However, within the new political context the progress has sadly been reversed.
The change in authorities required updating the conceptualization and focus of the ecotourism activities in relation to community-leadership and the municipality of San Ramón. This eventually allowed the incorporation of representatives of the EC in local government events, where they could contribute with ecotourism initiatives that could be integrated into municipal planning and management - hoping for the commitment of its authorities to give continuity and sustainability to the ecotourism efforts in the municipality.
When Aktion Amazonas visited the municipality of San Ramon in October 2021, the newly instated mayor and community-president both expressed a great desire to promote ecotourism in the area. However, the lack of action among local authorities when community-members filed an official complaint against mining in Santa Rosa de la Mina, demonstrates that the political engagement in maintaining the ecotourism project is relatively low as of now.

3. Objective 3: FCBC facilitates promotion and marketing and supports the strengthening of the capacities of EC and community authorities to market the ecotourism project
FCBC undertook various promotional activities including having professional video and pictures taken of Santa Rosa de la Mina, parts of the tourist circuit and the local wildlife. The photos were used on flyers and large road-signs. One alliance was formed with a local tour guide. A Facebook-page was created with the purpose of promotion and contact. Finally, capacities were generated within the group of direct beneficiaries and the EC itself for the promotion and marketing of ecotourism. Yet COVID-19 halted most tourist activities, hence the promotion was geared toward a market that was forcefully paused for almost the entirety of the project implementation period. Therefore promotion- and marketing efforts were redirected to the participation of beneficiaries in different fairs and promotional events - emphasis was put on a local group of women who do traditional handicrafts and now also shampoo made of isotubo. The group of women have their own shop/exhibition room in the community, it is one of the stops on the circuit - them going to fairs ensured a continued focus on the community as a tourist destination. In conclusion FCBC and the community managed to promote the ecotourism project locally and regionally, but not nationally. Though the foundations are laid for the promotion once the restrictions are less for the reception of visitors[1].

1.1 **For each of your objectives, write in the table below how close you are to fulfilling the objectives (in percent)**.

Remember that the % must correspond to your description of achievement of objectives in section 1.1.

	Achievement in %
Achievement of Objective 1	80%
Achievement of Objective 2	59%
Achievement of Objective 3	70%

0-19 %: very low achievement
20-39 %: low achievement
40-59%: medium achievement
60-79%: high achievement
80-100%: very high achievement

1.2 **Describe the main challenges faced during the implementation and what adjustments you have made to mitigate these challenges**.

The two main challenges have been described above, but in short, they were COVID-19 and the change in political context. Both of these circumstances greatly challenged the implementation of the project in the form it was initially intended.

[1] Appendix 1 shows photos, videos, and links.

First, **COVID-19** had a profound effect on the project and its expected outcomes, as the global pandemic effectively stopped all tourist-activities but also because the community isolated themselves to not get infected. Hence the community received no outside visitors, nor could they engage in more than one exchange visit. Also, the FCBC-staff were unable to visit and carry out planned workshop-activities for prolonged periods of time. FCBC mitigated the challenge by working virtually to the extent possible and focused their efforts locally on establishing the infrastructure of the ecotourism circuit, supporting the group of women doing handicrafts and working with NTFP along with promoting a positive change in perception on flora and fauna. All, to ensure that most of the prerequisites were in place, for Santa Rosa de la Mina to continue their venture once the pandemic loosened its grip.
Secondly, there was a **change in political representation** hence both municipal and communal authorities were replaced by representatives who did not know or knew very little about the development activities of ecotourism in their municipality. This meant that there was less good will towards the project, and it made collaborating with local authorities harder for FCBC. To mitigate this challenge FCBC by making different presentations for the municipal mayor and his technical team, as well as for the municipal council, its tourism and culture commissions and the new authorities Santa Rosa de la Mina. Also, FCBC set up a meeting between representatives from Aktion Amazonas and local officials from the municipality, as to demonstrate the international interest and scope of the project as well as framing it as a viable alternative to mining.
Finally, the **local mining operations** in Santa Rosa de la Mina is a challenge still facing the project. The waterfall was one of the main attractions of the circuit and central to the ecological hiking path that led to the community's natural and permanent water source. After the change in authorities, illegal mining activities were established in the area. Since the miners didn't find gold the mining activities have stopped, but the area surrounding the waterfall has been destroyed and needs being reconstructed. There are talks on redirecting the ecotourism hike, but these ideas have not been put into action. Within the framework of the ecotourism project, it has been decided not to continue with the activities on this site.

1.3 **Summaries (in no more than 10 lines) what difference the intervention has made. For example, the most important changes that have occurred as result(s) of the intervention**.

The population of the municipality and mainly Santa Rosa de la Mina, engaged in or aware of the ecotourism-concept and it has been a change in perception not only in terms of flora and fauna, but also local project-participants now see their community and culture in a new light. The community has been given the incentive to use wild forest resources to diversify activities related to ecotourism. An "Association of Women Entrepreneurs" has been formed, producing products made from NTFP's and marketing them regionally. They have previously dedicated themselves mainly to traditional mining, but now they see the value of the natural resources. The project has allowed for community-members to "open their eyes" and see other options to improve their quality of life through the generation of other alternative sources of economic income for their families, and pride in their own culture and traditions, this being the base element of the project and to pass on tourists.

2. The target group

2.1 **Describe how the intervention has contributed to bringing about improvements for the target groups**.

Different exchanges and presentations by EC-members as well as by the beneficiaries at fairs, meetings and events contributed to make the municipality of San Ramón known as the "Entrance door to the Northern Chiquitania", the same goes for the community of Santa Rosa de la Mina. The perception that the area is an

integral part of the touristic circuit in the region, was previously unknown even to its own inhabitants. Currently everyone from authorities, schoolteachers and local media uses this reference with respect to their municipality. The change in how the region is named, furthers the promotion of ecotourism in the area and by extension the objective of this project. It also lays the foundations for subsequent recognition and strengthens the case prior to negotiations with the Secretary of Tourism and Culture of the Government of Santa Cruz to include the project in the Jesuit missionary tourist route of all Chiquitania.
The ecotourism circuit has been established with three tour guides, who have all been taught how to guide in terms of local flora and fauna, also they have been given the basic supplies for guiding such as uniforms and binoculars. Furthermore, they have been supplied with printed and visual materials for the dissemination and promotion of the community.
Using a minimum of one wild resource existing in the community to make shampoo, benefits the group of women who are transforming the resource and in charge of its commercialization. By doing so these women are generating an income for their families, in addition to its being the best alternative to the rustic mining exploitation that they carried out before - all of it without having to abandon their children during periods of mining. The group consists of 17 women.
Similar activities were carried out in the communities Miraflores and Cerrito, where non-gendered production-groups learned how to process and market flour made from yucca. A total of 21 men and women attended these workshops.
Admittedly the scope of the project was to reach a higher number of people both in Santa Rosa de la Mina and the neighboring communities Miraflores and Cerrito. Though COVID-19 made it difficult to carry out several project-related activities in these communities due to restrictions, lowering the overall number of participants. Most notably community-members of the neighboring communities were not invited to participate in exchange-based ecotourism workshops that took place in Santa Rosa de la Mina, hence it was decided to instead focus on production groups in those communities. Though the change in focus marked a move away from scaling the ecotourism project - for the time being. Because the Santa Rosa de la Mina eventually had very few touristic visitors, it lowered the perceived relevance of participating in activities related to ecotourism and hence lowered the participation rate. The situation also provided very few occasions to use the skills learned during ecotourism workshops and even made some planned workshops somewhat redundant and they were annulled. Generally, more emphasis was put on NTFP production groups, as they represented a viable sustainable income alternative to e.g. mining during COVID-19.

2.2 How many persons have been reached by this intervention?

	Number of persons
Number of persons that have **participated** in intervention's activities (primary target group)	62
Number of persons **affected** by the intervention's activities without having participated in the activities (secondary target group)	686

3. The partnership

One of FCBC's policies is to strengthen the collaborative networks at all possible scales; considering that without alliances there are no sustainable achievements. Therefore, the intervention developed jointly with Aktion Amazonas and different actors of civil society, specifically in the Municipality of San Ramón, has allowed FCBC to gain greater experience in promoting issues within nature conservation and how conservation is instrumental for sustainable development and can be used actively as a source of income in the case of ecotourism. Another clear example is the promotion of the use of isotoúbo that allows the conservation of a forest species and generates economic income for families involved. To start an

innovative activity in the region has generated and increased the professional capacity of the FCBC team; with advice on dissemination for its marketing from the Aktion Amazonas team. Though it should be noted that both organizations have mutually benefited from the collaboration and partnership. Especially because tourism is a new field to both, adding to this, implementing a tourism project during a global pandemic called for new approaches. Cooperating on how to mitigate the challenges faced and being in frequent contact to keep updated on new developments in Bolivia, brought the teams together and fostered a dynamic collaborative approach. Although FCBC and Aktion Amazonas have finalized their intervention in Santa Rosa de la Mina, the two organizations continue to collaborate on new projects in the Chiquitania region - this is a testimony to the durability and mutual gains of the partnership.

3.1 Describe how the intervention has contributed to the partners building relations with other actors.
The implementation of any intervention is carried out in close relationship with municipal and community authorities through signing contracts that frame the activities and financing. During the implementation period, relations have been formalized with the municipal government of San Ramón by updating the inter-institutional cooperation framework agreement. Moreover, the collaborative relation to the communities of Santa Rosa de la Mina, Cerrito and Miraflores have been strengthened, consolidating their ties with FCBC. The presentations made at different production fairs and tourism promotion events about the use of NTFP have opened opportunities to identify potential financiers and those interested in marketing NTFP products and ecotourism in other municipalities in the region. Furthermore, FCBC do periodical presentations for donors and are active within international networks such as Model Forest Network, LACNetwork and other forums allowing for the foundation to interact and exchange with other technical actors within the field of conservation.

4. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning

4.1 How have experiences and results been gathered and used during implementation and how can these assist in improving future interventions?

A through the presentation of both financial and technical progress sent by mail. electronically and during meetings held between both parties. Experiences and results have been compiled systematically and put into writing on a quarterly basis, every three months FCBC has produced a provisional project report using a form developed by FCBC and Aktion Amazonas. The quarterly report has always been followed up by a virtual meeting between the two partnering organizations, these meetings have been used as a space for evaluation, sparring and directional guidance. Thus, promoting mutual training and capacity building. Moreover, monthly virtual meetings have been held to follow the implementation and progress of the project more closely, prior presentations of both financial and technical progress were sent by mail and shared electronically and during meetings. These monthly meetings were supplemented and structured by the updates provided by FCBC on the digital planning platform Trello, these updates consisted of activity-descriptions and pictures. Using Trello allowed the Aktion Amazonas -representatives to see the activities that had already been completed, those that were underway or planned for a future leg of the implementation process. Aside from Trello, WhatsApp has also been used frequently by FCBC as an informal way of sharing pictures and short updates. Aktion Amazonas had initially planned for two monitoring visits to San Ramon, due to the pandemic one of these visits was conducted virtually instead. The virtual as well as the physical visit included interviews both with the beneficiaries, members of the ecotourism committee, members of local government and the technical executing team of FCBC. However post-pandemic monitoring was carried out in person with corresponding meetings in the FCBC offices and with a field trip to Santa Rosa de la Mina for direct interviews with the beneficiaries and partners.

4.2 Which tools or methods have been used for monitoring and/or capacity buildings, if any?

Mark with a "x" in the table below and elaborate on any other relevant methods. It is not a requirement to use the mentioned tools. CISU uses the information for monitoring purposes.

Tools and methods	
X	Mango Health Check
	Accountability Dialogue Tool
X	Trello, online planning, and monitoring tool, accessible to both organizations
X	WhatsApp, informal way of sharing pictures and updates
X	Quarterly narrative reports and budget
X	Google Drive to share reports, photos, videos, etc.
x	3 M&E compliance and supervision partner and project site visits, including inception workshop and financial controlling
x	Monthly online meetings on Teams/Skype

5. Information work in Denmark

5.1 Briefly describe the primary information activities.

During the project period Aktion Amazonas has carried out numerous information activities in Denmark directed both at its members as well as the general public. Among the primary information activities is the annual report written and published in print by Aktion Amazonas. The annual report is directed at Aktion Amazonas' members, stakeholders and other associates with a keen interest in nature conservation. For the purpose of the report several articles were produced, either focusing narrowly on the Ecotourism Project in San Ramon or reflecting more generally on the lessons learned from working in a Bolivian context. Either way, the source material has always been information, interviews and photos gathered by FCBC or during our monitoring visit to San Ramon. Alongside the annual report in print, Aktion Amazonas continuously strives to build its digital presence first and foremost through Facebook, monthly newsletters and the webpage eeango.dk. All of these digital means of information have also been used to create awareness not only about the Ecotourism Project but also the vulnerable state of the Chiquitano forest and the many humans induced threats faced by this unique ecosystem and the people who depend on it.

5.2 Assess the extent to which the goals of the information activities have been met.

The PRO-activities have met the overall objective to disseminate the results of Aktion Amazonas' work with improving local livelihoods in the eco-region of the Chiquitano dry forest based on the diversification of activities related to ecotourism. Whether we have strengthened the support for Aktion Amazonas' work and Danish development assistance in general, increased knowledge and understanding of the development and nature conservation. We can state that Aktion Amazonas has no problem attracting members, followers on SoMe and volunteers. We planned for following information activities: (1) Article series and photo reports on the issues the project is addressing and (2) production, layout and print of Aktion Amazonas' annual report. It has published 3 articles on ecotourism on eaango.dk during the project period and two articles on ecotourism in the annual report – one per year. Total edition of 100 copies published per year. Articles published on eaango.dk is market on Facebook. Total outreach 542 and 10% engagement. With PRO funds, Aktion Amazonas has also updated and expanded its photo archive.


CASA DE DIOS
PUERTA DEL CIELO






CENTRO CULTURAL
Sta. Rosa de la Mina
SANTA ROSA DE LA MINA
MUNICIPIO DE SAN RAMÓN
Asociación de Mujeres
Emprendedoras
ARTESANÍA · ALFARERÍA · TEXTILES




ASOCIACION DE MUJERES
EMPRENDEDORAS DE
SANTA ROSA DE LA SIERRA








ASOCIACIÓN DE ARTESANAS
SANTA ROSA DE LA MINA

