

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 1041 Booth Number: 1

Adaptive Natural Resources Management Will Bolster Cabécar Communities

COUNTRY: Costa Rica

ORGANIZATION: Asociación IXACA VAA de Desarrollo e Información Indígena

FUNDING REQUEST: \$195,000

OBJECTIVE: To help inhabitants of Bajo Chirripó to increase their capacity to adapt to climate change through the adaptive management of natural resources and the reduction of vulnerability to external events, based on the combination of ancient knowledge and modern technology. Expectations are that (1) more than 50 percent of families will participate in the ancient knowledge rescue process, (2) at least three products or services will be made suitable for their integration into the market, and (3) zones at high risk of flooding will be identified and mapped in 50 percent of the indigenous territory.

RATIONALE: The Cabécar indigenous territory communities of Bajo Chirripó are settled in an area of difficult access, low productivity, and high flood risk that is also highly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. This area is stricken by an average of over 10 tropical storms every year, affecting its production system based on subsistence agriculture, its infrastructure, and its human population. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of floods, creating greater vulnerability in the area. The project seeks to rescue ancient knowledge and combine it with new technologies to design adaptive production systems with less vulnerability to storms and flooding and greater potential to contribute to local development.

INNOVATION: A combination of the ancient indigenous knowledge with modern, non-indigenous technology (technological syncretism) is proposed in order to create adaptive production systems that are capable of addressing the negative effects of climate change and to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the indigenous populations, who currently live only on subsistence systems.

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