

## DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 1661      Booth Number: 20

Traditional Knowledge Is the Prescription for  
Environmental Land Management

COUNTRY: Colombia  
ORGANIZATION: Zonal Indigenous  
Organization of Putumayo  
FUNDING REQUEST: \$199,733

**OBJECTIVE:** To draw up five environmental land use plans based on the traditional knowledge of the indigenous groups. An area of 207,000 hectares (most of which is native forest) will be demarcated including zones for: conservation of forest flora and fauna, housing, hunting, fishing, gathering, and traditional farming, as well as sacred places for each group's rituals. The purpose is to replicate this methodology for other indigenous groups.

**RATIONALE:** The territories of indigenous groups represent the foundation for the reproduction of native societies of the Americas and are situated in zones of ecological significance in the biosphere. They are threatened by the effects of climate change, the dynamics of which alter their ecosystems, causing such problems as the disappearance of species due to draughts or floods, risks of natural disasters, and the reduction of animals for hunting and fruit for gathering, as well as the exhaustion of materials for housing construction. These are problems to be resolved in the communities.

**INNOVATION:** The project will bring together the technical tools of geographic information systems (GIS), ecology, and biology, with the traditional knowledge that indigenous groups have about their territories. The idea is to strengthen and promote these practices, and to create tools to manage the communities, in order to project them into the future. Constant dialogue in coordination with outside actors, is essential for protection of their ecosystems and guaranteeing the provision of environmental goods and services that is suitable for indigenous peoples and for the planet.

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