

# BUILDING RESILIENCE IN COMMUNITIES VULNERABLE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN BOLIVIA



## The intervention

- Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano together with their Danish partner, Aktion Amazonas
- DKK 2.569.867
- May 2023-April 2025 (24 months)

Based upon traditional **indigenous knowledge** and facilitation of community engagement, community organisation and training, the intervention makes communities more resilient and enhances local **food and water security**.

Experiences are used to **coordinate civil society to advocate for local and regional policies** and institutional frameworks that promote climate adaptation **decision making in communities** affected by climate change in Bolivia.



**Huáscar Azurduy, Biologist, Program responsible.**

*"All forests have their own characteristics. The Chiquitano forest has its own ecological system. It has its culture. Its traditions. It is all integrated. It is on the basis of this that we are trying to **inspire and facilitate action that conserves this natural place**. Always beginning with what is there already."*

*"One of the important things in a project like this is that we **build on what exists**. There are local councils in the communities in Chiquitano forest. The local councils have appointed people that are responsible for different themes in the community. For example water. We began the intervention by revitalizing these councils and tapping into the knowledge that is there already."*

## Activities and results

*"We are nine months into the project. We have made advances, and we are within the plan, but there are always things that we must change, due to the context that affects the implementation of the project."*

Some of the very concrete results are:

- 109 families have **access to crops under the communal concept** of family cultivation space and use of forest products.
- 263 families have gained **access to water for productive activities and consumption**.
- 2,530 m<sup>2</sup> of **water reservoirs** have been excavated and enabled for water storage.
- 67 hectares have been planted with **6 types of traditional crops**: corn, cassava or beans, watermelon, banana or joco (pumpkin), **strengthening the resilience in the communities**.
- 2100 kg of **forest fruits** have been harvested for processing, distribution and marketing of pulp. This affects the economic valuation of the forest and natural systems, as the **forest now generates a noticeable income**.

- **8 natural water sources have been identified** with the communities to be protected and conserved in the long term.
- **3 nurseries** are in the process of consolidation, one of which has generated an initial production of 1,500 seedlings.
- More than 40 training events and spaces for **exchanging experiences** have been organized under the **concept of field schools and learning by doing**.

8 communities are in process to have their statutes reactivated. The local councils are being revitalized. And we are strengthening the leadership of women. The community Buena Hora is a good example of this.

*"Buena Hora is a Chiquitano community that, like many, had limitations in its ability to access water. Now Buena Hora has installed a water system that connects to an artesian well that feeds a tank from which water is distributed to the individual homes, something they are experiencing for the first time. The whole community is engaged in protecting the forest that supply the water to the well."*

## Context

Bolivia is hit by drought and the country's eastern region, Santa Cruz, is among the departments worst hit. More than half of the regional population are affected by Climate Change from lack of drinking water to food shortages due to failed harvests and loss of livestock. A state of emergency has been declared by the departmental council.