

RESULTS SUMMARY

Indigenous communities embrace biodiversity monitoring, changing perceptions and planning alternative development and conservation activities

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PROJECT	<i>Title:</i>	Community-based biodiversity monitoring in El Rancho and Makanate in the indigenous territory of Monte Verde, Bolivia
	<i>Partner:</i>	Apoyo Para el Campesino-Indígena del Oriente Boliviano (APCOB)
	<i>Country:</i>	Bolivia
	<i>Period:</i>	From January 1st to December 31st, 2024

CHANGE	<p>The Makanate and El Rancho communities of Monte Verde's Indigenous Territory have begun using camera traps to collect and analyse local wildlife data on mammals and birds, in collaboration with APCOB. The initiative has sparked a newfound appreciation for the richness of local biodiversity, overturning previous perceptions. Inspired by these discoveries, the two communities are now exploring ecotourism as a sustainable development path. El Rancho is also reinforcing its knowledge about its protected area to conserve biodiversity.</p>
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CONTEXT	<p>Community biodiversity monitoring in Monte Verde addresses environmental threats, which jeopardise ecosystems and indigenous ways of life. This approach empowers the indigenous people to participate in the governance of their territory and its natural resources, integrating traditional ecological knowledge and cosmovision into conservation efforts. It acknowledges their role as stewards, aligning sustainable practices with cultural values, and ensuring respect for their rights and identities.</p>
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CONTRIBUTION	<p>This community initiative empowers indigenous people to observe and document key species, enhancing environmental education and providing critical data on ecosystem health, guiding future projects. Collaborating with the Noel Kempff Mercado Museum, it contributes to ecological research. Sharing results on social media raises public awareness. It affirms indigenous communities' critical conservation role, highlighting their cultural and ecological significance.</p>
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IMAGES



Installing camera trap in Makanate. Photo by Forests of the World, Karen Andersen.



Jaguar (*Panthera onca*). Photo from camera trap video, by APCOB.

[See next page for more details →](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

A community biodiversity monitoring system was collaboratively developed with the Makanate and El Rancho indigenous communities and APCOB. The communities installed six wildlife cameras (four in Makanate, two in El Rancho) and trained their members to monitor local biodiversity. APCOB conducted four field inspections in 2023 to initiate monitoring, oversee camera installation and for the communities to select the individual members who would be responsible for monitoring and ensuring data quality. Data processing and analysis were conducted at APCOB's utilising its computers and internet connection. Community members and APCOB discussed findings in two sessions, and videos were created for internal dissemination, incorporating safeguards to prevent poachers from misusing the information. Three workshops on the ecological roles of wildlife involved 60 participating children.

LESSONS

The initiative successfully engaged community members, emphasising inclusive participation and potentials for broader environmental stewardship. It empowered women and children through their active participation in setting up cameras as well as identifying animal species. Their active participation not only enhanced their environmental awareness but also deepened the community's commitment to biodiversity conservation. The initiative underscored the critical need for careful data management to prevent risks like poaching. Robust data policies are essential to protect both the biodiversity data and the community's resources. Moreover, community monitoring has proven effective in protecting and conserving biodiversity and enhancing territorial governance, leveraging indigenous knowledge and roles.

EVIDENCE	<p>In 2023, the camera traps were activated by wildlife to record 4,778 videos, documenting around 62 medium and big-sized mammal and bird species. APCOB is preparing a report about the results. Increased environmental education and appreciation of the richness of local biodiversity is documented in the following videos: 2024 Stories from the Woods Monte Verde: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbapRv7FG6s; Sistema de monitoreo comunitario de biodiversidad en el TIMV: youtu.be/Q8EoM_1YZMU. Additional evidence is available on APCOB Facebook: fb.watch/rUkcVx97Vx/; facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=772175038276271&id=100064513461641&mibextid=oFDknk&rdid=UQ4BplhSADLV6vCR; https://fb.watch/rUulpR0Pfq/ and FoW Facebook: "Kamerafælder spotter ikoniske dyrearter i regnskoven": https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=376215038351204&ref=sharing og "Vildsvin-familie i Bolivia": https://fb.watch/sFj_V1AZit/</p>
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<i>Development strategy priorities:</i>		Insert strategy priority
DOMAINS	<i>Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	+
	<i>Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights</i>	-
	<i>Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights</i>	+
	<i>Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights</i>	-
	<i>Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability</i>	+
	<i>Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work</i>	-

GUIDANCE NOTE

This format consists of two overall sections: on page one, the results summary communicates results to an external audience using a brief summary of what has been achieved; while page two provides an opportunity to explain the background and evidence behind the claims made as part of the summary.

Page 1: Results summary

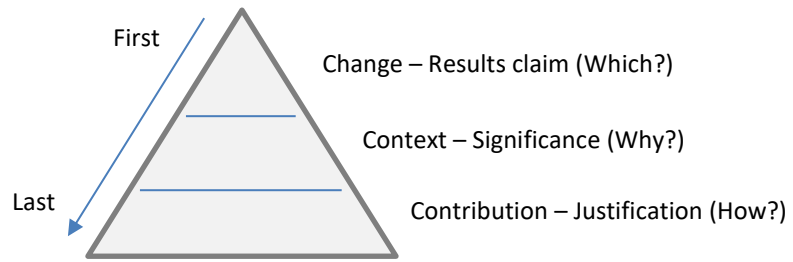
The results summary should outline of the overall change. This should be phrased in a clear and concise manner, focusing on the benefits for target groups or communities, and preferably start out by stating the overall key message as a one-line statement. It is thus important to prioritise what the key message should be and not attempt to describe every possible change that may have occurred.

Note that case studies should not describe all of the activities carried out during the implementation. Instead, it should focus on one or two key messages to be highlighted – which may also span several projects – and only outline activities to backup contributions to the highlighted change.

This can be illustrated as a “reverse funnel.” First, the “change” section introduces the overall results claim, which answers the “which.” Note that this is done before any details have been provided. Second, the “context” section outlines the problem being addressed by the project and the significance of the change. For example, by explaining “why” it benefits target groups or communities.

Finally, and lastly, the “contribution” section should provide examples to justify for “how” the intervention contributed to realising change. Note that this should focus on the plausible linkage between the change and intervention rather than describing details from activities. It is often useful to think of this as a reverse theory-of-change, i.e. “After we did X, then Y occurred, because of Z.”

Figure 1:
Reverse funnel for communication



Page 2: Additional information

The second page should provide background and evidence for project's contribution to change. It can also address technical issues that do not fit in the results summary. The section consists of the following sections:

- *Activities*: Whereas the "contribution" section on page one provides a brief summary of the project contributions to change, the "activities" section allows for more detail on the project design, organisation and underlying activities in support of the contributions made.
- *Lessons*: Describes lessons learned through the implementation. These should relate to the results claim or alternatively the project(s) as a whole. Please consider (1) novelty – i.e. whether the change represents something new – and (2) the potential to scale and/or build on lessons going ahead.
- *Evidence*: A narrative comparison between results claims and the underlying evidence. It should answer "X led to Y, because of Z," although it does not need to be phrased this way. It is useful to include references to a few selected documents for further details. Please see guidelines for more.
- *Domains and development strategy*: Describes contributions to defined domains and the Danish development strategy. Please consider limiting the number of domains to a few selected ones.