



Conservation and Forestry  
Development Project for  
the Chiquitano Dry Forest  
(in Bolivia and Paraguay)

- In coordination with IDEA - Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental (Institute for Environmental and Economic Rights) valuable support has been provided to improve the legal and institutional framework for forestry management in Paraguay.

- Generation of technical criteria for the revision of Bolivia's forestry legislation with the recognition of different management systems for different natural forest types according to the ecoregions of the country, contributing to the sustainable harvesting of valuable tree species of the Chiquitano Dry Forest.

- Establishment of sustainable harvesting practices and the marketing of wild natural forest resources by integrating rural communities into market chains, in particular groups of women.

- Support to the creation and/or the management of local protected areas with more than 500,000 hectares of fragile ecosystems that contribute to the conservation of the biodiversity of the Chiquitano Dry Forest and other vulnerable forests in Bolivia and Paraguay.

- Development of cooperation programmes to train indigenous leaders, technical staff and local professionals, to enable them to contribute to the improvement of use of their territories and natural resources.

- Elevation of the status of the Chiquitano Dry Forest as an ecoregion of high value for the conservation of its biodiversity and its strategic role for the mitigation and adaptation to global and regional climate change.

Foundation for the Conservation of the  
Chiquitano Forest / Fundación para la  
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Society is in urgent search of approaches to mitigate and adapt to global climate change that will allow mankind to reduce its effects on ecosystems and the negative impacts on the most vulnerable communities.

In Latin America, deforestation rates are increasing at an alarming rate, mainly as a result of the expanding agricultural frontier and the development of roads and other infrastructure, increasing the rate of change in natural environments and exacerbating the risks associated with these processes.

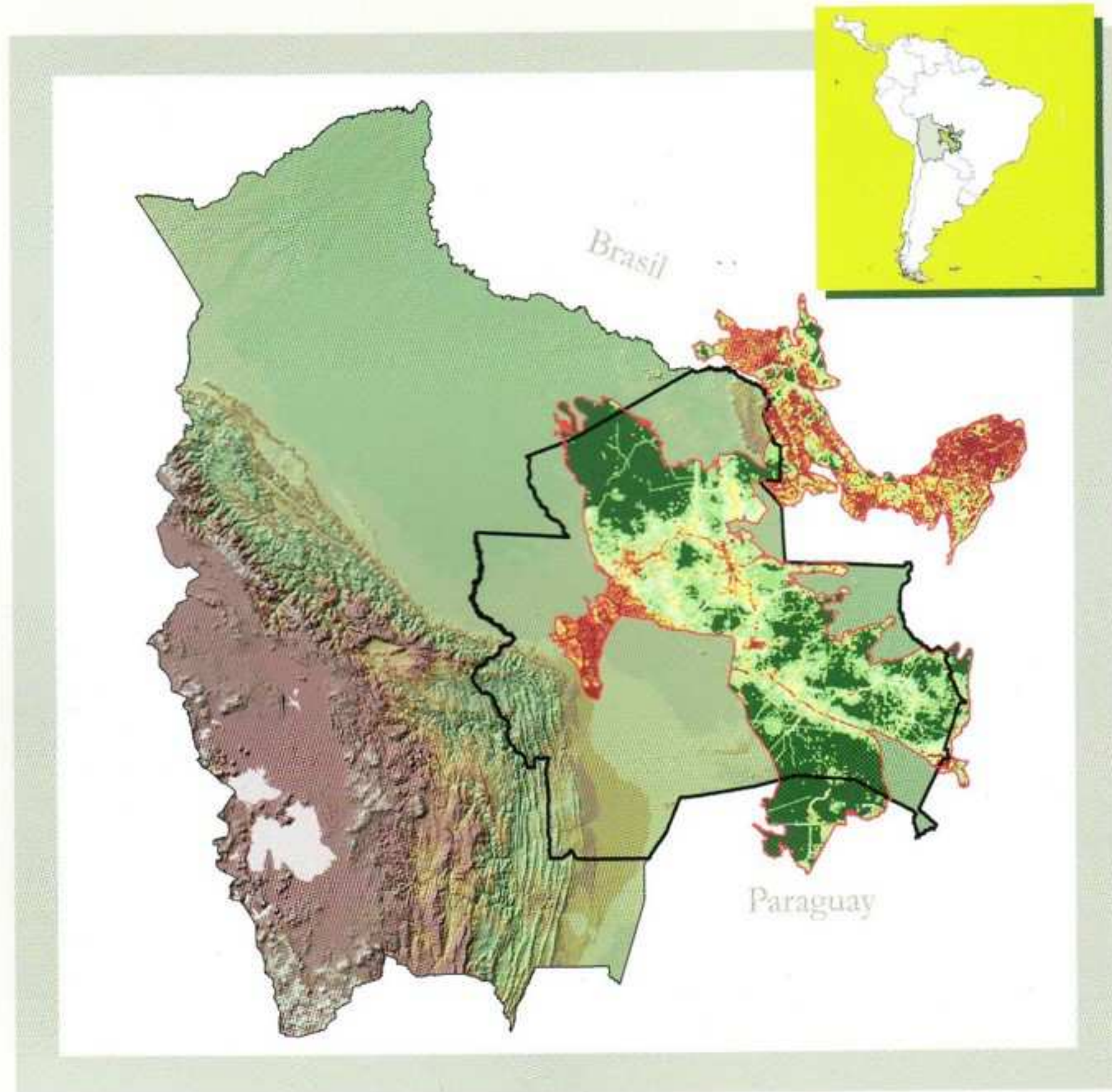
Tropical dry forests are among the most vulnerable ecosystems to climate change. In particular, the Chiquitano Dry Forest, lying in the heart of South America, is in peril. The Chiquitano Dry Forest is the largest tropical dry forest in South America, covering over 24 million hectares, mainly between Bolivia and Paraguay, with remnants in Brazil. The major part of this forest, 20 million hectares (83%) is located in Bolivia. Chiquitano, Ayoreode, and Guaraní indigenous communities inhabit the ecoregion, where they live along with cattle ranchers and cereal producers.

Considering this situation, the Foundation for the Conservation of the Chiquitano Forest (known under its Spanish acronym as the FCBC) works in collaboration with several public and private institutions, as well as local organizations, promoting the conservation of the biological diversity and the ecological integrity of these forests. The purpose of the work of the FCBC is to generate incentives for responsible and sustainable land use and the management of watersheds and natural resources. Simultaneously, the work of FCBC contributes to the improvement of local livelihoods and the better preparation of local people for the impact of climate change, which is already looming over them.



Over the past 10 years, the FCBC has supported over 400 projects with a broad range of focus and scope, linking conservation and management of natural protected areas, conservation of wildlife, scientific research, sustainable forest management, sustainable agricultural practices, social-environmental management, land use planning and environmental education.

The **Conservation and Forestry Development Project for the Chiquitano Dry Forest (in Bolivia and Paraguay)** is one of the most important projects being currently implemented by the FCBC. The project is co-financed by the European Union and implemented in partnership with other organizations in Bolivia, Paraguay and Costa Rica.



This project is part of the European Commission's *Programme for tropical forests and of other type*, for developing countries. The project began in January 2007 and is expected to end by January 2011. The aim of the project is to generate a sustainable model of forestry development for the Chiquitano Dry Forest ecoregion of Bolivia and Paraguay through territorial land use planning and the sustainable management of forestry resources. This will provide continuity to a series of processes initiated by the FCBC in the Chiquitano region.

Seven independent, complementary components make up the initiative: 1) municipal land use planning to promote ecological integrity, 2) community management and sustainable forest resource use, 3) principles of sustained yield, 4) development of small and medium size community enterprises, 5) conservation through protected areas, 6) management, monitoring, evaluation, and dissemination of results and publicity of activities, and 7) training, as a cross cutting activity throughout the entire process. These components promote the participation and benefit several regional actors and local municipal governments, indigenous and rural communities, craftsmen, local producers and government agencies.

Therefore, the project is focused on the promotion of the permanence of the natural forests in the ecoregion, through the application of several strategies such as the zoning of municipalities and indigenous territories, the promotion of sustainable forestry management. A second strategy is oriented to the recognition and promotion of the economic value of timber and the less visible non-timber forest products such as wild fruits, oils, resins, and extracts. A third strategy is to improve the legal framework for sustainable forestry management in both countries. A fourth strategy is to protect natural landscapes with their characteristic flora and wildlife through the creation and/or strengthening of natural protected areas. These strategies not only contribute to the mitigation of global climate change, but

also improve the social and environmental conditions, allowing the most vulnerable human populations, such as the rural communities of eastern Bolivia and northern Paraguay, to adapt to these changes.

**Project results of the project to date include:**

- Seven municipal governments of the Chiquitano region in Bolivia have been strengthened with land use and occupation plans, covering more than 16 million hectares of tropical dry forests. In Paraguay, one municipality has started the process of land use planning.
- More than 700,000 hectares of indigenous communal lands within the Chiquitano Dry Forest have completed processes of land use planning and design of sustainable management plans for timber production, non-timber forests products and wildlife resources.

