



Funded by the European Union

Technical Assistance: Participatory Mangrove Conservation Restoration and Monitoring Strategies for Adaptation and Mitigation with a Focus on Integrating Peace in Climate Action

Location: Cuerval Community Council, Cauca Department, Colombian Pacific Coast

Solution: Participatory Mangrove Restoration and Monitoring System

UNEP CTCN grant: USD 200,000



Group of community volunteers traveling to the project site. Photos by Gonzalo Valencia

The Cuerval Community Council, located on the Colombian Pacific Coast, faces significant challenges due to the degradation and deforestation of mangroves. The mangroves are vital for local livelihoods, particularly fishing and the harvesting of piangua (shellfish). They also play a critical role in carbon sequestration. However, illegal logging and land use changes have degraded these ecosystems, increasing vulnerability to climate change. This project aims to restore mangroves through participatory conservation and monitoring strategies, empowering local communities to adapt to climate change while promoting peace and sustainable livelihoods.



Objectives

The project aims to develop participatory strategies for the restoration and conservation of mangroves, to support both climate change mitigation and adaptation. It seeks to empower the Cuerval Community Council by providing technical training in restoration techniques and establishing a community-based Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system. The project directly benefits members of the Cuerval Community Council, with anticipated co-benefits for surrounding communities.

- **Participatory restoration:** Design and implement a community-driven mangrove restoration strategy.
- **Empowerment and capacity-building:** Train local stakeholders in restoration and monitoring techniques.
- **Sustainable livelihoods:** Improve the livelihoods of local fishers and shellfish harvesters through restored ecosystems.



Climate Impact

- **Mangrove restoration:** Restoring mangrove ecosystems enhances carbon sequestration, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Resilience to climate change:** Mangroves protect coastal areas from storm surges and sea-level rise, enhancing local adaptation.
- **Ecosystem services:** Mangroves provide critical services such as protecting biodiversity, supporting fisheries, and improving water quality.



Security Benefits

- **Reduced conflict over resources:** The project reduces tension over land and resources by promoting sustainable mangrove management and alternative livelihoods.
- **Improved safety:** Restoring mangroves stabilizes the coastline, reducing environmental degradation.
- **Promotion of peace:** By integrating peace into climate action, the project fosters collaboration and reduces the drivers of conflicts linked to resource scarcity.



Social Impact

- The project directly benefits 510 individuals in the **Cuerval Community Council** by enhancing their capacity for sustainable mangrove management.
- Through community-driven efforts, local stakeholders, including women and youth, will gain access to training and leadership opportunities in ecosystem restoration. These efforts will improve local livelihoods, especially for those dependent on fishing and piangua harvesting.
- The project also supports 1,000 people from nearby towns who benefit from the ecosystem restoration.



Food Security

- **Restoration of livelihoods:** Mangrove restoration improves the sustainability of local fisheries, ensuring food security for communities reliant on fishing and piangua harvesting.
- **Enhanced ecosystem services:** The restored mangroves support biodiversity, contributing to the long-term sustainability of food sources in the region.



CS Climate Technology

- The project establishes a monitoring system (community-based MRV system) for the restored mangroves, allowing for the assessment of carbon sequestration and other ecosystem benefits.
- This system will also enable the community to participate in the carbon market in the future.



Replication Potential

- The participatory mangrove restoration model can be replicated in other coastal areas facing similar challenges of deforestation and ecosystem degradation.
- The community-based approach, which empowers local stakeholders and promotes sustainable livelihoods, provides a scalable framework for restoring and protecting mangroves across the Colombian Pacific Coast and beyond.

