LOW-EMISSION RURAL DEVELOPMENT (LED-R) AT A GLANCE

- ~19% of the department is within the National System of Protected Areas
- Located in Andes-Amazon region, with wide ecological & cultural diversity
- Trinational region borders both Ecuador & Peru, complicating governance of environmental issues in shared Putumayo River basin
- Highest number of green business initiatives of any jurisdiction within the Corporation for Sustainable Development in the Southern Amazon (Corpoamazonia, environmental authority of the region) such as ecotourism & the use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs, e.g., acai) for export to the USA & Europe
- Expansion of the mining industry at the national level discourages rural business development & threatens indigenous territories, & lack of subnational conservation policies exacerbates vulnerability to impacts of extractivism
- 14% indigenous population; 55 indigenous territories cover ~8% of the department

SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION

Putumayo is the eighth department in Colombia – the first in the Amazon region – to establish an Agroclimatic Technical Roundtable (MTA) as part of Colombia’s goal to do so in 15 departments (outlined in its NDC). The MTA convenes social, public and private stakeholders from the agricultural sector to generate and agree on local agro-climatic information (e.g., recent weather conditions and predictions, how conditions affect crops). Recommendations for adaptive management based on their consensus are communicated to producers through Local Agroclimatic Bulletins. The MTA operates under Putumayo’s Secretary of Agricultural Development and Environment and Departmental Council for Risk Management. MTAs are active in other parts of Latin America and have proven effective for reducing climate-related risks, and increasing resilience, in the agricultural sector, and continued use of MTAs in Colombia will promote food and income security for a goal of 1 million producers. The success of this initiative in Putumayo depends on the extent to which the MTA produces results, provides follow-up and monitoring, and introduces permanent adjustments to the different plans, programs and policies of a complex network of multiple actors.

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

- The Colombian Institute for Agrarian Reform (INCORA) promoted settlement programs in southern Colombia, leading to timber extraction & fur trade to meet European & US demand
- Texaco gas company began petroleum exploration, initiating construction of major roads & the Trans-Andean Pipeline triggering migration to the region
- Coca cultivation began & expanded, becoming the new engine of the regional economy & driving configuration of the Putumayo Department
- Putumayo Department created
- Pitalito-Mocoa road completed, stimulating commercialization of agricultural and timber products
- Coca cultivation began & expanded, becoming the new engine of the regional economy & driving configuration of the Putumayo Department
- Departmental Territorially Focused Development Plans (PDET) defining productive chains developed under national Peace Agreement (signed by national government & FARC)
- Colombia Plan developed, promoting reconversion of illicit crops to pepper & chontaduro, & increasing palm heart exports to Europe
- Putumayo Department & Development Agreement signed
- Texaco gas company began petroleum exploration, initiating construction of major roads & the Trans-Andean Pipeline triggering migration to the region
- Departmental Agricultural Extension Plan (PDEA) & National Policy on Climate Change adopted by Putumayo Department

PLEDS & COMMITMENTS

1 100% legal production, transformation, & commercialization of wood. 2 Stop the advance of the agricultural frontier over forest areas, where high deforestation occurs. 3 Contribute to national goal: Restore 1 million ha of degraded land. 4 Contribute to national goal: Zero net deforestation.

- Part of international agreement or forum
PROGRESS TO JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

**EARLY** | **INTERMEDIATE** | **ADVANCED**
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**Integrated LED-R Strategy**

- • PPAF, under development with FAO support, defines a development vision based on economies that rely on forests & ecosystem services
- • PPAF will be adopted as an Ordinance by the Putumayo Assembly in 2021 as the basis of the jurisdictional LED-R strategy

**Spatial plan**

- • Territorial Zoning Plans (POT) regulate rural and urban land use in each municipality
- • Environmental Conditions and Issues for Territorial Planning in Putumayo, developed by Corpoamazonia, provides guidelines for development planning, regulation of use & occupation of the department

**Performance targets**

- • PPAF will establish strategies for reducing deforestation, strengthening value chains of Amazon products, and other social and economic indicators, but does not yet include quantitative targets

**Monitoring, reporting & verification (MRV)**

- • MRV system does not exist at the department level; information is obtained from the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System (SMByC) directed by the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM)

**Policies & incentives**

- • PPAF includes different territorial planning and management instruments (e.g., Putumayo Regional Transformation Action Plan [PATR] within the framework of the national Peace Agreement; the POTs)
- • Lack of incentive programs to promote LED-R

**Multi-stakeholder governance**

- • MTAs link different actors in the agricultural sector (producers, public institutions, private sector, academia) for decision-making; however, lack leadership & finance
- • MTAs influenced policy development by providing input for PPAF guidelines related to research, financing, & implementation of resilient production systems

**Sustainable agriculture**

- • The departmental government and Corpoamazonia promote management and sustainable use of NTFPs
- • Sustainable production projects suffer from uncoordinated implementation in the absence of a regional policy
- • Agricultural Science, Technology and Innovation Roundtable established to generate and transfer knowledge and technology to agricultural producers in Putumayo

**Indigenous peoples & local communities**

- • Organization of Indigenous Peoples of the Putumayo Zone (OZIP) and 128 Indigenous Governing Councils formally represent IP in government decision-making processes
- • Violence, drug trafficking, & extractive industries have forced displacement of IP, with ~15 IP populations in territorial rights restituation processes
- • On-going land tenure conflicts between IP & campesino (peasant) communities settled within indigenous territories

**LED-R finance**

- • Insufficient public finance for administration of natural resources, with relatively low disbursement of the Amazon Vision program (REM) to the department

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**CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**CHALLENGES**

- • Historical reliance on the oil industry impedes transition to sustainable agricultural production (incl. development of competitive, differentiated products)
- • Lack of information (e.g. biodiversity inventories) to quantify environmental liabilities for oil exploitation & demand greater environmental & social responsibility
- • Inadequate finance available to implement strategies for reducing pressure on forests
- • IP and campesino communities face threats if they oppose the oil industry
- • Lack of a geographic information platform specifying the location of production systems

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- • Part of the Amazon Administrative Planning Region (RAP Amazonia), made up of 4 Colombian departments – facilitates inter-regional cooperation
- • High potential for development of aquaculture & economies derived from the use of the natural forest and its ecosystem services
- • Technical packages for the production of Amazonian crops are being developed by the Amazonian Institute for Scientific Investigations (SINCHI)
- • The Supreme Court Ruling recognizing rights of the Colombian Amazon (Ruling 4360-2016) may attract different sources of finance to support sustainable development & environmental conservation