

This case study is one of several produced by the **CLARA** network to coincide with the publication of the IPCC Special Report on Land. We're showcasing **CLARA** member climate solutions which demonstrate the **rights-based, low-emission development pathways** needed for reducing emissions while **promoting livelihoods** and **ecosystem integrity**.

Agroforestry Systems in the Bolivian Amazon: A way of life

A community led integrated territorial development model that builds the resilience of indigenous and small farmer communities and strengthens ecosystems

Organisations and individuals involved

This initiative has been led by indigenous and small farmer communities and civil society organizations in the Northern Amazon region of Bolivia, with strategic support from the Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado (CIPCA) [Center for Research and Promotion of Small Farmers] and Oxfam.

Oxfam in Bolivia

Marcelo Arandia

marcelo.arandia@oxfam.org

(591) 72047767

Location

The Northern Amazon region of Bolivia



HEIDY TECO, CIPCA NORTE/OXFAM

BOLIVIA'S AMAZON REGION is home to 30 indigenous peoples and is inhabited mostly by small farmer and indigenous communities that have historically been marginalized from society. The region is ecologically vulnerable and has experienced changing weather that has disrupted people's livelihoods. The northern Amazon houses the country's greatest biodiversity, yet is threatened by expansion of large-scale monoculture, hydrocarbon and infrastructure projects.

This initiative strengthens the livelihoods and resilience of indigenous and small farmer communities through agroforestry in the Amazon region. It is a component of a development model that is resilient, holistic, productive and sustainable.

This model, known as adaptive territorial management (ATM), combines the management of natural resources, institutions and strengths found in each locality, with the reality of climate change. It begins by understanding the local manifestations and effects of climate change as well as the adaptations required by each culture and social group.

Within this context, agroforestry involves a set of practices for the management, use and conservation of soil, water and biodiversity. Practices combine tree species for timber and

other products (fruit and oil palm). They link traditional small-scale agriculture that is geared to the production of a family's basic food items with sustainable use of forests, connecting forest use with small-scale agricultural production systems and minimizing the effects of climate change.

An important advantage of agroforestry systems is that they generate not just environmental benefits but also social-cultural and economic benefits.

Families have typically been able to generate additional income which ranges from \$379 per hectare in the fourth year to \$8,360 per hectare after 20 years. Practices also contribute to food security and sovereignty, as many of the species produce additional food.

This experience has enabled women to both participate in decision-making processes and benefit from income-generating opportunities arising from agroforestry systems.

Agroforestry systems also provide multiple environmental services such as water regulation, increased biodiversity, and a broader set of climate mitigation and adaptation benefits through increased carbon sequestration and restoration of degraded landscapes.

Testimony

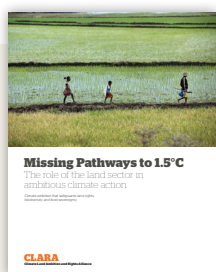
Erick Navi, CIPOAP [Indigenous Center of Native Peoples of the Amazon of Pando]

“Community economies are still based on gathering of natural resources, such as chestnuts. But we increasingly see other items and activities, including innovations with agroforestry systems and forest management, which generate benefits like food security, cash income, employment generation, resilience to climate change and environmental benefits...”

Some say development means living well, but how are we are going to live well without managing our territories well? Our territory is the priority and we must make good use of the natural resources and not just survive.”

‘Missing Pathways’ to climate action

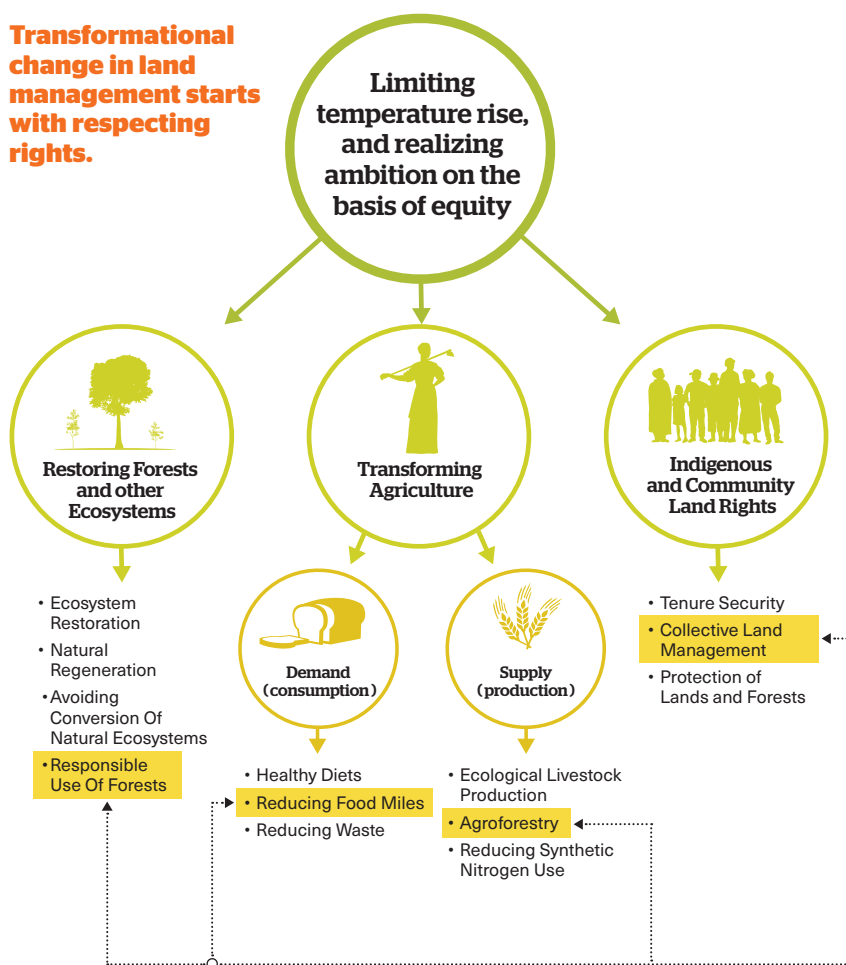
Last year, CLARA published the report ‘Missing Pathways’, identifying areas of global mitigation ambition rooted in land rights, restoration, agroecology, and food system change.



This example follows ‘Missing Pathways’ to climate action by...

empowering communities, including women; and enriching and protecting biodiversity. ATM employs a holistic approach which takes into account five dimensions: physical/ecological, economic/productive, social and cultural, organizational and institutional, and sustainability over time (adapting to changing conditions). This ensures a deep understanding of what each community requires. Agroforestry contributes to gender equity and enables more equitable income distribution within households. Product diversification also helps families manage climate and market risks. These activities achieve increased carbon sequestration through the restoration of degraded landscapes - over the course of the project, over 1,200 trees belonging to 100 species have been nurtured.

Transformational change in land management starts with respecting rights.



This case study demonstrates how agroforestry, through the responsible use of forests and the benefits that come with collective land management and reduction of food miles, can be a long-term response to biodiversity, climate and social challenges.

Contact CLARA

Media: Don Lehr (CLARA) / dblehr@cs.com / +1 917 304 4058

Network Coordination:

Peter Riggs (Pivot Point) peteriggspivotpoint@gmail.com / +1 360 426 0959

Twitter: @CLARA_Alliance