



ITM INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT

▶ **T A C A N A INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

CONTRIBUTION OF TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT TO THE ECONOMIC INCOME OF LOCAL HOUSEHOLDS

ECONOMIC
VALUE 

Income sources of the Tacana household economy

Traditionally, the economy of the Tacana people is based on agriculture, hunting, fishing, and the harvest of forest products. Knowledge of tropical agriculture allows the Tacana to grow a variety of domesticated and wild native plants (cassava, maize, beans, peppers, cacao). Other crops such as rice, bananas, sugar cane, and citrus fruits entered their diet during the time of the missions. Subsistence hunting and fishing using a diversity of more than 100 species, as well as domestic animal husbandry, contribute to family livelihoods, generating surpluses to sell at local markets.

Over the past 15 years, the legal consolidation of part of the Tacana traditional territory and the development of a territorial management vision have enabled the Tacana to meet some of their priority objectives. From a household economy perspective, economic sources have diversified and household incomes have increased in this period by 100% in the Tacana communities. The main sources of monetary and non-monetary income relate to 12 economic activities: agriculture, livestock, hunting, fishing, timber harvesting and firewood collection, extraction of non-timber forest resources, native bee honey collection, by-products (chancaca [molasses], local chivé and chicha drinks, chocolate, charque [dried meat]) and handicrafts, tourism, laboring, businesses (stalls, restaurants, services), and others (rents, bonuses, pensions, donations, remittances).

Households have been estimated to receive a net average annual income of US\$ 3,349. The most important sources of income are working for others (24%), timber harvesting and firewood collection (20%), fishing (16%), and hunting (13%). Although livestock, agriculture, and the use of non-timber forest resources contribute less to the average annual net income per household, they are productive activities in which the vast majority of households participate. It is important to note that 52% of net income comes from natural resource use (timber and non-timber, firewood, fishing, hunting, tourism and native bee honey) that conserves forests and wildlife populations. Productive commercial enterprises based on natural resource management (forestry, native cocoa production, and tourism) contributed 14% of income and are carried out within the framework of the territorial management of the Tacana Indigenous Territory.

Indeed, in a separate analysis within Madidi National Park and the Tacana Indigenous Territory, 44% of gross community revenues were generated from conservation actions that require and depend upon conserved ecosystems and connectivity between management units.



Julie Larsen/WCS

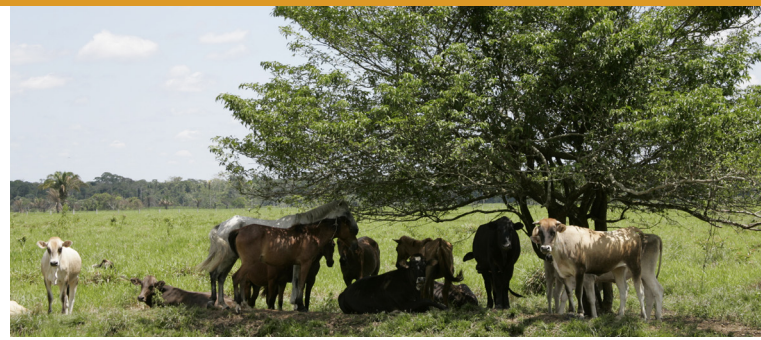
The coexistence of reciprocity and the market in the Tacana economy

A study of Tacana household incomes confirms the diverse character of their economy, a feature shared with other indigenous peoples of the Amazon. It also demonstrates that, despite more than a century of linkage with the market, the Tacana household economy operates a mixed system of "reciprocity." There are goods for consumption, barter, and gift (which are not monetary) on the one hand and goods destined for sale on the other. Simplistic analyses revealed that non-monetary income represents 40% of the Tacana economy and monetary income 60%. However, when the costs of production were factored in (labor, infrastructure, supplies, equipment), non-monetary income increased to 67% and monetary income decreased to 33%. Hunting, agriculture, and fishing, along with by-products and handicrafts, represent the activities generating non-monetary income. Work for others, business, and tourism are exclusively monetary. As far as production costs are concerned, activities that use unpaid labor (non-monetary costs) include by-products and handicrafts, production of native bee honey, fishing, and hunting. Agriculture involves both monetary and non-monetary costs, the latter being a higher proportion since this work requires family and unpaid communal labor. By contrast, timber and non-timber forest use, as well as tourism, demand monetary costs (equipment, supplies and remunerated labor).

In an analysis of poverty levels in the region, if only monetary incomes are considered, 60% of Tacana households are in the extreme poverty category. On the other hand, if both monetary income and non-monetary income are taken into account, this percentage is reduced to 18%. In Tacana households, the average net daily income (monetary and non-monetary) per capita is US\$ 1.80, a figure that exceeds the extreme poverty standard defined by the World Bank: US\$ 1.25.

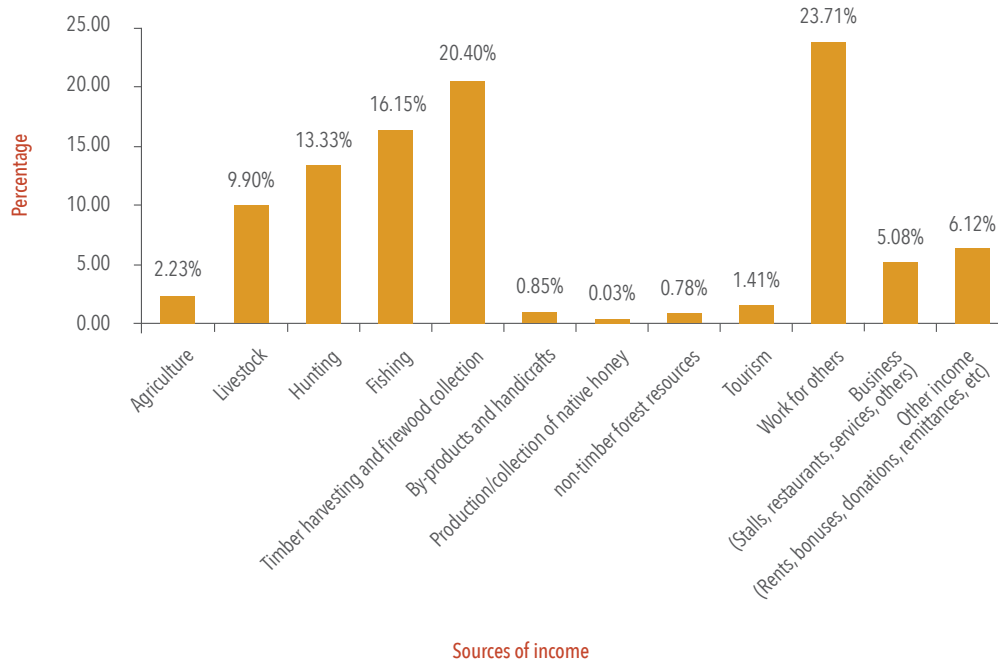


Eleanor Briggs, WCS



Eleanor Briggs/WCS

Sources and types of income in the tacana economy



Contribution of women to the generation of income

The contribution of women to the household economy is fundamental. Their participation accounts for 40% of the Tacana household income (without considering household duties). This is mainly from the production of food and byproducts (mollases, local drinks, chocolate, dried meat, rice bread), handicrafts, domestic animal husbandry, agriculture, native bee honey collecting, and businesses (stalls, restaurants, services). However, the distribution of costs and benefits between women and men is not equal. Considering all income sources, women's wage levels are 6% lower than men's.

There are also very marked differences in the income of men and women resulting from the distribution of benefits within productive associations: 93% and 7% for profit sharing and 94% and 6% for direct employment of men and women respectively. This is because productive associations consider family units as beneficiaries, and usually the male household representative is entitled to the benefits.

Territorial management and the indigenous economic system of the Tacana people

The fundamental basis of the Tacana economic system is founded in the availability of natural resources within their ancestral territory. That territory now comprises 20 communities under collective ownership. A comparative analysis of income between 2000 and 2012 shows that in the territorial management process there was a 93% increase in income per household and a 109% increase in monthly income per capita. This is significant and shows that the communities and their organizations have achieved positive results through the management of renewable natural resources and the identification of natural products with economic potential while at the same time committing to and demonstrably achieving biodiversity conservation.

One of the factors that has allowed this growth is the diversified Tacana economic system. This system is characterized by its flexibility and ability to operate a mix of reciprocity and market, sustained by a diversity of natural resources conserved in the territory, and ensuring that the indigenous population improves its living conditions and does not fall into extreme poverty. Indeed, Tacana indigenous territorial management within the vicinity of the San Buenaventura-Ixiamas road reduced deforestation trends by 4.6 times when compared to surrounding areas without territorial management. This has contributed to the sustainability of Tacana household incomes.

TACANA ECONOMY

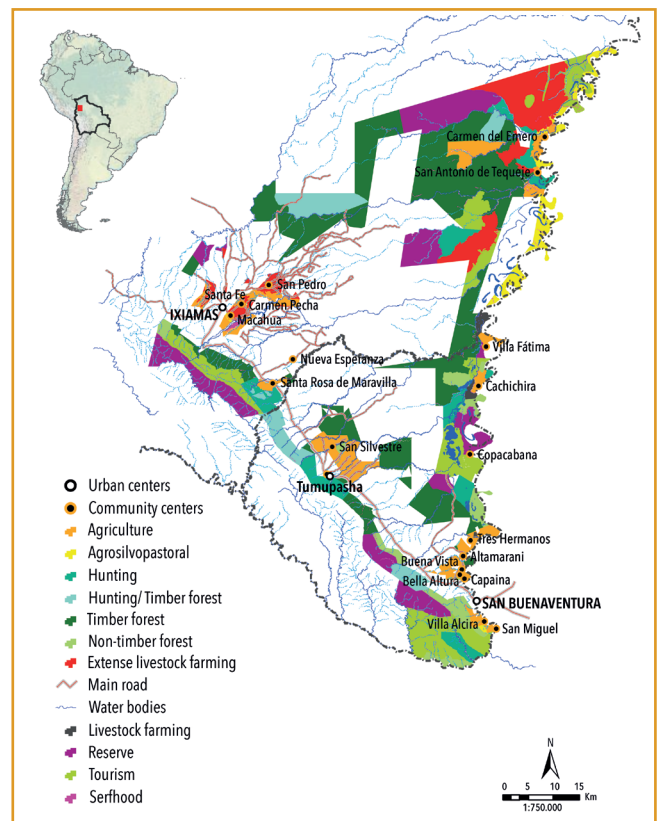
Territory is synonymous with belonging and tradition for the Tacana people. It provides all that is essential for life while opening new opportunities for development. Managing the territory means ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the population. The Tacana people achieve that goal with a variety of products as a result of their effort, work, and commitment to conservation.

THE INCOME OF THE TACANA INDIGENOUS PEOPLE DEPENDS ON THE DIVERSITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THEIR TERRITORY AND ON SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC STRATEGIES

Importance of the Tacana economic system

- Varied sources of monetary and non-monetary income, which together assure sustainable livelihoods for Tacana households.
- Natural resource diversity that largely sustains the financial needs of Tacana households.
- Biodiversity conservation and indigenous territorial management that support a sustainable Tacana economy.
- Reciprocal relations that strengthen productive processes and cooperative ties between families.

Microzoning of the Tacana indigenous territory



This study was carried out by the Tacana Indigenous People's Council (CIPTA) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) with the support of the John D. and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the Blue Moon Fund.