

SOCIOCULTURAL  
VALUE



ITM

INDIGENOUS TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT



T A C A N A INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT TOOLS

## Territorial management tools of the Tacana indigenous territory

Territorial management of the Tacana was achieved through the development of a consensual participatory process involving the 20 communities that live within the Indigenous Territory (TCO). The territory was founded on collective property rights. Its management is based on joint administrative actions for the benefit of all its inhabitants, with the aim of strengthening the Tacana ethnic and cultural identity. Initial planning activities resulted in the Tacana TCO Sustainable Development Strategy or Life Plan, which established management concepts and tools for territorial zoning aimed at regulating the access and use of natural resources and consolidating land tenure limits. The strategy also set up activities to strengthen organizational processes, reaffirm the Tacana culture, and promote natural resource management projects.

Experience gained during the 15-year implementation of the Tacana Life Plan has strengthened the land management capacities of both the Tacana Indigenous People's Council (CIPTA) and the Tacana communities themselves. In turn this has enabled them to successfully apply management tools and implement productive projects under management plans. The three fundamental tools for territorial management success in the Tacana indigenous territory are zoning, regulation, and monitoring. Zoning provides the foundation for land use planning and management that considers the expectations and needs of the communities while respecting the potential of the land and cultural traditions. The construction and implementation of rules relating to access and use of natural resources have enabled the Tacana people to respond to internal and external conflicts over communal land rights, land use, and the demarcation of limits. These actions have helped to ensure the sustainable management of resources, prevent land settlements by outsiders, and deter the illegal extraction of natural resources. Demarcation, monitoring, and vigilance are tools to ensure clear territorial limits and provide control mechanisms that are continually strengthened.

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## The territorial zoning process

The territorial and community zoning and micro-zoning processes in the Tacana indigenous territory have laid the groundwork for spatial planning and management that considers current and potential land use. The zoning has also considered the Tacana People's traditional natural resource access and use, as well as their expectations of sustainable development. Zoning used a participatory methodology for the spatial analysis of different land uses. Drawings by women and men from the communities were used to produce a set of thematic maps of current and potential land use and a matrix to analyze the compatibility of land use. This tool has helped resolve conflicts of use between the Tacana communities and other conflicts arising from land titling between the Tacana and other intercultural communities. It has also identified reserve areas and conservation corridors.

The zoning was adjusted to specific titled areas through a process called micro-zoning. Micro-zoning considers the proposed land use categories in the territory's zoning, along with communal jurisdictions and traditional land use. This enables agreement for the definition of areas of current and potential use, their terms of management, and their compatibility with the territorial planning technical standards. At the end of the micro-zoning process, 10 zones types were defined: agricultural, timber and non-timber forests, agrosilvopastoral, extensive and intensive livestock, hunting, ecotourism, ecological easements, and reserves for the protection of fauna. This has contributed to the conservation and sustainable management of the territory.

After more than a decade since its design and application, the communities continue to use the territorial management plan and tools to guide their activities. The reserve areas have been respected, and most zones have been used according to the zoning plans. As with any plan there have been adaptations and changes over time. For example, one zone destined for hunting has become a zone for forestry; another for tourism.



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## The regulation of natural resource access and use

A set of regulations for the use of natural resources in the Tacana indigenous territory was drawn up through the use of workshops involving 1,100 people of the 20 Tacana communities. This process allowed for the systematization of traditional community wildlife conservation practices, an analysis of resource use problems, and the collective construction of a regulatory framework. It also integrated rules that are applied at different organizational levels: the indigenous territory, the communities, and productive associations.

The regulation establishes the principles and criteria of environmental, social, and economic sustainability for natural resource use. It identifies who has rights and duties regarding access and use of natural resources. It defines general rules for each type of zone: tourism, hunting and fishing, timber and non-timber forest harvesting, agriculture, agrosilvopastoral, livestock, hunting and fishing, reserve and historical cultural areas. It also determines those practices that are allowed or not allowed for the use of wildlife, forest, agricultural, and livestock resources. The regulation lays out procedures for the commercial use of natural resources, the distribution of benefits, as well as penalties for infractions.

The system of access and use of natural resources in the Tacana indigenous territory has gone through a series of changes over time – from a collective system regulated by customary practices rooted in culture and applied to extensive areas of territory, to an open and deregulated system influenced by colonization and a boom in natural resource extraction, to the current system of collective access that is closed and regulated within reduced territories and subject to state regulations. Experience in complying with regulations shows that the rules are widely known in the communities. Unfortunately, the effectiveness of their implementation is largely affected by the actions of people from outside the territory who illegally enter to extract resources.

The elaboration and implementation of specific management plans for the sustainable use of natural resources for commercial purposes is successful and ongoing. The experiences of self-monitoring of hunting and fishing activities, along with the use of caiman, have enabled adjustments and decision-making to ensure the sustainability and conservation of the territory's resources.

## Demarcation, control and surveillance

The titling of the indigenous territory responded to the need to consolidate a part of the territory formerly occupied by the Tacana people. An equally important next step was to physically delineate the titled area in order to avoid the illegal occupation of land and the extraction of natural resources by people from outside the communities.

Securing territorial limits was necessary given that the territory's polygons had been titled in a discontinuous manner. The titled land borders 600 private properties and five forest concessions, fueling permanent conflicts due to the entrance of outsiders to indigenous areas for the purposes of hunting, fishing and logging. It was important to define communal jurisdictions for the control and monitoring of the territory and to manage conflicts of access between communities and individual families. Between 2004 and 2010, 252 km of boundary limits were defined, prioritizing critical places in 11 communities: Carmen Pecha, Santa Fe, Santa Rosa de Maravilla, Tumupasa, Villa Alcira, Buena Vista, Altamarani, Tres Hermanos, Villa Fátima, San Antonio del Tequeje and Nueva Esperanza. Areas were delineated according to the community necessities, especially in the urban area of Tumupasa and timber extraction areas. CIPTA coordinated the task, with support from communities to open trails and mark the boundaries with stones, trees, and signs.

CIPTA and the Tacana communities established a control and surveillance strategy based on defining limits and the allocation of control areas under the responsibility of communities and productive groups. This supported activities to boost economic development in more distant areas, as well as actions directed towards the eviction of trespassers and confiscation of illegally extracted resources.

These control and surveillance activities, which initially responded to complaints from communities and productive associations, have become increasingly important with the implementation of the territorial management process and the active involvement of authorities and community members. The Tacana indigenous territory successfully achieved a 70% reduction in the illegal extraction of natural resources – in particular wildlife hunting and timber logging, as well as the unauthorized settlement of outsiders.

# MANAGEMENT

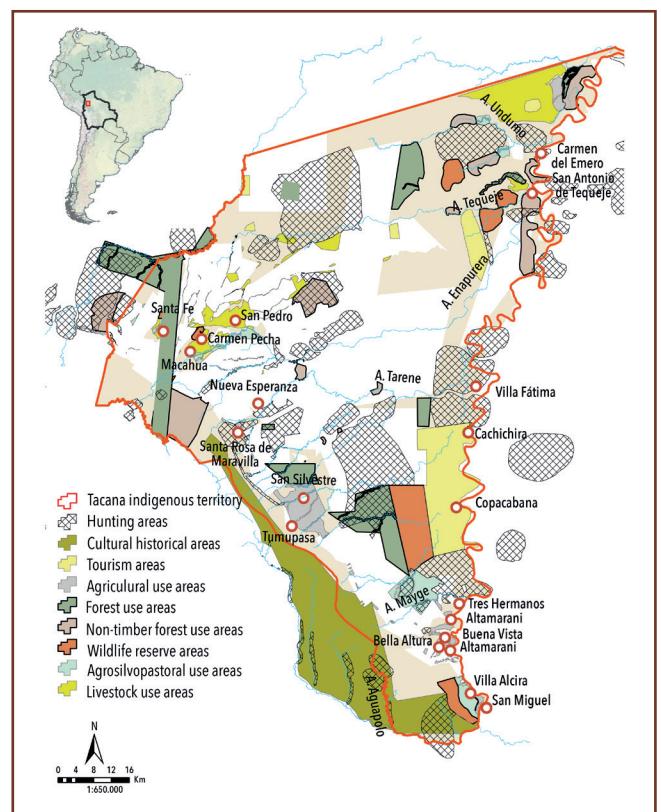
The Tacana people have led the way for indigenous territorial management in Bolivia through the development of their territorial management model, enabling them to protect, plan, and use their territory and natural resources in a sustainable way. The participatory process has strengthened their identity and promoted productive initiatives with positive results for income generation and conservation, generating consensus and recognizing the collective nature of the indigenous territory.

**PLANNING IS AN INSTRUMENT OF TERRITORIAL MANAGEMENT THAT EXPRESSES COMMUNAL PRIORITIES; ORDERS THE USE OF THE TERRITORY; AND REGULATES CONTROL OVER, AND ACCESS TO, NATURAL RESOURCES**

## The Tacana people and the importance of planning and regulatory tools for territorial management

- Identifies community priorities based on consensus.
- Enables land use according to traditional practices and current needs.
- Establishes regulations for access to and the use of natural resources.
- Strengthens a governance system that favors territorial protection.
- Facilitates the delimitation of territory and control and monitoring practices that consolidate collective ownership.
- Reinforces the territorial management knowledge and experiences of social organizations and communities.
- Uses participatory methodologies and standards for land use analysis and the setting up and implementation of control and monitoring processes.
- Helps to reduce illegal extraction of natural resources and unauthorized human settlements.

## Zoning of the Tacana indigenous territory



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