



Creating Local Support for Conservation of IBAs

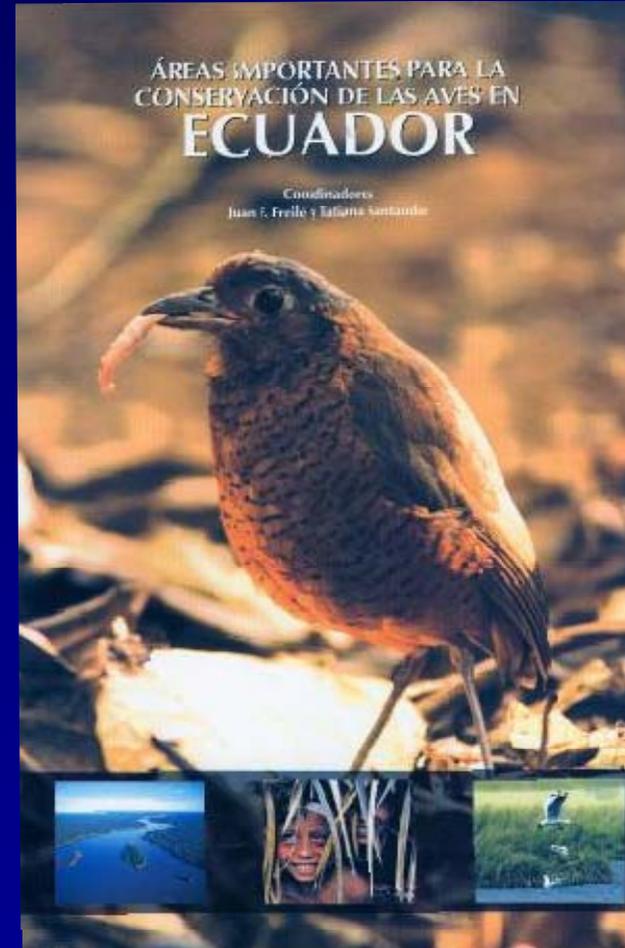
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Ecuadorian IBAs

- 1997: program started
- 2003: final IBA inventory
107 IBAs
(10 Galapagos + 97 mainland)
- 2005:
 - Ecuadorian inventory published
 - IBAs - priority sites for conservation (M. of Env.)
- 2006: conservation actions initiated





How?

- Awareness
- Economic alternatives
- Lobbying public policies

But, is it enough?

How to make people appropriate of their
IBAs?



Participatory conservation

Create Local Conservation Groups (LCG)

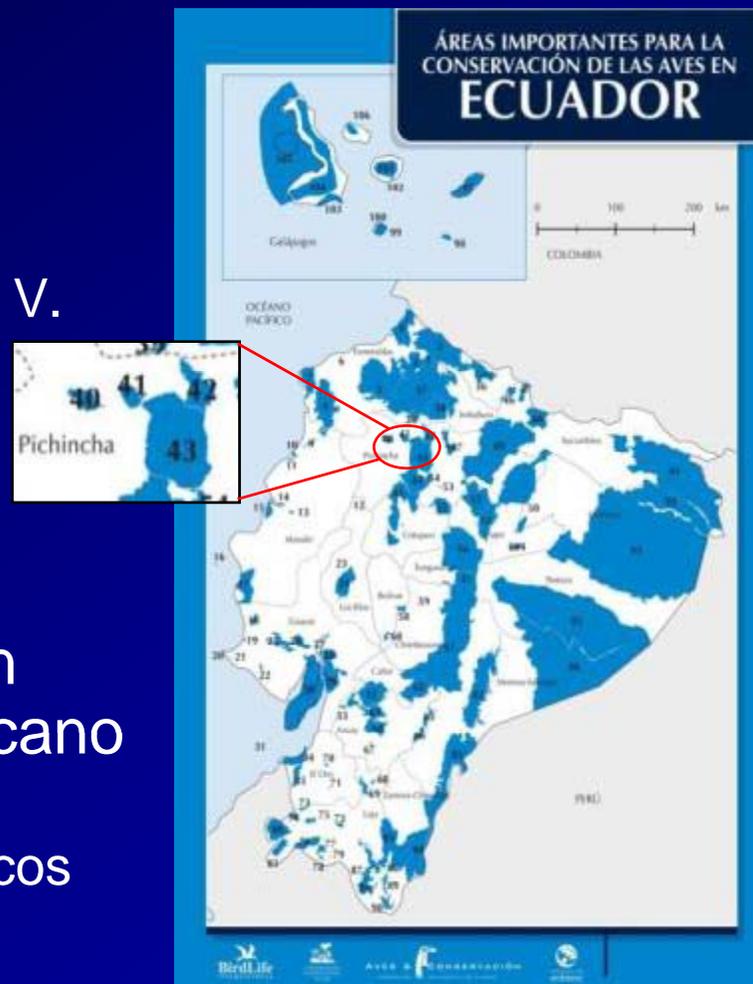
Steps:

1. Provide training for **bird watching & guiding**
 - a) Capacity-building in ecology & conservation
 - b) Create awareness on environmental benefits
2. Participatory design of IBAs' Conservation Plans
3. Developing of project (ICDP) concepts



Project location

- Northwestern Pichincha Province - 3 IBAs
 - EC040 Río Caoní
 - ~ 8.500 ha ⇒ 26.000 ha Pedro V. Maldonado & Pto. Quito
 - EC041 Los Bancos-Milpe
 - ~ 4.000 ha ⇒ 44.000 ha San Miguel de los Bancos
 - EC043 Mindo & the Western Slopes of the Pichincha Volcano (Mindo & EOVP)
 - ~ 74.340 ha - DMQ & Los Bancos (upper and middle area)



Basis & principles

Bird watching is the “hook”

- Open to everyone
- Gender and age equity
- Adult education
- Collective construction of knowledge
- Interculturality
- People empowerment



Results (1)

- Impressive turnover (steps 1 & 2) - 75 p
- 3 LCGs: broad representation (including local authorities)
- Conservation Plans designed for each IBA
- Conservation priorities defined
- LCGs self-organized ⇒ independent actions



Results (2)

- Bird watching skills increased
- Youth Birdwatchers Club
- Local awareness regarding IBAs' biodiversity value increased
- Greater local understanding of environmental benefits (services)
- Sense of pride increased



Results (3)

- Sense of identity and empowerment
- A&C's broader constituency
- High local demand for support
- Step 3: training for project design in process
- 2nd phase project (3 years) - in negotiation



Challenges (1)

- High heterogeneity
- High interest - sustainable?
- Consolidation
- Expectations / interest (A&C / LCG)
- How to sustain the process / convey more people?



Challenges (2)

- How to respond to increasing local demands?
- Link between LCGs & A&C
- Next phase (3 years):
 - IBA monitoring & “citizen science”
 - Local governments skills for environmental management + new protected areas
 - Bird tourism training
 - Strengthening of LCG
- Replicate in other IBAs
 - What will be the “hook”? (cacao, coffee, ...)



Challenges (3)

- At A&C's level:
 - Internalize project results
 - Internalize the process
 - Strength internal capacities and involve people with different expertise
 - Deal with change & conflict management
 - External relations / internal relations
 - Involve other strategic partners
 - Link IBAs conservation to third parties' agendas



Acknowledgements

- EcoFund / FAN
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- Municipalities:
 - Quito
 - Pedro V. Maldonado
 - Los Bancos
 - Puerto Quito
 - and Nono District Council
- Founders & organizers of this event



Binoculars kindly
provided by:

