



Environment Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Photo: F. DesDelChaco, Giesbrecht

The creation and maintenance of Ecological Corridors, connecting separate and fragmented native forests is vital to the preservation of Paraguay's rich biodiversity.

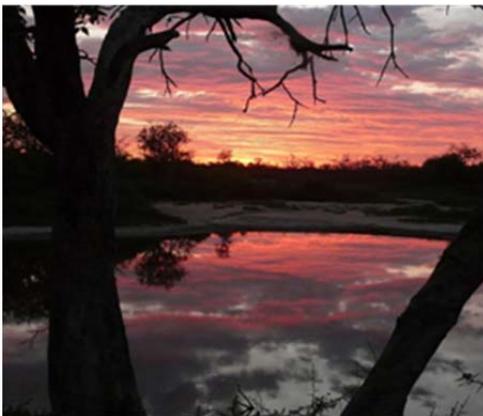


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USAID/Paraguay is working to protect the rich and unique biodiversity of the Chaco for future generations.

Background

Paraguay shares the Upper Paraná Atlantic Forest and the Chaco dry tropical forest with its fellow South American neighbors. USAID/Paraguay's Environment Program is focused on protecting priority areas of these threatened Eco-regions. With this vision, USAID is implementing two projects promoting sustainable economic development that simultaneously protects the ecosystems of these two distinct regions.

1. Alliance for a Sustainable San Pedro

This program decreases pressure on the remaining segments of the native forest from the unchecked exploitation of natural resources that threatens sensitive biological areas. The program is developing a sustainable model for the creation of economic, social, and environmental value in an important ecological area of 100,000 hectares in the Atlantic Forest area. This area has suffered from intensive exploitation of natural resources, due to agricultural development and cattle production by large landowners and small rural communities working and living around the remaining fragments of native forests.

2. Ka'aguy Retâ: Forests and Development

This nascent program has an overall objective of diminishing the rate of deforestation and biodiversity degradation throughout Paraguay, with a particular emphasis on the Chaco. Its objectives are to develop and promote sustainable natural resource use models for the Chaco and Atlantic Forest ecosystems, and establish or expand private reserves to strengthen biological diversity preservation. The specific objectives of the program are: (1) work with land owners and large scale cattle producers in the Chaco to develop, test, and promote sustainable natural resource use models to generate alternative income from agroforestry development; and (2) promote reforestation and establish private reserves in strategic areas of the Oriente Region that will serve as biological corridors, and the preservation of flora and fauna and overall biodiversity.