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## MITIGATION OF FISHERIES CONFLICTS IN LORETO

The Loreto Region accounts for 70 percent of fish production in the Peruvian Amazon. Despite the high productivity and diversity of fish, conflicts are ongoing due to actors interfering in fishing activities. USAID is working to overcome these challenges and contribute to conflict-free, sustainable fisheries.

USAID in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) aims to identify, analyze, and address underlying causes that trigger fisheries conflicts in Loreto. The activity focuses its efforts on the lower basins of the Ucayali and Marañón rivers and part of the Amazon River's main channel in Loreto. This area harbors a large rural population (circa 20,000 families), mainly from the Achuar, Jíbaro, Kandozi, Huambisa, Urarina, and Kukama-Kukamiria Indigenous Peoples; river-based communities; and other fishing groups. The overarching goal is to reduce conflicts that unsustainable informal fishing operations can cause.

### HOW DOES THE ACTIVITY WORK?

The activity uses a *person-to-person* approach that consists of building bridges between parties in conflict through a focus on common interests. Strategies include using traditional meeting points to further understand ecological issues, current pressures, and emerging threats to fisheries.

To this end, the activity is producing information about fisheries and their conflicts and facilitating spaces to further both dialogue and technical assistance to reach conflict resolution. Additionally, it fosters work with national and regional authorities to increase mutual understanding between the involved communities. Furthermore, the activity identifies gender roles in fisheries conflicts and their contributions to reach potential solutions.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

- The activity has contributed to technical research that characterizes fisheries conflicts in Loreto, fisheries in the region, gender roles, and their importance for regional development. These studies are available to government authorities and civil society. Moreover, educational videos about fisheries and their conflicts have been disseminated to fishermen/women and stakeholders engaged in this activity.
- A group of organizations and people dedicated to fishing (approximately 17 organizations and 300 people) as well as regional authorities in Loreto (e.g., Loreto Regional Production Directorate, Port Authority, National Police) have a better understanding of fishing threats, fisheries conflicts, and the key role of regulation in fishing activities. This shared understanding was translated into commitments to improve both fishing control and oversight efforts.
- People from the different groups in conflict that have been studied (five cases) have understood the need to work together. They have come together and joined efforts to reach common ground, to both mitigate and prevent fisheries conflicts. Such agreements are reflected in commitment pledges signed by all relevant stakeholders.
- The activity has improved control systems of government institutions for fisheries oversight. This has been made possible due to capacity building efforts aimed at public sector officials in charge of control and oversight who participated in the Guide to Identify Prohibited Species assessment listed in the Fisheries Management Regulations.

## PROJECT INFORMATION

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:** Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

**DURATION:** July 1, 2019 – December 30, 2022

**USAID FUNDING:** \$1,481,556

**LOCATION:** Loreto

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