



Good Practice Story Title: “Women empowered in the conservation of Tingo María National Park”

Destination: Parque Nacional Tingo María

Country: Perú

Submitting Organization: National Service of Natural Protected Areas – Perú.

Category:

- Destination Management
- Nature & Scenery
- Environment & Climate
- Culture & Tradition
- Thriving Communities
- Business & Marketing

Destination description:

Tingo María National Park is the second oldest protected natural area in Peru, established on May 14, 1965 by Law N°15574, when the country was just beginning to understand the concept of conservation, currently has the task of conserving 4777 ha. That make up the mountain range of the Sleeping Beauty, which looks like a woman lying down with her gaze to the sky.

Established with the purpose of conserving the natural areas called La Bella Durmiente and the Cueva de las Lechuzas with its adjacent forests and colonies of Guácharos; it is a fascinating destination that combines impressive landscapes and an exceptional biodiversity; Thanks to the tourist positioning obtained during these years, it has become the main tourist attraction of the department of Huanuco, and has obtained a great cultural importance for the local communities that depend on its natural resources for their subsistence and sustenance; in this way, it offers an unforgettable experience for nature and adventure lovers.



Summary of Good Practice Story:

In the mid-1970s, the department of Huánuco based its development on activities such as legal agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing and agroindustry, while services and tourism provided economic resources for its population.

The location of Tingo María National Park between the Huallaga and Monzon rivers has allowed it to deal with a population that is very affected by social violence and illegal activities; therefore, during the daily work of the ANP technical team, it has been possible to identify the need to empower the local population, involve them in the conservation activities and develop strategies to carry out an articulated work, especially with women, who were found in their homes adjacent to the area and lacked economic resources; Therefore, through a hard work of sensitization, they were empowered, they stopped being submissive and began to contribute to the development of activities in favor of the conservation of the natural heritage of Sleeping Beauty, and with this impulse they were able to start their own enterprises that allowed them to improve their quality of life.

It is gratifying for Tingo María National Park to see women empowered and involved in conservation activities; conservation work in natural spaces is crucial to preserve biodiversity and guarantee a healthy environment for future generations; the fact that women are playing active roles in this process demonstrates commitment and leadership in the protection of our sleeping beauty.

Issues faced:

Since the establishment of Tingo María National Park (1965), conservation actions began in the country, but the creation of a natural area without demarcated limits or defined extension, several infractions could occur, considering that there was a limited number of personnel for the development of surveillance and control activities; This situation became even more complicated in times of social conflict due to drug trafficking and illegal activities such as poaching of species (butterflies and guácharos) and coca leaf plantations; in this sense, it was necessary to have a social arm and involve the community in conservation activities, so the local population took the lead and assumed the roles of guardians of the natural heritage.

During the field work conducted in the communities surrounding the park, it was possible to identify that the community faced various economic and social problems, most of which fell on the women who stayed in their farms with their children, fed themselves with the products they grew, and had no access to education or opportunities for development.





During this process we faced several challenges such as: little access to resources and opportunities, considering that most of them are not educated; gender stereotypes did not allow us to recognize and respect women's work; another problem was the balance between work and personal life, as they considered that they could not perform any other activity outside the home or they were simply afraid.

In this sense, the need to empower women not only in conservation activities but also in activities that they can perform to improve their quality of life was seen.

Solution:

To address the problems faced by women involved in the conservation of Tingo María National Park, participatory strategies were considered and adapted to the daily work of the ANP team, such as training and empowerment programs, promotion of gender equality, awareness of the balance that can exist between personal life and developing an alternative activity, giving them the opportunity to undertake activities that generate economic benefits.

Currently, Peru has national policies that seek to guarantee women's human rights in equality and without discrimination. Therefore, Tingo María National Park, as a state institution, promotes and complies with the established regulations; such is the case, it has made modifications in its regulations for the participation of the Management Committee, so that the accreditation of members includes the participation of women; through the participation of the management committee, the voice and vote of the local population is guaranteed in relevant decisions for the effective management of the ANP.

Methods, Steps, and Tools applied:

In order to integrate women's participation in the conservation of Tingo María National Park, methods such as capacity building in environmental education, biodiversity conservation, and the importance of natural protected areas were used to develop management documents such as the Master Plan and the Site Plan through participatory processes.

In order to promote the local knowledge of the women of the area, a gastronomic contest called "Los sabores de la Bella" (Flavors of La Bella) is held, where stews are prepared with local products, pleasant and nutritious; rescuing the ancestral knowledge for its preparation; in this contest all participants are recognized and awarded prizes.

On the other hand, under the gender approach, open calls were made for the hiring of personnel, both men and women, for positions as specialists, park rangers, volunteer park rangers, and community park rangers, a process open to the public, where the local population is encouraged to participate.



After the training process and considering their high participation, the leadership promotes the sustainable use of the natural resource landscape, through the granting of rights (minor activity agreement, conservation agreement), which generates alliances between organized and empowered women and the ANP so that they can develop a specific activity in and near the area and thus obtain economic benefits and contribute to the conservation of the natural space.

As tools, we have developed training plans, dynamic educational materials that are easy to understand, surveys and evaluations, as well as the participation of each one of them in spots and videos so that they feel like protagonists in the dissemination of the natural and cultural wealth of the ANP.

Achievements and Results:

We believe that one of the greatest achievements was the increased participation of women in the activities carried out by Tingo María National Park. Over the years, we have had women who have assumed the roles of specialists, park rangers, community park rangers, volunteer park rangers, who have also assumed the commitment of obtaining the right to sell their products as well as assuming commitments such as cleaning and maintenance of the space assigned for the enjoyment of visitors.

Today, within the PNTMA team structure, there are women occupying professional and institutional representative positions such as specialists, administrators and park rangers; there are also women from the local population as community park rangers and volunteers who contribute directly to the monitoring and control of the ANP.

For this reason, we have 22 women entrepreneurs with rights granted, who provide these services in the following tourism sectors and we have strengthened the leadership of the Quinceañera sector, where there is a tourism association with a female leader and 14 members; this leadership is relevant considering that this sector is maintained entirely by them since there is no surveillance and control post or permanent personnel.

They have been able to develop the ability to find sustainable solutions in the face of drastic changes, for example when the use of single-use plastic was banned, they were the first to replace plastic straws with bamboo straws, technoport plates with natural leaves, and to use reusable materials in the sale of their products.

We also believe that the economic empowerment of each one of them has been achieved, that today they are owners of their own business, and provide work to more women in their locality, are responsible for households and promote sustainable activities with their children and neighbors; and thanks to the economic benefits they receive, they have been able to improve the quality of life of their families.



Regarding the contribution to the sustainable conservation of the PNTM, they are spokespersons for this message with our visitors, they instill and promote the development of good practices with their children and neighbors, and they also carry out field work of surveillance and control for the protection of the resources of the ANP.

Lessons Learned and Advice:

We have seen that women bring unique perspectives and innovative approaches to conservation. Their participation can influence how environmental problems are addressed and how sustainable solutions are developed. In addition, women's empowerment can have a positive impact on their local communities by fostering sustainable economic development and gender equity.

It is important to recognize and support the role of women in the conservation of Tingo Maria National Park and in all conservation initiatives. By doing so, we not only strengthen the protection of our natural resources, but also promote gender equality and inclusion in decision-making.

Recognitions and Additional References

Photo Link Drive:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WiUocBKtSTnx3Bdh1ayvanXQJD5Z_Iza

AREA FOR THE CONSERVATION OF BATS: First area protected by the Peruvian State to be recognized as an "Important Area for the Conservation of Bats" by the Latin American and Caribbean Network for the Conservation of Bats.

The PNTMA is home to 47 registered species of bats, among the most representative are the big naked-backed bat, Wagner's whiskered bat and the common sword-nosed bat.

These species are important seed dispersers, helping in the reproduction of plants that would have no way to reproduce, as well as collaborating with the restoration of areas that are no longer used for agriculture.

<https://www.actualidadambiental.pe/parque-nacional-tingo-maria-es-reconocido-como-area-para-la-conservacion-de-murcielagos/>





BIRD LIFE INTERNATIONAL: Among the 291 species of birds recorded in the PNTM, three birds are particularly representative: the Guácharo (*Steatornis caripensis*), the Cock-of-the-rock (*Rupicola peruvianus*) and the Black-bellied Tanager (*Ramphocelus melanogaster*); being recognized by BirdLife International as an important area for the conservation of birds.

<https://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/parque-nacional-tingo-mar%C3%ADa-iba-peru>

SAFE TRAVELS SEAL: This is a distinction granted to tourist destinations that comply with a set of protocols designed by the World Health Organization (WHO) within the framework of the COVID - 19 pandemic. This certification guarantees the necessary health measures and is endorsed by the World Travel and Tourism Council.

Recognition obtained in 2021 for the Cueva de las lechuzas and Catarata Gloriapata tourism sectors.

https://consultasenlinea.mincetur.gob.pe/safetravels/destinos/DESTINOS_HUANUCO_ABRIL_20.pdf

TOP 100 – GREEN DESTINATIONS: Annual competition held by the international Green Destinations Organization, which recognizes 100 tourism sustainability stories as inspiring examples for other destinations, where sustainability criteria are supported.

- **2021**

Categoría: Localización y descarbonización en la cadena de suministro.

Historia: Turismo sostenible como alternativa para mejorar la calidad de vida de la población local.

- **2022**

Categoría: Comunidades Prósperas

Historia: Parque Nacional Tingo María, conservando su biodiversidad y servicios ecosistémicos para el beneficio de la población.





- **2023**

Categoría: Naturaleza y Paisaje

Historia: Parque Nacional Tingo María, Hogar de la Bella Durmiente y la cueva de las lechuzas con su imponente colonia de guácharos.

Based on the recognition obtained through the Top 100, a second award was given at the ITB Berlin, one of the largest travel fairs and conventions in the world, considered the heart of the global tourism industry. Tingo Maria National Park was the only destination in Peru to be positioned among the finalists, obtaining 2nd place in its category, competing with stories of other international destinations.

SEGUNDO LUGAR:

- **2021**

Categoría: Localización y descarbonización en la cadena de suministro.

Historia: Turismo sostenible como alternativa para mejorar la calidad de vida de la población local.

SEGUNDO LUGAR:

- **2022**

Categoría: Comunidades Prósperas

Historia: Parque Nacional Tingo María, conservando su biodiversidad y servicios ecosistémicos para el beneficio de la población.

PATRIMONIO NATURAL DE LA PROVINCIA DE LEONCIO PRADO: Tingo Maria National Park fulfills the important task of preserving the natural heritage of the Leoncio Prado Province, the unique mountain range that resembles a reclining woman known as “Sleeping Beauty”, the iconic figure for which the city of Tingo Maria is known.

<https://munitingomaria.gob.pe/mplp/sites/default/files//RESOLUCION%20DE%20ALCALDIA%20N%C2%BA%201083-2023-MPLP.pdf>

