



GRRIPP

Gender Responsive
Resilience and Intersectionality in
Policy and Practice

AUTONOMY IN LAND AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT

**NATURAL RESERVE LA PLANADA,
COLOMBIA**

Context

In 2010 the La Planada Nature Reserve (RNLP) was ceded by the FES Foundation to the Pialapí Pueblo Viejo Indigenous Reserve (RPPV) for the care, conservation, protection and sustainable development of more than 3,200 hectares of the Andean cloud forest. Since then, the indigenous Awá people have had autonomy in managing and using the reserve.

This collective research project seeks to contribute to the consolidation of the RNLP and the strengthening and sustainability of the unique conditions of this ecosystem, its landscapes, and the livelihoods of the community by analyzing the habitat and territory through two primary lenses: climate change and intersectionality (focus on gender and ethnicity).

The research has resulted in this practical guide that will guide the infrastructure interventions linked to the scientific and nature tourism project. The guide contemplates the successive, progressive and planned construction of infrastructure works and tourist furniture respecting, integrating and, if necessary, re-interpreting ancestral or traditional knowledge (typologies, techniques and materials).

Objectives

The objective of this research project was to **contribute to the strengthening and sustainability of tourism activities in La Planada Nature Reserve** through the collective construction of a road map to guide infrastructure interventions within the reserve.

Lines of action

As part of the project, the following were analyzed: the ecosystem, the built environment, and social practices within the specific context of territory and population. To this end, the project was structured in four stages:

1) Recognition of the territory, where traditional cultural practices linked to habitat and territory management of the Awá identity were analyzed and identified in a participatory manner; livelihoods and ways of life under an intersectional approach (age, gender and ethnicity), and forms of adaptation over time; traditional power relations and gender roles; natural assets available: sustainability in extraction and management of materials, and community initiatives resilient to climate change.

Reconnaissance tour of the territory. La Planada Nature Reserve, Department of Nariño, Colombia. 01 February 2023. Photo taken by Nathalia Mosquera.



2) Analysis and consolidation, where the knowledge and interests of the project participants were identified, seeking to understand strengths, identify capacities, and the role of women, their level of participation and moments of change from the perspective of women and men.

3) Joint re-interpretation, where construction techniques and traditional Awá architecture were recalled and explained. Skills were strengthened in reading and interpreting architectural plans and preparing a minor or medium-scale infrastructure.

4) Development, dissemination, and feedback, where an assessment of existing and future infrastructure was made, infrastructure was prioritized according to the order of need, architectural designs and choice of materials were discussed and validated. The proposed guide was also validated.

Methodology

The methodological considerations for the project were as follows:

PAR Participatory Action Research ©

It is a methodology to create and connect multidisciplinary participatory activities to generate knowledge, action and change within a community in a specific context. PAR allows understanding and transforming practices and situations through action and critical and self-critical reflection.

This methodology developed by AGRA Architects for the implementation of projects related to habitat is a dynamic construction that expands and adapts from the joint work between the inhabitants and the technical teams.

It is structured based on Moments, Actions or Activities in the field and in the office in order to generate architectural and technical solutions coherent with the context in which they are located. It focuses on the environmental and territorial conditions and living practices (means and ways of life) of the communities through active interaction between inhabitants, technicians, and professionals.

Impacts

- The process developed in La Planada Nature Reserve highlights the traditional practices of the Awá population that allow a more harmonious and less traumatic relationship with the environment.
- The work carried out revealed the reserve's infrastructure needs.
- The participatory process showed the community a new infrastructure design and intervention approach.
- The developed guide outlines a route for the members of the Resguardo and workers of La Planada to intervene in the small infrastructures associated with community tourism autonomously.
- The community has the tools, techniques, and knowledge necessary to intervene in the territory in a planned manner.



Architectural design validation workshop. La Planada Natural Reserve, Department of Nariño, Colombia. May 11, 2023. Photo taken by Nathalia Mosquera.

Autonomy in the management of territory and habitat: Collective construction of knowledge with an intersectional and climate change approach in La Planada Nature Reserve, Nariño, Colombia.

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