

ABS/CCAD-GIZ program supports the first steps towards a participatory mechanism

Promoting fair and equitable distribution of benefits in the value chain of coconut oil at the Private Nature Reserve of Punta Patiño, Panama

Promoting the economic value of biodiversity to improve living conditions

Background information

The National Association for the Conservation of Nature (ANCON) established the Private Nature Reserve of Punta Patiño (PNRPP) in 1993, the largest private nature reserve in Panama. The reserve is located in a priority conservation area, the Panamanian Choco-Darién ecoregion declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The PNRPP covers an area of 26,315 hectares and combines marine environments, coastline habitats, wetlands, rivers, five types of forest and small grasslands patches.

Different groups of people live within the reserve and its surrounding areas, some are of indigenous origin. ANCON promotes several projects with these communities, in an effort to make them partners in the challenge of conserving biodiversity. Each project promotes the empowerment of these communities, teaching them to use and benefit from the resources they have on their environment in a sustainable way and improving their incomes. The semi-industrial production of coconut oil is one of such projects. Taking advantage of the areas of coconut plantations already in place before the RNP was established, the coconut oil production plant employs, since 2016, members of the communities of Cémaco and Taimatí, which have been involved in the coconut project since its outset. ARTESAN S. A., created in 2015, is the legal figure commercially selling the coconut oil. ARTESAN's coconut oil is the only brand certified by the Ministry of Health. The coconut oil is available in Panama City at several points of sale.



Geographical location of the Private Nature Reserve of Punta Patiño, Panama



Collecting coconuts (*Cocos nucifera*)

ABS pilot projects: criteria

For a pilot project to qualify as an “Access and Benefit-Sharing” (ABS) pilot project, three of the four identified criteria must be present:

1. It uses biological and/or genetic resources.
2. The benefits that come from its use are fair and equitably shared, through integrative participation of local and/or indigenous communities, and/or womens’ associations, by means of Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT).
3. The use of biological and/or genetic resources is associated with traditional knowledge.
4. The use of biological and/or genetic resources has a commercial use.

In this case criteria 1, 2 and 4 are fulfilled.



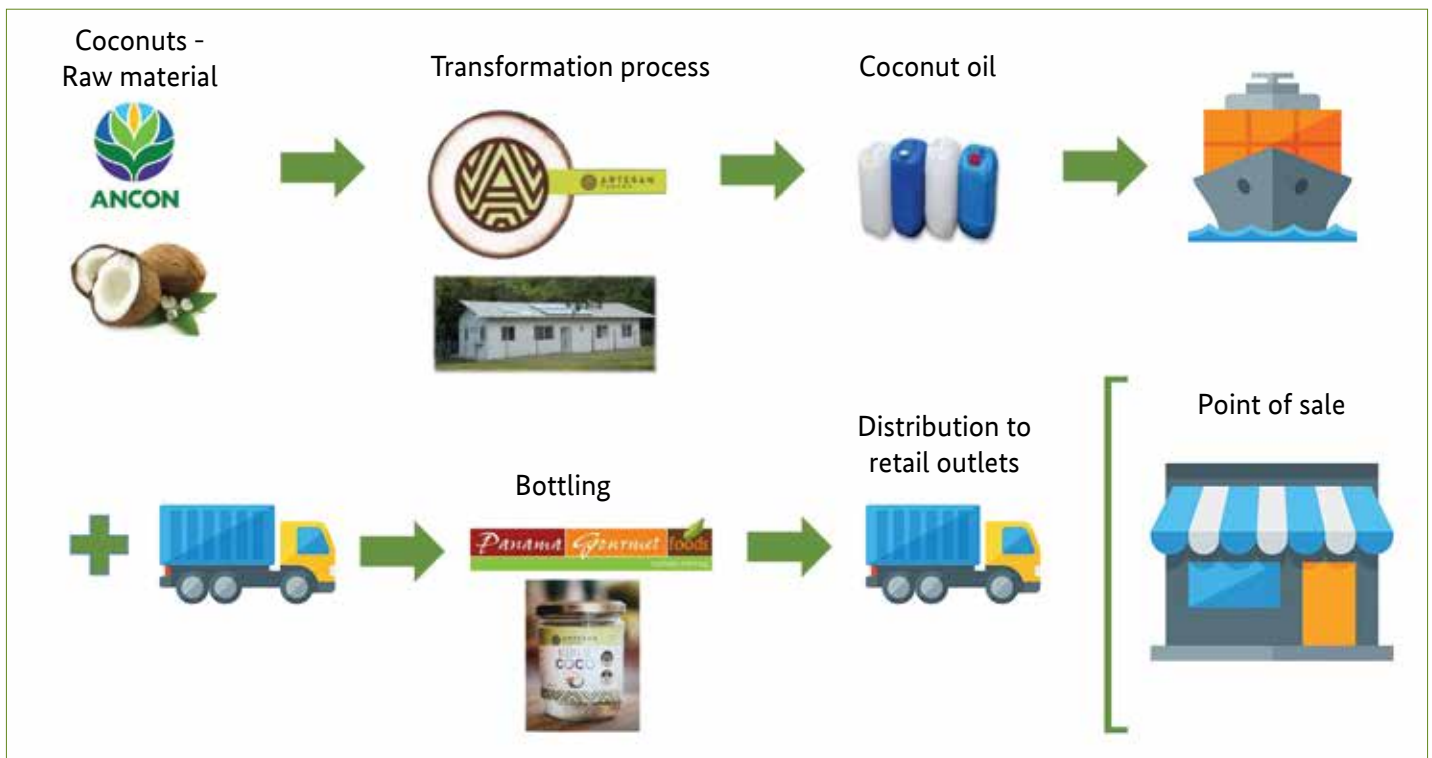
Coconut grating process.



Coconut oil filtering.



Planting coconuts (*Cocos nucifera*)



The ABS case study

Goals

- To strengthen and complement the coconut oil value chain, through the application of ABS instruments such as Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT), in which ARTESAN negotiates a fair distribution of benefits with the communities.
- Evaluate, inform and develop with the surrounding communities, the feasibility to sustainably promote the economic value of other biodiversity resources of the reserve - *Catalogue of native plants with potential interest for bioprospecting and biotrade.*

Today, only the communities of Cémaco and Taimatí are directly benefiting from the semi-industrial production of coconut oil. However, ANCON hopes to develop other projects that can improve the living conditions of more communities while promoting the sustainable commercial use of the reserve's biodiversity (criteria 1, 2 and 4). In the future, within the framework of this collaboration, ANCON and ARTESAN expect:



Coconut oil ARTESAN - final product

- To ensure a steady supply of coconuts and a stable coconut value chain thus guaranteeing a reliable source of income to the communities of Cémaco and Taimati (criterion 1).
- To materialize a formal contract of Terms (MAT) between ARTESAN and the communities of Cémaco and Taimatí based on the steps already taken (criterion 2).
- To improve the coconut oil and coconut by-products value chain and selling strategy (criterion 4).
- To promote the dissemination of a catalogue of native plants of the RNPPP with potential for bioprospecting and biotrade, with the endorsement of local communities i.e. Prior Informed Consent (PIC) and the subsequent implementation of new sustainable projects.



Quality control process



Production plant of coconut oil at Patiño's

ABS/CCAD-GIZ Programme

The programme provides support to the countries of Central America and the Dominican Republic, in implementing initial measures to promote the fair and equitable access to and sharing of benefits - Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) - derived from the sustainable use of genetic and/or biological resources and the traditional knowledge associated with them.

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Private Nature Reserve of Punta Patiño

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