

III.1. Track record

CASES

1. Description of the case

Name: PROCASUR: Building Change from within the South
Project Number (If DGIS was the funder): PROCASUR has not received DGIS funds at this point in time
Countries: 30 countries in 3 regions; Asia, Africa and Latin America
Themes: Extractive industries, land, forest and nutrition, vulnerable groups: women, youth, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants and pastoralists
Period: The case is focused in the period January 2012 – July 2014
Goals of the Project/programme: Provide technical assistance and tools for effective, efficient knowledge management and capacity building for public and private actors engaged in the fight against rural poverty in the Global South
Target group: Rural women and men, development practitioners and policy-makers
Final Beneficiaries: 2000 development practitioners and 1000 local champions of almost 50 nationalities, have contributed to positive change in, an estimated, 260 000 rural poor households.
Partners: 200 rural people organizations, 30 governments, various international movements and networks, the UN system agencies and the private sector.
Short description: PROCASUR is a global leader in linking advocacy with knowledge and human resources in the context of rural development, with thematic address made to the extractive industries, land, forest and nutrition and the needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, indigenous peoples, afro-descendant and pastoralists. In many cases PROCASUR serves as a hub from local to international institutions and a bridge for integrated, inclusive communication among women and men, development practitioners and policy-makers. PROCASUR's main contribution in the field of advocacy can be found in the recognition and emphasis, of local people and their organizations as champions of their own development. This has resulted in new spaces made for participation in different public and private interventions against rural poverty. PROCASUR utilises a unique set of proven tools for building local champions capacities and optimising opportunities for inclusivity; the Learning Routes, Champions Platforms, Communities of Practice and Technical Assistance for Policy Dialogue.
Duration from-till: January 2012 to July 2014
a. Realized conform planning: Yes, all programs have performed accordingly, and have been sustained through external assessments, annual and multiannual plans and yearly reports.
b. Reason deviation from budget: No deviation from the budgets. In fact, PROCASUR <i>facilitates</i> the mobilization of human and financial resources by linking institutions and practitioners.
c. case is audited and audit statement is given or unqualified audit is given: Proper audits for the period 2011 to 2013 are available for the programs in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
Funders/donors (incl. co-finding):
a. was the (co) funding in time and sufficient (at the start of the project): PROCASUR systematically conducts financial assessments according to international standards, ensuring optimised and transparent performance throughout the programs.
b. in case of shortfall of funding: what has been done to raise enough additional funds: PROCASUR combines service provision with grants and the continuous networking facilitates growth. Moreover the capacities installed in the three regions allow PROCASUR to work as a flexible hub, advancing when feasible and retreating when not. Overall, the last three years budget is reflective of fiscal stability within the organisation.

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Advocating for the knowledge of the Global South

PROCASUR is a global leader in linking advocacy with knowledge and human resources in the context of rural development, with thematic address made to the extractive industries, land, forest and nutrition and the needs of the most vulnerable groups, such as women, youth, indigenous peoples, afro-descendant and pastoralists. In many cases PROCASUR serves as a hub from local to international institutions and a bridge for integrated, inclusive communication among women and men, development practitioners and policy-makers.

PROCASUR 's offices in the Global South

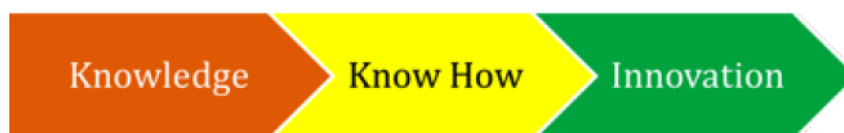


The better known of PROCASUR tools is called the Learning Route (LR) and advocates for the scaling up of locally produced and tested technologies and approaches for rural poverty eradication, with increased networking between public and private organizations, the inclusion of local champions in the decision making and in the pro rural poor and environment interventions.¹

In the last eight years, PROCASUR and its partners have implemented over 100 Learning Routes in 30 countries, supporting more than 2000 development practitioners of almost 50 nationalities to exchange knowledge, weave connections and catalyze innovations. Originally fostering farmer-to-farmer exchanges, PROCASUR is now increasingly engaging policy-makers.²

Moreover, as a people-centered organization, PROCASUR has equipped over one thousand local champions with new knowledge sharing skills and facilitated their participation in the knowledge- market. It is estimated that these champions have catalyzed changes in over 260 000 households.³

The **Learning Route is a building up process** that begins with the identification of the relevant KNOWLEDGE to be documented and disseminated, followed by acquiring the KNOW-HOW through experiential learning from innovative experiences and concluding with the INNOVATION of the organizations and territories by the Learning Route participants.



¹ The local champions are people with valuable knowledge, usually practical, that stand within their organization or community for their ways of doing things, their knowledge and innovative leadership on development initiatives that positively impact their territories. Their knowledge and skills make them key players in the exchange of knowledge and bottom up advocacy processes, since they become local advocates and training providers in rural contexts. The local champions are members of resource management, land access, women's, youth or indigenous people's organizations, NGOs, networks, local institutions, cooperatives and production associations. Annex 1 presents a list of concepts and tools. For a visual explanation on the Learning Routes see: <http://asia.procasur.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/cartoon-learning-routes-english.swf>

² PROCASUR is active in the following ODA recipient countries: Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Haiti, Kenya, Laos PDR, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and Vietnam.

³ PROCASUR with support of IFAD, Ford Foundation and the Ministries' of Agriculture of Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Dominican Republic created the first global online exchange platform for rural local champions with the objective of promoting their participation in development projects decision making and to perform as training and technical assistance services providers. Site: <http://talentosrurales.org/>

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Changing mindsets through knowledge sharing

Advocacy is specified as part of PROCASUR and partner's programs objectives, rather than an unplanned result. For example, the initiative 'Managing Forests, Sustaining Lives' goal was to strengthen the policy dialogue for the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in decision making spaces at all levels, in relation to the conservation and sustainable management of their traditional territories. The initiative achieved this by facilitating exchanges between indigenous leaders and governmental representatives on the key issues of Indigenous People's knowledge and practices for a sustainable management of natural resources and land-use planning.⁴



Karen Interpretation of the settlement and development of the Huay Hin Lad Nai community

Building local champions' capacity is the key for sustainable development

Internal and external assessments have demonstrated that the participation of local champions in the design, implementation and evaluation of the public and private inversion against poverty increases outreach, reduces costs and increments sustainability. For instance, women's access to land is often evident in the gap between state and customary policies. In most of the developing countries, despite having national frameworks that may be supportive of equal rights between men and women, this means very little if the implemented customary laws do not. Given this situation, since 2010 the International Land Coalition (ILC) and PROCASUR are advocating for equal, and secure, access to land by women in Latin America and Africa. PROCASUR plays a facilitating role in the engagement of civil society with policy around knowledge sharing, positively affecting the way the ILC supports country processes.⁵

Please refer to Annex 2 for PROCASUR's last three years of participation in advocacy initiatives.

2. Effectiveness

2.1 Ability to influence policymakers and vice versa

⁴ The initiative was discussed during the Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII, May 2014). For more information see: "Managing forests, sustaining lives, improving livelihoods of indigenous peoples and ethnic groups in the Mekong region, Asia", 2013. Asia Indigenous People Pact, IFAD and PROCASUR.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1SDZ6T1gwOFpVR0E/edit?usp=sharing; and "Managing Forest, sustaining lives, Thirteenth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) Side Event: <http://www.procasur.org/news/654-managing-forests-sustaining-lives.html>

⁵ See: "Securing Women's Land Rights: Learning from successful experiences in Rwanda and Burundi", 2014. International Land Coalition and PROCASUR. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1bDJQMTZUd2VDS3c/edit?usp=sharing and "Concerning Women's access to Land. the cases of Uganda and Kenya". 2011. International Land Coalition and PROCASUR. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1emc4UzlaNS1ycXc/edit?usp=sharing

Dynamics for systematic empowerment and uptake of local knowledge and the inclusion of local champions.

PROCASUR's aim for enhancing local skills in advocacy through knowledge building is evident in the systematic uptake by relevant decision and policy makers. Below are three recent examples of public/private partnerships for policy dialogue:

Rural Youth: The international Fund for Agriculture (IFAD), Ford Foundation and PROCASUR's Rural Youth programme started with the mapping of best practices, followed with the support of 500 rural youth business plans in Latin America and the Caribbean and has reached now the policy dialogue level in six countries. The programme engages several governments from which the Colombia uptake is outstanding. Several public organizations organized a Technical Advisory Board as a mechanism for multi-stakeholders policy dialogue. The Board aims to articulate actions linking rural youth' aspirations with investment in favour of their social, political and economic empowerment.⁶

The mechanism prompted the i. Creation of the National Network for Youth in Colombia, supported mainly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the National Learning Service (SENA) ; ii. The compilation of relevant policy document towards rural youth inclusion; iii. and the Ministry of Agriculture will start in 2015, a 10 million USD program, addressing the main issues identified in the Rural Youth Programme first phase: land access, employment and enterprise.

”

We saw that the Borana and the Maasai communities are very aware of their environment and of changing climate. We also saw that they respect their customary institutions as well as government regulations. This is key for the success of the group ranches we observed during the visit.”

Bashir Abdalla Mohamed, Director General, Ministry of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Rangelands, East Darfur

Pastoralists in the Rangelands: The participation of the Government of Tanzania in the “Making Rangelands Secure Initiative” evidence the relevance of knowledge, evidence and networking in pro pastoralist's advocacy processes. Mrs. Maria Mashingo, Assistant Director of *Land for Livestock Development* at the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, acquired valuable knowledge on what works and what doesn't work on the ground level by participating in one Learning Route. She translated her exposure to *pastoralist's issues* into a policy matter. In terms of policy influence, the Ministry has produced and disseminated by the end of 2013 an official document on the pastoralist's conditions in Tanzania.⁷

Scaling Up Nutrition: PROCASUR is implementing a Learning Initiative in collaboration with the *Scaling Up Nutrition* Movement. A recent Learning Route in Senegal is facilitating the uptake of Senegalese malnutrition fight best practices by six delegations, composed of public authorities and NGO representatives from six Central and West African countries.^{8*}

2.2 Increasing effectiveness through networks

PROCASUR considers its main asset the networks of leaders, professionals and institutions where it has become an active partner. In this sense is continuously looking for *peoples centered* networks with whom to partner, in order to reach larger scales of impact. PROCASUR contributes through its particular know how, global capacities and connections with local champions. The main networks where PROCASUR participate at regional or global level are: the ILC; the Red Latinoamericana de Juventudes Rurales (RELAJUR); Asia Indigenous People Pact (AIPP); and the

⁶ See: “Rural Youth” 2014, PROCASUR, <http://www.procasur.org/temas/rural-youth.html>

⁷ See: “Natural Resource Management & Land Tenure in the Rangelands” 2014, United Nations Environment Program, http://www.unep.org/disastersandconflicts/portals/155/countries/Sudan/pdf/Learning_Routes_Rangelands.pdf

⁸ For more information see: “Strengthening the Capacity of SUN Countries through Learning Routes” 2014, PROCASUR, <http://www.procasur.org/news/658-strengthening-the-capacity-of-sun-countries-through-learning-routes.html>

SUN.⁹ Beside these networks, PROCASUR is working with four IFAD Divisions for the innovation from the inside of an operation model that has the potential to affect millions of people's lives worldwide.¹⁰

2.3 Strengthening capacities of partners

Building impact oriented partnerships

PROCASUR's capacity-building strategy follows a simple framework: knowledge leads to know-how, followed by the application of that knowledge, adapting and implementing it within the networks, and identifying opportunities and constraints of the participants, their territories and organizations. The selection of contents and tools is flexible, although rigorous, according to the needs and opportunities identified by the partners and target groups, as to ensure meaningful learning and that is feasible to be scaled up.

IFAD is an outstanding Learning Routes champion and is building with PROCASUR regional and in country capacities for using the LR for policy dialogue on public-private partnerships, rural micro-finance, natural resource management, land rights, farmers organizations, gender equality, indigenous people and rural youth, among others. This has led to significant scaling up innovative practices, such as: saving and credit mechanisms for women in Bolivia, Colombia and Peru; the allocation of financial resources through competitive and transparent systems, which have been replicated and adapted in several countries (including Colombia, Peru, Rwanda and Vietnam); and strategies to improve access to land for pastoralist and landless rural people.

Strengthening local champions' advocacy capacities

Building local capacities and fostering local champions to empower vulnerable and marginalized groups has resulted in increased advocacy actions and contributed to larger-scale policy dialogue processes. The current network of local champions' totals over 1000, and is representing 250 different rural communities, enterprises and governments. By accessing the global knowledge market and discussion forums, these rural talents/local champions are able to amplify their perspectives and diversify their incomes, all while gaining the skills to advocate at the local, national and, sometimes, international level.¹¹ The following two cases are examples of this.

Action-research project and its effects in the land access policies. In 2012, 24 practitioners - activists, experts and grassroots' leaders - were invited by PROCASUR and the International Land Coalition, to think together about the main obstacles and opportunities to land access, emphasizing in the identification of the most effective

⁹ On the networks: i. **ILC**. PROCASUR is a global member of this global alliance of civil society and farmers' organizations, United Nation's agencies, NGOs and research institutes that today counts with 152 member organizations in 52 countries. ILC's mission is to "promote secure and equitable access to and control over land for poor women and men through advocacy, dialogue, knowledge sharing and capacity building". Land portal: <http://www.landcoalition.org/en>; ii. **RELAJUR**. PROCASUR is a member of this network of over 250 people, playing a role in the organization and dissemination of information from and for the rural youth. RELAJUR site: <http://www.relajur.org/>; iii. **AIPP**. PROCASUR is a partner of this regional organization committed to the cause of promoting and defending indigenous peoples' rights and human rights and articulating issues of relevance to indigenous peoples. At present has 47 members from 14 countries in Asia and the Pacific. AIPP site: <http://www.aippnet.org/>; iv. **SUN**. PROCASUR is a partner of this movement active in 54 countries and brings together Civil Society, the UN System, Businesses and Donors under the premise that all people have a right to food and good nutrition. SUN site: <http://scalingupnutrition.org/>. The IFAD, the Ford Foundation, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and UN Women, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) are the main Aid partners.

¹⁰ Examples of a better outreach through networking are the guidelines produced jointly with IFAD for including rural youth in their operation cycle. The experience originated in LAC in the recent years is being now expanding to Africa (See: Outils pour la transversalisation de l'approche de la Jeunesse dans les Projets du FIDA". Programme Regional Jeunesse Rurale Entrepreneur, 2013. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1SW1ZWWVadDdDdnM/edit?usp=sharing

¹¹ PROCASUR was selected to participate in the South South Cooperation Development Expositions organized by UNOSSC in Vienna (2012) and Nairobi (2013) and in the "Scaling up the fight Against Rural Poverty Workshop" organized by the Brookings Institute and IFAD in 2012, an opportunity to share the results of local champion's inclusion into rural development initiatives, to a wide audience of decision makers.

strategies, in different contexts, to improve the certainty of the women's right to land. Several LRs have strengthened their capacity for advocacy through the realization that in order to mobilize their communities, they needed to become role models within them.

Bukonzo Joint Cooperative Union. Is one of successful experiences studied during several Learning Routes. It has been visited a total of 4 times¹². Bukonzo is able to disseminate effectively their learning on: i) Gender Mainstreaming in Microfinance and rural finance (saving & credit systems); ii) Application of the Gender Action Learning Systems (GALS) methodologies; iii) Understanding Gender along the Coffee Value Chain; and v) Gender sensitive farmers' organizations. During an ex-post evaluation, 84% of the visitors considered Bukonzo as an experience that highly contributed in expanding their knowledge; and 69% of them are applying the lessons learned in their work.

Despite the progress made, the path to public recognition of local champions' contribution to poverty eradication solutions at local and national levels, through policies and programmes, is hard and long. Despite the existence of local champions in most of the communities and organizations in rural areas, their identification, capacity and network building requires, not only a smart mid-term investment, but also relevant advocacy actions. The gaps between traditionally recognized knowledge service providers, such as professional and technicians, NGOs and educational centers, and knowledge champions and their organizations remain wide.

3. **Flexibility and learning capacity**

3.1 **Learning capacity based on PME system**

Learning is part of PROCASUR identity, and therefore, culture. Learning, or *Strategic Knowledge Management*, is integral to the organizational strategic plan for the period 2013 to 2016 (reviewed in February 2013), the global and regional planning monitoring and evaluation systems, yearly global meetings, regional workshops and country reviews. The expansion of operations from Latin America to Africa and Asia can only be explained by an efficient use of knowledge management and M&E practices.¹³ The organisational intranet is based on interactive applications, including Moodle and Google, however the most significant learning processes are generated in the partnership.

The results-oriented PROCASUR M&E system is based on the *theory of change* concept, and include elements of the Results and Impact Management System (RIMS)¹⁴. It monitors each Programme: i) activities (direct interventions); ii) outputs (products elaborated, services delivered); iii) outcomes (effects) and iv) impacts. At the outcome level, special attention is given to action plans (vehicles of change) and the performance of local champions (the catalysts of change). M&E results are used to extract lessons learnt and for future knowledge management.

¹² i) 3 implementations of the Learning route on "*Gender and Rural Microfinance– New approaches, services and products in Africa*" held in Uganda 2011, jointly organized by FAO, IFAD and PROCASUR in the framework of the FAO-IFAD Regional Capacity-building and Knowledge Management for Gender Equality Programme; 1st implementation: 12th – 20th of March 2011; 2nd implementation: 23rd – 31st of March 2011; 3rd implementation: 10th – 18th of April 2011; ii) 1 implementation of the LR "*An innovation experience in strategic orientation of Rural Finance policy, design and implementation*" - Uganda - September 2011; ii. 1 implementation of the LR "*Boosting the contribution of value chain development to gender justice and pro-poor wealth creation: the Gender Action Learning System (GALS)*", RWANDA and UGANDA, September-October 2012.; iii) 1 implementation of the LR "*Gender and Rural Microfinance: new approaches, services and products for the empowerment of economically active rural communities by ensuring Gender equality*", 16th - 23rd of June 2014, Uganda.

¹³ The paper written by Mr. Dario Pulgar and the PROCASUR Team in 2011 for the Brookings Institute and IFAD " 'Learning Routes' as a Knowledge Management and Capacity Building Tool " explains the process through which IFAD expended the use of the Learning Routes into its three more relevant divisions. See:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1VGpGdIIPEkR4eTQ/edit?usp=sharing

¹⁴ The RIMS is a systematic methodology and set of common indicators across programmes and regions to measure and inform on the performance and outputs, outcomes and impact of development interventions. For more information see:

<http://www.ifad.org/operations/rims/handbook/e.pdf>

PROCASUR conducts online (e.g using *SurveyMonkey*) and in-the-field surveys, qualitative information is collected in the form of *Stories from the Field* and every programme funded by IFAD is assessed externally.¹⁵

Five lessons learned by PROCASUR and partners in the support of advocacy processes: i. **Diversity of actors makes the difference.** A clear success factor is the gathering of practitioners from different countries and organizations; diverse occupational profiles and professionals of various disciplines around knowledge sharing ; iii. **The Learning Routes build critical reflections beyond the visited host experiences.** The learning exceeds the analysis of the visited experiences, stimulating a critical reflection on the visitors own organization, territory and strategies; iv. Favour **emotional intelligence for action oriented learning.** During the LR there is a manifest interest for experience exchange and analysis, thus generating a dynamic of mutual quest for solutions that at times creates ties that transcend the LR opening policy dialogues, and ; v. **Position and networking determine the uptake of innovations.** The success of advocacy processes activated through incentives, such as action plans, is largely linked to the positions held, and the capacity to mobilize alliances and 3rd party resources.

3.2 Capacity to cooperate flexible, pro-active and innovative

Permanent innovation has become a distinguishing element of PROCASUR work, consistently opening opportunities for new partnerships, thematic areas and territories. Which is evident from the diverse thematic areas addressed the institutional expansion from Latin America, to Africa and Asia and the increasing networking.

PROCASUR, in practice, is capable of bringing together actors from the private and public sectors and to mainstream gender, youth and indigenous issues in natural resources management, rural micro-finance or business learning curriculums, among others.

PROCASUR continuously diversifies and strength its approach and toolkit, including today face to face methodologies such as the learning routes, learning territories and local champions technical assistance and at distance tools as the communities of practice in FB and Moodle and the local champions platform.

4. Transparency, accountability and support

4.1 Transparent and accountable

PROCASUR transparency efforts are made through different channels and products that increase accountability, including continuous reporting to partners and donors, but particularly through the active management of a global website, as well as three regional sites and a Facebook network that exceeds the 4000 followers.

PROCASUR also participates in assemblies, steering committees, directories and societies, depending on the nature of the partnership.

4.2 Involvement of local partners

PROCASUR has signed cooperation agreements with local, national and international organizations and has a proven record of correct financial and technical management according to the standards of the United Nations. To date, PROCASUR has mobilized more than USD 1,000,000 of direct financing to rural communities and organizations in order to support the scaling up of their unique knowledge, skills and resources in the planning, implementation and follow up of rural development programs. This is done mainly through the support and financing of Action Plans, partnership with local champions and the observation of consultation protocols.

¹⁵ Here it is possible to find IFAD's assessment for the Learning Routes Programmes in: i. IFAD assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean (2012): https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1ODQ0RjRTUhQek0/edit?usp=sharing ; ii. IFAD assessment for East and Southern Africa (2013): https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1eVdMRF80OWYwSXM/edit?usp=sharing ; iii. IFAD assessment for Asia and the Pacific (2014): https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B20_wQySO3w1NIVRNfVSSS1uZDg/edit?usp=sharing

5. Inclusiveness

5.1 Position of women and their empowerment

PROCASUR is systematically working for the inclusion of rural women, as key development actors, since 2000 when the *PROGENERO* Programme was launched.¹⁶ While aiming to strengthen women's participation in democratic governance, PROCASUR also contributes to the empowerment of women as active citizens and political subjects within their communities and territories, by supporting female participants to comprise, at least, 50% of all programs. Furthermore, PROCASUR has coordinated several initiatives that link gender and development, including; 1. Women's participation at the local level with UN Women, 2. Women's access to land with the ILC, 3. Women and Value Chain Development with IFAD and OXFAM Novib and 4. Women and Rural Finance with AFRACA and FAO.

PROCASUR methodologies, such as the LR, enable men and women to share the space for the incentives and tools to improve gender equality into rural development.

Finally, PROCASUR has a staff of 30 people, from which 70% are women and at the Board level, the President and six from the eight directors are women.

5.2 Opportunities for and access to services by vulnerable and marginalised groups

Beside the work in favor of inclusion of women, PROCASUR also has been involved with Indigenous People, the Rural Youth and Pastoralist:

Indigenous Peoples: IFAD, PROCASUR and AIPP launched the Initiative, 'Managing Forests, Sustaining Lives' in 2011 based on outstanding experiences of indigenous peoples communities managing land and natural resources in Lao PDR and Thailand. This program successfully engaged the indigenous communities of Huay Hin Lad Nai, Pah Kia and Pah Tai Mai participants with the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives of Thailand (MOAC). The MOAC had selected Huay Hin Lad Nai Village to be the first-indigenous Community Learning Centre receiving budget allocation and technical support;

Rural Youth: The Rural Youth Entrepreneurship Programme promotes innovations that enable youth to improve the access to assets as land or capital, business development and networking. During 2012 and 2013, 630 young rural entrepreneurs in Latin America were supported technically and financially. In 2013 the programme shifted towards policy dialogue and works closely with civil society networks and governments for the effective inclusion of rural youth issues in public policies.

Pastoralists: PROCASUR and ILC are working in Darfur, Sudan, where there is categorically weakened institutions and governance systems in addition to the pressures of reconstruction. For pastoralists and farmers this instability often translates into a worsened access to natural resources and land, directly affecting their livelihoods. It is in this context, that UNEP supported 15 authorities to take part in 2012 in the Learning Route called 'Making Rangelands Secure' allowing first-hand experience on a variety of land tenure and resource management options. Besides the learning, the LR was successful in facilitating interstate and intrastate relationships in Darfur, where none previously existed. In strengthening these networks, PROCASUR has provided space for pastoralists to participate in the reconstruction process, making it far more inclusive.

6. Sustainability

¹⁶ See: <http://www.ifad.org/gbdocs/eb/69/s/EB-2000-69-R-33.pdf>

PROCASUR, through its institutional capacities in Latin America, Africa and Asia, facilitates an environment for advocacy that works at all levels. There is a strong focus on scaling up the fight against rural poverty by building local champions capacities and decision making spaces at the local, national and international levels.

With strengthened capacities and networks, the local champions, in partnership with local governments and development projects, provide the right conditions for the uptake of local knowledge and better inclusion of local champions in decision making processes. Policy dialogues based on the evidence of change at the local level are opening the necessary financial, political and legal spaces for the scaling up of the approach, tools and results. The SWOT analysis on Annex 3 focus on the conditions for the sustainability of PROCASUR's contribution to advocacy processes.

7. Added value of the organisation/consortium

7.1 Added value in lobby and advocacy

PROCASUR integrates gender as a crosscutting theme in all projects and programmes, by focusing on the situation of rural women and the implementation of strategies to increase their participation and empowerment as key actors in rural development. Through training programs and the exchange of experiences, both men and women are given space to dialogue ways to mainstream gender as part of development projects and initiatives, as a means of facilitating welfare of rural women. PROCASUR has several programs that link gender and development, and also contributes to empowerment of women as citizens and political subjects in their communities and territories, by supporting female participants to comprise, at least, 50% of all programs. Finally, PROCASUR has a staff of 30 people, from which 70% are women and at the Board level, the President and six from the eight directors are women.

PROCASUR serves as a hub of knowledge and skills for local and international institutions alike and a bridge for integrated, inclusive communication among women and men, development practitioners and policy-makers in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

PROCASUR's innovative tool, the Learning Route (LR), advocates for the scaling up of locally produced and tested technologies and approaches for rural poverty eradication, with increased networking between public and private organizations, the inclusion of local actors in decision making and interventions in favor of the poor and the environment.

Furthermore, PROCASUR has built the technical and advocacy capacities of more than 2000 development champions of almost 50 nationalities by linking contextually relevant knowledge with rural development interventions.

7.2 Added value to work as partnership

PROCASUR's participation in the *Water Pulse Partnership* represents a learning opportunity, as it is built on the partners' expertise in rain-fed and flood-based farming systems and advocacy, that can be contributed to the DGIS cooperation platform. Moreover, the partnership is considered a growing space for linking new local, national and international organizations and utilising the benefits of existing networks. It also represents an opportunity to get experience with advocacy processes in new countries for PROCASUR; in particular, Somaliland, Pakistan, and Yemen.

7.3 Experience in lobby and advocacy

PROCASUR's main contribution in the field of advocacy can be found in the recognition of local people and their organizations as champions of their own development. This has resulted in new space created for them in different public and private interventions against rural poverty. Some of the tools used are the Learning Routes, Champions Platforms, Communities of Practice and Technical Assistance for Policy Dialogues.

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Central staff of PROCASUR, are duty bound to advocate and lobby for the inclusion of local champions in decision making processes and the rural knowledge market. This team of professional, mainly from social science and agriculture disciplines, consists of three regional managers (Africa, Asia and Latin America), 14 country focal points (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Thailand, Uganda and Vietnam), two programme managers (Rural Youth and Nutrition) and one Global Communications Officer.

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GENERAL

9. Position of lobby and advocacy

PROCASUR will play a complementary role in the three Programme components: i. In the **Network development component**, will acknowledge and bring together local champions, civil society organizations, the public and private sector through face to face encounters, online and offline communities of practice; ii. In the **Strengthen local champions component** will equip local champions with advocacy and knowledge sharing skills through peer to peer training, the identification and exchange of best practices and innovations and the development of incentives for the contraction of local champions as knowledge services providers in rural development projects. iii. In the **Evidence development, documentation, dissemination and promotion component** will support the participatory documentation of local champions' best practices, innovations and advocacy experiences and the institutionalization of local knowledge through member based farming and water managing learning centres.

10. PME system

PROCASUR PME system will be enriched by the concepts, indicators and tools that AERA will design, validate, disseminate and supervise. PROCASUR participation in the partnership governance mechanisms: Steering Committee and the Programme Team.

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