

PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS IN BOLIVIA

The Government of Bolivia has implemented an innovative system of integrated, participatory and sustainable management of protected areas. It integrates the territories for the conservation of the environment with the local and national political and socioeconomic context.

Protected areas in Bolivia are declared as state property, of public and social interest, in order to protect and conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the country: wildlife, genetic resources, natural ecosystems, watersheds and other resources of scientific, aesthetic, historical, economic and social value. Currently, 49 areas, approximately 22.5% of the country, are included in the National System of Protected Areas.

The integrated management of each area involves different actors of the territory: central and departmental government representatives, municipal governments, grassroots organizations, peasant and indigenous communities, academic institutions as Universities and Academies of Science.

The National Service of Protected Areas (SERNAP), created in 1992 under the Environment Act, is the public operating structure responsible for planning and administering the management of these areas. SERNAP is under the Vice-Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change, and Forestry Management. SERNAP operates with a mandate to establish participatory management processes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in protected areas. It aims to create institutional and technical capacities of local stakeholders in developing and implementing productive initiatives with economic, environmental and social sustainability criteria.

In SERNAP's website the [Map of protected areas in the country](#) can be found. The Map gives access to the area of interest and to a document that shows the area general characteristics, physical-natural aspects, population and outer buffer zone, area management situation and the list of the institutions and organizations working jointly to the area management.

This national Atlas of protected areas is a strategic tool to disseminate information to each interested party, and also to invite new actors to participate in the integral development of these territories where the resources of country's biodiversity are concentrated.

To know more

<http://www.sernap.gob.bo>

[Sample record of the Beni Biological Station Biosphere Reserve](#)

[To download the pdf map of protected areas](#)



Parque Nacional y Área Natural de Manejo Integrado
COTAPATA



KAA IYA DEL GRAN CHACO



Área Natural de Manejo Integrado Nacional APOLOBAMBA