



ACTION PLAN THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT GENERATED BY ACCESS TO THE WATER OF THE CHÍQUIZA RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHÍQUIZA – BOYACÁ

José Alberto Salom Cely

Master candidate

Universidad Sergio Arboleda. Bogota D.C - Colombia

jas1313@gmail.com

Carlos Arturo Peña Rincón

PhD. Professor.

Universidad Sergio Arboleda Bogota D.C - Colombia

ORCID <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9818-3033>

carlos.pena@usa.edu.co

ABSTRACT

This paper was carried out in the villages of Chiquiza Centro and Juan Díaz in the municipality of Chiquiza in Boyacá, Colombia; the social problems that exist in the southern sector of Chiquiza, especially as a result of the access to water from the Chiquiza river, has caused the inhabitants of this part of the municipality to be involved, for many years, in conflicts that have even reached human losses. The lack of a sense of cooperation in them has also caused a delay in the social and economic development of the area, as well as, family differences block the growth thus causing fear and anxiety due to the violence of the villagers that often nullifies the authority of the local government. By studying the characterization of the different actors such as the municipal administration, Colombia's Natural National Parks, Corpoboyacá, Ministry of Environment, neighboring Municipalities, community of Chiquiza, Environmental NGOs and financial entities in the socio-environmental conflict and, by using the stakeholder circle methodology, they were classified



according to their interest and influence, being the most influential in the participation in seeking a solution to the conflict; the municipal administration, the community of Chiquiza and Natural Parks were in order of greater to lesser. By knowing this information, the logical framework methodology was applied; this determined various viable strategies that were presented to the actors, thus allowing to identify and consider one of them, as part of the solution to this problem called the substitution of risk systems, for the benefits, installation times, implementation costs and, social and environmental impacts expected.

Keywords.

Stakeholder circle; logical framework; socio-environmental conflict; sustainable communities; water resources; governance.

Introduction

In the villages of Chiquiza Centro and Juan Diaz in the municipality of Chiquiza, the inhabitants live on the cultivation of onion *Allium cepa*, or better known as onion bulb or "big-headed onion"; the main source of water extraction for this is the Chiquiza River, which supplies this as well as other neighboring municipalities such as Sáchica and Villa de Leyva (Chiquiza, 2013, Chiquiza official site in Boyacá, Colombia).

Access to this resource has caused conflicts among its inhabitants, since those who have greater economic capacity, buy powerful motor pumps with hoses up to three (3) inches with which they extract large amounts of water, thus affecting the ecological flow of the river and the availability of this resource for other residents who make use of it. This situation has led to personal conflicts that have even resulted in physical aggressions between neighbors and also towards the authorities in charge of exercising environmental and police



surveillance of the area. To date, this situation persists and threatens to intensify due to the marked climatic variations that occur in the sector and throughout the country, generated mainly by El Niño phenomenon and climate change.

In addition to the foregoing, there is the state neglect from which this and many other populations of the country suffer, which has led to impoverishment of the communities that have no other options than farming for their subsistence. This situation shows a bleak picture for rural communities that not only have to submit to the tough economic situation of the countryside, but also lack opportunities that allow them to obtain a better quality of life.

Methodology

In the development of this project two (2) methodologies were applied. The first is called Logical Framework, in which there are 6 stages: 1. Diagnosis of the problem; 2. Analysis of stakeholders or interested parties; 3. Problem tree; 4. Objective tree; 5. Analysis of alternatives, and finally it concludes with the Logframe Matrix. The second methodology is Stakeholder Circle, which develops the second item related to the analysis of stakeholders or interested parties. For the development of the analysis of stakeholders or interested parties, the Stakeholder Circle methodology was applied, due to its relevance in relation to this aspect. This methodology was developed by the project director and general director of Stakeholder Management Pty Ltd, Lynda Bourne (Strategic Management: A Stakeholder Approach, Bourne, 2013), a methodology focused on those actors who affect or are affected by the achievement of the objectives of any Corporation, understanding the corporation in this case not as a profit-oriented organization, but as that person or group of people with interests that may affect others in their joint action; there, 5 stages can be noticed (Figure 1).

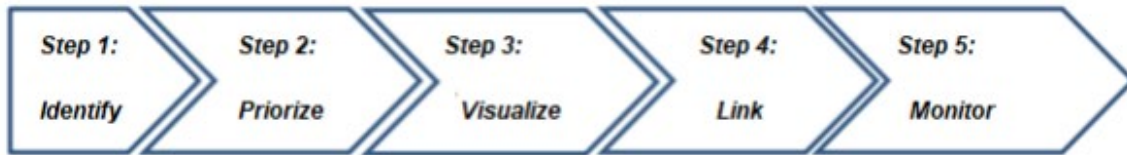


Figure 1. Scheme of Stakeholder Circle methodology.

The Logical Framework methodology, also described by several authors as Logical Framework Scheme or Logical Framework System, comprises a sequence of steps that allow to give a global vision of the project. The methodology considers these steps, which enables to carry the logic of its structure. The logical framework scheme is shown below (Figure 2), which goes from the Diagnosis of the Problem to the structuring of the logframe matrix.



Figure 2. Scheme of Logical Framework methodology.

Conclusion

In the execution of this project, an action plan was developed, which presented the steps that the interested actors can carry out in order to solve the socioenvironmental conflict that is being experienced in the neighborhoods of Chiquiza Centro and Juan Díaz in the municipality of Chiquiza, starting with the awareness of the problem, for its mere existence does not demonstrate that its participants explicitly accept it or recognize it in their daily lives.



Moreover, the identification of the stakeholders themselves was achieved, by knowing their influence, interest and power within the development of the project, and also, their willingness was known as well as what they can do by taking into account their functions and their links with the other regional, national and even international entities. Having been aware of this, alternatives were proposed that could contribute to the solution of the socio-environmental problem caused by access to the water of the Chiquiza River; by knowing these possibilities, the actors can evaluate how they can provide their contribution and management in the achievement of these objectives. Furthermore, in this project the actors were presented with the way in which they can finance the alternative they select; all this will depend on an in-depth study on which of them is the most viable depending on the initiative and capabilities of each stakeholder.

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