



Corporación Técnica para el Desarrollo del Pacífico, CORTEPAZ, is a member-owned cooperative based in the coastal town of Tumaco, near the border with Ecuador. CORTEPAZ produces and sells cacao grown by 200 families -98% of whom are Afro Colombian. CORTEPAZ aims to increase incomes for its members while enhancing food security and preserving the distinct Afro Colombian culture.

Colombia produces about 60,000 tons of cacao a year, a very modest amount when compared to Cote d’Ivoire (1.5M tons) or Ghana (800k tons.) However, nearly all Colombian cacao is graded as “fine” or “flavored cacao” which commands a much higher price in export markets.

CORTEPAZ is part of “Red Patrimonio Afro”, a regional network of local businesses created to preserve Afro Colombian heritage, fight racism, and reclaim women rights.

The Afro Colombian community does not meet the definition of an indigenous people since the community did not originate in the area. Rather, they were enslaved and forcibly moved to the region. Nonetheless, we believe that we are honoring the spirit of The Reciprocity Fund by adding CORTEPAZ to our portfolio. In consultation with our indigenous advisors, we concluded that except for those circumstances out of their control (their enslavement and resettlement in Colombia), the Afro Colombian community exhibits all the characteristics of an indigenous society and deserves our support.

**IMPACT OVERVIEW**

Increased income and long-term assets for Afro Colombian smallholder farmers in Tumaco.	
No. of beneficiaries	200 families
% Women	40

**COMMUNITY**

	<b>Country</b>
	Colombia
	<b>Municipalities</b>
	Tumaco
	<b>Communities</b>
	Afro Colombian

**Impact Background**

Colombia’s African community can trace their history in the region back to the 1500s when West Africans were enslaved by the Spanish and sent to South America to work primarily in the mines and on sugarcane plantations. In 1851 (two years before the Emancipation Proclamation), Colombia outlawed slavery. Since then, Afro Colombians have experienced covert and overt racism in Colombia and remain marginalized within Colombian society. Today, more than 4 million Colombians identify as Afro Colombian. A majority live in Colombia’s major cities, but they make up a large percentage of the population along Colombia’s Caribbean and Pacific coastline.

CORTEPAZ is located in the Department of Nariño, in the pacific coast of South Colombia, which has a 7.4% higher poverty rate than the Colombian national average. There, the fields have been invaded with coca crops for cocaine, leading to environmental degradation and poor work conditions in the area. This situation leaves few options for people in need of a job and makes it of great value that some are willing to make huge efforts to keep their traditional cacao production. In addition, their black-produced cacao has a high ethical value in a time when a huge part of the cacao beans on the market come from child slavery of black children in África.

CORTEPAZ aims to meaningful improve the lives of the afro Colombian community in terms of economy, culture, and food security. Along with their cacao crops for sale, they make sure to cultivate fruits and tubers for their own consumption and as an agroecology practice.



**Impact Delivery**

CORTEPAZ promotes sustainable and fair-trade cacao production while connecting its farmer members to international markets. This way the company contributes to the wellbeing of the afro-communities of Tumaco. They do this through their commitment to:

**Outcome**

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <i>Improvement of livelihood</i>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen market links for sustainable crops as well as providing producers access to niche markets with premium prices that recognize the chakra ecosystem services</li> <li>▪ Food security from the consumption of associate crops</li> <li>▪ Improvement of access and transportation between the farms and their homes</li> </ul> |
| <i>Environmental preservation</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide communities with training and technical assistance to enhance their technical capabilities to adapt to sustainable agricultural practices and improve productivity</li> </ul>   |