



# ASPROCIG

GENERAL PROFILE Organization

**Name:**

Association of Fishermen, farmers, indigenous and Afrodescendant Community Development of the Bajo Sinu Ciénaga Grande, ASPROCIG. Legally recognized by the Colombian state by legal status No. 000105, of February 1, 1994, registered in Monteria Chamber of Commerce with No. 1,272 of July 24, 1998 and NIT 800222045-6.

**Address:**

The organization is headquartered in the city of Santa Cruz de Lorica, in the Kennedy neighborhood, career N°17-23 21

**E-Mail:** [asprocig@gmail.com](mailto:asprocig@gmail.com)

**Twitter:** @asprocig

**Web:** [www.asprocig.website.com](http://www.asprocig.website.com) (website currently being built)

**Representation Legal:**

ASPROCIG is legally represented by the President of its Board of Directors, at present, is the seniors DAMARIS RIBERA

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**Type of Organization:**

ASPROCIG is a Community Based Organization (CBO), second degree, of industry association, environmental, human rights defender, nonprofit, second grade, managed and directed by their own associated.

**Members:**

The Association is currently comprised of 96 Community Based Organizations (CBOs), first degree, which together includes 32,569 people from 6,200 families.

**Steering and Management:**

The highest authority in ASPROCIG is its General Assembly, which is made up of two (2) delegates from their organizations, and ordinarily meets every six (6) months.

The organization's range throughout Colombia and its partners are distributed in nine (9) municipalities in the lower basin of the Sinu River, northern department of Cordoba, Colombia: Loricá, Purísima, Chima, Tuchín, San Andrés Sotavento, Cotorra, Momil, San Antero and San Bernardo del Viento. (See attached map).

**Articulation:**

ASPROCIG is a founding member of the International Mangrove Network ([www.redmanglar.org](http://www.redmanglar.org)), Latin American Network of Affected by Hydropower ([www.redlar.org](http://www.redlar.org)) and Red Rivers Alive Colombia ([www.ríos vivos.org](http://www.ríos vivos.org))

## Work Proposal:

In its territory, ASPROCIG has permanently implemented a plan for Rural Development Alternatives with an agroecological approach. The plan currently has seven (7) areas:

### 1. Adaptation to Climate Change.

This area brings together a number of programs and projects, whose basic objectives are to increase resilience to problems arising from climate change that are affecting the territory such as droughts, floods, temperature rise and penetration of the salt water. Among the most important initiatives underway are:

**Agroecological Systems in Diques Altos (SADAS);**

For the design and installation of these systems we used the great cultural legacy of the Zenúes, who for centuries created and managed large areas of wet lands creating a network of open levees along the banks, which carried crops and establecías homes. Currently 19 collective SADAS operate throughout the territory of ASPROCIG, with an area of 240 hectares and 630 families; mostly fishermen and small scale farmers. SADAS family are estimated to

be in Operating about 360 units with a total area of 210 hectares.



These systems were tested in widespread flooding in the lower basin of the Sinu River during 2007 and 2010. They resisted appropriately to rising water levels, offering not only food for families benefit, but also a safe haven. The construction of both collective SADAS takes place in areas of high and medium risk of flooding, for which ASPROCIG has developed a comprehensive Community Information System geographic offers georeferenced information throughout its territory, establishing levels of flood risk , drought and salt penetration for each of the associated families.



### Family Biodiverse Agroecosystems - ABIF

The ABIF are spaces designed for life and happiness, making use of local biodiversity, ancestral knowledge, science and

technology as well as the immense wealth of sunlight available in the tropics. An ABIF is designed with at least 80 plant species grouped into six (6) categories: vegetables,



fruit, protective-producing, medicinal, ornamental and energy. All plants are arranged spatially with the purpose of leveraging as much as possible for the production of biomass and basic environmental services generation solar radiation. These systems are known as as being highly resilient to changes in temperature, floods, drought and salt wedge penetration, ensure food security of the family and the community, and contribute substantially to increase in household income. During the past 15 years we have designed and implemented ASPROCIG 1.350 ABIF throughout the territory. The ABIF generate other important externalities such as reducing domestic violence, more gender and generational conservation of common resources, decreasing flux of agricultural pollutants into natural ecosystems, security and regional food sovereignty and substantial changes between urban-rural relations.

### **Forest Restoration**

Since 2007 we have designed a methodology for forest restoration associated with the banks of the Sinu River, involving our communities directly in all processes of restoration, management, sustainable use and conservation. To date, 28 km of gallery forest in critical areas of the riverbanks in lower basin have been restored. The positive effects in reducing localized flooding by breaking banks are evident, among other benefits related to increased biodiversity and access to vital resources for local communities.



### **Restoration and Conservation of Strategic Ecosystems**

The organization anticipates permanent Community actions infield for the protection and conservation of wetlands and tropical dry forest, both lowland and hills. With advances in the Agroecosystem Family, biodiversity, agroecological systems in Diques Altos and forest fringes Gallery, have established important conservation corridors in the territory that have improved the health of mangroves, swamps and forests in the territory. Also a constant action to influence local authorities in fulfilling their duties of law to environmental issues remains.



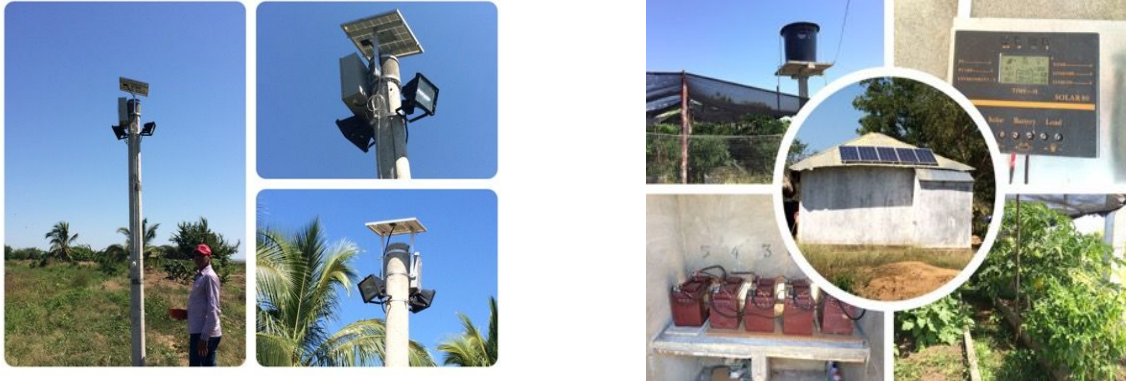
### Zenú Largescale Hydraulic System - Delta Zone

This is perhaps the biggest hydraulic system Zenú across the country. It began in 1998 and to date is under construction. It covers an area of 2,500 hectares in the municipalities of San Bernardo del Viento and San Antero. Benefits some 1,200 families from 16 communities. Has about 280 km of dikes and canals between major and minor, working in sync with the natural water cycles of the Sinu River.



### Application of Solar Energy for Water Supply, Irrigation, Lighting and Cooling

The use of solar energy has huge potential in the region and ASPROCIG makes strategic sense to achieve energy sovereignty of local communities, which undoubtedly will increase the resilience of the territory. Currently they implemented five pilot systems that provide energy for irrigation, lighting, water supply and cooling.



## 2. Water and Sanitation

In this area the problem of sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic conditions of family and community health in rural populations of the territory is covered. The priority is the design and implementation of solutions that incorporate ancient knowledge and ensure the management of services by users themselves. Among the main initiatives implemented are:

### Homes Combining Water

This strategy has succeeded in developing a complementary and comprehensive methodology for families living in scattered rural areas to access solidarity to water, both in high intensity rainfall or prolonged drought. 14 units have been implemented and are providing important information for future designs.



Community water systems with solar energy and decentralized water treatment



### Community Network of Cisterns

This is a strategy for water in hilly areas at high risk of drought. The tanks have a designed storage capacity of 30,000 liters of water, and water is harvested from houses to take advantage of the rains. They are located so that they may be supplied by tank trucks, and likewise can also network through direct interconnection. 5 units have been built since September 2014, which have delivered a total of 1,500,000 liters of water, which benefitted 780 families affected by drought in the municipality of Lorica.



### Irrigation System with Wastewater use and Solar energy

Currently, we have a pilot unit in the town of Purisima and is associated with the Agroecológico system in Diques Altos del AGROPESMUP group of this town.

### Family and Group Health Treatment Units

These units have been implemented, especially in areas affected by flooding, and are designed to ensure normal operation in extreme flood without generating any pollution. Since 2007 to date they have been built and are operating normally in about 135 households and 12 collectives.

## Home Filter Distribution

This has been a good strategy for immediate and temporary action to deal with flood situations and drought. To date we have delivered 6,200 filters to 6,200 families affected by floods or droughts.



## 3. Community Tourism

This area is oriented towards capacity building, infrastructure, and equipment for the creation of strategic corridors in providing tourist services directly by local communities without the intermediation of private operators. At the moment there have been important advances in two corridors: Marshes and mudflats; the

communities of Purísima, San Sebastián, El Playon, Palo de Agua, comprising Garavito and San Nicolás de Bari. Delta and mangrove; communities comprising Blind River, Family and Caño Grande.

## 4. Marketing and Exchange of AgroEcological Goods and Services



Since 2003, ASPROCIG has designed and implemented a Solidarity Marketing System to exchange agroecological products, known as SICIPA. The strategy is based on certification of trust, whose main



purpose is to establish direct links between consumers and producers, ensuring access to agroecological products at normal market prices and better profits for peasant families. This network of production and consumption currently manages volumes near 2,500 tons / year, through a circuit that starts with the family, continues with the community, then the surrounding urban areas and finally a Agroecológica Store located in Lorica.

## 5. Education



This area focuses on collecting and transferring cultural heritage in the territory to both current generations, and to new, as well as rural communities outside the territory who have interest in such knowledge. There are currently two programs that frame the objectives of the work

Throughout the country there are twenty Agroecological Schools, called Espirales. They are learning spaces for excellence where every associate attends monthly Agroecosystem Biodiverso Family training. Every step has a dynamic Agroecológica coordinated operation.

### **Agroecológica School for Peace.**

This program provides comprehensive training services in Agroecology for peasant families affected by armed conflict, enabling them to be able to return to earth, throughout the national territory. Peasant families are currently serving in southern Córdoba department in the municipalities of Ayapel, Montería Tierralta and Valencia.

## 6. Female gender and generational equity



Through this area ASPROCIG designs and implements permanent and transversal, and appropriate strategies for maintaining an active participation of women, youth, children and seniors in the overall of the Proposed Alternative Rural Development.

## **7. Institutional Development Community and advocacy.**

The area aims to strengthen local capacities to strengthen and maintain community organizational systems through processes of collective leadership, as well as the permanently designed advocacy strategies that enable partners of ASPROCIG to be considered as actors of the territory .