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Poster Presentation P64

**EL PROYECTO LA CEIBA-PILARES: CONSERVATION THROUGH
ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

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Wide-spread deforestation has had devastating effects throughout the world, leading to desertification and, in many cases, to species extinction. The dry forests situated along the coast of Ecuador and northwestern Peru are no exception to this problem. Named by Conservation International as one of the world's biodiversity "hot spots," this region is home to hundreds of endemic species. Thus, in 2001, Nature and Culture International (NCI), a NGO dedicated to the conservation of threatened ecosystems, purchased a large reserve in the border region between the two countries. With the aim of enhancing conservation efforts in the region, they initiated a program to provide technical assistance and economic alternatives to the 750 people living around the reserve. This poster provides an overview of a case-study of this program (El Proyecto La Ceiba-Pilares) and, in general, it serves as an analysis of conservation through community development. Based on ethnographic research conducted in the communities bordering the reserve, this poster examines the relations between NCI and the involved communities, as well as the consequences of this involvement.