

THE ROLL OF WATER IN BUILDING ALTERNATIVES TO RESOLVE CONSERVATION- LAND USES CONFLICT IN NATIONAL PARK LAS HERMOSAS, HIGH MOUNTAIN OF COLOMBIAN CENTRAL RANGE

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ABSTRACT

Knowledge of the complex of wetlands in the Central range of Colombian Andes is very limited, this owing to historic armed conflict in this mountainous region with altitudes above 4,000 meters covered for forest, paramos and lakes mainly. Only in the National Park Las Hermosas with 125,000 hectares, have been counted more than 300 lakes with different sizes from cartography scale 1:50,000. Peatlands and other kind of wetlands as part of this large net remain unknown. A lot of drainages have their origins in wetlands on the top of protected area, providing water for human consume, hydropower and agro-industrial in low lands densely populated. In this paper, I present a characterization of high mountain wetlands in National Park Las Hermosas as a functional model based in stakeholders participation to get a valuation of ecosystem services and mitigate pressures over conservation goals coming from land tenure and land use systems.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: High mountain wetlands, Protected areas, Conservation, Land use and land tenure, Conflict resolution