Summary
The fisheries management plan at laguna Fúquene
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The Laguna Fúquene is located in Colombia “Northern Andes area” of South America. It has a surface of 3000 ha, 2.5 depth, altitude of 2530 m, and near 180000 people are settled in its basin. The lake provides several environmental services: water for human consumption and watering, biological resources (fish, birds and rushes), habitat for endangered species, transport and recreation. Fishing at laguna Fúquene has been an ancestral activity being a source of food security and economic income to local level. Near 200 fishermen are reported at laguna Fúquene and 48 of them are permanent. Currently fishing is exercised over one native species (a catfish *capitán de la sabana* *Eremophilus mutisii*) and two introduced species, the carp *Cyprinus carpio* and the golden fish *Carassius auratus*. The fisheries management plan was formulated in 2005 and the entities involved are the fishing authority INCODER, the environmental authority CAR, the Fishermen Association Los Fundadores and the Fundación Humedales. This plan was approved by the fishing authority INCODER (2007) and some measures and activities were carried out: Formal declaration of lake Fúquene like management fishing area, protection endangered fish native species by implementation of temporal fishing ban, regulation of gears and limited fishermen number, rehabilitation of aquatic channels to improve fishing activities, developing complementary economic activities to fishermen (producing compost based on aquatic vegetation), implementation of participative fish monitoring system (since 2007) and holding meetings and agreements through the Fishing and Environmental Committee COPA (since 2007). The principal lessons learned are the slow institutional answer to the fishermen’s aspirations, the low education level that limits the participative processes, it is necessary to harmonize immediate necessities with future and integral solutions and the last one it is the high capacity of participation of the community in research studies. The recommendations are the implementation of the fishing management plan within an ecosystemic and participative approach and strengthening the activities of the COPA.

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