



**OUR JOURNEY
TO SUSTAINABILITY
ANNUAL REPORT 2016**

**REGIONAL OFFICE FOR MEXICO,
CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
IUCN-ORMACC**



MEMBERS OF THE SAN MARCOS COMMUNITY, GUATEMALA
©2014 PATRICIA UGALDE

Contents

I. Message from the Regional Director	04
II. Strategic Orientation and Outreach	06
III. Main Achievements in 2016	15
IV. Important Events	38
V. Strategic Alliances	43
VI. Our Membership	44
VII. Financial Summary	46
VIII. Knowledge Products	47
IX. IUCN in Action	55
X. Acronyms	56

I. Message from the Regional Director

2016: Our Journey to Sustainability



CHILD IN A COMMUNITY OF THE TACANÁ MUNICIPALITY, IN SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA
©2014 PATRICIA UGALDE

Our region is a lung of the world, and a heart beating vigorously; it is ancestral knowledge hand in hand with buoyant young people who seek opportunities to grow that generate wellbeing and protection for our main treasure: biological and cultural diversity.

We give you here a sample of the IUCN's work from this region in 2016. Our achievements were accomplished through alliances, commitments and actions woven with governments, civil society and the private sector. This report also reflects the IUCN's driving force: more than 1300 Members and 15000 experts that, alongside the Secretariat, continue leaving an indelible mark on the world.

This has been a year replete with completed goals and an IUCN that continues to thrive and grow. Our greatest features have been transparency, accountability and the results of impact. Indubitably, the path was marked by milestones, such as the regional knowledge and experience shared at the World Conservation Congress held in Hawai'i; the launching at United Nations of the Map on Indigenous Peoples, Protected Areas and Natural Ecosystems; the maps on regional forest restoration potential created together with governments and social actors; signature of the Selva Maya project to promote actions in the protected areas of Belize, Mexico and Guatemala; strengthening in the Caribbean to advance implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from their Utilization; and

regional projection at the COP-13, in Cancun, as some of the most noteworthy.

The IUCN in this region is the greatest ally of knowledge and wills, a fusion of 112 Members comprised of governments and civil society, almost 600 regional experts brought together in Commissions, and a dedicated and highly capable Secretariat.

During the 2016 World Conservation Congress and in the frame of the Hawai'i Commitments, more than 10000 government and civil society leaders confirmed that to make the transformation required for promoting a "Culture of Conservation" while respecting human rights and equity, we need to support and build constituencies for nature and address the way human societies are changing nature and our world.

In these pages, we invite you to discover and appreciate the force of the "Union" and ally yourself with those whose conscientiousness, enthusiasm and concrete actions contribute to a world that values and conserves nature for the benefit of its inhabitants and future generations.

We share this sample of collective actions and the power of dialogue and nature-based, equitable and fair solutions. We know that important challenges lie ahead in 2017, but also that these can be tackled through scientific and traditional knowledge, creativity, and union.

II. Strategic orientation and outreach

This region, comprised of Mexico, Central America and the insular Caribbean, has a vast diversity of flora, fauna and cultures. Considered mega-diverse and therefore one of the planet's greatest centres of endemic biodiversity, it possesses comparable wealth in its immense and complex sociocultural diversity, strongly influenced by important population growth contrasted by deep social inequalities and production practices that cause environmental degradation. It is also a region extremely vulnerable to climate change. Yet this is a land of promise and opportunity, thanks to the rich cultural and biological diversity and a burgeoning young population in search of a socio-environmental resilience that assures natural resource conservation and human wellbeing.

IUCN action in this region from 1988 to 2016 arose from 112 Members in 20 countries, 92 in Mexico and Central America and 20 in the Caribbean. Membership is highly diverse; most are civil society organisations, along with four State Members (Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama) and several government agencies, such as the Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic, the National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica, the Department of Environmental Management of the Mayoralty of Panama City, and Universidad de Ciencias Forestales, in Honduras. Governance structures, consisting of the two Mesoamerican and Caribbean Regional Committees and eight National Committees of Members, continue to strengthen.

The steady growth of Membership demonstrates interest in the core themes and strategies that the Union promotes and drives in the region. The Secretariat, with its regional office in Costa Rica and presence in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and the insular Caribbean, continues to develop.



LA MOSQUITIA CAY, NICARAGUA
©2015 PAÚL ARAGÓN

A Programme moving toward the 2017-2020 period

2016 was a year of programmatic transition as the IUCN 2012-2016 period wound down and the 2017-2020 cycle loomed ahead. Approved at the World Conservation Congress of Hawai'i, the structure of this new cycle aims at clear convergence with and contribution to the priorities of key global commitments, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Targets, particularly those addressing impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, livelihoods, rights and equity.

The three programmatic areas defined for 2017-2020 (Conservation–Governance –Nature-based Solutions) are thus framed in the continuum between conservation of biodiversity, conditions for its sustainable management and human development.



Regional contributions to the IUCN Programme 2013- 2016

During this period, the region contributed to the three thematic areas of the IUCN Programme through the following main lines of work:



I. Valuing and conserving nature

The region as a whole has contributed to knowledge management and the application of tools, standards and rules for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the region, along with promoting better planning and more effective management to help prevent or reduce biodiversity loss. Participatory management and integrated natural resource management in local and/or national planning systems stand out, with special emphasis on watersheds, protected areas and forest landscapes.

II. Effective and efficient governance of nature

Natural resource governance was fostered by implementing a rights-based approach to conservation for fairer and more equitable sharing of the benefits deriving from nature in priority geographical areas, most especially transboundary zones with shared ecosystems. Different forms of community or local governance (agreements, instruments, structures or social platforms) were strengthened and positioned, particularly to further recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants. Different experiences fostered ecosystem recovery, sustainable use and connectivity to improve livelihoods in local communities, along with innovative processes to strengthen civil society participation in natural resource governance and decisions.

MOTHER AND SON IN FOREST NURSERY, MUNICIPALITY OF TACANÁ, SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA
©2014 PATRICIA UGALDE

III. Natural solutions for socioeconomic challenges

Nature-based solutions were promoted to tackle the challenges of climate change, food security and socioeconomic development in the region, and incorporated in local, national and regional policies on both development and climate change. Good mitigation practices, adaptation and innovative mechanisms for economic investment were also encouraged at different levels, especially those associated with forest and water resources.



POTATO FIELDS, SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA
©2014 LUCIANO CAPELLI



MEMBERS OF A MICROBASIN COMMITTEE, SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA
©2014 LUCIANO CAPELLI

A regional action plan underway

In line with the Global Programme 2017-2020, in a highly participatory process with all of its constituents starting in 2015 and during 2016, IUCN-ORMACC defined the 2017-2020 Regional Action Plan for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean to support the IUCN global Programme from this region:

<https://portals.iucn.org/union/node/14022/9210>

The new action plan is aimed at:

- Scaling up initiatives for effective and equitable natural resource governance and nature-based solutions,
- Knowledge management and communication to strengthen policy and regulatory decisions at different levels and compliance with national, regional and international commitments,
- Multisectoral collaborative actions at different scales to achieve greater impacts on biodiversity conservation and the resilience and improvement of livelihoods, and
- Positioning of the region at global level through the contribution of information, frameworks, tools and validated methodologies.



FIELD WORKSHOP ON CACAO MANAGEMENT, GUATEMALA
©2014 ERIC AC

III. Main achievements in 2016

The section below presents a sample of the main results during this reporting period in each of the three thematic areas

of the Programme, summarizing advances, contributions and the roles performed by the Union's different constituents.

Programme area-1 Valuing and conserving nature

Anticipating climate

A coffee producer inspects his farm and wonders about climate forecasts so he can make decisions about the plantation. Mobile phone in hand, he connects with Coffee Cloud, an online application, for information from his country's coffee institute and up-to-date weather satellite data.

This is a real scenario thanks to one of the tools at Centro Clima <http://centroclima.org>, the regional platform of climate information for Central America and the Dominican Republic, generating scientific and meteorological information to reduce vulnerability and assist adaptation to climate change for different audiences, such as businesses in the private sector, indigenous communities, producers and policymakers.

Coffee Cloud, launched in 2016, was the first tool produced. This mobile app connects country coffee institutes and producers with regional climate information. They can also upload information on the state of their plantations to make informed management decisions as a climate adaptation measure. The coffee producer can calculate the risk of a plantation being struck by coffee rust or the berry borer. The app was developed with regional coffee institutes, especially Asociación Nacional del Café (ANACAFE) of Guatemala and Instituto del Café (ICAFE) of Costa Rica.

The second tool, still under development, is "Clima Pesca," a mobile app to collect information about the regional fishing situation through weekly reporting by fishers belonging to Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA). Users can access maps of ocean winds, surface temperatures of seawater and chlorophyll levels (important for indicating the presence of plankton).

A third instrument under design focuses on water and energy. It calculates electrical energy production from small hydroelectric plants (El Salvador).

Centro Clima is managed by the Regional Water Resources Committee (CRRH) and meteorological services in Central America and the Dominican Republic. It is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the frame of the Regional Climate Change Program led by CATIE, a Member of IUCN. Other IUCN Members also participated in its conceptualization, such as government agencies and the IUCN National Committees of Panama, Guatemala, El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. The IUCN Regional Office provided technical inputs through work-shops and information-gathering sessions.



LA MOSQUITIA CAYS, NICARAGUA
©2015 PAÚL ARAGÓN

Looking for data on Caribbean biodiversity

The need to improve governance and regular maintenance of Caribbean protected areas led to the creation of the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Gateway, <http://www.biopama.org/observatories>), a free, open-access platform launched in 2016 so that researchers, academicians, government conservation agencies and nongovernmental organisations can share and access maps, data and information on natural resources, biodiversity and protected areas management. Promoted by the BIOPAMA Programme, the portal is lodged at the Centre

for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), an IUCN Member organisation in Barbados.

So far, data are compiled from global sources such as the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), IUCN Red List and Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), but the aim is to continue expanding with new data sources.

Some of the most important progress by the end of 2016:

- Data on biological diversity (land birds and island lizards) for the North East Marine Management Area in Antigua and Barbuda,

- Socioeconomic assessments and management plans for some sites in the region, and

- Capacity to collect regional data from The Nature Conservancy's regional information system, CaribNode. Coral reef report files of the six Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) nations are an example.

The Caribbean Member organisations participating in the Gateway's creation and implementation include: CERMES UWI (Barbados), the Belize Audubon Society, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI -Trinidad and Tobago), Centro para la Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su entorno (CEBSE – Dominican Republic) and the Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic. Members of the IUCN Regional Committee for the Caribbean and the IUCN National Committee of the Dominican Republic have participated in consultation and training.

The IUCN World Protected Areas Commission forms part of the project, which is funded by the European Union's European Development Fund (EDF).

Trinidad and Tobago review the state of their biodiversity

Trinidad and Tobago had made a commitment to the Convention on Biological Diversity to revise their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) to comply with the Aichi Targets, mapped out in the Strategic Biodiversity Plan 2011-2020. With this emerged a new strategy for the 2017-2022 period; it includes the current state of biodiversity and legislative framework for biodiversity conservation and management, evaluates the implementation of the first strategy, and identifies lessons learned. The 5th National Report was produced alongside this process, updating the state of biodiversity, trends, threats and implications for humans.

As a result, improvements of the country's legislative framework to support biodiversity conservation (new policies such as the National Forest Policy and National Protected Areas Policy, for example) were identified. The revised NBSAP identifies strategies and actions for implementing the seven national goals prioritized through consultations at different levels.



FISHERMEN IN THE CARIBBEAN
©2015 PAÚL ARAGÓN

Some of the government's new goals for 2020 at the latest, are:

- At least 30% of the most important commercial fishes, invertebrate populations and aquatic plants will be managed and harvested sustainably.
- Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction will be identified and prioritized for action.
- At least 40% of priority terrestrial invasive alien species present will be controlled or eradicated at priority sites.

An implementation plan and communication strategy were also presented, to be incorporated in the National Biodiversity Strategy as guidance for the coordinating government agency in implementing and achieving the proposed actions.

This effort was funded through the Global Environment Fund (GEF). The Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods, IUCN Member, participated and contributed to the strategy consultation process.

Nagoya Protocol in the Caribbean

During 2016, IUCN held national and regional workshops on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits deriving from their Utilisation, with the participation of eight Caribbean countries: Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, and San Kitts and Nevis.

A review is being conducted of bioprospecting activities in the region, along with an assessment of legislative capacity for granting access to genetic resources in the Caribbean and sharing of their benefits.

As part of capacity building, technical assistance and policy influencing, the National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica (Member organisation) and organisations of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee received training in this subject. UNEP, with GEF funding, supported this process financially and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre provided technical advising.



CONSULTANT TEAM DURING ONE OF THE WORKSHOPS IN EL SALVADOR
©2016 HYACINTH ARMSTRONG-VAUGHN



BAHAMAS
©2014 CARMEL HAYES

Recovering the coasts of the insular Caribbean

The need to recover and conserve key Caribbean ecosystems spurred the design of 11 proposals for Saint Lucia, Granada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as part of a mechanism to access the competitive fund, “Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation in Caribbean Small Island State (5Cs)”. Projects approved as contribution to climate change adaptation in this first round will increase fish biomass in their areas of action and reduce the coastal erosion that threatens key ecosystems. Some of the most

significant actions are preparing climate change strategies, coastal restoration and protection, strengthening of livelihoods and community coastal management that includes coral reef restoration to increase the number of fish, restoration of a coastal lagoon (wetland) providing for local livelihoods (fishing and ecotourism), and the stabilization of riverbanks and coasts, among other actions. Member organisation Saint Lucia National Trust is one of the 11 beneficiaries of this financing Programme sponsored by KfW Development Bank.

Programme area-2

Effective and equitable governance of nature

Map of Central America shows indigenous peoples as ecosystem guardians

To shed light on the situation, reach of the indigenous peoples and biological wealth of Central America, IUCN prepared a new map of Indigenous Peoples, Protected Areas and Natural Ecosystems in Central America, the most complete ever produced on the region. The sixty-three different indigenous peoples in the seven countries occupy 38% of the land and marine surface of the Central American isthmus.

The map provides detailed information on water bodies and topographical elements not included in earlier geographical surveying. Previous maps were based only on satellite images unable to penetrate treetops or probe marine ecosystems. The new map includes the location of indigenous communities throughout the region, along with 948 recognized terrestrial and marine protected areas; 39% of those areas– some 96,432 square kilometres– are also home to indigenous peoples.

This new version is also the most complete ever produced on marine ecosystems in the region. It shows the wealth harboured in two oceans; 59% of all coral reefs, including the Mesoamerican Great Barrier Reef, 24% of mangrove forests and 71% of sea grasses are located in zones used

and inhabited by indigenous peoples, as well as 94% of sea turtle nesting areas and 18% of manatee viewing areas.

With text in Spanish and English on research results and graphic information with the names, populations and locations of indigenous peoples throughout the region, the map is designed to call upon and reveal the potential benefits of alliance-building between conservationists, governments and indigenous peoples of Central America. The ultimate and most important aim is to strengthen foundations for a rights-based approach to conservation, guaranteeing sustainable biodiversity use and respect for indigenous tenure rights.

More than 3500 people in these indigenous groups participated in 130 workshops held as part of the project, which lasted over two years. A highly trained, multidisciplinary technical team made up of indigenous researchers, cartographers and social scientists played an unprecedented role in the map's design and preparation, making history in modern mapmaking.

Financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Ford Foundation, the National Geographic Society and others, the map was prepared using last-generation satellite imaging technology, with unprecedented levels of participation by indigenous peoples. It also includes critical data on forest cover and protected area limits, provided by the Central American governments that cooperated in the map's creation.



IUCN Member organisations such as Centro para la Investigación y Planificación del Desarrollo Maya SOTZ'IL (Guatemala), AK TENAMIT (Guatemala), Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena (FPCI-Panamá) and the Mosquitia Development Agency (MOPAWI-Honduras) were involved in the consultation process. Members of the IUCN national committees of Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador and Nicaragua participated in consultations, trainings and publicizing of the map.



CONSULTANT TEAM DURING ONE OF THE WORKSHOPS IN EL SALVADOR
©2014 IUCN/ PATRICIA UGALDE

Deciding the future of transboundary watersheds

Phase 3 of Project BRIDGE planted the seeds of policy and technical instruments that will reap a productive harvest for sound governance of the transboundary Sixaola (Costa Rica-Panama) and Goascorán (El Salvador-Honduras) river basins.

This year the Binational Commission of the Sixaola River Basin approved the Territorial Development Plan for the basin area shared by Costa Rica and Panama, spanning 2890 km2. With technical accompaniment by the IUCN, more than 100 representatives of civil society, indigenous peoples and government institutions identified and prioritized binational actions for the basin's sustainable development over the next five years in tourism, environmental conservation, sustainable production, trade and other areas.

In El Salvador, the IUCN provided technical and analytical inputs for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (State Member) to apply the Legal Assessment Tool for Water Governance (LAGO) together with the private sector to advance analysis and approval of the Water Act bill.

In addition, the online course, "Water Governance and Climate Change with Basin Approach," was designed and implemented to provide theoretical and practical tools for improving legal, policy and institutional frameworks. The

course was aimed at key representatives of governments, nongovernmental organisations and community leaders in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama, with the support of the Central American Integration System's Instituto Centroamericano de Administración Pública.

This initiative is funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC), with technical support from the IUCN's Global Water Programme and Environmental Law Centre. Fundación VIDA is the implementing partner in the Goascorán River Basin (Honduras-El Salvador). The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador, the Ministry of Environment of Panama and Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, all State Members, received technical support and capacity-building, while the Honduran Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mines (IUCN Member) was supported in water governance activities, such as the second national meeting of basin councils and inputs to regulations of the Water Act.

Water management with a local imprint

On average, one thousand litres of water per second flow from Guatemala's Xayá-Pixcayá subbasin, supplying 50% of daily demand in the capital city. This microbasin, along with Mexico's Cahoacán basin, has benefited from the awareness of communities and sectors of local and national governments about the usefulness and relevance of the microbasin management approach, with its conservation and environmental management components, for forest landscape restoration and water production. Strategic public-private partnerships to manage these basins have been an important step for their consolidation.

Conservation efforts during the past three years included 380 000 trees planted to restore forest in the Xayá-Pixcayá subbasin, two community nurseries to produce 108 000 coffee plants for agroforestry systems in Cahoacán and four agro-production systems to enhance socioeconomic and environmental resilience, combining avocado with corn and peaches, pears and chamomile in Xayá-Pixcayá. Community members have monitored water quantity and quality at ten points in the Cahoacán and prevent any contamination.

The local payment for environmental services mechanism was also implemented during the past year. This, along with support from CONAFOR, made it possible to restore 767 hectares of pine and mesophilic-lowland rainforest, along with 3 176 hectares of agroforestry systems in nine ejidos in Cahoacán, benefiting 5 412 people.

The IUCN Global Forests Programme and Global Water Programme support activities in the Xayá-Pixcayá subbasin. Member organisations participating in execution and technical and policy support include: Sociedad de Historia Natural del Soconusco A.C. México and PRONATURA Sur A.C. (Mexico), Fundación del Bosque Tropical de Guatemala and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Guatemala). The Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, and Fundación Gonzalo Río Arronte I.A.P. from Mexico provided funding.



GOASCORÁN RIVER, HONDURAS
© 2012 MANUEL FARIA

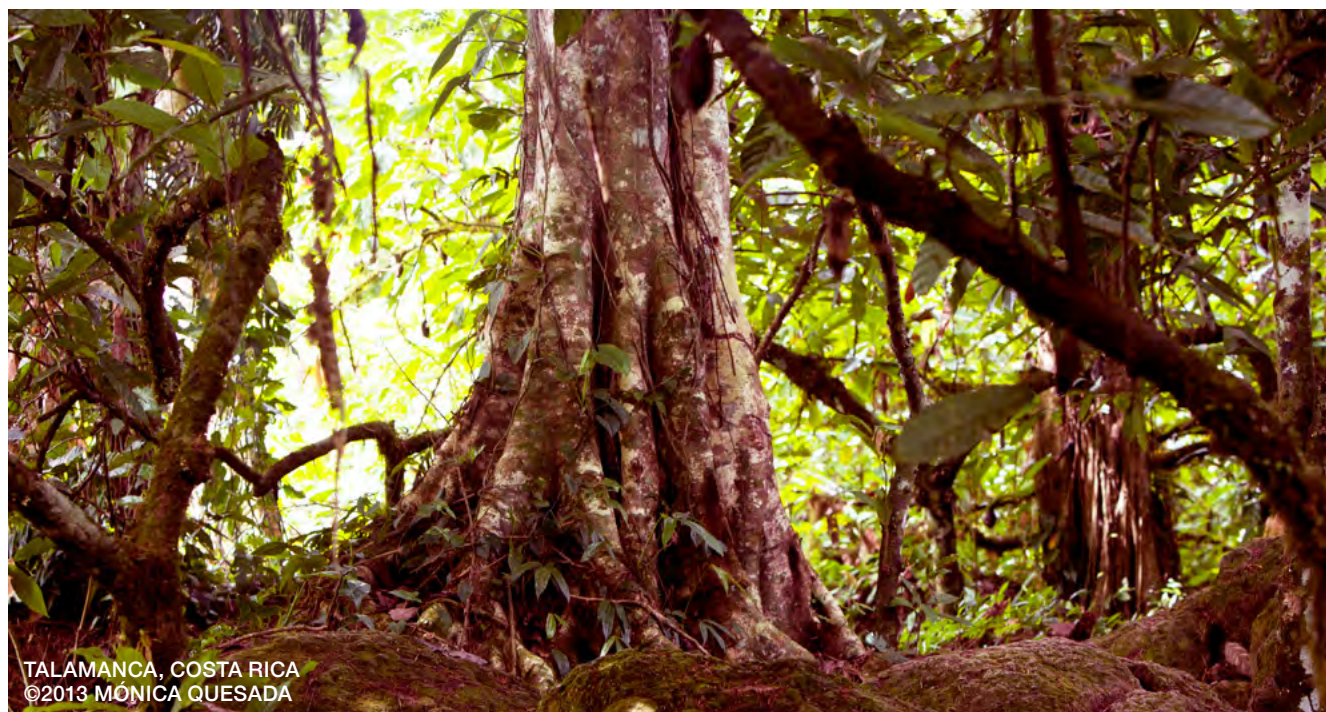
Communities share and discuss the benefits of prior and informed consultations on natural resources

When the residents of a community are consulted about a project to be implemented in their territory that will affect their quality of life or the natural resources available and have basic tools for making decisions, they feel a part and participants of the decision-making process to improve or maintain the provision of goods and services and foster respect for their rights in relation to conservation.

The guidelines for free, prior, informed consent—both regional and those constructed with and for indigenous communities and territories—have been aimed at sharing and promoting the implementation of self-determined methodologies, making these an effective governance tool for sustainable development efforts in the region. In line with their very essence, these guidelines were designed through a participatory methodology with local communities, indigenous peoples and local governments in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, as well as regional indigenous networks such as the Consejo Indígena de Centroamérica (CICA). In 2016, these guidelines were put in different types and styles of language

so they can be disseminated and shared with different audiences, from communities to government technicians.

This project is funded with the support of the USAID Regional Climate Change Program. Participating Member organisations were the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Learning Center (CATIE), leader of the project consortium, and FUNDALACHUÁ and SOTZ'IL (Guatemala), in the design and consultation process. Technical advising was provided for the Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic to review and draft the chapter on consultation in the REDD Strategy, and for the Honduran Ministry of Environment in training on legal aspects of consultation and FPIC in REDD processes. The IUCN National Committees of Guatemala, the Dominican Republic and Panama also participated.



TALAMANCA, COSTA RICA
©2013 MÓNICA QUESADA

Caring for forests through titling

In Guatemala's Esquichá watershed, a territorial governance system was established for sustainable microbasin management through the adjudication of titling for "onerous usufruct" and access to forestry incentives. Other measures include the design and execution of management plans, and women's participation in key decision-making spaces in the territory.

The land titles were granted to 13 communities in El Rosario and San Luis communal forests in the Tacaná municipality of San Marcos. These 95.2 hectares of forest will ensure water production and hillside stability, opening up access to the benefits of forest incentives from the Guatemala National Forests Institute (INAB). As part of the conditions, communities must reimburse 5% of all forestry incentives received to cover the municipalities' costs of technical follow-up.

Strengthening of the microbasin commissions had positive outcomes, since 80% of the women participate in and obtain benefits through the communal nurseries.

This project was possible thanks to the financial support of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).



SAN MARCOS DE GUATEMALA
©2014 LUCIANO CAPELLI



MEMBERS OF A MICROBASIN COMMITTEE, SAN MARCOS, GUATEMALA
©2014 LUCIANO CAPELLI

Programme Area-3

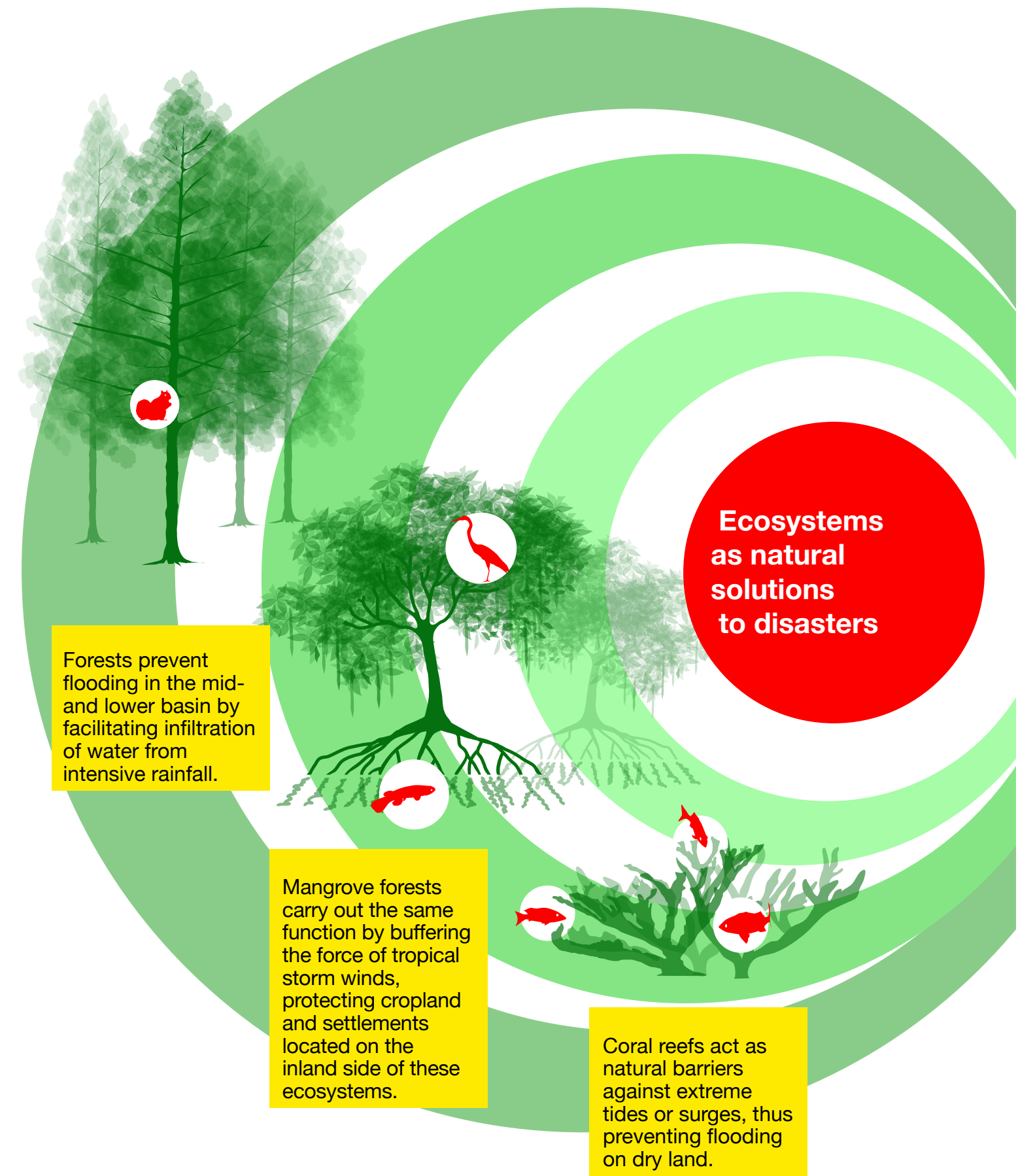
Nature-based solutions to societal challenges

Ecosystems, allies in disaster prevention

Nature itself can reduce risk from natural disasters. The region of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean is considered one of the most vulnerable to climate variability, according to the Global Climate Risk Index, which determines physical, social and economic vulnerability based on the human development index, access to basic services and exposure. Tropical storms, droughts, hurricanes and other hydrometeorological processes are more prevalent in the region due to its geographical location, combined with difficult socioenvironmental conditions that must also be tackled, such as poverty reduction, ecosystem recovery and restoration, and ensuring peoples' livelihoods.

The region has policies and regulations on climate change, land use planning and conservation, but there is still much to do, especially in terms of effective application and enforcement. The IUCN's Regional Evaluation Report 2016 on the ecosystem-based risk reduction approach explains these issues and will serve as the foundation for joint work with the Central American disaster prevention agency (CEPRENAC) to update the Regional Policy on Comprehensive Risk Management (PCGIR). This will involve national consultations with decisionmakers in each country on the steps to be taken.

This report was presented at a regional workshop thanks to support from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, an IUCN Member, along with participants in Mexico, Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and National Committee of IUCN Members in the Dominican Republic. The IUCN Global Ecosystem Management Programme provided technical assistance, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Japan's Biodiversity Foundation contributed funding.



Building communities with natural intelligence

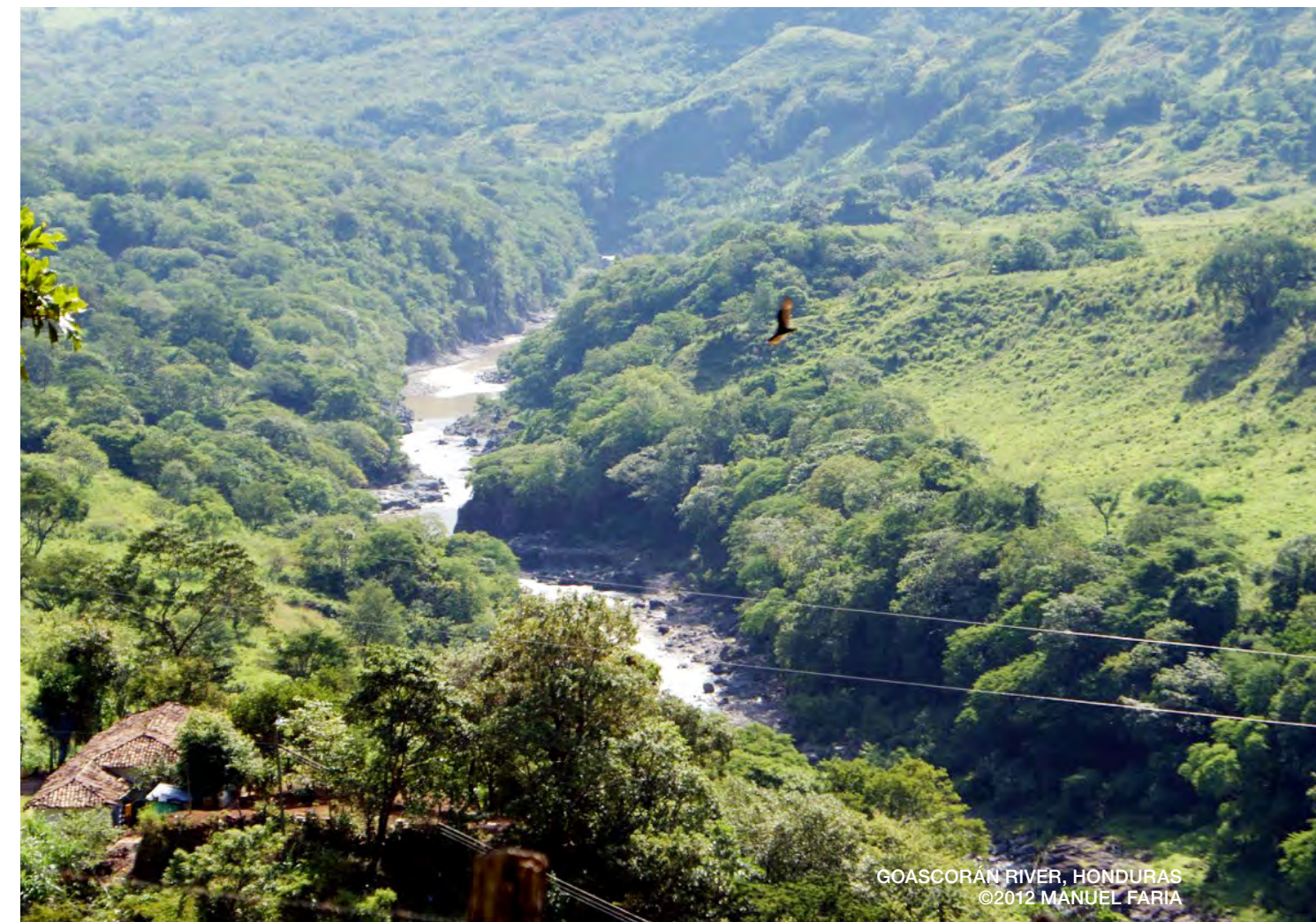
To generate knowledge, capacities and evidence of the benefits of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA), the IUCN has promoted measures for collecting the scientific and social information needed to identify nature-based solutions and improve food and water security in six countries of the region: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama.

Technical documents produced during this analysis include the regional inventory of adaptation projects, types and geographical locations; a baseline study on food security, water security and biodiversity conservation to address climate change in six transboundary watersheds; and a regional study entitled, "Characterization and Comparative Analysis of National Contributions" with concrete lessons related to EbA. The objective is to publicize the many benefits of EbA in a solid, scientifically verified, systematic and visually understandable way, promoting greater awareness of the importance of deploying nature-based solutions to reduce climate change vulnerability and strengthen decision-making in this area.

Communities received trainings and six participatory EbA plans in transboundary watersheds were designed. Five integrated farming systems were launched as a social production

system (generally comprised of families) that uses sound natural resource management to efficiently and sustainably integrate livestock-raising, farming and production activities. Four hectares of mangrove have also been restored in Chiapas, Mexico. As one of most important milestones of the year, the IUCN succeeded in including EbA in the Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico national climate change congresses.

This initiative receives financial support from the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB/IKI). The non-governmental organisations and government agencies, all IUCN Members, that participate include Fundación VIDA in Honduras, Salvadorean Ecological Unit in El Salvador, Sociedad de Historia Natural de Soconusco (Mexico), Corredor Biológico Talamancas Caribe (Costa Rica) and the Ministries of Environment of Costa Rica, El Salvador and Honduras. Technical collaboration is maintained with global IUCN entities, including the Commission on Ecosystem Management, the Environmental Law Centre and the Water and Ecosystem Management Programmes.



Community work on adaptation measures to improve water security in the Goascoran Basin

In Honduras, more than 900 families in the Goascorán river basin learned about the importance of appropriate technologies for positive impact in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (CCA-DRR). This includes water reservoirs, protection of recharge areas, drip irrigation, rooftop rainwater harvesting, soil and water conservation (trench-type hillside ditch) and practices like minimum tillage (stubble retention).

There are also 34 physical CCA-DRR works, such as water intake structures and storage tanks, designed, approved and under construction, benefiting 60 communities. Other achievements include the organisation of 12 microbasin councils, nine of which have

already drafted internal regulations, and the implementation of financial services mechanisms (rural funds with savings accounts, loans, capital contributions, etc.) for management of the Goascorán basin, including the development of technical and administrative capacities.

Goascorán Basin Project is funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC) with the collaboration and support of IUCN Member organisations in Honduras: the Secretariat of Energy, Natural Resources and Mines, Fundación VIDA, and Fundación para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural (FUNDER).

Forests, cacao and honey, allies for rural prosperity in Guatemala

Agroforestry systems with cacao improve the soil's organic content, regulate the water cycle, are more biodiverse, capture carbon, and conserve soil and nutrients.

Take a tour through the communities of the Lachuá Ecoregion in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, and the producers who stopped cultivating cacao ten years ago will tell how pleased they are with the results: there is work for their families and neighbours, and training on how to plant, care for and market seed. They export a good part of their harvest at competitive prices in the international market, and cacao is now a way to implement sustainable forest management. Earning up to US\$10 000 per hectare, agroforestry systems with cacao now provide a better livelihood than the subsistence agriculture (US\$60 per hectare) commonly practiced by rural communities, which include Guatemala's indigenous population. This has spurred the interest of national community platforms in cacao agroforestry systems that take advantage of forestry incentives programs—the Program and Incentives for Small Holders of Land with Forest and Agroforestry Vocation (PINPEP), for example, leading to the National

Strategy for the Cacao Agrichain of Guatemala launched in November 2016.

The IUCN focused its technical support on developing and implementing an array of technical instruments to improve yield and the primary transformation of cacao beans, promote the development of business models in agroforestry systems with cacao, and channel public and private resources mobilised for this activity.

Timber harvesting and apiculture have been introduced to complement income in rural communities. Income from honey and wood increase the profitability of the cacao agroforestry system, making it more attractive than agricultural activities, such as extensive ranching, that cause environmental problems. For this, a study was conducted on the current situation of apiculture in the Lachuá Ecoregion along with a plan for improving honey yield, to be implemented in March 2017. FUNDALACHUÁ, IUCN Member organisation, has formulated its business model for harvesting forestry species at smaller-sized diameters (trunks from thinning) on plantations under PINFOR (forest incentives program for owners of lands registered in the property registry, regardless of their size).

This project is funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), Fundación Argidius and USAID. FUNDALACHUÁ is the co-implementer of project actions to support indigenous communities belonging to the organisation.

Contributions to the Bonn Challenge in Mexico

State governments in the Yucatan Peninsula pledged to restore two million hectares by 2030 in the frame of the Bonn Challenge. This goal represents 49% of Mexico's intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) and will generate up to 2,1 billion dollars in net economic benefits per year while also contributing to Aichi Targets in the country.

The integration of the restoration agenda in REDD+ strategies of Mexican states opens up opportunity to restore an estimated 4,3 million hectares of degraded land in the Yucatan. For 3,4 million of these, restoration actions offer greater economic and carbon capture potential than current land use.



AGROFORESTRY FARM WITH COFFEE
©2014 LUCIANO CAPELLI

Funding for this initiative is provided by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), BMUB/IKI and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. IUCN has provided technical support together with PRONATURA-Sur A.C. and PRONATURA-Península de Yucatán A.C. These IUCN Member organisations developed the foundation of the geospatial model for Chiapas and Yucatan, respectively, as well as providing field training on restoration actions and the organisation of producer groups. Reforestamos México, Member organisation, collaborated in public policy influencing to ensure that landscape restoration is included in the REDD+ National Strategy, and advocacy with private investors interested in financing field actions contributing to restoration goals in Yucatan. Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica A.C. (IDESMAC), IUCN Member, was in charge of the livelihoods analysis to generate a restoration strategy that ensures and strengthens the livelihoods of rural communities in Chiapas.

Women informed about REDD+ in Guatemala

The main objective of REDD+ strategies is to reduce emissions produced by deforestation, and one way is to promote production systems that increase the value of forest over other land uses (like ranching). Such strategies generate economic benefits to owners or holders of forestland (carbon, wood and non-timber products).

Women and youth in the region normally do not participate in these benefits, so REDD+ implementing partners such as the World Bank and international forums like the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have established safeguards to ensure they are not excluded from future benefits arising from REDD+ strategies. One way is to promote forestry enterprises headed by women, integrating them in the value chain of such goods as honey, firewood and vanilla, for example. This requires training, market linkage, financing and technical support.

During 2016, with advising from its Global Gender Office, IUCN supported the construction of the

This initiative is funded by DANIDA, with the contributions and participation of the Guatemalan Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) and FUNDALACHUÁ.

national REDD+ preparation process with gender considerations so that Guatemala achieves its UNFCCC commitments, particularly in relation to REDD+. A group of 40 indigenous women leaders belonging to indigenous and/or community organisations were trained in basic aspects of REDD+ so they can participate more effectively in the national REDD+ process.

As one of the outcomes, a road map was constructed for incorporating gender considerations in each component of REDD+ preparation in Guatemala. Documents are undergoing pedagogical mediation to extend this knowledge and facilitate its transmission to users and local partners.



Opportunities for restoring millions of hectares in Mexico and Central America

Vulnerability to climate change and the connection between restoration, increased resilience and amelioration of the consequences of natural disasters make restoration highly attractive to governments and communities. For this reason, and given government and private sector receptivity, the IUCN is contributing actively to national Bonn Challenge commitments, identifying forest landscape restoration opportunities and promoting the participation of decisionmakers in base organisations, indigenous communities and actors in public and private forestry, agricultural and environmental sectors.

Areas offering restoration opportunity through natural resource conservation and sustainable

agricultural production have been identified on more than 13,5 million hectares in El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala, respectively representing 60%, 51% and 37% of each country's total territory. At subnational level, restoration opportunities in Mexico have been identified in the states of Yucatán, Quintana Roo and Campeche. Such areas have also been identified in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast, Nicaragua.

As a result, the Guatemalan government has established its national restoration strategy and those of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras and the North Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua are underway.

In El Salvador, an economic analysis was made of the different restoration transitions proposed by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) in its National Ecosystem and Landscape Restoration Program (PREP). The main objective was to understand the implementation costs of restoring production land-scapes and the benefits and co-benefits this can generate.

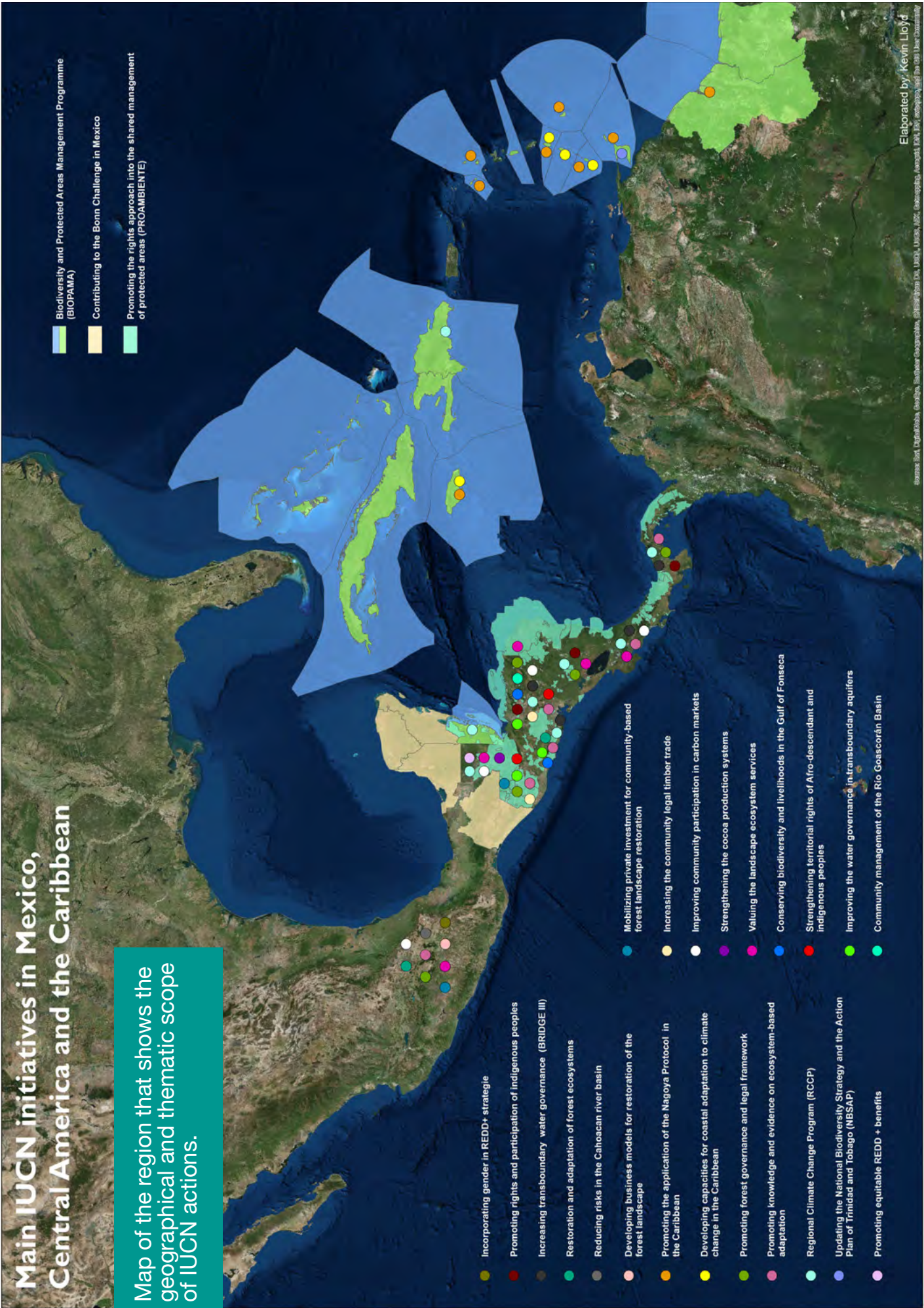
The analysis found that mangrove restoration offers the highest cost-benefit results, and green harvesting of sugar cane the lowest. Other profitable restoration actions include the renovation of high- and medium-altitude coffee plantations and the implementation of silvopastoral systems.

All restoration actions sequester carbon, and mangrove restoration is the most effective, with a positive carbon balance of 129 tonnes of CO2 per hectare.



FIELD VISIT, YUCATAN, MEXICO
©2016 IUCN, LUCIANA LUDLOW

This initiative is funded by Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID), USAID, BMUB and NICFI, and implemented with the technical support and collaboration of the IUCN Global Forests and Climate Change Programme, and Member Organisations: PRONATURA A.C., Reforestamos México, PRONATURA Península de Yucatán A.C. and Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica A.C., in Mexico; the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Fundación para el Desarrollo Integral del Hombre y su Entorno CALMECAC, Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza, Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación, Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala and Fundación Laguna Ecoregion Lachuá, in Guatemala; the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment, in Honduras; the Ministry of Environment and Energy, in Costa Rica; and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in El Salvador. The analyses of co-benefits were modelled with software (InVEST) developed by the Natural Capital Project of Stanford University and the University of Minnesota.



IV. Important events

JANUARY- FEBRUARY

Unión Indígena de Pueblos Indígenas Miskitu (MASTA) and Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras (COPINH)- organisations supported by the IUCN- received international recognition for their efforts to defend indigenous lands and natural resources. MASTA was awarded the Equator Prize, and COPINH the Goldman Environmental Prize.



BERTA CÁCERES, OF COPINH, MURDERED IN MARCH 2016
©2016 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE.

MARCH- APRIL

The National Forests Institute of Guatemala (INAB) officially launched the PROBOSQUE Law. The government recognized IUCN for its support during the process. With PROBOSQUE, the government will invest US \$39 million to restore 1,2 million hectares of degraded land.

Central American governments, authorities, meteorological institutes, private sector and international agencies were present at the launching of Centro Clima adaptation platform on March 3rd in San Salvador under the IUCN-USAID-RCCP project.

IUCN and the CEESP Working Group on Governance, Equity and Rights formulated a joint work plan for the 2016-2020 period promoting the Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF), aimed especially at indigenous territories in Mexico and Central America.

The IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law held the 1st World Environmental Law Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in which the Regional Director participated.

MAY- JUNE



PRESENTATION OF THE MAP AT THE U.N.
© 2016 NANCY ARROYO

IUCN participated in the 15th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York), where it launched the Map on Indigenous Peoples, Protected Areas and Natural Ecosystems of Central America.

Main implications of implementing the project “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in the Countries of the Caribbean Region” were shared during the meeting of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

JULY- AUGUST

IUCN supported the Ministry of Environment of Honduras in the organisation of the 2nd National Meeting of Basin Councils. The objective was to strengthen basin councils through the dissemination and systematization of experiences, to expand knowledge for better water resource management in the country.

The forum, “Successful Experiences in Rights, Shared Management and Sustainable Production in Protected Areas and the Lands of Campesinos and Indigenous Peoples in Central America,” held in Guatemala, served as the activity closing out Danish cooperation in the isthmus.



DIRECTOR REGIONAL GRETHEL AGUILAR, OF IUCN ORMACC, AND RIKKE ZEUNER, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE DANISH EMBASSY IN BOLIVIA
©2016 NANCY ARROYO

SEPTEMBER- OCTOBER

The IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, along with IUCN Members and partners, brought their experiences, knowledge and lessons to the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, through 58 events under the title, “Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean: A journey toward sustainability”.

Regional Guidelines on Consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent were launched in Costa Rica in September 2016 as part of the forum “Tools for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Outcomes and Outputs,” organised by the USAID Regional Climate Change Program.

At the request of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, IUCN completed the 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity and reviewed the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Project AVE: Adaptation, Vulnerability and Ecosystems, co-organised and participated in three national congresses on climate change (Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras).

NOVEMBER- DECEMBER



MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OF GUATEMALA, SYDNEY SAMUELS, AND IUCN DIRECTOR GENERAL, INGER ANDERSEN
©2016 NANCY ARROYO

Participation in the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, with two side events: “Promoting the rights-based approach into conservation processes: ABS and consultation processes,” and “Protecting Selva Maya”.



From Panama to Hawai'i: A common voice for global challenges

During three days in September 2015, the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum drew representatives of IUCN nongovernmental organisations, governments and experts of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean to Panama City. Participants shared valuable experiences and lessons en route to the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, in September 2016.

For the first time at a regional forum in this area, the event opened with a knowledge-sharing session so that the more than 300 participants from nongovernmental organisations, governments, academic entities and private business could exchange experiences and good practices in conservation and sustainable development with IUCN Members, commission experts and the regional office.

Discussion also focused on regional governance matters, and a first approximation

of regional priorities for the 2017-2020 work plan contributing to the IUCN Programme.

At this first stop on the way to Hawai'i, the Membership selected candidates for regional councillors who would later be ratified at the General Assembly of the World Conservation Congress. Froilán Esquinca, of Mexico Member organisation, Sociedad de Historia Natural del Soconusco, was elected Chair of the Mesoamerican Regional Committee of IUCN Members for the 2015-2019 period.

Climate change was one of the most important topics at the forum, and a priority issue in discussions of interest to government, private sector and civil society representatives. Other top themes included the role of indigenous peoples in conservation and their importance for the IUCN, and the relevance of governance and strengthening of local work and management. All of these issues would be addressed again in Hawai'i later on, indicating that such concerns were shared by other regions and experts.

Our journey to Hawai'i

“In Hawai'i voices joined together to dialogue about a planet at the crossroads. Now the sails are set, and together with the winds of youth, indigenous wisdom and scientific knowledge, we will drive actions for a just world that values and conserves nature.”

**Dr. Grethel Aguilar,
IUCN-ORMACC**

Our Membership, with proposals and lessons from this region were met with great receptivity upon our arrival in Hawai'i. More than 10 000 leaders of government, civil society, indigenous peoples, spiritual and religious traditions, and the business and academic sectors participated in a meeting of historical significance in Hawai'i from 1 to 10 September 2016. In these ten days of activities, IUCN-ORMACC engaged in and was part of 58 events, including workshops, e-Posters, high-level sessions, Knowledge Cafés, Conservation Campus and presentations on successful conservation cases. The region maintained a constant presence through its exhibition stand. Along with the many other activities, the Regional Director attended a formal sitting of the Hawai'ian Supreme Court.

Three leaders of organisations connected with IUCN's regional work received very gratifying acknowledgement for their accomplishments. Sésar Rodríguez, Executive Director of Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano, Member

organisation of the Dominican Republic, received the “Hotspot Heroes” prize awarded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), and Ramiro Batzin accepted an award for Guatemala's Centro para la Investigación y Planificación del Desarrollo Maya SOTZ'IL from the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) for its work promoting biocultural conservation among communities and Maya indigenous in Guatemala and other Mesoamerican countries. Dr. Bernal Herrera, Vice-chair of the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) of Mexico, Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean received a CEM Chair's Award for ecosystem conservation and management work in the region.

One of the success cases shared was the experience of Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación de Guatemala (FUNDAECO) in projects promoting sexual and reproductive health as a necessary strategy for protected area and natural resource management, as well as proposals for high-sea governance arising from the case of the Costa Rica Thermal Convection Dome. Guatemala's FUNDALACHUÁ presented the “Madre Chocolate” bar and shared knowledge acquired about agroforestry chains with attendees from all over the world. The role of local governments, communities and other non-state organisations in protected areas management was explored in a case presented by the Panama delegation. Other notable cases included models of financial sustainability proven successful for Caribbean protected areas, and a research project on jaguar conservation with biological, legal, cultural and social components, while FUNDECOR (Costa Rica) shared solutions and challenges related to forest landscape restoration.

Along with the IUCN Global Programme 2017-2020, the World Conservation Congress resulted in the Hawai'i Commitments, an innovative document that sets out a path for conservation and sustainable development in the next decades.

The Regional Councillors

The World Conservation Congress Hawai'i 2016 also saw elections of Regional Councillors, who pledged to commit their time and energy to this important function for the IUCN's development and progress during the 2016-2020 period. Our region will be represented in the IUCN Council by:

MESOAMERICA

- ▶ Marco Vinicio Cerezo (Guatemala)
- ▶ Líder Sucre (Panama)

CARIBBEAN

- ▶ Sixto Incháustegui (Dominican Republic)

This team of regional environmental leaders will be at the IUCN's service sharing their expertise, experience and knowledge. For more information visit:

<https://portals.iucn.org/congress/assembly/candidates/intro>



MARCO VINICIO CEREZO



LÍDER SUCRE



SIXTO INCHÁUSTEGUI



REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM, PANAMA
©2015 TITO HERRERA

V. Strategic alliances

Thanks to our donors, who recognise that for this region rich in biological and cultural diversity it is crucial to achieve natural resource conservation goals that raise the quality of life of our people and contribute to a better planet. Our main donor partners contributing to the IUCN Programme in the region are:



VI. Our Membership

The region's remarkable cultures and geography converge in a common interest: to address the main environmental challenges of Mesoamerica and the Island States.

Members play a vital role in the implementation of the IUCN work plan. These organisations have ample capacity, knowledge and a permanent presence in the countries where the Union promotes its work Programme. IUCN Members are the heart, the main engine, driving natural resource conservation.

New Members:

The following organisations joined the Union in 2016:

Costa Rica

- Corporación Educativa para el Desarrollo Costarricense (CEDECO)

Panama

- Environmental Management Unit of the Mayoralty of Panama
- Fundación Amador-BIOMUSEO

Mexico

- Fondo para la Comunicación y Educación Ambiental A.C.
- PRONATURA-Sur
- Fondo de Conservación El Triunfo A.C.

Honduras

- Fundación para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural (FUNDER)
- Universidad de Ciencias Forestales (UESNACIFOR)
- Secretaría de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas (MIAMBIENTE)

Guatemala

- Fundación Patrimonio Cultural

y Natural Maya (PACUNAM)

- Alianza de Derecho Ambiental y Agua (ADA)

With these new organisations, there are now 112 Members (92 in Mexico and Central America and 20 in the Caribbean) comprising the force of the Union in our region.

List of Members:

Bahamas

- Bahamas National Trust

Barbados

- Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies

Belize

- Belize Audubon Society
- The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Centre
- Protected Areas Conservation Trust
- Association of Protected Areas Management Organisations

Bonaire

- Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance

British Virgin Islands

- National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands

Costa Rica

- Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía
- Asociación Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de Agroforestería Comunitaria de Centroamérica
- Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad
- Fundación MarViva
- Programa Restauración de Tortugas Marinas
- Preserve Planet
- Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional

- Asociación Conservacionista de Monteverde

- Departamento de Ambiente, Paz y Seguridad - Universidad para la Paz

- Asociación Terra Nostra

- Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza

- Asociación de Organizaciones del Corredor Biológico

- Talamanca Caribe

- Asociación Mesoamericana para la Biología y la Conservación

- Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central

- Asociación Costa Rica por Siempre

- Centro de Derecho Ambiental y de los Recursos Naturales

Cuba

- Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre
- Sociedad Cubana para la Protección del Medio Ambiente

Curaçao

- CARMABI

El Salvador

- Fundación Salvadoreña de Desarrollo y Humanismo
- Maquilishuatl
- Salvadorean Ecological Unit
- SalvaNatura
- Asociación Salvadoreña Pro-Salud Rural
- Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de El Salvador

Guatemala

- Fundación para la Conservación del Medio Ambiente y de los Recursos Naturales Mario Dary Rivera
- Asociación Amigos del Bosque
- Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza

- Asociación Rescate y Conservación de Vida Silvestre

- Fundación Solar

- Fundación del Bosque Tropical

- Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación -FUNDAECO

- Asociación para la Recuperación, Manejo y Saneamiento Ambiental

- Centro Mesoamericano de Estudios sobre Tecnología Apropiada

- Fundación para el Desarrollo Integral del Hombre y su Entorno - CALMECAC

- Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de Guatemala

- Fundación para los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala

- Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala

- Fundación Laguna Lachuá

- Asociación Ak'Tenamit

- Centro para la Investigación y Planificación del Desarrollo Maya Sotz'il

Haiti

- Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine

Honduras

- Agencia para el Desarrollo de la Mosquitia
- Comité para la Defensa y Desarrollo de la Flora y Fauna del Golfo de Fonseca
- Fundación Hondureña de Ambiente y Desarrollo VIDA

Jamaica

- National Environment & Planning Agency
- Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

Mexico

- PRONATURA, A.C.

- Faunam A.C. / PG7

- Fundación Mexicana para la Educación Ambiental A.C.

- Fondo para la Biodiversidad CONABIO

- Instituto de Medio Ambiente y Comunidades Humanas de la Universidad de Guadalajara

- Herpetario de la Facultad de Ciencias - Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

- Reforestamos México A.C.

- Instituto de Derecho Ambiental, A.C.

- Forest Stewardship Council A.C.

- Sociedad de Historia Natural del Soconusco

- Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental

- Grupo Ecológico Sierra Gorda I.A.P.

- Instituto de Ecología (UNAM)

- Centro Regional de Capacitación del Agua Las Yerbos-

- Fundación de Apoyo Infantil Guanajuato, A.C.

- Biofutura A.C.

- Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

- Fondo Mexicano para la Conservación de la Naturaleza, A.C.

- Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica, A.C.

- Hombre Naturaleza, A.C.

- Pronatura Península de Yucatán A.C.

- Espacios Naturales y Desarrollo Sustentable A.C.

- Fondo Pro-Cuenca Valle de Bravo A.C.

Nicaragua

- Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo del Sureste de Nicaragua - Fundación del Río
- Fundación Museo Archipiélago de Solentiname
- Fundación Reserva

Esperanza Verde

- Asociación de Cooperación Rural en África y América Latina

- Asociación Club de Jóvenes Ambientalistas

Panama

- Asociación Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameño

- Fundación Parque Nacional Chagres

- Parque Natural Metropolitano

- Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales

- Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza

- Fundación para la Protección del Mar

- Sociedad Audubon de Panamá

- Ministerio de Ambiente

- Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena

- Centro de Incidencia Ambiental

Puerto Rico

- Para la Naturaleza

Dominican Republic

- Fundación para el Mejoramiento Humano

- -PROGRESSIO

- Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano

- Grupo Jaragua

- Centro para la Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su Entorno

- Fundación Sur Futuro, Inc.

- Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo, Inc.

- Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

St. Lucia

- Saint Lucia National Trust

Trinidad and Tobago

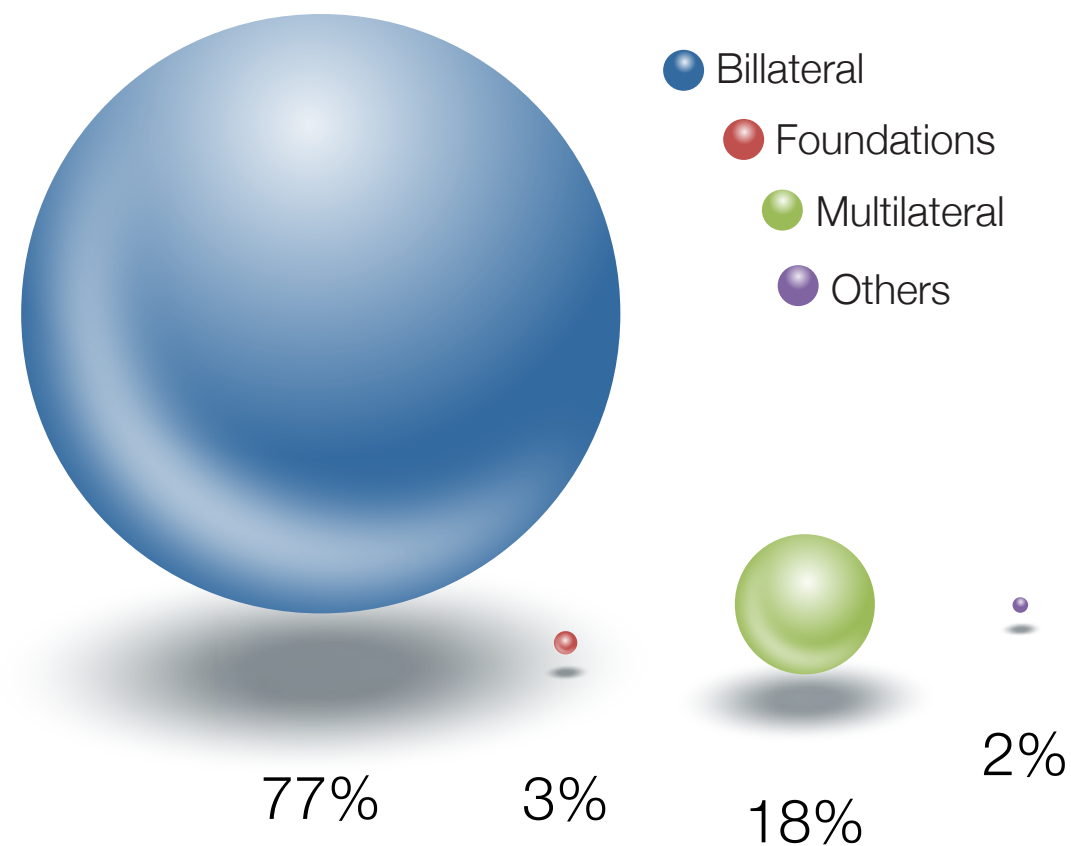
- Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

VII. Financial summary

The IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean signed 12 new project agreements in 2016 for an additional US\$3 million, bringing the total portfolio to US\$39, 4 million. Al together, 33 projects were executed with an annual budget of US\$8, 9 million.

Efforts to step up our work in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean have borne fruit. Our donors have believed in the IUCN's work and, with our partners, have joined this united effort to carry out projects on the ground and in coordination with governments.

Donors 2016



Source: IUCN-ORMACC

VIII. Knowledge products

PUBLICATIONS

► Estudio de caso “La Cuenca del Río Sixaola: Costa Rica y Panamá. Llegando a acuerdos para fortalecer la cooperación transfronteriza”

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/bridge_sixaola_english.pdf

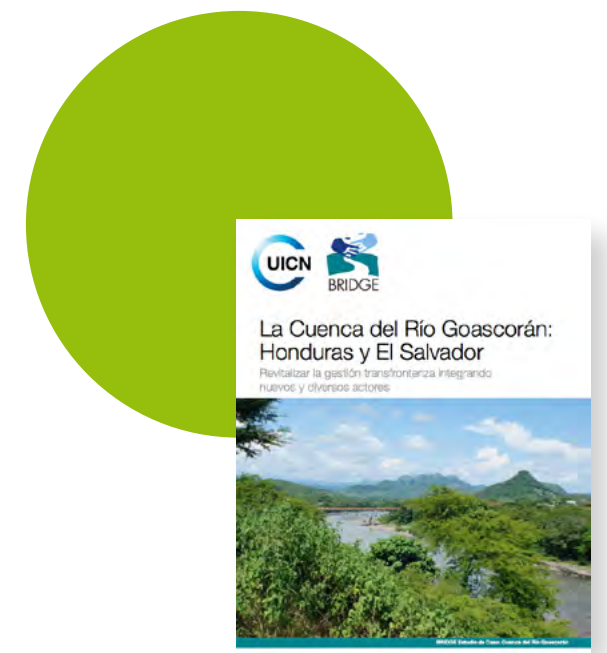
Description of Project BRIDGE's intervention to strengthen the Binational Commission of the Sixaola River Basin, and the problems, advances and future challenges this entity faces in promoting sustainable binational management of the basin.



► Estudio de caso “La Cuenca del Río Goascorán: Honduras y El Salvador. Revitalizar la gestión transfronteriza integrando nuevos y diversos actores”

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/bridge_goascoran_english.pdf

Synthesis of support from Project BRIDGE for multi-level dialogue among stakeholders in the Goascorán River Basin to promote binational management.





► Estudio de caso “Contribución del AVA-FLEGT al fortalecimiento de la gobernanza forestal en Honduras”

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46160>

Seventeen countries are now participating in the European Union's Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) to help solve problems directly affecting forests, such as illegal logging and sale of timber. Honduras was the first nation in Latin America and the Caribbean to enter negotiations for a voluntary partnership agreement (VPA), marked by the political will of the government and stakeholders in the forest sector to use this instrument as a means of improving forest governance. The study gauges advances in those negotiations and their contribution to strengthened forest governance in Honduras and systematises the information collected, with suggestions for the process underway.



► Restauración funcional del paisaje rural: manual de técnicas

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46141>

This handbook on regional rural landscape restoration strategies was prepared as part of the IUCN's efforts to generate technical inputs supporting such initiatives in Mesoamerica, aimed at reducing vulnerability and mitigating climate change effects. The guide defines landscape restoration as the process of recovering the functions of degraded ecosystems and social participation in the landscapes to be restored as crucial element. The object is to improve community livelihoods based on ecosystem goods and service in a landscape. The restoration approach in this handbook aims for landscape that is attractive and healthy to replace one that is not, strengthening resilience and environmental functions by implementing a mosaic of agroforestry and ecological techniques to strengthen landscape recovery capacity. This document is a tool for anyone interested in restoring degraded ecosystems: owners, professionals, students and responsible politicians.

► Guía “¿Qué leyes e instituciones se relacionan con REDD+ en la Península de Yucatán, México?”

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46134>

This guide defines the legal and institutional framework supporting the planning and implementation phase of benefit-sharing mechanisms to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) in the Yucatan Peninsula. It is based on a review of reports, research, laws, documents, consultancies and informational materials in Mexico and the Yucatan.

► Libro “Análisis del marco legal para la implementación de mecanismos de distribución de beneficios REDD+ en México”

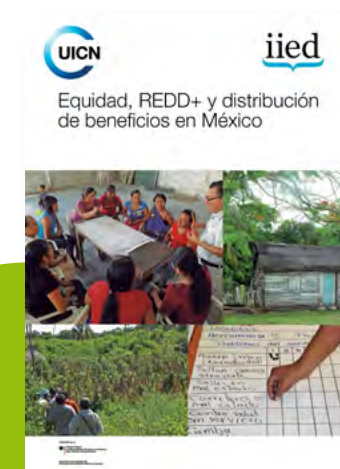
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46129>

This book identifies legal aspects to be generated or modified so that REDD+ benefit-sharing mechanisms can be implemented, underscoring opportunities in Mexico's legal and institutional framework for this purpose.

► Reporte Ejecutivo: “Equidad, REDD+ y Distribución de Beneficios

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46377>

To help strengthen equity in the Mexico REDD+ Strategy, IUCN and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), in collaboration with CONAFOR, implemented the Equity, REDD+ and Benefit-Sharing Initiative, which was adapted to the country context and needs. Its objective was to generate information about equity in REDD+ and make recommendations to ensure that REDD+ implementation in Mexico, and benefit-sharing in particular, is equitable by taking into account and adhering to the nation's special characteristics. This executive report presents the main research findings.





► Guía de lineamientos “Pasos básicos para el proceso de consulta y consentimiento libre, previo e informado en la Península de Yucatán”

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46130>

Basic guidelines that can be revised and tailored to the cultural context of each indigenous territory, ejido or community where public consultation will take place for free, prior and informed consent.



► Estudio “Evaluación de Género y Desarrollo Sostenible en la Península de Yucatán, México”

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/ST-GFE-no.06.pdf>

This study identified achievements and progress in mainstreaming gender approach in national and state legislation and policy on sustainable development, environment and climate change in the Mexican states of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan.



► “Design of pro-poor REDD+ interventions and benefit distribution systems for the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico”

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46363>

This book discusses potential for designing pro-poor systems for benefit-sharing from the reduction of emissions deriving from deforestation and forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable forest management and increase of forest carbon stocks in the Yucatan Peninsula (states of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan), Mexico.

► Lineamientos para la Consulta y Consentimiento Libre, Previo e Informado en el marco de las salvaguardas ambientales y sociales para proyectos REDD+ (español)

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2016-041.pdf>

These regional guidelines promote self-determined methodologies for making Consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent an effective governance instrument in sustainable development efforts. They were designed using participatory methodology with local communities, indigenous peoples and local governments in priority areas of Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, and with the indigenous peoples networks (CICA) at regional level.

► Protocolo para la elaboración de un plan de gestión territorial en México

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46133>

Proposes protocol for creating territorial management plans that include REDD+ activities and/or landscape restoration in Mexico

► Regional assessment on ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and biodiversity in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean

<https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/mesoamerica.pdf>

This report explains the current economic and social situation of the region (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean) and its vulnerability to natural, especially hydrometeorological, events such as hurricanes, tropical storms, drought and flooding due to its geographical location. In addition, the region's economic situation decreases resilience and increases social vulnerability. Based on case studies from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, the report promotes an ecosystem-based approach to risk reduction, in which ecosystems provide protection in natural events and reinforce the resilience of local communities.



VIDEOS

► The Nagoya Protocol. A Caribbean Perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Efau1sAKw>

This video facilitates understanding of the Nagoya Protocol concerning access to genetic resources and a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from their use. It is a call to action for Caribbean countries to use this international legal instrument to improve their genetic resources and obtain greater economic and social benefits, not only for protection of biodiversity protection, but also sustainable economic and social development, respect and recognition of the culture and traditional knowledge of their local communities and society in general.



► Aportes para la mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático (Spanish)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWNj9acD7DA>

This video describes the IUCN's regional work in the frame of the USAID's Regional Climate Change Program, in the key areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation and support for preparing REDD strategies with methodologies, tools and restoration actions that also guarantee social safeguards.



► Video Explicativo de Adaptación basada en Ecosistemas (Spanish) Explanation of ecosystem-based adaptation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLrTt0jOc2w>

► Video Institucional Nuestra Cuenca Goascorán (Spanish)

Includes interviews with the main basin stakeholders, highlighting the Programme's importance and need for bringing other actors into the work.



OTHERS

► Map of Indigenous Peoples, Protected Areas and Natural Ecosystems in Central America (Spanish and English)

<https://uicnormacc.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>

The map is designed to be a useful tool for government agencies, conservationists, academicians, indigenous peoples and donors. It reveals the close relation between indigenous peoples and biodiversity conservation actions, and opportunity to forge create alliances for ensuring better conservation and sustainable development actions, with respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and the promotion of equitable access to and sharing of benefits. The map is accompanied by a brochure with the data obtained and explains the methodology used for preparing the map.



► Lineamientos para la Consulta y el Consentimiento Libre, Previo e Informado (CLPI) (spanish)

Video describing the construction of regional guidelines for Consultation and Free, Prior and Informed Consent. It explains the various stages, methodological pillars and proposed steps of consultation.



► El Camino hacia la Consulta y el Consentimiento Libre, Previo e Informado en la Ecorregión Lachúa

Brochure that explains consultation and free, prior and informed consent, the legal framework in which these rights are protected, and proposed steps for carrying out consultation in adherence with existing legislation and own forms of governance and customary rights. Document aimed at communities in the Lachúa Ecoregion, Alta Verapaz, and Guatemala.

- Project AVE factsheet: the objective, worksites and expected outcomes in the timeframe established. The factsheet is designed to accompany formal presentations about the project in explanatory meetings and events. https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/factsheet_ave_0.pdf
- Update and translation by Project AVE of four issue briefs to inform the region's decisionmakers about international fora where relevant conservation topics are discussed.
- Final report of the Trifinio Aquifer Project explaining the approach, stakeholders, area of work and results
- Graphic brochure on the work of Project BRIDGE

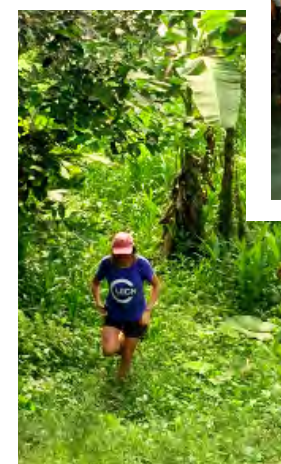


► Centro Clima: Sistema Regional de Información Climática para Centroamérica y República Dominicana (Centro Clima in Spanish, Coffee Cloud in English)

<http://centroclima.org/>

Centro Clima is a regional climate information system for decision making by users at different scales, from the government and private sector to local users and communities. It is an online platform for sharing data, information and good practices of regional climate forecasting to reduce vulnerability and adapt to climate change. Centro Clima supports decisions by different actors: politicians, technicians, scientists, indigenous communities, producers, businesses and donors. Coffee Cloud is the first tool launched by Centro Clima in 2016, an app enabling coffee producers to make concrete decisions about best practices for managing their property based on technical and climate data and information.

IX. IUCN in action



©EDUARDO JULIA



X. Acronyms

Anacafé

Asociación Nacional del Café de Guatemala

AVE

Adaptation, Vulnerability and Ecosystems project

BMUB

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany

BRIDGE

Building River Dialogue and Governance Project

CAD

Consortio Ambiental Dominicano

CALMECAC

Fundación para el Desarrollo Integral del Hombre y su Entorno

CANARI

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

CATIE

Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Learning Center

CCA-DRR

Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction

CEBSE

Centro para la Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su entorno

CEESP

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

CEM

Commission on Ecosystem Management

CEPF

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

CEPREDENAC

Centro de Coordinación para la Prevención de los Desastres Naturales en América Central

CERMES

Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies

CICA

Consejo Indígena de Centroamérica

COPINH

Consejo Cívico de Organizaciones Populares e Indígenas de Honduras

DANIDA

Danish International Development Agency

DFID

Department for International Development of the United Kingdom

EbA

Ecosystem-based adaptation

EDF

European Development Fund

FPCI

Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena

FUNDAECO

Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación de Guatemala

FUNDECOR

Fundación para el Desarrollo de la Cordillera Volcánica Central

FUNDER

Fundación para el Desarrollo Empresarial Rural

GBIF

Global Biodiversity Information Facility

GEF

Global Environment Facility

ICAFE

Instituto del Café de Costa Rica

IDESMAC

Instituto para el Desarrollo Sustentable en Mesoamérica A.C

INAB

National Forest Institute of Guatemala

KFW

German Development Bank

MARN

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador

MASTA

Unión Indígena de Pueblos Indígenas Miskitu

MOPAWI

Mosquitia Pawisa Apisk

NBSAP

National Biodiversity Strategy and its Action Plan (Trinidad and Tobago)

NEPA

National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica

NICFI

Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative

NORAD

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

NRGF

Natural Resource Governance Framework

OSPESCA

Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano

PCGIR

Política Regional de Gestión Integral del Riesgo

PINPEP

Programa e Incentivos para Poseedores de Pequeñas Extensiones de Tierra de Vocación Forestal y Agroforestal

PREP

Programa Nacional de Restauración de Ecosistemas y Paisajes

REDD

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

SDC

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

UICN-ORMACC

Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature

WDPA

World Database on Protected Areas

USAID

United States Agency for International Development

CREDITS:

Published by the IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, San Jose, Costa Rica

All rights reserved: © 2017. International Union for the Conservation of Nature
The designation of geographical entities in this report, and the presentation of the material, do not represent the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Cover photo:

Laguna Lachuá National Park, Guatemala
©2014 Patricia Ugalde

Editing: Patricia Ugalde

Design by: Argotipo, Costa Rica

Translation: Leslie Simmons

Printing: Grupo Nación (San Jose, Costa Rica) on Shiro Alga Carta, recycled fibres and FSC certified fibres

About IUCN



SEED FAIR IN TALAMANCA, COSTA RICA
© 2016 PABLO CAMBRONERO, UICN

IUCN is a Membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of 1 300 Member organisations and some 15 000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad Membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

<http://www.iucn.org/>
<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>



**INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)**

Regional Office for Mexico, Central America
and the Caribbean (ORMACC)
P.O. Box 607-2050
San Pedro de Montes de Oca
San José, Costa Rica
Phone: +506 22 83 84 49
Fax: +506 22 83 84 72

www.iucn.org

