



Biological Corridors Project

Implementation of the National Program of Biological Corridors within the framework of the National Biodiversity Strategy

The challenge

Costa Rica seeks to be one of the first countries to achieve the Aichi Targets (2020) established in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). To achieve this, the country has a National Biodiversity Strategy 2016 - 2025 and an Action Plan for the Adaptation of the Biodiversity Sector to Climate Change (2015-2025), which establishes biological corridors as pillars for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The implementation of the strategy and the plan results in a great challenge for the country.

Thanks to the National Program of Biological Corridors (PNCB), state environmental programs are implemented not only in the protected wild areas, but also outside them.

The task of the PNCB is complex since it aspires to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources for the benefit of society. To achieve this, the Ministry for the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE) and the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) must create spaces for dialogue involving multiple actors in the management of biological corridors (through the figure of local committees) and provide processes to coordinate the different interests at the local, regional and national levels. The challenge is to create and apply instruments to effectively establish and conduct these multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms.

The promotion of sustainable production systems and the diversification of economic activity in the corridors depend on financial resources not yet existing, which demonstrates the need to create innovative financial mechanisms and apply adequate economic incentives to achieve these changes.

By order of	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) of Germany within the framework of the International Climate Initiative (ICI)
Region	Costa Rica
Counterpart	Ministry for the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAE)
Duration	07.2014-06.2020

Objective

The main objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities for the sustainable use of biodiversity and ensure the provision of ecosystem services in the biological corridors of Costa Rica.

Partners and target group

The political counterpart of the project is MINAE and the partner responsible for the execution of the project is SINAC. The target group is the local population that lives and performs productive activities in the territory of the biological corridors.

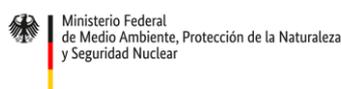


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Strategic axes

Through the project, SINAC, local governments, the private sector and civil society work on the following lines of action:

1. Development of technical, administrative and framework conditions at a national level.
2. Strengthening local dialogue and negotiation platforms for the management of biological corridors.
3. Implementation of financial instruments and mechanisms.
4. Communication and knowledge management.

First achievements and impacts

- Framework conditions: The new Decree of the PNCB declares the biological corridors and their intersectoral management of "public interest".

A system for monitoring the management effectiveness (Scorecard) of the PNCB was installed.

-Strengthening dialogue platforms: The baselines of 15 biological corridors were developed in conjunction with the local committees. Thirty biological corridors have studies of fragmentation of the forest cover, elaborated in the framework of a virtual training to the technical staff of SINAC. This information is the basis for the participatory development of management plans in 15 prioritized corridors.

-Financial mechanisms: The Public Services Regulatory Authority (ARESEP) has reformed the design of the water tariff in order to internalize the cost of sustainable management of the country's aquifers.

At present, assistance is provided to the ASADAS of 2 biological corridors for the preparation of cost plans and requests for collection of the tariff to the ARESEP.

The potential of the rate in additional income is calculated in approx. US \$ 35 million annually for the benefit of close to 1,000 ASADAS. 30% of the country's aquifers are in the territory of biological corridors.

In the framework of a strategic alliance with the CRUSA Foundation (CR-USA Foundation for Cooperation), US \$ 500,000 have been secured to be invested in "Green Economy" projects in the territories of the biological corridors.

Since December 2016, a pilot process of sustainable local economic development in the Los Santos Biological Corridor has been implemented in collaboration with the NAMA Café Project. Discussion tables have been established and are being held to improve coffee production systems and sustainable tourism in the area, generating concrete proposals for change projects.

-Communication: The concepts and strategies used by the Project in national and international events (for example, COP Egypt 2018) have been presented. In cooperation with Deutsche Welle a short film of the Project was produced: <http://www.dw.com/es/conectar-la-fauna-de-costa-rica/a-19165720>

More than 800 people (technical staff, SINAC officials and other institutions and local actors) have been strengthened through courses, "coaching" and change projects in their capacities to more efficiently manage the biological corridors.

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www.sinac.go.cr

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