

Implemented by:



In cooperation with:



Business and Biodiversity

in Central America and Dominican Republic

Supporting the private sector in **integrating** aspects of **biodiversity** in business activities

Challenges

Central America covers only 1% of the Earth's surface, however, it is home to over 8% of the world's biodiversity. This biodiversity is threatened by the transformation of natural ecosystems, deforestation, the irresponsible exploitation of natural resources, and climate change.

Central American states have responded to these problems and to the threats to biodiversity by developing sectoral and regional policies and their respective implementation strategies. They have also established important institutional structures at national and regional levels. However, the desired change cannot be achieved only through public programmes. It is imperative for the private sector to be actively and sustainably involved in biodiversity protection.

The successful implementation of international agreements and the commitments undertaken by the countries depend, to a large extent, on the willingness and capacities of private entrepreneurs to take actions towards their implementation. Sectors such as tourism and agriculture, as well as their value chains, play an important role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Approach

The main office of the programme is located in Costa Rica and its political counterpart is the Central American Integration System (SICA, by its acronyms in Spanish), which assigned the execution of the project to the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD, by its acronyms in Spanish).

Program name	Business and Biodiversity in Central America and Dominican Republic
On behalf of	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (UE).
Region	Central America and Dominican Republic.
Partner	Central American Integration System (SICA, by its acronyms in Spanish) and Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD, by its acronyms in Spanish)
Term	5 years (April 2014 to July 2019)

This institutional link forms the basis for the involvement and collaboration of the partners in the process of formulating and designing regional and national policies and strategies, and their implementation.

With the objective to systematically involve the private sector in the conservation of biodiversity, the program supports the actions of the CCAD in the implementation of the Regional Environmental Framework Strategy (ERAM, by its acronyms in Spanish) 2015-2020, in the strategic lines related to business and biodiversity.

With the objective to support business networks in Central America and the Dominican Republic, like the Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM), a range of services are created, such as access to financial mechanisms and the development of tools that support the private sector.





Results

The program has accomplished the establishment of 29 public-private partnerships (PPP) which account for an investment of 3.4 million EUR by the private sector alone.

An example of such PPPs is the "Sustainable banana" project that is developed in coordination with the German company Cobana Fruchtring. The objective of this project is to raise awareness among companies and encourage the use of sustainable and innovative agricultural techniques that go beyond those promoted in standard certifications in the banana sector. This objective is achieved by cooperating with farmers in Ecuador and Costa Rica.

The project "Biodiversity in action: Costa Rica" is supported by the German tour operator Travel to Nature and strives to establish a biological corridor between the hotel La Tigra Rainforest Lodge, the adjoining nature reserve Bosque La Tigra, and the private reserve Children's Eternal Rainforest through various reforestation measures. The two above mentioned PPPs are co-financed by the developPPP program of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Another initiative promotes private sector investment in coastal marine biodiversity in three countries: the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Haiti. Through the engagement of several stakeholders, this project

implements measures to restore and diversify coral reefs. Furthermore, it includes the development of innovative tourism products and promotes new employment opportunities in the communities and industries related to the tourism sector. This project is co-financed by the European Union and can count on significant investments by the tourism sector in the three countries.

In addition, the program has developed a practical and accessible tool that contributes to improving biodiversity management in the private sector: the *Biodiversity Check*. Thanks to its flexibility, it can be easily adapted to different sectors, such as tourism and agriculture.

The Biodiversity Check Tourism (BCT) has been applied in 31 tourism companies in the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica and in three tourism destinations. In addition, five "Training of Trainers" (ToTs) have been carried out during which 79 consultants have been trained in the use of the tool.

By applying the BCT, the company can analyze its current situation regarding the impacts and risks related to biodiversity and obtain recommendations about goals and short and medium term measures that can form part of an Action Plan for Biodiversity, usually embedded in an environmental management system or quality management system.

On the other hand, the Biodiversity Check Agriculture is aimed at promoting strategies for the conservation

Published by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	In cooperation with	Central American Integration System (SICA) and Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD)
	Head offices in Bonn and Eschborn, Germany	On behalf of	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
	GIZ Costa Rica Apdo 8-4190 1000 San José svenja.paulino@giz.de www.giz.de/costarica	Division	315 Central America
Author(s)	GIZ		
Design	GIZ		
Updated to	April, 2019		
GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.			



and management of biodiversity, through the implementation of Action Plans that incorporate measures at the level of plantation, farm and landscape. For this purpose, training workshops for experts from Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic are carried out in both countries. Thanks to this experience, these experts will obtain the necessary knowledge to implement the first Biodiversity Checks in their respective countries.

