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**ECOREGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL  
LATIN AMERICA**

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**ANNUAL REPORT 1999**

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# Ecoregional Programme for Tropical Latin America

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## 1. Project Overview

**Objective:** To promote an active participation of CGIAR Centers in rural development processes at different ecoregions in Tropical Latin America (TLA)

**Outputs:** CGIAR Centers improve their support to local and national organizations operating in rural areas of different ecoregions to implement research and development. CGIAR Centers, rural development organizations and national and regional networks actively exchange methods, products and experiences, and implement joint research activities on ecoregional issues. Rural development organizations working in regions different than TLA benefit from the experiences and expertise developed in TLA

**Gains:** A regional network (The Ecoregional Network) linking organizations and people in Latin America related with conservation and rural development, serving as a mechanism to exchange information, as a forum to analyze issues of common interest and as a tool to implement joint work among countries. Monitoring and evaluation approach and methods available to make assessments in different fields (organization, projects, sustainability). Joint initiatives on natural resources and sustainable development monitoring under implementation with partner organizations.

### **Milestones:**

- 1999 Establishment of the Ecoregional Network. Development of Project assessment tools. Support to other CGIAR Projects on planning, monitoring and evaluation. Organization of a regional workshop to share experiences and extract lessons about rural development processes led by communities.
- 2000 Routinary operation of the Ecoregional Network. Project monitoring and evaluation training. Case studies on natural resources and sustainable development monitoring published. Development and validation of institutional assessment tools started. Organization of a regional workshop to share experiences and extract lessons on innovative funding mechanisms for rural development processes. Publication of workshop findings.
- 2001 Routinary operation of the Ecoregional Network. Institutional assessment tools tested and validated. Regional workshops to share experiences and extract lessons continued, as well as the publication of the workshop findings.

**CGIAR system linkages:** Protecting the environment (70%), Policies (20%), Biodiversity (10%)

**CIAT Project linkages:** Ecoregional Programme activities to assist PE-3, PE-4, PE-5, SN-1.

## 2. Project Logframe

### ECOREGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL LATIN AMERICA LOGFRAME 1999-2001

PURPOSE / OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>ECOREGIONAL PROGRAMME PURPOSE</p> <p>CGIAR Centers participate actively in rural development processes in different ecoregions of Tropical Latin America (TLA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CG Centers involved actively in at least 6 local rural sustainable development initiatives (LoRSDI), different than the Reference Sites</li> <li>• At least 10 specific CG research outputs being used to solve specific problems of LoRSDIs</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports from the organizations active in LoRSDIs</li> <li>• Field verification</li> <li>• CG Projects Research Reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of funds</li> <li>• Acceptance of the Ecoregional approach by Centers</li> </ul>
<p>OUTPUT 1. PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>Local and national organizations operating in rural areas of different ecoregions are supported by CGIAR Centers in implementing research and development with an ecoregional approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local and national individual or consortium partnerships including at least 25 organizations supporting LoRDIs established in at least 6 places in TLA</li> <li>• At least 15 partner organizations supported on planning, assessment and fund searching out of the Reference Sites</li> <li>• Ecoregional Network operational and active</li> <li>• Collaboration with at least 3 ecoregional consortia</li> <li>• Partnerships developed in at least 3 strategic ecoregional issues*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports from partner organizations</li> <li>• Field verification</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of funds</li> <li>• Agroecosystem consortia (CONDESAN, Hillsides, PROCIs) perform the stakeholder consultation function effectively</li> </ul>

PURPOSE / OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p><b>OUTPUT 2. EXCHANGE</b>            CGIAR Centers, rural development organizations and national and regional networks actively exchange methods, products and experiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training materials on ecoregional issues* developed, tested and available for use</li> <li>• At least 50 members of partner organizations trained on ecoregional issues*</li> <li>• Regional experiences on at least four ecoregional issues* systematized through practitioner workshops and emerging lessons available through the Ecoregional Network and publications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports from partner organizations</li> <li>• Training Materials</li> <li>• Workshop Proceedings</li> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Ecoregional Network Website contents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of funds</li> </ul>
<p><b>OUTPUT 3. RESEARCH</b>            CGIAR Centers, international, national and local organizations implement joint research activities on ecoregional issues*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint research in at least five ecoregional issues*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Reports</li> <li>• Papers</li> <li>• Presentations in meetings</li> </ul>	<p>Funding availability</p>
<p><b>OUTPUT 4. INTERNATIONAL PROJECTION</b>            Rural development organizations working in regions different than TLA benefit from the experiences and expertise developed in TLA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least one meeting and three exchanges with non-TLA Ecoregional Programmes</li> <li>• Participation in at least 2 non-TLA initiatives on ecoregional issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meetings Proceedings</li> <li>• Non-TLA partners Reports</li> <li>• Trip Reports</li> <li>• Publications</li> </ul>	

PURPOSE / OUTPUTS	INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	ASSUMPTIONS
<p>OUTPUT 5. CIAT ACTIVITIES            CIAT management requirements are fulfilled by the Ecoregional Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of Annual Report</li> <li>• Preparation of Annual Workplan</li> <li>• Fulfillment of Staff Performance Evaluation</li> <li>• Programme Management</li> <li>• Participation in other planning, review and evaluation activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Report</li> <li>• Annual Workplan</li> <li>• Performance Evaluation Forms</li> <li>• Other documents</li> </ul>	

\*Ecoregional issues: relevant issues for every ecoregion. These issues are identified annually by the Programme and added to this list. To avoid dispersion the list of ecoregional issues will not exceed 5 issues. For 1999, the list of ecoregional issues includes:

- analysis and synthesis of landscape and ecoregional units
- project and impact assessment
- sustainable use of biological diversity
- stakeholder-based approaches to resource management at the watershed (local) scale
- upscaling processes

### **3. Highlights 1999**

During 1999, several advances have been made in different fields, on which detailed information is given in Section 4. From amongst them, the following are highlighted:

- Organization of the Ecoregional Network, linking more than 1600 organizations and people throughout Latin America related with rural development and conservation of Nature and natural resources. The Network combines an open Website with e-mail operations to foster the exchange of information among its members and to promote joint intellectual work across borders.
- Preparation of a Handbook on Project Assessment, based on actual experiences from Latin America, and working jointly with regional experts and organizations. The joint work included two workshops (Cartagena, December 1998, and Cali, April, 1999), as well as an intensive work through e-mail facilitated by the Ecoregional Network
- Completion of the field work of a project to research the existence of native organizations at the community level related with landscape management in San Dionisio, Nicaragua. Preliminary analysis seems to show that there is none. All the existing community organizations in the two different areas surveyed were established by external organizations and projects.

### **4. Progress Report**

The advances made during 1999 are summarized in the following table.

**LOGFRAME OUTPUT: Ecoregional partnerships**

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 1999	TEAM	MORE INFO
<p>Strategy to develop local Consortia for rural development (jointly with Hillsides Pr.) <i>Preliminary talks only, due to need to concentrate on strengthening local organizations first.</i></p>	10%	A. Imbach	
<p>Strategy for local development of at least one Reference Site developed by a Local consortium <i>Planned to be done in San Dionisio, Nicaragua. Postponed until 2000, due to the need to strengthen local grassroots organizations first.</i></p>	Postponed	A. Imbach	
<p>Ecoregional Directory of the Ecoregional Network <i>Done. Publication available. 400 entries fully documented. 1,200 e-mail entries</i></p>	100%	I. Gutiérrez	Annex 1
<p>One electronic publication with results from electronic forum <i>In process. There is a list-serve with more than hundred Central American specialists on coastal areas, discussing and agreeing on criteria for monitoring coastal areas. Jointly with IUCN-Central America that provides the expertise on coastal issues.</i></p>	40%	I. Gutiérrez A. Imbach R. Córdoba (IUCN)	
<p>Various agreements for joint research (IUCN, IDRC) <i>Agreements signed: CATIE: cooperation on impact assessment, and</i> <i>Agreements under negotiation: IDRC cooperation on impact assessment, IUCN cooperation on monitoring and evaluation, and IUCN cooperation on coastal areas sustainability assessment.</i></p>	70%	A. Imbach T. Ammour (CATIE) F. Carden (IDRC) N. MacPherson (IUCN) R. Cordoba (IUCN)	



<p>Technical support to partners</p> <p><i>MADEBOSQUES: Project logframe Von Humboldt National Forest, Peru</i>  <i>CATIE: Planning of the Impact Assessment Unit</i>  <i>F.Bariloche: Participatory assessment of the sustainability of the Municipio of Bariloche (Argentina)</i>  <i>IUCN: Monitoring sustainability of coastal areas in Central America</i></p>	300%	<p>A. Imbach  C. Bouroncle (PN)  T. Ammour (CATIE)  A. Abalerón (FB)  R. Córdoba (IUCN)</p>	
<p>Strategy to develop National and Regional Hillside Consortia (jointly with Hillside Project)</p> <p><i>Completed, presented at the Consortia Meeting in Managua</i></p>	100%	<p>A. Imbach  J.I. Sanz  J.A. Beltrán</p>	
<p>Report of the first meeting of the Hillside National Consortia</p> <p><i>Completed, prepared by the Hillside Project. This meeting included participants from both Nicaragua and Honduras. Work is being done to have separate Consortia (networks) operating with the facilitation of the Ecoregional Network with Hillside Project input</i></p>	90%	<p>A. Imbach  M. Ayarza  J.A. Beltrán  I. Gutiérrez</p>	
<p>Opening message to the Regional Hillside Consortia</p> <p><i>Postponed until National Consortia are strong. It was too optimistic to plan both for the initial year.</i></p>	Postponed	A. Imbach	
<p>Proposal for actions with CONDESAN</p> <p><i>Not done yet, just preliminary talks with CONDESAN representative in Colombia, some mutual support and information exchange</i></p>	20%	<p>A. Imbach  R.D. Estrada (CONDESAN)</p>	
<p>Proposal for actions with IICA's PROCIs</p> <p><i>Not done yet, just attendance to some joint meetings in CIAT</i></p>	10%	<p>A. Imbach  R. Posada</p>	

## LOGFRAME OUTPUT: Exchange

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 1999	TEAM	MORE INFO
<p>Draft Handbook on project assessment</p> <p><i>Completed. Available at the Ecoregional Network ftp site</i></p>	100%	A. Imbach	
<p>Final Handbook on project assessment</p> <p><i>Advanced draft completed. Final version expected in December. To be published next year</i></p>	80%	A. Imbach I. Gutiérrez	
<p>Project Assessment Workshop Report</p> <p><i>Practitioner experts Workshop organized in April (jointly with IUCN) to review and complete the draft Handbook. Workshop Report in Spanish and English completed and distributed as hard copy to participants. Document available to everybody at the Ecoregional Network ftp site</i></p>	100%	A. Imbach I. Gutiérrez L.P. Torres	
<p>Evaluation of the Project Assessment Training Course by participants</p> <p><i>Training Course to test Handbook organized to be held next November in Bolivia</i></p>	90%	A. Imbach I. Gutiérrez	
<p>Proceedings of the Workshop on Stakeholder-driven development processes</p> <p><i>The first Workshop on lessons learned. Planned to host both peasants and staff from the facilitator organizations on parallel sessions. Workshop postponed from August 1999 to February 2000 due to unexpected high number of participants (designed for 40 people, more than 100 applications received). All case studies received and made available to participants through the Ecoregional Network ftp site. List-serve in operation to agree on questions to be tabled at the Workshop.</i></p>	70%	A. Imbach I. Gutiérrez L.P. Torres	
<p>Invitation to Innovative Funding Mechanisms Workshop</p> <p><i>Postponed until previously mentioned Workshop is completed</i></p>	20%	A. Imbach	

## LOGFRAME OUTPUT: Research

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 1999	TEAM	MORE INFO
<p>Joint research proposal on landscape analysis</p> <p><i>A joint research proposal to identify native grassroots organizations operating at the landscape level was developed and funded jointly between the Ecoregional and the Hillside Projects. Field work completed in Nicaragua. Data being analyzed.</i></p>	150%	A. Imbach L. Hurtado	
<p>Joint research proposal on impact assessment</p> <p><i>Preliminary talks maintained with the IDRC Evaluation Unit during 1999. There was a visit from IDRC last December and a visit to IDRC in March. Progress has been slower than planned. Expected to start next year. IUCN expected to join the effort.</i></p>	60%	A. Imbach F. Carden (IDRC) N. MacPherson (IUCN)	
<p>Ecoregional syntheses methodology draft document</p> <p><i>The concept was to define Ecoregions for Latin America and then to define a methodology to characterize those ecoregions. Finally the work merged with the work agreed to support CIAT Strategic Planning. Ecoregions are already defined, but the methodology to study them is not, yet.</i></p>	70%	A. Imbach M. Winograd P. Jones A. Farrow	
<p>Ecoregional syntheses case study paper</p> <p><i>Postponed until having the above mentioned methodology</i></p>	20%	A. Imbach	
<p>Proposal of impact indicators for CIAT</p> <p><i>Completed. Presented as an input to the CIAT Impact Assessment Working Group. Document available from the authors</i></p>	100%	A. Imbach M. Winograd	
<p>Quarterly Progress Reports on CIAT Impact Assessment Working Group</p> <p><i>The Group met twice during 1999 (March and June). September meeting canceled. Progress Report from March meeting available.</i></p>	50%	A. Imbach	

**LOGFRAME OUTPUT: International Projection**

<b>MILESTONE</b>	<b>ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 1999</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>MORE INFO</b>
<p>Trip reports on exchanges with CGIAR Ecoregional Programmes and other international organizations</p> <p><i>Trips were not made due to time and financial constraints.</i></p>	0%	A. Imbach	
<p>IIED Report on Rural Planning</p> <p><i>A paper on Rural planning in Latin America was prepared, submitted and accepted by IIED to be part of a book about that theme. Presently in press.</i></p>	100%	A. Imbach	
<p>Trip report on participation on OECD-DAC Initiative on National Strategies for Sustainable Development</p> <p><i>The meeting, planned during the last meeting of the group in late 1998, was not organized by OECD-DAC. No reasons given.</i></p>	n.a.	A. Imbach	

**LOGFRAME OUTPUT: CIAT Activities**

<b>MILESTONE</b>	<b>ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 1999</b>	<b>TEAM</b>	<b>MORE INFO</b>
Annual Workplan <i>Completed. Presented on time. Document available.</i>	100%	A. Imbach	
Mid-year Report <i>Completed. Presented on time. Document available</i>	100%	A. Imbach	
Annual Report <i>Completed. Presented on time. This document</i>	100%	A. Imbach	
Staff performance evaluation report <i>Completed. Presented on time. Document available</i>	100%	A. Imbach	
Annual workplan outputs achieved within budget limits <i>Reasonably achieved, as shown in this Report, and within budget limits</i>	90%	A. Imbach	



## 5. Publications

- AMMOUR, T., IMBACH, AC, SUMAN, D., WINDEVOXHEL, N. (eds). 1999. Manejo productivo de manglares en América Central. CATIE - UICN, 136 p. (en prensa)
- CIAT- IUCN (CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA TROPICAL- WORLD CONSERVATION UNION). 1999. Proceedings of the workshop for experts in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects. CIAT, Cali, Colombia. 27 p.
- CIAT- UICN ( CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA TROPICAL- UNION MUNDIAL PARA LA NATURALEZA). 1999. Memorias del Taller de Expertos en Monitoreo y Evaluacion de Proyectos. CIAT, Cali, Colombia. 29 p.
- CIAT (CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE AGRICULTURA TROPICAL). 1999. Directorio Ecorregional. CIAT, Cali, Colombia. 104 p.
- HILDEN, M., PRIMER, E., VARJOPURO, R., RAUMOLIN, J., MUGABE, J., IMBACH, A. 1999. Thematic evaluation on Environment and development in Finnish Development Cooperation. Vol. 1: Policy issues and General management (a 7-Volumen Series). Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. 204 p.
- IMBACH, AC (ed). 1999. Buscando el rumbo. Manual de autoevaluación de Proyectos. Draft. IUCN - CIAT. 45 p
- IMBACH, AC. 1999. Rural planning in Latin America: an overview. 10 p. In: Dalal-Clayton, B. et al. An assessment of rural planning. IIED, London. 238 p. (in press)
- IMBACH, AC; GALVEZ, J. 1999. Análisis y perspectivas del manejo forestal en concesiones comunitarias en Petén, Guatemala. MAGA/PAFG/CATIE/CONAP. 37 p. (CATIE: Serie Técnica / Informe Técnico No. 305)
- IMBACH, AC; GUTIERREZ, IA. 1999. Evaluating Eden Initiative: Central America and Dominican Republic: Final Report. Intenational Institute for Environment and Development. IIED. London. 36 p. (in press).

## 6. Partner Organizations during 1999

- CATIE (CENTRO AGRONÓMICO TROPICAL DE INVESTIGACION Y ENSEÑANZA) Monitoring and Evaluation unit. Costa Rica
- CONAP (Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas), Guatemala
- Fundación Neotrópica, Costa Rica
- Fundación Pro Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia
- IUCN (WORLD CONSERVATION UNION) Monitoring and Evaluation Initiative, Switzerland
- IUCN (WORLD CONSERVATION UNION)/ ORMA (MESOAMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE) Thematic Area of Wetlands and Coastal Zones, Costa Rica
- Pro Naturaleza, Perú
- Programa Bosques Nativos Andinos, Ecuador

## 7. Programme Staff

Alejandro C. Imbach, M.Sc., Coordinator, Ecoregional Programme

Isabel A. Gutierrez, M.Sc, Assistant Coordinator, Ecoregional Network \*

Liliana Hurtado, M.Sc., Research Assistant, Ecoregional Programme \*

Torres, Lilian P., Administrative Assistant \*\*

Torres, Gloria S., Programme Secretary \*\*

\* Started 1999

\*\* Land Use Project Staff that supported the Ecoregional Programme during 1999



# ANNEX 1

## The Ecoregional Network of Tropical Latin America

### 1. Introduction

The Ecoregional Programme aims to (1) contribute to the fluid diffusion of CIAT investigative products to intermediate and end users, and (2) channel the received feedback from these to the Centre. In other words, the Programme is part of the interface between CIAT and its partners and beneficiaries.

The Programme works with an ecoregional approach, that is, subdividing tropical America into a number of relatively homogeneous regions in biophysical terms. Thus the Programme concentrates on determined topics, to find answers on the thematic specificity of the investigation and of many external organisations. Greater emphasis is placed on those areas that are of common interest to different ecoregions.

Networking is a fundamental tool for the Programme, which already collaborates with various networks. However, no network existed containing those with whom the Program needs to interact. Thus the Programme proposed structuring a net specifically oriented towards that sector: the Ecoregional Network.

### 2. Objective of the Network and CIAT

The main aim is to serve as an interface between CIAT and its non-scientific audience (development projects and related organisations). Another aim is to serve all types of organisations of tropical America that carry out projects of sustainable rural development (such as integration of conservation and development). The Network will afford these projects an effective mechanism to:

- Diffuse and exchange information of general interest,
- Exchange experiences,
- Diffuse resulting investigative information of the specialised centres (national and international) of the region,
- Support the work of these centres starting with the demands that emerge from fieldwork, and
- Analyse and debate conceptual and operative questions that are important for their work.

These aims are based on the hypothesis that the operation of effective mechanisms of the types mentioned will give the organisations and projects access to a group of experiences, lessons, tools and concepts that will help them improve their performance and increase their impact on rural development.

### **3. Membership**

Membership is extended to include:

- Organisations carrying out projects and activities of sustainable rural development (governmental, non-governmental organisations, grass-roots organisations, internationals, etc.),
- Projects in the field of sustainable rural development in tropical America, emphasising both conservation and development,
- Diffusion/extension structures of the national organisations of agricultural investigation and of conservation and use of natural resources, and
- Diffusion/extension structures of the International Centres of agricultural investigation and natural resources that are active in the region.

The Network seeks to integrate the organisations and people linked in some way to the sustainable development of Latin America.

To date, the Network has 1600 receivers of electronic mail distributed throughout Latin America (about 90%) and some beyond (10%).

Additionally, 50 networks have been identified that redistribute the messages of the Ecoregional Network.

### **4. Work Structure**

Work is based on three mechanisms that the Ecoregional Programme co-ordinates:

- 1) Diffusion and exchange by electronic mail,
- 2) A site with deposited information accessible through Internet (Website), and
- 3) Working documents.

#### Exchange by electronic mail

The CIAT Ecoregional Program facilitates this exchange, which consists of regular message sending by electronic mail with information on:

- Useful products for development: methodologies, publications, lessons learned, experiences, etc.
- Events: courses, conferences, congresses, workshops, etc.
- Diffusion of Projects' information, financing opportunities, vacancies, etc.
- Applications for information.
- Other.

The Website is <http://www.redeco.org>.

The site works as a deposit of technical information (methods, alternatives, tools, case studies, work documents, etc.) that can be and is updated and is important for the Net audience. This information is generated by the members/users of the Net but above all by CIAT projects.

### Working documents

These are a collection of technical and conceptual documents related with the activities in the field of rural development (methodologies, case studies, lessons learned, new alternatives, technological proposals, etc.). These documents do not usually qualify for scientific publications but are important for the good performance of projects. Publications are kept in electronic format at net site <ftp://gis.ciat.cgiar.org/redeco>

## **5. Organization**

Descriptive mechanisms are organised by ecoregion and theme using work groups within the Ecoregional Network, in order to improve the compatibility of the work.

At the moment, Thematic and Geographical groups exist.

Thematic:

- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Humid and Coastal Zones
- Agroforestry
- Protected Areas

Geographical:

- Hillsides Honduras
- Hillsides Nicaragua
- Hillsides Colombia

## **6. Activities 1999**

- An Ecoregional Directory has been elaborated—the Directory of Members of the Net. At the moment it contains complete information of about 400 people in the Region (name, position, institution, postal box and physical address, telephone and fax, electronic address and area of interest or of work).
- Exchange by electronic mail is maintained with the 1600 members/users of the Net. A daily message is sent.
- The Website of the Ecoregional Net was designed and launched. This site is updated weekly.

