



ECOREGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL LATIN AMERICA

ANNUAL REPORT 2000

October 2000



Red Ecorregional para América Latina
Ecoregional Network for Latin America
Rede Ecorregional para América Latina



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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 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

- 2002 Pending appointment of Project Manager
- 2001 Routine 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.
- 2000 Routine 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 mechanism for rural development processes. Publication of workshop findings.

1. Project Logframe

ECOREGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL LATIN AMERICA LOGFRAME 2000-2002

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"> • CG Centers involved actively in at least 6 local rural sustainable development initiatives (LoRSDI), different than the Reference Sites • At least 10 specific CG research outputs being used to solve specific problems of LoRSDIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from the organizations active in LoRSDIs • Field verification • CG Projects Research Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of funds • Acceptance of the Ecoregional approach by Centers
<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"> • Local and national individual or consortium partnerships including at least 25 organizations supporting LoRDIs established in at least 6 places in TLA • At least 15 partner organizations supported on planning, assessment and fund searching out of the Reference Sites • Ecoregional Network operational and active • Collaboration with at least 3 ecoregional consortia • Partnerships developed in at least 3 strategic ecoregional issues* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from partner organizations • Field verification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of funds • Agroecosystem consortia (CONDESAN, Hillside, PROCIs) perform the stakeholder consultation function effectively

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"> • Preparation of Annual Report • Preparation of Annual Workplan • Fulfillment of Staff Performance Evaluation • Programme Management • Participation in other planning, review and evaluation activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report • Annual Workplan • Performance Evaluation Forms • Other documents 	

*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 2000, 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

PREGUNTAS:

Who will lead the upscaling process? Ecoregional?

3. Highlights 2000

- The network has over 2550 members and organizations in Latin America and some European countries that receive and exchange information related with the management natural resources and rural development. About 60 networks have been identified that receive and distribute REDECO information. The work of the Net is combined with a Web page, where all information arriving from the different members and organizations is recorded. The page constitutes a highly useful tool for the dissemination of information to our different members and users.
- Preparation of the Memories (PDF) Workshop for exchange and lessons learned of initiatives of rural development and the management of natural resources led by communities in Latin America (Cali, Colombia, February 2000).

4. Progress Report

LOGFRAME OUTPUT 1: Ecorregional partnerships

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 2000	TEAM	MORE INFO
<p>Strategy to develop local Consortia – CLO (jointly developed with PE-3)</p> <p><i>Strengthening of local organizations advancing. Support given to the consortium in San Dionisio, Nicaragua.</i></p>	20%	A Imbach	
<p>Strategy for local development of at least one Reference Site developed by CLO</p> <p><i>Pends finalization of above</i></p>	Postponed	A Imbach	
<p>Ecoregional Directory of the Ecoregional Network</p> <p><i>Completed. Publication available. 150 entries fully documented. 1300 e-mail entries.</i></p>	100%	I Gutiérrez L. Rojas	Annex 1
<p>Various agreements (IUCN, CATIE)</p> <p><i>Work has been completed and CATIE is publishing a document in which CIAT support is recognized. The IUCN also participated. The Directors of CATIE and CIAT signed a letter of agreement covering this work.</i></p> <p><i>The guide "Finding the Way" was produced jointly with IUCN without the need of a formal agreement.</i></p>	80%	A Imbach	

<p>Strategy to develop National and Regional Hillside Consortia <i>Project Management left during 2000. Still pending</i></p>		<p>A Imbach J. I Sanz J.A. Beltrán</p>	
<p>Report of the first meeting of the Hillside National Consortia <i>As above</i></p>		<p>A Imbach M. Ayarza J. M. Beltran I. Gutierrez</p>	
<p>Opening message to the Regional Hillside National Consortia <i>A meeting was held in Nicaragua with collaborators such as MAGFOR, UNA, etc in which it was decided not to form a national consortium in order to avoid duplication of initiatives already undertaken by others.</i></p>	<p>100%</p>	<p>A Imbach</p>	
<p>Proposal for actions with CONDESAN <i>Project Management left during 2000. Still pending</i></p>		<p>A Imbach R. D. Estrada (CONDESAN)</p>	
<p>Proposal for actions with IICA's PROCIs <i>As above</i></p>		<p>A Imbach</p>	

LOGFRAME OUTPUT 2: Exchange

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 2000	TEAM	MORE INFO
<p>Final handbook on project assessment</p> <p><i>The document "Finding the Way" is completed and available in both Spanish and English on the REDECO Web site.</i></p>	100%	A Imbach I. Gutierrez	
<p>Project assessment workshop report</p> <p><i>The first Workshop on lessons learned was held in February; 22 Field Technicians and 19 Producers of Latin America attended. The Workshop proceedings are available (PDF) from the Ecoregional Network.</i></p>	100%	A Imbach I. Gutierrez L. P.Torres L. Rojas	
<p>Stakeholder-driven development processes Workshop Proceedings</p> <p><i>The Workshop was held in February with various communities attending. The Proceedings and Report to IDRC are available with all data. Reports and other data are available on the REDECO Web site.</i></p>	100%	A Imbach	
<p>Evaluation of the Project Assessment Training Course by participants</p> <p>A course was given jointly with CATIE to NGO members of Ecofondo of Colombia. A report is available from CATIE.</p>	100%	A Imbach I.Gutierrez	
<p>Invitation to Innovative Funding Mechanisms Workshop</p> <p><i>Project Management left during 2000. Still pending</i></p>			

LOGFRAME OUTPUT 3: Research

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 2000	TEAM	MORE INFO
<p>Joint research proposal on landscape analysis</p> <p><i>A joint research proposal to identify native grassroots organisations operating at the landscape level was developed and funded jointly between the Ecoregional and the Hillside Projects. Completed. Final report available</i></p>	100%	A. Imbach L. Hurtado	
<p>Joint research proposal on impact assessment</p> <p><i>The theme of evaluating CIAT's work in San Dionisio was urged to the point that it was formally taken on by CIAT's Work Group on Impact Evaluation</i></p>	30%	A Imbach	
<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 Strategy Planning. Ecoregions are already defined and the methodology is being developed</i></p>	80%	A Imbach M. Winograd P. Jones A. Farrow	
<p>Ecoregional syntheses case study paper</p> <p><i>Postponed pending finalization of the above mentioned methodology</i></p>	20%	A Imbach	
<p>Quarterly Progress Reports on CIAT Impact Assessment Working Group</p> <p><i>Some advance reports made to Directors. Production of conceptual framework and methodology INRM Impact Assessment</i></p>	80%	A Imbach V. Gottret D. White N. Beaulieu	

LOGFRAME OUTPUT 4: International projection

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 1999	TEAM	MORE INFO
Trip reports on exchanges with CGIAR Ecoregional Programmes and other international organizations <i>Project Management left during 2000. Still pending</i>	0	A Imbach	
IIED report on rural planning <i>In Process, but not yet published. The report has been accepted.</i>	80%	A Imbach	
Trip report on participation on OECD-DAC initiative on National Strategies for Sustainable Development <i>The meeting was held in Thailand in October after Project Management had left.</i>	0	A Imbach	

LOGFRAME OUTPUT 5: CIAT activities

MILESTONE	ADVANCE up to Sept 30, 2000	TEAM	MORE INFO
Annual workplan	100%	A Imbach	
Annual report <i>Interim report completed</i>	100%	L. Rojas	
Annual workplan outputs achieved within budget limits – Annual report <i>Project Manager left in August (Partly achieved and within budget limits)</i>	60%	L. Rojas L. P. Torres	

5. Publications

CIAT-IDRC (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical – Centro Internacional de Investigación para el Desarrollo). 2000. Memorias Taller de Intercambio de Experiencias y Lecciones Aprendidas de Iniciativas de Desarrollo Rural y Manejo de Recursos Naturales Liderada por Comunidades en América Latina. CIAT, Cali, Colombia. 389 p.

CIAT (Centro Internacional de Agricultura tropical). 2000. Directorio Red Ecorregional. CIAT, Cali, Colombia. 123 p

CIAT (Centro Internacional de Agricultura tropical). 2000. Lista de Miembros Red Ecorregional. CIAT, Cali, Colombia. 123 p

GUTIERREZ, IA; ORTIZ, N; IMBACH, AC. 2000. Community Wildlife Management in Central America: A Regional Review. Series Evaluating Eden EE DP12. IIED Biodiversity Group 2000 ISSN 15618382, 78 pp

HALLIDAY, A.; BOURONCLE, C; 2000. Manu Biosphere Reserve, Peru. Case study of the Series Monitoring and Evaluation Case Studies coordinated by A. IMBACH, I.A. GUTIERREZ AND N. MACPHERSON. CIAT / IUCN / ProNaturaleza. 31 p

IMBACH, A.C. (ed.) 2000. Buscando el Rumbo. Guía práctica para organizar y ejecutar procesos de autoevaluación de proyectos centrados en la sostenibilidad. Ilustrada con ejemplos reales de América Latina con el Apoyo de C. BOURONCLE, I. GUTIERREZ, y A. A. IMBACH . Unión Mundial para la Naturaleza (UICN)-CIAT. Sexto borrador. (Final version also available in English "Finding the Way".) 179 p.

6. Partner Organizations during 2000

- ACIN Cauca (Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca), Colombia
- Asociación Campos Verdes, Nicaragua
- Fundación BARILOCHE, Argentina.
- CATIE (Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza) Monitoring and Evaluation Unit. Costa Rica.
- CENSAT AGUA VIVA (Asociación Centro Nacional Salud, Ambiente y Trabajo), Colombia.
- COSAFIT (Comite Salvemos Filo del Tallo), Panamá.
- CONAP (Consejo Nacional de Areas Protegidas), Guatemala.
- FONAIAP (Fondo Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria), Venezuela.
- Fundación ESPAVE, Colombia.
- Fundación Neotrópica, Costa Rica.
- Fundación Prisma, El Salvador.
- Fundación Pro Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia.
- Grupo Yanapai Huancayo, Perú.
- IDRC (Centro Internacional de Investigación para el Desarrollo), Uruguay.
- 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.
- La Encañada CIP(Centro Internacional de la Papa) /CONDESAN (Consorcio para el Desarrollo Sostenible de la Ecorregión Andina),. Perú.

- Proyecto Lempira Sur, Honduras
- Proyecto Olafo OLAFO, Nicaragua, Honduras y Nicaragua.
- Pro Naturaleza, Perú.
- Programa Bosques Nativos Andinos, Ecuador.
- Red de Promotores Campesinos en la Sierra Santa Martha, México
- Reserva de la Biosfera del Manu, Perú
- UCA (Unión de Cooperativas Agropecuarias), Nicaragua.

7. Programme Staff

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

Isabel A. Gutiérrez, M.Sc., Assistant Coordinator, Ecoregional Network*

Liliana Rojas A., M.Sc., Research Assistant, Ecoregional Programme

Lilian Patricia Torres G., Administrative Assistant**

Gloria Stella Torres R., Programme Secretary**

Hermann José Usma, Research Expert 1**

* Left during 2000

** Land Use Project Staff that supported the Ecoregional Programme during 2000

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 organizations 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:

- Organizations 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 2550 receivers of electronic mail distributed throughout Latin America (about 90%) and some beyond (10%).

Additionally, 60 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 coordinates:

- 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 2000

- An Ecoregional Directory has been elaborated—the Directory of Members of the Net. At the moment it contains complete information of about 560 people in the Region (name, position, institution, postal box and physical address, telephone and fax, electronic address and area of interest or of work).
- List of members by country in Access database. This list includes all members inscribed in the Ecoregional Network. At present there are 2550 members for the majority of whom we have information on country, institution, and electronic mail.
- Exchange by electronic mail is maintained with the 2550 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. <http://www.redeco.org>
- Publication (PDF) proceedings of the Workshop of Exchange of Experiences and Lessons Learned Initiatives of Rural Development Led by Communities in Latin America. This is available on the REDECO home page < <http://www.redeco.org> >
- Publication (PDF) “Finding the Way” – a practical guide for organizing and executing autoevaluation processes of projects centered in sustainability. It is available on the REDECO Web page at < <http://www.redeco.org> >

Anexo 2

Budget and Expenses TLAP- Ecoregional up to October 30, 2000

Line Item	Budget	Expenses	Committed	Total	%	Available	%
TLAP- Ecoregional	70,630	36,092	135	36,227	51.3	34,403	48.7