

External evaluation of the first program report phase

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Content

Executive Summary

Between February 19 and March 12, 2018, the evaluation team visited producer families in the three zones of the Basin and met with key stakeholders in the basin organizations, national and local governments, and local organizations. We tried to follow the principles of a "beneficiary

- the associations can open the door to the alignment of donors contributions and to a harmonized regulation.
- the donations of the cooperation, the credits provided by rural banks and the private capital of the remittances, coordinated, could finance major investments that break the vicious circle of lack of water, "traditional" production and increased vulnerability.

Suggestions of priorities for the general operative work and in each zone in the year 2018, are:

General

1. Introduction, Objectives and the Evaluation Methodology

Between February 19 and March 12, 2018, the evaluation team met with five micro-basin councils, a sub-basin council and the Basin council; We spoke with leaders of rural savings banks, water

The caution is expressed in frequent references to the recent biological impacts of rust on coffee and the weevil in pine forests. Some leaders in indigenous communities perceive political and natural threats that put at risk their capacity to continue protecting water and forests to ensure their use by future generations.

3. Analysis of Expected Results with the Program

The first expected effect of the f

4. Relevance and Effectiveness of the Program

4.1 Water management and the community management of watersheds

As indicated above, from the perspective of the vast majority of people living in the Basin with whom we spoke, the key factor for the quality of life in their communities is the availability of water and any activity that improves it is highly relevant. NCG's central focus, highlighted in the formal name of the Program, is the Community Management of Watersheds. Watershed management is

4.3 Local financing

In the different zones of the basin we found elements that show that there is an important participation of women in some spaces and community dynamics such as:

- rural banks exclusively women (for example, in Canciri in the upper zone); women

4.5 The relevant local organizations

Summary characterization of the Micro watershed councils

Analysis element	Upper Zone	Middle Zone	Lower Zone
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Representativeness
, leadership and
basic structure

of the municipal governments of the approach and philosophy of our Goascorán Basin. Most see the program, first, as a project that offers an opportunity to raise funds for their jurisdiction. The Program must develop a more "aggressive" strategy of communication and relationship with local authorities and not leave everything to the will of their participation.

The relationship between local governments and NCG should not only be a responsibility of the technical teams of the zone, but also of the management levels of the program (UTG) and even of the superiors in Tegucigalpa. One way to improve the relationship would be to delegate to a person from the UTG the specific role of working on governance with the municipalities and associations in what is missing from the first phase. This is a way to prepare the ground for the second phase of the program and thus achieve leadership. An important step that NCG must push is the participation of the municipality of Goascorán in the MAFRON commonwealth.

Currently, several cooperation projects are committed to the joint implementation with the municipalities through the commonwealth. A very particular case is the project *"Increase in water and sanitation coverage and integrated management of the lower and middle basins of the Goascorán River"*, financed by AECID and co-executed by the MAMSURPAZ Commonwealth. Another example is the initiatives of the Alliance for the Dry Corridor (ASC), with funds from USAID. This type of actions executed directly with the participation of the municipal governments and related to the management of the natural resources of the basin, are a great opportunity to develop leadership from the NCG through the newly organized institutional support commissions.

The micro watershed councils are the ideal multi-

was clearly identified in the internal evaluation of August 2017, that the four organizations that composed the consortium (now three, with the exit of RAIN), after more than two and a half years of work, followed parallel agendas and they had not yet managed to integrate their efforts into coordinated strategies appropriate to the conditions in each area of the basin. Additionally, the program staff points out that between 2015 and 2017 the internal administrative structure of the

Zone	UTG	IUCN	FUNDER	iDE	Sub-total	Fundación Vida	SOMAINCUPACO	Total
High	1	1	3+0.33	3	8.33	0	2	10.33
Middle	1	2	1+0.33	2	6.			

	Operative work	Suggested priorities for 2018
General	<p>Limited progress with the DGRH.</p> <p>Good start of integration of zonal teams.</p>	<p>Explore a unique strategy of support to the national government with the Water Governance Project.</p> <p>Generate comprehensive reports by area</p>

- The population responds to external interventions when they experience personal confidence with the "technicians"; People are more important than programs or projects.

6.3 Potentially key bases to build

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The recommended first line of action is community work to address adaptation to climate change and the development of local economic sustainability.

We recommend involving the leaders of the micro-basin councils and the sub-basin council in choosing the goals of this action line. Specifically, we recommend that a two-day workshop could be held with two or three representatives from each council. The workshop should be based on the presentation of illustrative experiences of micro-watershed plans, of local investments and economic contributions, and of profitable community business ideas.

Then, the participants should be invited to collaborate in the identification of goals for 2022 that include:

- Number of micro basin councils working with plans in the implementation process that include specific works and actions that contribute to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, specifying:
 - priority areas of soil recovery, vegetative layers, and forest;
 - land use practices to promote with technical assistance and to favor with green credits;
 - Potential sources of water, inside or outside the micro-watershed;
 - strategies to ensure the long-term availability of water for human consumption and agricultural production.
- Economic amounts of local support for the micro watershed management plans implementation, to be provided through preferential loans from rural banks, payments for water use, voluntary work, financial contributions in substitution of voluntary work, and / or other local sources.
- Quantity and characterization of profitable community businesses, with the young people and women participation, to be established in each micro-basin, supported by investments from rural savings banks and remittances.
- Number of people trained in relevant areas (which must be characterized initially) in order to achieve the goals of organization, planning, contributions and local economic development.

The second line of action is inter-institutional work to address global water management in the Goascoran River Basin. To prepare a draft of goals of this action line, we recommend a series of four workshops: a one-day workshop in each area, followed by a two-day workshop with partici

- Amounts coming from water payments and for environmental services, and from municipal, national and international cooperation budgets to dedicate to the choice, design, elaboration, implementation and operation of water supply projects for human consumption and agricultural production in the Basin.
- Actors that could collaborate in the definition, elaboration and implementation of a program of control of sources of contamination and solid and liquid waste management to recover water quality in Cuenca.

The third line of action is the monitoring and communication of biophysical and socioeconomic effects in the Basin. This line is essential for basin organizations to have the necessary information to plan their work, measure its effectiveness and communicate its processes and results to the population in the Basin. To collaborate in the preparation of a draft of the goals in this line of action, it is recommended to carry out work sessions with two different groups. To identify the sources and nature of the available climate information, technicians in MiAmbiente, ENEE and COPECO responsible for their respective hydro-climatic monitoring stations should be invited to participate in an exchange of information with UTG technicians and associations in Basin. At the same time, in order to identify sources of socioeconomic information and mechanisms for the compilation and communication of pertinent information for planning at the micro watershed level, representatives of the associations and community radio programs could be invited to exchange information with the personnel of the community. UTG in charge of communication for development.

Based on the information gathered in these two work sessions, the UTG and SDC OfCo, possibly with the support of a specialist contracted for this purpose, could prepare a draft of the design of the:

- a monitoring mechanism for biophysical and socio-economic conditions in the Basin, and

Higher Zone

Consortium Team

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Middle Zone

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ANNEX 2

Scheme that groups the objectives, key issues, transversal axes, and guiding questions raised in the Evaluation Terms of Reference.

1. Introduction

2. Striking aspects of the biophysical and socioeconomic context

3. Institutional and politic Context

Relevance of our Goascoran basin in the current context and the Water Governance approach in Honduras. Analyze the government interest and commitment (national and local) with the establishment of basin organizations, their political and institutional capacity to apply the water law, and the interest and capacity of the local authorities involved to carry out watershed management.

3.1 Interest and commitment of the national government

Are the national public institutions (MiAmbiente and others) supporting and facilitating the achievement of the program results?

3.2

Evaluation grid for SDC's projects / programs evaluation

Key aspects based on the CAD criteria	Score (select only one answer for each question)	Justification - mandatory (briefly explain the main points and refer to the chapter (s) where the information justifying their evaluation is included)
Relevance evaluation		
1. To what extent are the objectives of the SDC projects / programs objectives coherent with the demands and needs of the target groups (including specific requirements regarding gender).	Very good: Fully consistent Good: Largely consistent Poor: Only partially coherent Bad: Very little or nothing coherent Not evaluated / Not applicable ¹	The producing families in the Basin need water and the local organizations are motivated to collaborate in the management of the micro-watersheds. Chapter 3.3.

2. To what extent the objectives of SDC projects / programs are coherent with the demands and needs

6. To what extent the expected results achieved contribute to improving governance from a systemic perspective ⁴ .	Very good: Solid evidence of contribution Good: Contribution tests Deficient: Few proofs of contribution Bad: No contribution Not evaluated / Not applicable ¹	There is an acceptable progress in the creation and strengthening of micro watershed councils. More collaboration with local governments and associations is lacking. <i>Chan 4.2</i>
7. To what extent the expected results achieved contribute to the specific objectives regarding gender.	Very good: Solid evidence of contribution Good: Contribution tests Deficient: Few proofs of contribution Bad: No contribution Not evaluated / Not applicable ¹	There is active participation and leadership cases of women but a strategy aimed at responding to the interests and needs of women in relation to water is lacking.

Efficacy evaluation		
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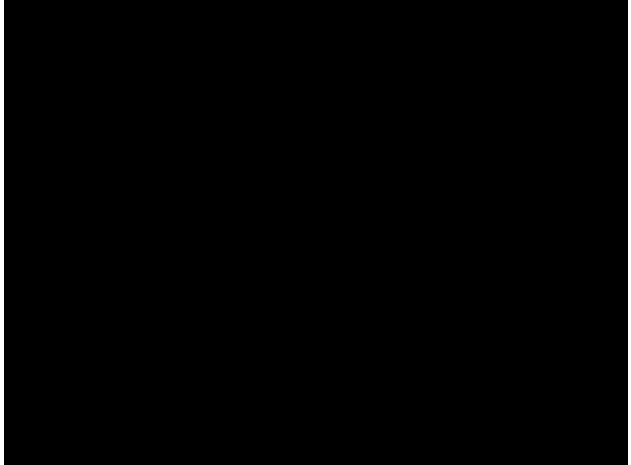
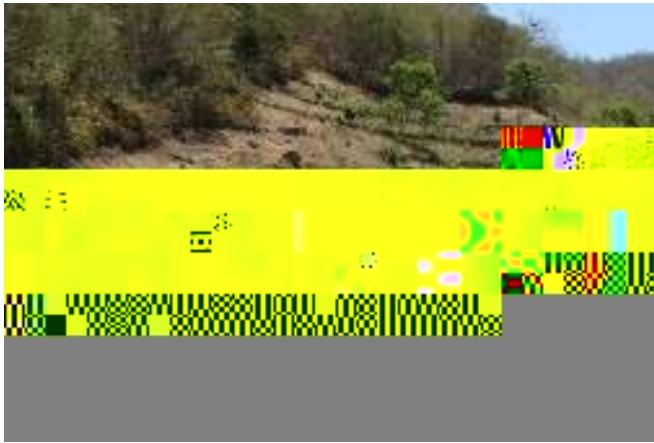
8. To what extent the relationship between resources (mainly financial and human) and the time required (eg, delays with respect to planning) and the results achieved is appropriate (cost-benefit ratio, RCB).	Very good: positive RCB, based on a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) Good: Positive RCB, on the basis of a qualitative justification Deficient: Deficient RCB, based on a qualitative justification Bad: RCB demonstrated negative Not evaluated / Not applicable ¹	The mandatory consortium took a long time to
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Annex 4. Summary of progress and difficulties in relation to the indicators in the Logical Framework.

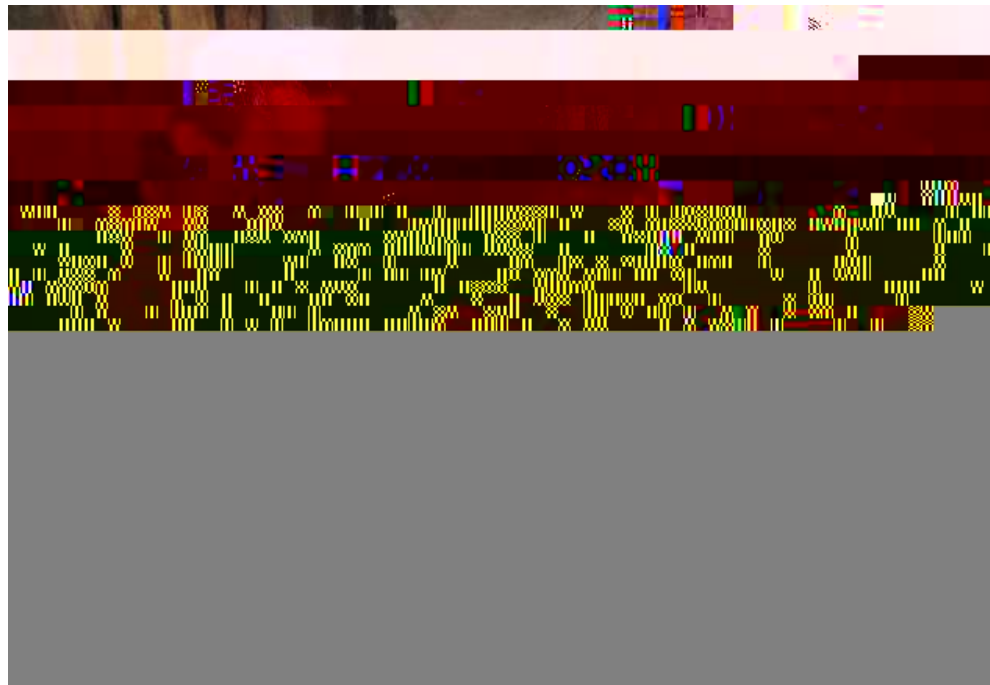
Effect 1¹:

Effect 2: The micro

Annex 5. Examples of agricultural practices



Barriers in curve and forest sowing that retain water and regenerate soils, started years before the beginning of the Program



Traditional practices of seed selection and use of landraces