REG

ACP: Panama Canal Authority
ASAC: Regional Strategy Sustainable Agriculture Adapted to Climate for Central America and the Dominican Republic
ASER: Salvadoran Association of Renewable Energies
CCAD: Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CEM-IUCN: Commission for the Management of Ecosystems of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature
CEPREDENAC: Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America
CONASA: National Council on Drinking Water and Sanitation
CRRH: Regional Committee of Hydraulic Resources
EbA: Ecosystem-based Adaptation
ECLAC: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEQ: Quito Electric Company
EPMAPS: Quito Metropolitan Public Water and Sanitation Company
FAO: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FONAG: Fund for Water Protection
GWP: Global Water Partnership
HDI: Human Development Index
IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management
LPI: Living Planet Index
NDC: National Determined Contributions
OAS: Organization of American States
PCGIR: Central American Policy of Integral Management of Disaster Risk
PIDS: Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development
PM-ABS: Water, Forest and Soil Master Plan
SDG 2: Sustainable Development Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote

Central America is a region with an abundance of water resources; however, it has not been able to guarantee the supply of quality water for its entire population due to management problems, poor production practices, pollution due to lacking sanitation services and wastewater treatments. Additionally, there are increasing pressures on water resources and threats related to climate variability and change. In addition to this, the lack of information on water resources (or of their socialization) limits knowledge about their true state and the taking of opportune decisions to improve their management.

Given this panorama, the Regional Water Forum emerged as an opportunity to position national processes in water legislation and climate change that are taking place in the Central American region. It also allowed sharing good practices, tools and establishing dialogues that contribute to water resource governance from the local to the transboundary level, with a view to solving the present and future Central America is a region wi980.5 (change 8bout theirSu83 in7 T

Analyze good practices, tools and establish dialogues that contribute to the governance of water resources from

The Agenda is detailed in Annex 1. The presentation for each one of the sessions can be accessed by clicking on the following link: https://goo.gl/riAXHV

The Regional Water Forum gathered during the high-level sessions approximately 150 representatives of the Region´s ministries of environment, the Organization for American States, Economic Commission for Latin America, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Central American Integration System, Global Water Partnership, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Economic Commission for Latin America, international cooperation agencies, public sector officials linked to the water and climate change thematic, representatives of municipalities or associations, local leaders involved in watershed management, and NGOs linked to the thematic, among others.

During the knowledge and practical solutions sessions, 95 people from basin councils, municipalities, associations, NGOs and public institutions related to water resources management were present.

The consolidated list of participants can be found in Annex 2, a total of 192 people participated.

5.1 OPENING

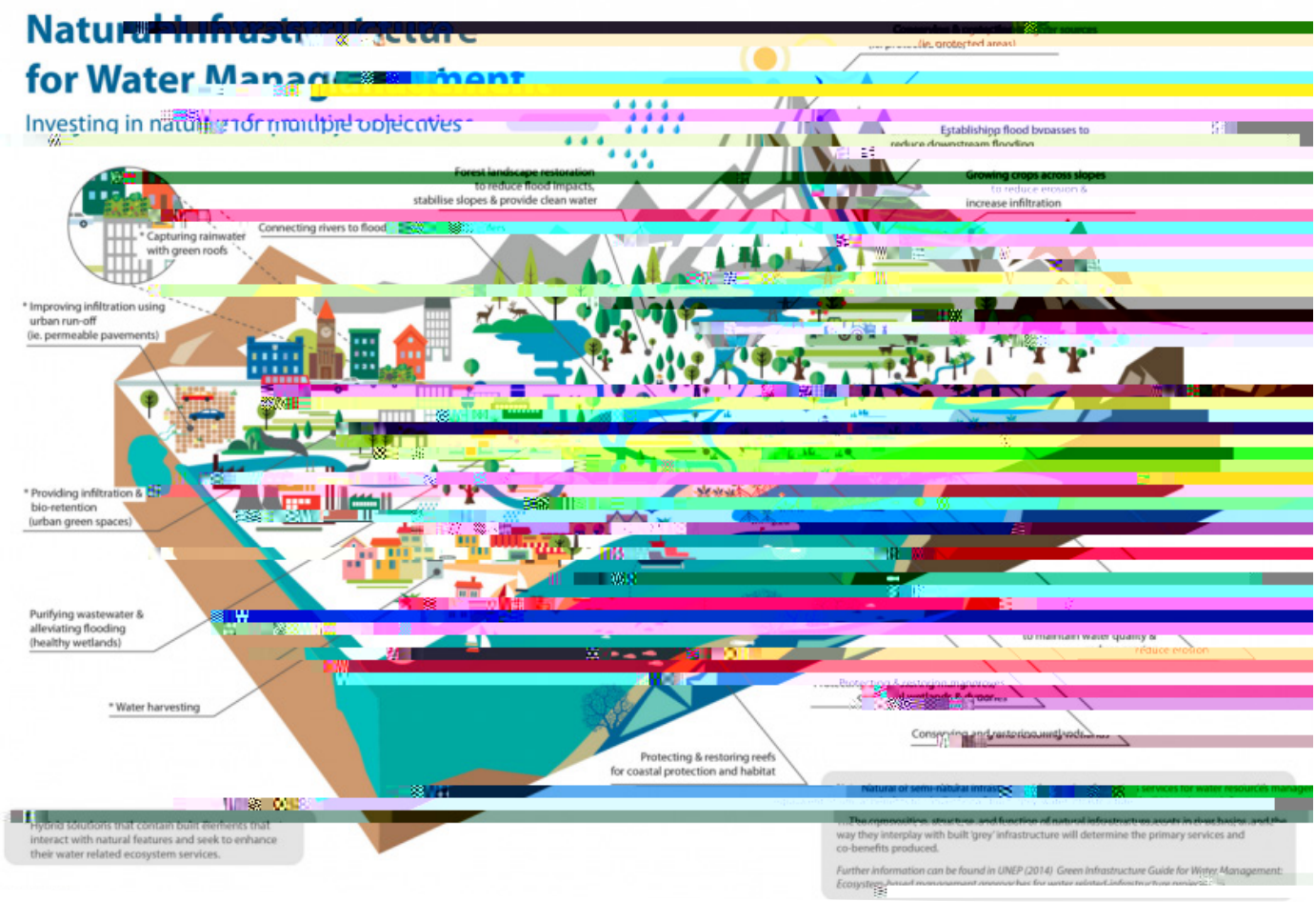
The opening words of the event were delivered by:

Dr. Grethel Aguilar, Regional Director for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).
Mrs. Karin Jahr de Guerrero, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Tegucigalpa.

Mr. Salvador Nieto, Executive Secretary for the Central American Commission for Environment and Development, Central American Integration System.
Mr. José Antonio Galdames

Central America has vast natural resources: 120 superficial watersheds and aquifers, 51 wetlands of international importance - Ramsar sites- , 23 international water courses and 18 regional aquifer systems. If well managed and adapted to climate change, can meet their development needs. The natural infrastructure in water management contributes to maintaining water quality, reducing erosion, reducing the impact of floods, stabilizing slopes and ensuring clean water (see figure 1). For example, in Costa Rica, seven wetlands of international importance in the country generate, on average, more than three billion dollars per year each year, according to the results of a study conducted by the Wetlands Project of SINAC-UNDP-GEF (2017)[2].

Figure 1. Natural Infrastructure for Water Management. Investing in nature for multiple purposes



Source: ©IUCN Water

Regional policies and instruments are valuable instruments for targeting sectoral integration and addressing water security, development and health. Work must be done to generate policies framed in long-term commitments (SDGs, climate change, NDCs), as is the Declaration for recognition and attention to the effects of climate change on drinking water systems in the region of the SICA member countries . Finally, examples of IUCN's work in the use of natural infrastructure to promote the protection, management and restoration of natural or modified ecosystems, responding to the aforementioned challenges, were shared.

[1] *UNWATER. (s.f). Water Scarcity. Available in:* https://goo.gl/cT6Juo
[2] *SINAC-MINAE. (2017). Siete humedales generan más de US$3 mil millones al país cada año. Available in:* https://goo.gl/WGtWsx
[3] *Signed by the Representatives of the Central American Forum and the Dominican Republic of Drinking Water and Sanitation (FOCARD-APS) in May 2016.*

5.4 FIRST HIGH LEVEL SESSION.

Moderator:

The objective is the improvement of the availability of water in quantity and quality for multiple uses, the increase in forest cover, the improvement of the productive capacity of the soil and food and nutritional security. The next steps include the strengthening of public and private institutions, the establishment of financial mechanisms and incentives, and the development of capacities of local organizations and knowledge management for decision making.

Mr. Ángel Ureña of the Panama Canal Authority presented on the integrated management of the canal´s watershed which is key for the conservation of water resources. The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) has the legal mandate to conserve and protect the water resources of the basin. It has devised the Sustainable Development Plan for the Integrated Management of Water Resources that contains a program of economic incentives for conservation, reforestation and agroforestry actions; directly benefting approximately 3,000 residents in 50 communities of the basin, more than three million seedlings of different species have been planted in strategic sectors of the Panama Canal basin and the creation of a coffee hub between the provinces of Panama and Colon. The business model of the ACP responds to business practices to ensure the balance between sustainable development and the effcient operation of the Canal.

Mr. Andreas Lehnohff, of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) presented on marine ecosystems in the face of climate change. Mr. Lehnohff began by highlighting indicators of global trends in marine ecosystems: 89% of the world fsh populations evaluated are fully exploited or overexploited; the Living Planet Index (LPI) shows a 36% decline in marine species between 1970 and 2012; 50% of the world's corals have disappeared; and the rate of deforestation of mangroves exceeds 3 to 5 times that of forests. Solutions include ensuring the resilience of the oceans, protecting key habitats, making fsheries sustainable, managing impacts of seabed exploitation, reducing marine pollution and promoting the integrated management of the oceans. He concludes by noting that in Central America there are advances in research, policies, capacity building and demonstration projects; but

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progress must be made in political will, fows of public and private fnancing, adoption of transformative policies and their governance, preparation for risk and implementation of programs of signifcant scale to build resilience.

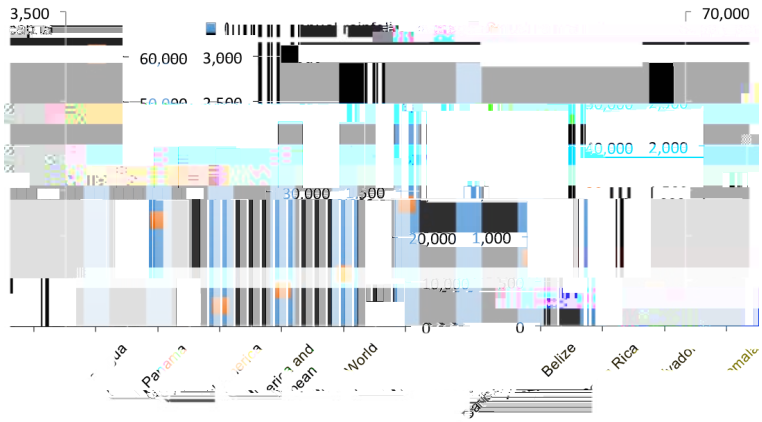
Ms. María Magdalena del Cid, of the El Aguacate Micro-basin Committee in El Salvador, presented on the natural solutions that are implemented in the Garita Palmera mangrove in the lower basin of the Paz River. The micro-watershed committee is composed of 15 communities of the municipality, and has four secretariats: youth, advocacy, women and mangrove. Ms. Del Cid pointed out that there is little availability of fresh water because the cane industry uses it to irrigate their crops along the Paz River and in their upstream areas. Other factors that affect it are the increase in temperature that affects the health and growth of the mangrove swamp, and that due to the rise in sea level, salt water enters the mangrove swamp, affecting the balance that the forest needs. In view of this situation, the communities have worked on the dredging of canals, reforestation and community surveillance. Ms. Del Cid stressed that natural solutions take advantage of the coastal forest to regulate the climate, improve water quality and livelihoods. In addition, the mangrove is a natural barrier that protects from hurricane winds and foods, and favors the capacities of communities and ecosystems to cope with and recover from climatetic events. As a lesson learned from her experience, she emphasized promoting the participation of women and youth for the empowerment of communities.

Mr. Noel Barillas of the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters

5.5 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

The presentation, by Mr. Alberto Mora, Research Coordinator of the State of the Region, made reference to the abundance of water in the region and its unsustainable use. Although the water supply per inhabitant in the isthmus (Figure 1) exceeds the minimum estimated requirements (1,700 cubic meters per inhabitant per year), the access problems for the population, especially the rural one, remains.

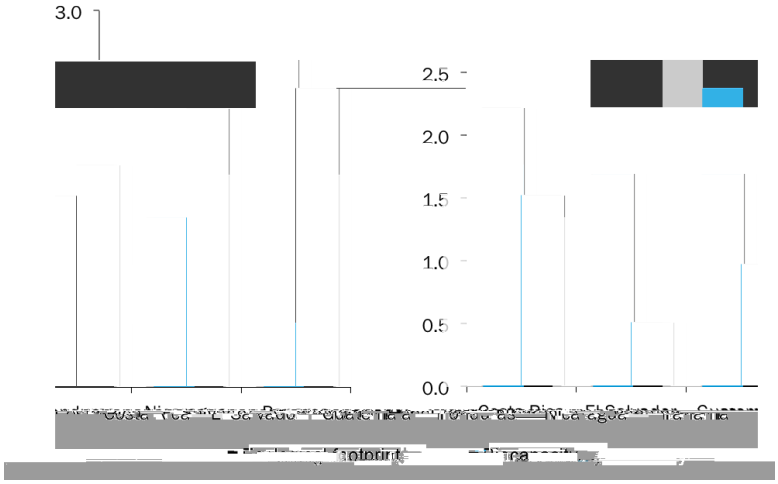
Table 1. Rainfall and water supply, depending on the country (2014)
Cubic kilometers, cubic meters/year



Source: State of the Region, data from FAO, 2014

In the coming decades, the region will face a radical change in rain regimes that, under any climatic scenario, will make the isthmus a much more arid zone. The greatest impact would be in the areas where most of the population lives: the center-north of the region and the departments of the Pacifc coast. This situation will affect ecosystems, agriculture and the generation of hydroelectricity in those territories; aggravated by the unsustainable use of its natural heritage and the constant generation of pollution. In Figure 2 it is possible to glimpse the ecological footprint of the region, which has been impacted by the rapid urbanization processes in Central America, concentrating millions of people in the metropolitan areas of the capital cities[4]:

Table 2. Ecological footprint, biocapacity and HDI, by country (2011)



Source: State of the Region, with data from Global Footprint Network (2015)

[4] The ecological footprint methodology compares the actual use per person of natural resources in a country (ecological footprint) with the capacity of the territory to satisfy that use (biocapacity).

5.6 SECOND HIGH LEVEL SESSION.

Moderator: Adalberto Padilla, Country Coordinator for UICN in Honduras.

Panelists:

Mr. Adrián Rodríguez, Unit of Agricultural Development, Division of Productive and Business Development, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Mrs. Vera Boerger, Land and Water Officer,

that the difficulties in implementing the approach lie in the lack of key information, weak governance, regional heterogeneity and insufficient knowledge of local dynamics.

Ms. Vera Boerger of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations presented on food security and water resources. Ms. Boerger highlighted the multiple connections of water with food security and nutrition, as well as the problems in the current context of variability in the water regime. She commented on the role of family farming in food production and how it is inextricably linked to food and nutrition security. She also gave examples of actions to boost the potential of women and promote the right of rural women to land as a way to increase their economic empowerment. Ms. Boerger presented the Regional Strategy Sustainable Agriculture Adapted to Climate for Central America and the Dominican Republic (ASAC) 2018-2030. And she conclude by pointing out that the integral management of watersheds should be promoted; innovate and train in good agricultural practices / technologies for sustainable and more efficient use of water; and strengthen information systems and tools for decision making.

Mr. René Molina of the Salvadoran Association of Renewable Energies (ASER) presented on renewable energies and the challenges facing climate change. Mr. Molina stressed that within the climate change context there must be compliance to transition to a low carbon economy and there should be safe and reliable alternative energy supply. He pointed out vulnerabilities in renewable energies such as changes in precipitation, increase in cloudiness, changes in solar radiation, and excessive winds, among others. In El Salvador, the installed capacity matrix for 2017 was 35% bunker, 30% hydroelectric, 15% biomass, 11% geothermal, 6% diesel and 3% solar. Mr. Molina emphasized that in El Salvador the alternatives are the small hydroelectric plant initiatives, which consists of generating electricity from small waterfalls, taking advantage of the force of water to move a turbine and then a generator. He highlighted that there are successful examples implemented by the SABES organization.

Ms. Berta Olmedo of the Regional Committee of Hydraulic Resources (CRRH) presented on the role of hydrometeorological information for good water management. Ms. Olmedo pointed out that Central America is one of the most vulnerable regions of the world to natural disaster disasters. More than 75% of the disasters of the last decades in the region were caused by meteorological or climatic events. She stressed that the hydro-meteorological services should continue to be strengthened so that they can increasingly generate better forecasts and record the climate. He indicated that efforts should be redoubled so that the information is accessible, open, and useful for users. For example, the CRRH has the Climate Center Platform, which collects, publishes and distributes information to support decision making; the platform houses work spaces for specific users and maps. Another tool is the Central American climate database, which contains historical data with meteorological variables, provided by the hydrometeorological services.

Mr. Aldrin Reyes, water resources coordinator of the MíAmbiente Secretariat, Honduras shared the presentation on the El Coyolar and José Cecilio del Valle Multiple Use Dam. Due to time constraints, the experience was not presented during the Forum, however, the presentation on the El Coyolar Project was provided. It promotes the equitable access of the water resource in three relevant uses: for human consumption, irrigation and electric power generation to the population of the Comayagua Valley. It also strengthens the organizational structure of users, in order to improve food security, income levels and the rational management of natural resources.

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5.7 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION:

The presentation, by Mr. Max Campos, Principal Specialist in Water Resources of the Organization of American States (OAS), highlighted the adoption of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development. The strategic actions of the Program include:

- Encourage dialogue, technical cooperation and
- Promote dialogue for the development of hemispheric and regional strategies related to water resources management;
- Support efforts to promote public-private partnerships for the development of infrastructure associated with water management;
- Rtoonqs hm sgd hcdmsh l b`shnm ne rxmdq f hdr ` l nm f the institutions of the region and promote coordinated activities on water issues;
- Strengthening existing strategic alliances and promoting new ones for the implementation of projects;
- Provide technical cooperation for the creation and strengthening of capacities;
- Promote the transfer of technology;
- Strengthen training in policies, programs and tools related to water resources;
- Ensure that projects linked to water management contribute to strengthening national technical capacities in order to l `wh l hyd sgd admd l sr enq qdbhohdms bn t msqhdr-

He emphasized that the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development represents the only binding document in the Americas, which complements the national strategies and agreements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (approved in 2015). The main hemispheric results that are expected are the development of public policies, regional strategies and infrastructure that lead to water sustainability (water security). However, among the main challenges are the scarce and outdated legal frameworks of the countries of the region. Also, the importance of guaranteeing the fow and fexibility of fnancing to execute cooperation projects in the countries. And the relevance of the participation of all sectors (government, academia, and communities, national, regional and international actors); through a transparent process that allows accountability to all involved.

He stressed that the Central American effort should be assessed from the local level for the good management of water resources. As well as the importance that, through the SICA, regional policies are promoted that avoid conficts in the future regarding water resources. It is important that communities take back the human sense in water management, fostering

what is known as the water culture. He concluded by stressing that it is necessary to develop concrete actions, considering the existing knowledge stock in the region, and leaving aside discourses that do not generate tangible results.

KEY MESSAGES

5.8 THIRD HIGH LEVEL SESSION.

Moderator: Rocío Córdoba, Ecosystem Management Commission, IUCN

Panelists:
Mrs. Flora Hernández, PPresident, Goascorán River Basin Council
Mr. Fredy Monserrate, , International Center for Tropical Agriculture
Mrs. Miriam Hirezi, , Trinational Executive Secretariat, Plan Trinifo
Mr. Juan Carlos Barrantes, Coordinator, Sixaola River Basin Binational Commission
Mr. Bert De Bièvre, STechnical Secretary, Fund for Water Protection

The session addressed the issue of good water governance as a prerequisite for the integrated management of water resources and the achievement of sustainable development objectives. Different governance models were analyzed at the national and cross-border scale, their legal and institutional challenges. The importance of the gender approach in the integrated management of water resources and strategies for its approach was discussed. And the water fund model was discussed as an innovative mechanism to ensure long-term watershed conservation.

Ms. Flora Hernández of the Goascorán River Basin Council presented how basin organizations promote water governance. Ms. began by noting that the basin council is the articulating organization of the different community organizations, private sector, central and local government. Its objective is to be the entity for consultation, dialogue and concretion of actions focused on the protection, conservation and management of natural resources, water, forest and soil. She explained that the council was formed in accordance with the Honduran water law, and is structured by a board of directors, a surveillance board, and commissions from the upper, middle and lower areas. Ms. Hernández pointed out deforestation, sedimentation, solid waste and little access to drinking water as problems in the basin. Hence, reforestation days have been organized, awareness campaigns with communities, training on integrated water resources management, among others. She stressed the importance of the council having a legal status that allows it to directly manage funds.

Mr. Fredy Monserrate of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture presented the hydrographic maps as information to facilitate water governance in Honduras. Mr. Monserrate pointed out that the hydrographic delimitation of the country in basins, sub-basins and micro-basins is the reference spatial framework for the water resource planning

the information is much dispersed, it is not freely accessible and it must be standardized. In addition, the quality of the data should be sound and updated periodically, so that sectoral information systems at the local and national levels should be institutionalized, as well as financing for monitoring

Mr. Mario Garnier of the ACRA Foundation presented on access to drinking water and sanitation and the empowerment of women. Mr. Garnier He began by pointing out some gender gaps. For example, in El Salvador the tasks required to build, maintain, manage and make the water system sustainable follow gender guidelines that exclude women from those tasks that are most valued in economic and social terms. He stressed that women participate in community structures for the management of the water system, but to a lesser extent than men and, in general, they occupy subordinate positions and / or have little decision-making power. Mr. Garnier noted that ACRA promotes recognition of the value of women in water management; work has been done on the formation of masculinities and gender in water management. Women are also trained and hired in jobs that have traditionally been "men's" (for example, construction). He concluded by noting that there is still much to be done, so it is important to continue promoting good practices and raising awareness on the subject

Ms. Julia Salazar of the Youth Network for Water presented on the role of the new generations. Ms. Salazar pointed out that the Youth Network for Water has been an initiative of the World Water Association within the framework of its Strategy for Youth Involvement. Their vision is to be the leading youth

5.10 FIFTH HIGH LEVEL SESSION.

Moderator: Elisa Colom, Senior Consultant, Global Water Partnership.

Panelists:
Mr. Salvador Nieto, Executive Secretary; Central American Commission for Environment and Development
Mr. Alejandro Iza, Director; Environmental Law Centre. International Union for the Conservation of Nature.
Mr. Roberto Harrison, Executive Secretary; Central American Agricultural Council
Ms. Maureen Ballestero, Senior Consultant; Development Bank of Latin America

During the closing panel, the main messages of the dialogue sessions between experts, politicians and community leaders were recapitulated. Capacity development needs of the region for the implementation of integrated water resources management and SDG 6 were discussed and actions

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Mr. Roberto Harrison of the Central American Agricultural Council, through his presentation, "Water as a Key Factor in the Agricultural Sector," pointed out the importance of facilitating an agriculture that is sustainable and adapted to the climate; his through the implementation of adaptation-mitigation-productivity measures through the efficient use of natural resources. He commented on the main challenges in the region, highlighted the challenge of satisfying the growing and changing production demand, considering that water is increasingly scarce. He pointed out the need to create a new agrarian policy for the region, which incorporates the components of climate change, food security, inclusion of women and youths; as well as, the issue of sustainable agriculture, understanding it not only as food production, but as rural development, health and education.

Ms. Maureen Ballestero of Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), with her presentation titled: "Boosting the Future: Actions for Change and Sustainability" reflected on the exogenous factors that affect water policies. She also pointed out the poor management and governance that result in the physical scarcity of water resources, pollution and loss of ecosystems, poor provision of services and lack of investment in infrastructure. Ms. Ballestero emphasized that there is competition between sectors (especially tourism and agriculture), aggravated by the fact that water is not recognized as a public good. She pointed out the urgency of making investments in natural infrastructure in conjunction with gray infrastructure. As well as the need to convene in decision-making processes in all sectors, local governments, communities and other actors that have a direct and indirect relationship with water resources.

Mr. Alejandro Iza from IUCN Environmental Law Centre, through his presentation entitled: "Innovative Trends and Mechanisms for Water Governance", stated that governance is a prerequisite and vehicle for good water management. He stressed the importance of adapting the right and law to the current situation of each country, promoting the adoption of updated regulatory frameworks. In addition, Mr. Iza emphasized the importance of accountability, derived from the regulatory

water problem is a vital issue and because of this it has a global water program. Since the 80s, Switzerland has worked with the Central American communities to improve their water resource management methods, creating collaborative structures with local governments. During this Regional Water Forum, interesting coincidences have emerged: abundant water but with management and resource management

SESSION 01. IMPLEMENTING NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

WHAT IS THE ADAPTATION TO WATER CLIMATE CHANGE?

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HOW TO GIVE SUSTAINABILITY TO THE ADAPTATION PROCESSES? CAN WE, BASED ON ADAPTATION, CREATE SOURCES OF INCOME?

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SESSION 01. IMPLEMENTING NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

HOW TO GIVE SUSTAINABILITY TO THE ADAPTATION PROCESSES? CAN WE, BASED ON ADAPTATION, CREATE SOURCES OF INCOME?

SESSION 01. IMPLEMENTING NATURAL SOLUTIONS TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

HOW CAN MY INSTITUTION COMMIT -FROM ITS SCOPE OF ACTION- TO PLAN WITH A VIEW TO ADAPTATION?

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6.2 SESSION 2:

The session began with a presentation by Ms. Rocío Córdoba, Vice President of CEM-IUCN on the basin approach to the coast. The intrinsic relationship between water and biodiversity was reflected. The main characteristics of a river basin and what are the environmental services they provide were discussed. Discussion was held on the connectivity of ecosystems and the impacts of human activities on ecosystem services. Subsequently, the definition of the Basin Approach to the Coast was proposed, which recognizes the continuity and human and ecosystem interactions between basins and coastal areas for the integrated management of water resources. The main challenges facing the region were analyzed, for example the economic valuation of resources within the basins, the equitable distribution of resources, the change of current usage patterns and the lack of a common identity.

In addition, two experiences from the Goascorán river basin (Honduras - El Salvador) were shared, exemplifying the implementation of the basin approach to the coast. Mr. Rovell Guillén of Fundación Vida spoke about the different actions of integrated management of water resources at the microwatershed level and their potential for scaling up. Mrs. Gabriela Montes, of the Institute of Marine Sciences and Limnology of the University of El Salvador explained the biological, physical and chemical monitoring of the coastal ecosystems that will be

Table 2. Results of the knowledge exchange practical solutions sessions

SESSION 02. FROM THE BASIN TO THE COAST: THE LINK BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY AND WATER CONSERVATION
WHAT BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BASINS?
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SESSION 02. FROM THE BASIN TO THE COAST: THE LINK BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY A0ÐWATER CONSERVATION

WHAT BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BASINS?

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SESSION 02. FROM THE BASIN TO THE COAST: THE LINK BETWEEN BIODIVERSITY AND WATER CONSERVATION

WHAT BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIONS ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE BASINS?

K`mc trdr+ drs`akhrghmf oqnsdbshud `qd`r-

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Bnlokh`mbd vhsg m`shnm`k `mc qdfhnm`k qdftk`shnmr-

Kdf`k cdbk`q`shnm enq sgd oqnsdbshnm ne sgd toodq o`qs ne sgd a`rhmr-

Drs`akhrg ldms ne a`rhm kh lhsr-

Hlokd ldms`shnm ne cdbnms` lhm`shnm ok`mr-

Oqn lnshnm ne dmuhqnm ldms`k dctb`shnm `s sgd bnl l tmhsx kdudk-

Cdudkno ` v`sdq a`k`mbd ne sgd `qd`-

Bnl lhs `mc lnshu`sd sgd xntsg mdsvnqj hm dctb`shnm b` lo`hfmr-

Fdmdq`shnm ne hmenq l `shnm enq ok`mmhmf `mc sq`hmhmf-

Hmbktrhnm ne nqf`mhy`shnm`k qdoqdrdms`shudr 'bhuhk rnbhdsx+ dlokrxdqr+ oqnctbdqr+ admdlbh`qhdr(-

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Research and monitoring of species of interest to the population, and species that indicate the health ne dbnrxrsdlr-

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6.3 SESSION 3:

The session began with a presentation by Dr. Alejandro Iza, Director of the IUCN Centre for Environmental Law, who addressed the ABC of water governance. He highlighted as critical aspects for water management the sustainable, effcient and equitable use taking into consideration the environmental, economic and social element. He defned governance capacity as the ability to implement effective agreements through ec olicies

KEY MESSAGES

financial mechanisms for its implementation.

Regulatory bodies must be known and socialized to motivate

In Central America, nature-based solutions have proven to generate multiple admdlsr enq v`sdq qdrntqbdr+ ahnchudqrhsx+ qhrj qdctbshnm `mc khudkhgnncr- They are a reliable measure to strengthen resilience in the face of climate change, either on their own or by complementing conventional infrastructure. They have been incorporated into plans and policies from the local to the regional level. For example, in the adaptation plan of the El Aguacate Micro-basin Committee in El Salvador, in the Sustainable Development Plan for the Integrated Management of Water Resources of the Panama Canal Authority, in the Honduras Water, Forest and Soil Master Plan, and in the Central American Policy of Integral Management of Disaster Risk (PCGIR). For its scaling up and replication it requires contextualization of the measures in the technical and commitment development through "business cases" that make visible the multiple benefts.

Research and knowledge generation on the water, energy and food nexus should be strengthened to guarantee compliance with the 2030 agenda. It is essential to have information on the availability and true demand of water in the region, with the purpose of meeting the needs of different users in a sustainable manner. It is vital to improve the effciency of the largest users before variations in availability. Efforts should continue to strengthen hydrometeorological services, through tools such as CENTROCLIMA, which systematizes and disseminates information adapted to different audiences or applied to specifc sectors.

Good water governance is an essential requirement for the integrated management of water resources in Central America. Legal and institutional frameworks that promote intersectorality and effective multi-sectoral and multilevel participation, including civil society, are required. There are successful cases from the micro-watershed level to the transboundary level that reposition the water resource issue in the regional agenda. For example: the micro-watershed councils and their articulation with the basin council in the Goascorán River

Governments must guarantee the mobilization of resources for the implementation of urgent actions for water management and compliance with SDG 6. Central American countries should include SDG 6 in their national planning and policy frameworks. Institutional capacities for the implementation and monitoring of the SDG 6 should be strengthened. Successful regional experiences should continue to be exchanged, promoting financial mechanisms that allow for the implementation of such actions, such as: the water usage fee, payment for environmental services and water funds, among others, and the development of new instruments.

Gender equity and the participation of youths in processes related to water management is fundamental for the sustainability of actions. The active role of women in the decision-making processes on water resource management should be stressed. Initiatives such as the Youth for Water Network should be supported, which allows the empowerment of new generations on water resource management. The consultation processes and development of policies and actions must continue to actively promote participation to become more inclusive.

Speech to action must be passed on integrated water resources management. In Central America there are regional and national instruments for water management, however, it is necessary to integrate successful experiences with existing frameworks to enhance their management. Emphasis should be given to those led by local communities. At the regional level, there are platforms such as the SICA Inter-Agency Water Group, which should be strengthened as a facilitating framework for scaling up and replication.

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Video. Water Resources in Central America:
https://youtu.be/ZhumUd8wJLE

8.00 – 9.00 WELCOME WORDS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE
Dr. Grethel Aguilar, Regional Director for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.
EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IN TEGUCIGALPA
Mrs. Karin Jahr de Guerrero, Deputy Head of Mission, Head of Cooperation.
CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM, CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
Mr. Salvador Nieto
MINISTRY OF ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND MINES OF HONDURAS
Mr. José Antonio Galdames, Minister.

9.00. – 11.00 INTER-MINISTERIAL INAUGUARATIONAL DIALOGUE

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT AND WATER FOR ALL: FULFILLING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)
Director of Water, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Seas of Costa Rica | Mr. José Miguel Zeledón.
Vice minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador | Mr. Ángel Ibarra
Director of Basins and Strategic Programs, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala | Mr. Francis Ernesto Moscoso.
General Director of Water Resources. Ministry of Environment of Honduras | Mrs. Carmen Cartagena
Director of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua | Mrs. Marcia Estrada.
Technical Secretariat of the National Water Council, Ministry of Environment of Panama | Mrs. Miroslava Morán
Responsible for the Sustainable Department of Water, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic | Mr. Luis Reyes Tatis
Moderator: Mr. Julio Montes de Oca. UICN

11.00 – 11.20 COFFEE BREAK

11.20 – 12.00 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION.
Dr. Grethel Aguilar | International Union for the Conservation of Nature

12.00 – 13.00 LUNCH

13.00 – 15.00 FIRST HIGH LEVEL SESSION.

Water, Forest and Soil Master Plan ?(GTPCPFQ1EJQC2TGUKFGPVKCN1HEGQH%KOCVG%CPIGQPFWTCU
Panama Canal Authority | Mr. Ángel Ureña | Gerente de f 0slnte de 6/La046005700540dn ¼WWF)5700540dn |<MrDirect /WW

15.00 – 15.30 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION.

Alberto Mora | State of the Region.

15.30 – 16.00 COFFEE BREAK

16.00 – 18.00 SECOND HIGH LEVEL SESSION.

Economic Commission for Latin America | Mr. Adrián Rodríguez | Chief, Unit of Agricultural Development, Division of Productive and Business Development

Annex 2. List of Participants

1 Abraham E Reyes
2 Adalberto Padilla
3 Adalid Munguía
4 Adelayda Valentín
5 Adelmo Arriaga
6 Adrián Rodriguez
7 Adriana Faría
8 Alberto Mora
9 Alcides Rodríguez
10 Aldrin Reyes
11 Alejandro Iza
12 Álvaro Aceituno
13 Amilcar Corea
14 Amilcar Montoya
15 Ana Báez
16 Andrea Mendizábal
17 Andreas Lehnhoff
18 Ana Báez
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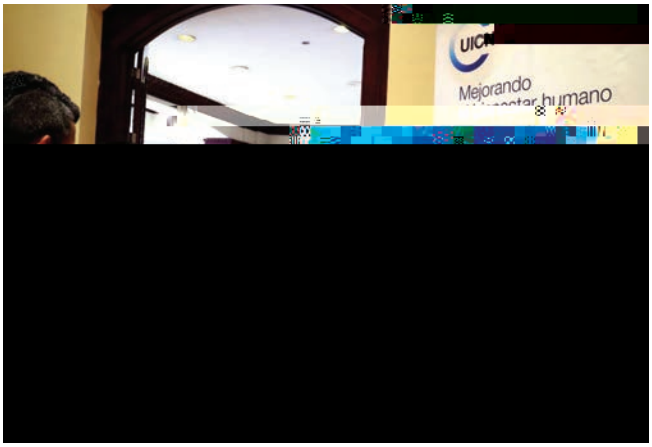
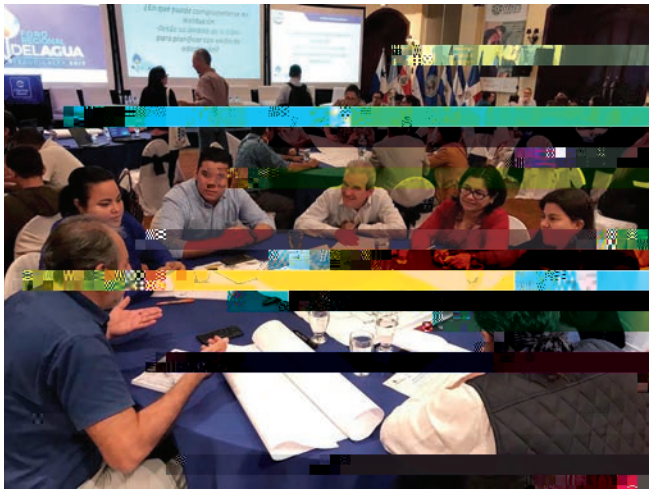
Annex 2. List of Participants





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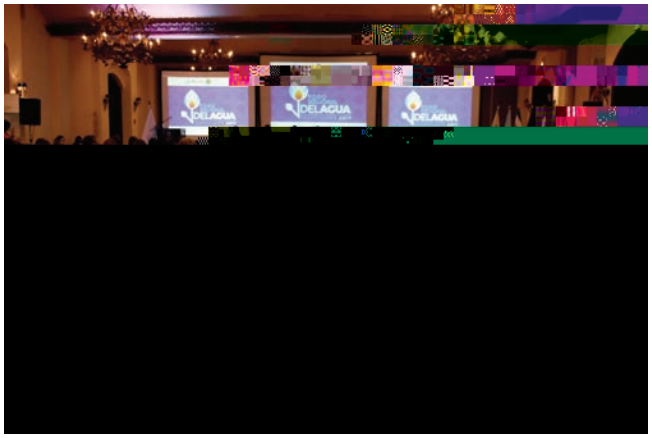

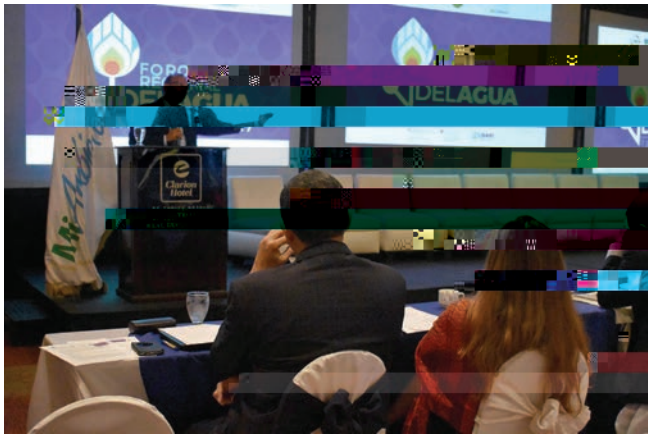

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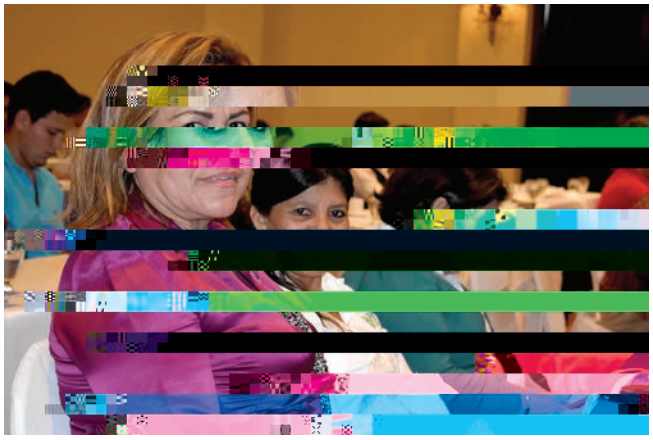

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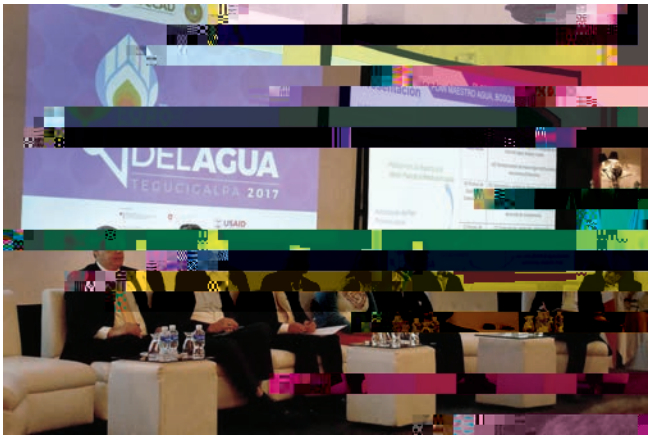
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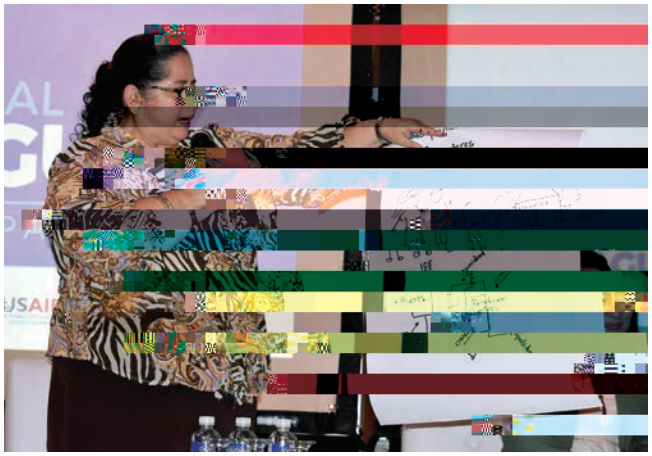

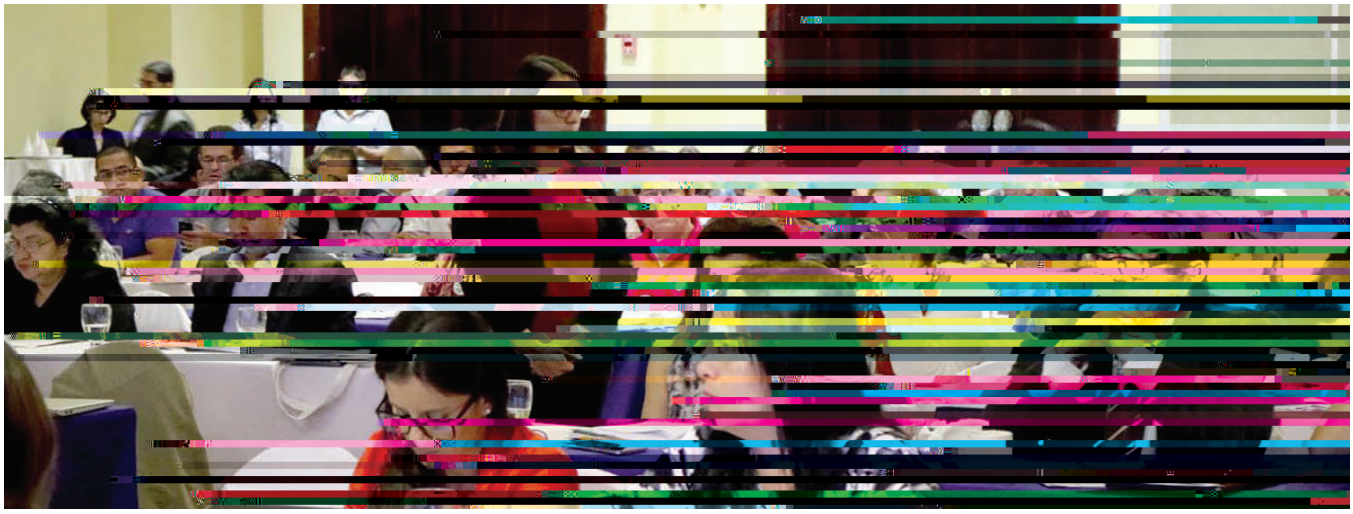

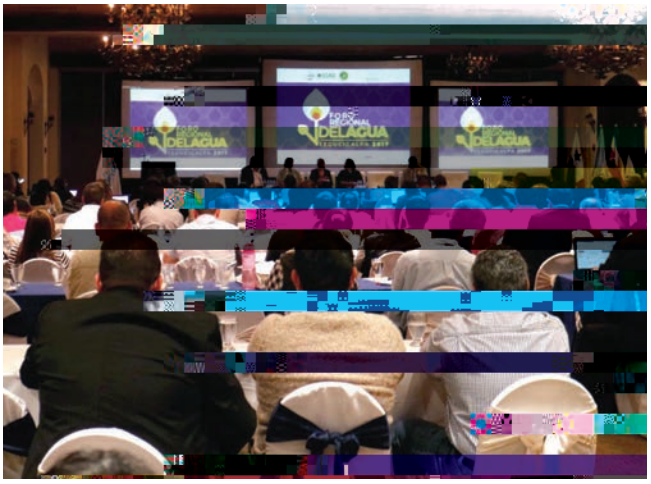

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The Regional Water Forum was organized by MiAmbiente +, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), environmental body of the Central American Integration System (SICA). It was carried out with the financial support of the International Climate Initiative of the German Ministry of Environment (IKI-BMU), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Who support the BRIDGE: Building River Dialogues and Governance; AVE: Adaptation, Vulnerability and Ecosystems; Nuestra Cuenca Goascóran and Coastal Watershed and Livelihoods Improvement Projects implemented by IUCN and its partners in Honduras.

ABOUT MIAMBIENTE +, HONDURAS

It is the governmental institution responsible for promoting the sustainable development of Honduras through the formulation, coordination, execution and evaluation of public policies aim.5 o.ion, Vugh 0 61inable dulation, ea5p2i Tf 1