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**Mesoamerica 2020**

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Organization of  
American States

# Planning and implementing Meso 2020 effectively



Organization of  
American States

requires that several strategic challenges be addressed.

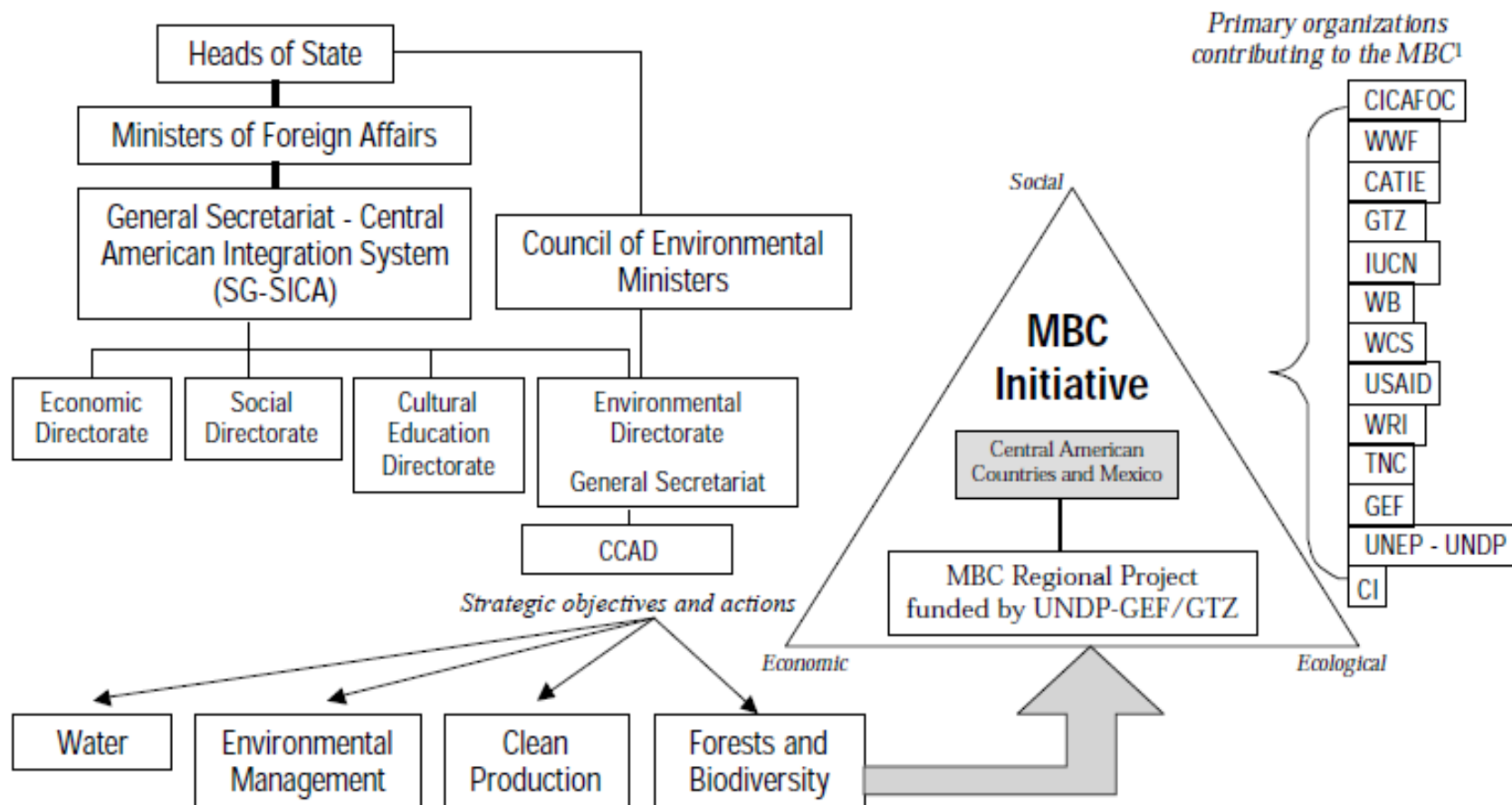
1. Reconciling Stakeholder Interests;
2. Fostering Public Participation, Democratic Governance and Enabling Civil Society **Participation**;
3. Catalyzing Information for Participatory Decision-Making;
4. Clarifying the Function of Land-Use Categories;
5. Addressing Property Rights and **Land-Tenure** Issues;
6. **Capturing Benefits** from Ecosystem Goods and Services;
7. Harmonizing Institutional and Legal Frameworks and Promoting Intersectoral Cooperation;
8. Promoting PP **Investment**.



# Recent advancements

Mesoamerican countries recently signed a PLAN DIRECTOR CORREDOR BIOLÓGICO MESOAMERICANO (CBM) -2020: GESTIÓN TERRITORIAL SOSTENIBLE y un Estrategia Mesoamericana de Sustentabilidad Ambiental (EMSA) so these efforts will work in tandem.

**Figure 1.** Institutional Structure of the MBC Initiative



Sources: Earth Council et al. 1997; CCAD 2000a.

<sup>1</sup> In addition to the primary institutions listed, there are many national and local organizations contributing to the consolidation of the MBC.

**Table 2. Protected Areas in Mesoamerica**

	Total Number (IUCN Categories I-VI) <sup>1</sup>	Small (<10,000 ha)	Large (>100,000 ha)	Total Area (ha)	% National Territory	No. Personnel <sup>2</sup> Working in PAs
Mexico <sup>3</sup>	41	30	5	1,914,000	8.3	NA
Belize	32	20	2	479,000	20.9	67
Guatemala	38	10	4	1,827,000	16.8	218
Honduras	70	54	1	693,000	6.0	166
El Salvador	2	2	0	5,000	0.2	126
Nicaragua	70	48	1	908,000	7.0	144
Costa Rica	85	26	1	723,000	14.2	864
Panama	30	17	4	1,422,000	18.8	272
Total	368	207	18	7,951,000	10.7	1857

<sup>1</sup> The IUCN recognizes six categories of protected area: Category I (Strict Nature Reserves), Category II (National Park), Category III (National Monument/Landmark), Category IV (Habitat or Species Management Area), Category V (Protected Landscape or Seascape), and Category VI (Managed Resource Protected Area).

<sup>2</sup> Number of personnel working in protected areas, all IUCN Categories. CCAD 1998a: 134.

<sup>3</sup> Protected areas in Mexico included in the MBC are located in the states of Campeche, Chiapas, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, and Yucatan.

Sources: WRI 2000, WCMC 2000.



# Desirable Outcomes for Stakeholder Groups -- Conservationists

- Better representation of **endangered ecosystems** in protected areas
- Restoration of natural **habitat corridors**
- Creation of **biodiversity-friendly landscapes** surrounding core natural areas and corridors
- Stabilization and **recovery of endangered species** populations
- Expansion of ecosystem services, reduction of human **threats to biodiversity**



# Rural Populations

- Greater **access** to resource planning and policy
- Empowered **decision-making**
- Recognition and legitimization of **indigenous land rights**
- Recognition of **traditional environmental knowledge** and a variety of alternative, sustainable resource management practices
- Protection of **cultural traditions** and sacred sites
- Improved **water supplies** and public health
- Huge concern about floods and other **disasters**
- Increased **employment and income** for residents
- Improved access to credit specially for **women**
- Increased **access to international markets** for sustainably produced goods and services



# Governments/ Private Sector

- Emergence of domestic and international **markets** for environmental goods and services
- New tax and policy incentives for sustainable land-use practices
- Development of transportation **infrastructure** and tourism facilities
- Increased regional **economic integration**
- Improved **education** levels and reduced migration to urban centers
- Fair payment for **environmental goods and services** such as potable water supply





# Lessons learned

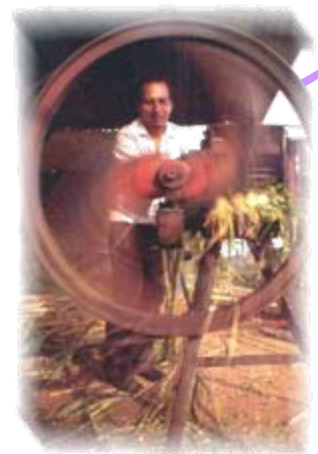
- *Biodiversity-Friendly Agriculture – shade and pollinator certified (SI)*
- *Weaving **Small Farmers** into the Mesoamerican Corridor*
- *The **Campesino a Campesino** Movement*
- *Local Autonomy for Environmental Planning and Management in Cantón San Ramón, Costa Rica*
- *Collaborative **Co-Management** of Sarstoon-Temash National Park in Belize*
- *Land-Use Map Empowers Indigenous Group to Assert Land Rights in Honduras*
- *Land Rights and Ownership Issues in the Rio Platano **Biosphere Reserve**, Honduras -- **RAMSAR sites, IBAs, UNESCO World Heritage sites***
- ***Land-Tenure Regimes** and Deforestation in Petén, Guatemala*
- *Ecotourism and Community-Based Conservation in Belize: The Community Baboon Sanctuary Potential for **Carbon Sequestration** in the MBC*
- *A Tri-national Effort to Conserve **Coastal Resources** in the Gulf of Honduras*
- ***Pagos de Servicios Ambientales in Costa Rica and Mexico (PSAH)***
- *Chagres and Soberania NPs in **Panama Canal Area***



# Scaling up sustainable agriculture -

## Campesino a Campesino movement

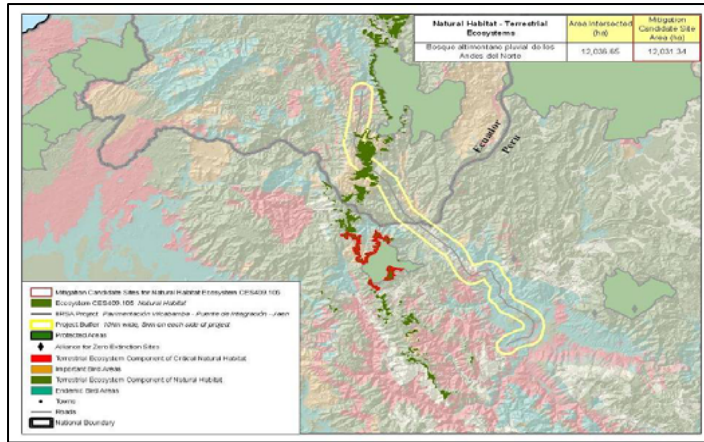
- 10,000 farmers in Central America belong to the Campesino a Campesino movement and use biodiversity friendly **agroecological practices**
- “**encuentros**” (farmer gatherings... sometimes similar to scientist’s symposia) increasing agroecological **diversity and resilience**
- adaptable technologies at low cost to thousands of farmers and has **improved the capacity to innovate,**
- developed farmers’ **social transformation** and agroecological capabilities.



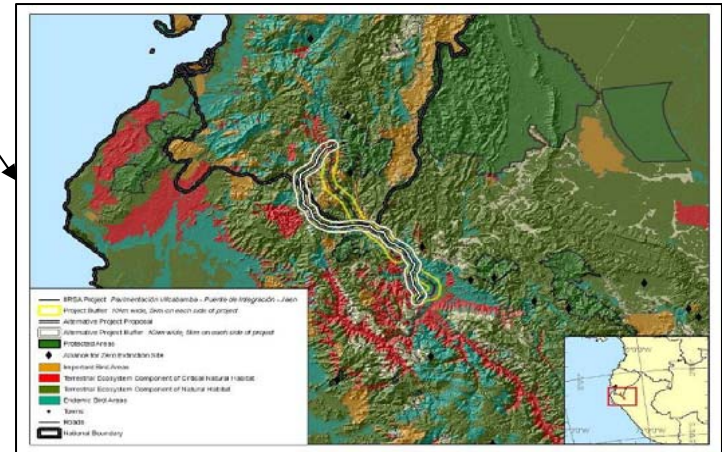
# DATA BASIN/Inter American biodiversity Information Network Environmental Decision Support Tools



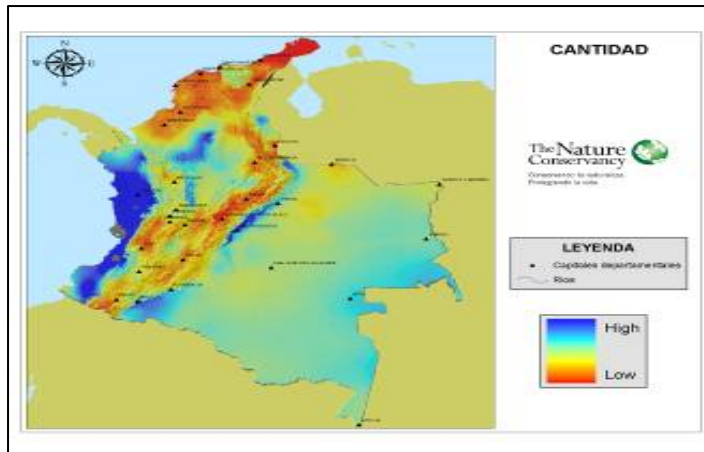
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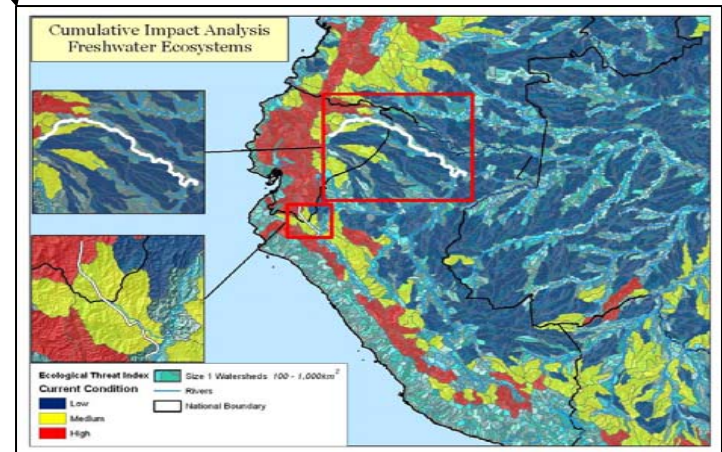
Offset and Mitigation Analysis



Alternative Scenario Evaluation



Ecosystem Services Valuation



Cumulative Impact Assessment

## Support for Advanced Spatial Analyses