



INTERNATIONAL WATERS RESULTS NOTES

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Integrated Ecosystems Management in the Binational Sixaola River Basin

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1. Implementation of the Binational Commission of the Sixaola River Basin.
2. Integration of multi-ethnic communities and farmer organizations in sustainable production schemes in the buffer zones of protected areas within the Binational Sixaola River Basin.
3. Support for conservation government agencies and local NGOs for the coordination of management programs and activities in the La Amistad International Park, and the protected wetlands Gandoca-Manzanillo (Costa Rica) and San San Pond Sack (Panama).

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Integrated Ecosystem Management in the
Binational Sixaola River Basin.
ANAM (Panama)/MINAET(Costa Rica)/IDB-GEF

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To contribute to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, water, and soil resources, through the creation of an enabling environment for the integrated and cross-cutting management of the Binational Sixaola River Basin.

RESULTS: PROCESS

Indicator #1. Establishment of the Binational Commission of the Sixaola River Basin [1]. This commission is composed by representatives of major government agencies, Civil Society and local governments (indigenous and non-indigenous) with presence and activities relevant to the implementation of the Sixaola Binational Project. The Commission's 21 members, from both countries Costa Rica and Panama, have met three times in 2010 and 2011 to discuss and decide about relevant issues such as their regulations code, approbation of the 2011 Annual Operational Plan for the Sixaola Binational Project, among others.

Indicator #2 Community aqueducts strengthened in technical aspects for micro watershed management [10 community aqueducts]. Even though the target was to work with 10 community aqueducts, at present there are a total of 34 communities working with the Binational Project, 18 in Costa Rica and 14 in Panama.

Indicator #3 Promotion for the adoption and replication of sustainable productive practices [150 farmers]. A third important process initiated by the Sixaola Binational Project is the support of small farmers associations, organized women groups, and other indigenous and non-indigenous community groups. To date a strategy for the "seed fund" has been formulated with participation of most relevant actors (cooperants and potential beneficiaries), and its implementation will begin before the end of 2011. More than 20 small organizations are already participating in a training program in several relevant thematic areas which augment their probabilities for accessing this fund.

RESULTS: STRESS REDUCTION

In the area of stress reduction, the activities of the Sixaola Binational Project are still limited to "Identification, location and mapping of pollution sources" which will allow national and local government authorities to proceed according to the abundant existing legislation in both countries.

The Project also supports government habitat protection programs and activities carried on by ANAM and SINAC/MINAET in the protected areas of "La Amistad International Park" and the protected wetlands of "Gandoca-Manzanillo" in Costa Rica and "San San Pond Sack" in Panama. Endangered species include jaguar and other rare felines, three types of sea turtles, manati, among many others. The support consists of training of all-level personnel (from regional administrators to park rangers); office and field equipment and uniforms (including 2 boats, 2 outboard engines, lap-top computers, GPS and other small items necessary for their patrolling and surveying activities).

RESULTS: WATER RESOURCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS

In the area of stress reduction, the activities of the Sixaola Binational Project are still limited.

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