



Monitoring Progress of the Environmental Cooperation Agenda in the CAFTA-DR Countries

EIGHTH EVALUATION REPORT

Costa Rica El Salvador United States Guatemala Honduras Nicaragua Dominican Republic



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OAS Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Monitoring progress of the environmental cooperation agenda in the CAFTA-DR countries : eighth evaluation report / prepared by the Department of Sustainable Development of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

p. : ill. ; cm. (OAS. Official records ; OEA/Ser.D/XXIII.8.8)

ISBN 978-0-8270-6929-9

1. United States--Treaties, etc.--2004 August 5. 2. Free trade--Environmental aspects--Central America.
3. Free trade--Environmental aspects--Dominican Republic. 4. Free trade--Environmental aspects--United States.
5. Environmental protection—Evaluation--Central America.
6. Environmental protection—Evaluation--Dominican Republic.
7. Environmental protection--Evaluation--United States. 8. Environmental policy. 9. Environmental management.

I. CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program. II. Organization of American States. Department of Sustainable Development. III. Series.

OEA/Ser.D/XXIII.8.8

COOPERATION FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

Through the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic work together to strengthen environmental protection, improve the environmental performance of the private sector and promote public participation for environmental decision-making. CAFTA-DR promotes strong economic ties and the effective enforcement of environmental legislation.



The **Environment Affairs Council**, comprised of representatives of the Parties at the ministerial level or equivalent, guides the implementation of the Environmental Cooperation Program.



➤ First meeting of the Environmental Affairs Council in Guatemala – May 2006

WHO ARE THE KEY PARTNERS OF THE PROGRAM?

- **National Institutions** are engaged in the management and oversight of their commitments within the Environmental Cooperation Agreement. They assist in the management of the environmental cooperation at a national level, in coordination with other actors such as ministries, universities, cleaner production centers, and local businesses.
- **CAFTA-DR Points of Contact** play a vital role in assuring the success of environmental cooperation. Designated by the ministries or departments responsible for cooperation, they are the “glue” of program coordination. They receive and transmit information to and from their governments, other Points of Contact and implementing agencies, contractors and NGOs.
- **The Environmental Affairs Council** was established to guide the implementation of the Environmental Cooperation Program; it’s comprised of representatives of the Parties at the ministerial level or equivalent. The Council generally meets on an annual basis.
- **The Organization of American States** prepares independent evaluation reports, using a **Results-Based Management** approach, to provide a general overview of the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program, including **success stories, case studies, challenges and recommendations** documented from the beginning of the implementation of the Program, with a view to improve future environmental cooperation programming.



The Evaluation Reports are available at:
<http://www.caftadr-environment.org/>

■ **The Secretariat for Environmental Matters** was created to provide support to the procedural mechanism process by which members of the public can make submissions asserting that a Party is failing to **effectively enforce its environmental laws**. The Secretariat operates under the direction and supervision of the Environmental Affairs Council. The Secretariat activities **help promote compliance of environmental laws and public participation**. For more information visit: <http://www.saa-sem.org>



■ **Implementing Agencies** are US Federal Government Agencies, contractors, and non-government organizations that plan and carry out activities to reach the objectives of the Environmental Cooperation Program. They provide training and other capacity building initiatives at the heart of the Program, perform essential assessments and analyses, build linkages between governments and civil society, and conduct outreach as well as education programs for the public. Current implementing agencies include:



CAFTA-DR Points of Contact Meeting
Miami, FL – May 2019



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CAFTA-DR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION PROGRAM

Through a range of targeted projects, the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program (ECP) offered capacity strengthening activities that helped governments, civil society organizations, private sector stakeholders and individuals acquire a culture geared towards environmental protection and enforcement of environmental laws. Environmental cooperation initiatives have greatly enhanced the capacity of scientific and management authorities to protect forests and wildlife, as well as their ability to carry out inspection and seizure operations. Across the region there has been enhanced implementation and enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The interventions under the CAFTA-DR ECP have led to positive changes in attitudes of the population to better protect wildlife and collaborate in the fight against illegal trade of flora and fauna.








SELECTED OUTCOMES





Improving **227 laws and regulations** to address wildlife trafficking, air and water pollution, solid waste management, and other critical environmental issues.



Attracting more than **US\$21 million dollars** in funding from private and government partners to support environmental cooperation activities.



Training **143,337 people** in environmental policy and enforcement yielded improved environmental management for more than **1.8 million** hectares of land.

More than **781 Small and Medium Enterprises** adopted new technologies or practices to respond to environmental standards.

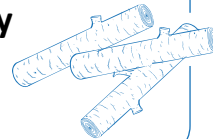


710 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to promote the adoption of cleaner production technologies, leading to reductions of greenhouse gases in more than 6,200 tons CO₂.



More than **8,150 people** increased economic benefits derived from improved management and sustainable conservation of natural resources.

Trainings focused on achieving a long-term **sustainable management strategy** of the genus Dalbergia (Rosewood), and reducing illegal logging in the region.



Reaching over **24.33 million people** through **environmental awareness campaigns**.



With the support of the Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN), **25 operations conducted resulted in 60 arrests**.



The **mobile application** for wildlife identification was launched. VidaSilvestre.net



Training **32,488** people in natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation.

57 port operators received training so that Port Environmental Management Units can achieve compliance with the Central American **"Green Code"**.



More than 3,563 people trained to improve CITES enforcement. In addition, more than **3,287** primary and secondary school students **participated in workshops** on wildlife protection.



Update of **Regulation OSP-01-09** – Integrated Regional Fisheries and Aquaculture Registry System (SIRPAC) to support proper fisheries management.



An **identification manual** on more than **25 commercialized timber species** was developed and published.



50% reduction of response times for all environmental permit procedures.



7 Wastewater laboratories accredited under **ISO 17025**

SELECTED REGIONAL OUTCOMES



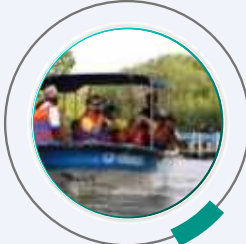
31,300

Sustainable or environmentally friendly agricultural practices



1,120

School biogarden management



128 Ecotourism



A diagnosis of the **wastewater treatment plant** located in El Roble, Puntarenas in Costa Rica, served to observe its operations and **propose optimization strategies**.



The elaboration of a **Manual of Political Advocacy for Integral Waste Management for Community Organizations** has allowed community leaders to develop political advocacy strategies from the grassroots.

Costa Rica built an **electronic platform for the Environmental Complaints System** to facilitate and **expedite communication** between the public and the corresponding environmental institutions.



COSTA RICA



22 companies participated in voluntary cleaner production agreements, reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.



Costa Rica upgraded their electronic CITES permit system to increase public and commercial access to government services, as well as improve government efficiency, accountability, and transparency.



Program implementation led to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the agricultural and cattle sectors.

Environmental Protection and Public Participation in CAFTA-DR Countries

87 local civil society organizations are promoting mechanisms to improve solid waste management in four municipalities of the Gulf of Nicoya.

Civil-society organizations implemented **8** projects with a focus on raising environmental awareness, promoting public participation and providing workshops on environmental legislation.

Indigenous communities generated **9** environmental management proposals to address environmental issues in their hometowns.

Strengthened Enforcement of Wildlife Legislation and Public Participation



Costa Rica collaborated with Nicaragua and the CITES Secretariat to update their binational CITES Operations Manual, an important resource for cross-border cooperation.

Coordination of volunteer surveillance teams in the Osa Peninsula resulted in the protection of **67** sea turtle nests. In total, **13** international volunteers and **22** members of the local community completed 1,350 hours of volunteer patrolling.

Women entrepreneurs commercialize plastic scrap

The project implemented by the Center for Environmental Law and Natural Resources (CEDARENA) in the community of Paquera, Costa Rica, provided support for a group of six women entrepreneurs to develop a business centered on commercializing plastic scrap obtained from local recycling efforts. CEDARENA worked with the women to identify and purchase equipment to crush and melt the recycled plastic as well as learn about plastic management and production, product marketing, and administrative and financial business management. Some of the products made include paving stones (a construction material that is manufactured with recycled materials), key chains and flowerpots, which are now for sale at the local market. Further, the Municipality of Paquera recognized the importance of this project and signed an agreement to support the commercial efforts of the women entrepreneurs. The agreement opens the door for similar efforts that will benefit community members' livelihoods.



**SOY RESPONSABLE
YO ME LLEVO Y RECICLO
EL PLÁSTICO
PAQUERA**

**CAMPAÑA DE RECOLECCIÓN DE
RESIDUOS PLÁSTICOS**
COMUNIDAD DE PAQUERA Y PLAYA ÓRGANOS

26 DE ABRIL
MUNICIPALIDAD DE PAQUERA
DE 8 A 3 PM

Traer: bloqueador solar, repelente, ropa y zapatos cómodos.

Patrodina:

Empowering communities for environmental advocacy

Fundación MarViva implemented a project in the coastline *cantones* (a canton is a type of administrative division of a country) of Nicoya, Nandayure, Cañas, and Abangares. The first stage of the project resulted in a manual to help communities create and launch grassroots environmental advocacy campaigns. The goal of this tool was to increase community engagement in local decision-making processes. This manual was developed via a participatory process, receiving input from 130 community members (68 women and 62 men), and was made available in hard copies as well as in a digital format. In the second stage, MarViva trained five government entities on environmental decision-making. Training targeted two municipalities, municipal delegations of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and National System of Conservation Areas. In a parallel effort, MarViva carried-out communication and outreach campaigns to increase community awareness on proper management of solid waste, reaching approximately 50,000 people. Good environmental decision making is vital for the proper management of natural resources.



COSTA RICA



The CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program helped establish **new and improved procedures** for the review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).



New laws and regulations strengthened the legal framework of CITES and **promote biodiversity.**



New taxonomic guides assist with the identification of **endangered species.**



➤ Site visit to Small Grants Project in Acajutla Municipality, El Salvador.

EL SALVADOR



A new **map identifies wildlife trafficking routes** in El Salvador.



El Salvador increased its air quality monitoring system, “**Red de Monitoreo de Calidad del Aire (REDCA)**,” thus increasing its capacity to monitor air quality in real time (daily).



Environmental Protection and Public Participation in CAFTA-DR Countries



10 newly formed working groups in the Department of Chalatenango **support local municipal environment units.**

7 municipalities of the Rio Sucio basin **strengthened the environmental management** of the Municipal Environmental Units.

Civil-society organizations implemented **8 projects with a focus on raising environmental awareness**, promoting public participation and providing **workshops on environmental legislation.**

Workshops on public participation for environmental decision-making resulted in **238 environmental complaints submitted to local authorities.**

Technical training was provided on issues of emissions inventory, **monitoring and regulations for air quality.**

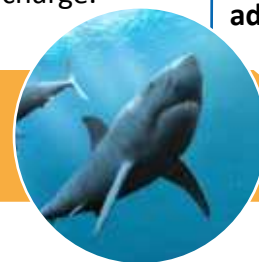
Technical support enabled **monitoring and evaluation of mitigation alternatives in sites contaminated by hazardous materials.**

More than 100,000 nursery plants were planted to **promote reforestation** in areas of groundwater recharge.

Drafted the **regulation for wastewater management.**

The formats for **CITES permits were updated and adopted.**

Strengthened Enforcement of Wildlife Legislation and Public Participation



The **CITES Authorities** of Guatemala and El Salvador finished **collecting data on shark catch and fisheries** to update their shark **CITES non-detriment findings (NDFs).**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment of El Salvador worked with the **CITES Secretariat** to help the country improve its legal framework and to **reach Category 1 status.**

Distributed and printed material containing information on the **importance of protecting sea turtles.**

SELECTED OUTCOMES PER COUNTRY



➤ Site Visit to Small Grants Project in Acajutla, El Salvador.

Improved solid waste management in communities

The project implemented by the NGO Asesoría a Programas y Proyectos de Desarrollo (ASPRODE), in the municipality of Acajutla, provided training for students, leaders of Community Development Associations, fishing cooperatives, and municipal employees of Acajutla on issues related to proper solid waste management. ASPRODE developed a training plan that included modules on solid waste management, environmental legislation, and mechanisms to improve public participation. ASPRODE delivered the modules to 1,132 people (53% women and 47% men). Knowledge assessments carried out at the end of each module showed an average 81.9% passing rate (exceeding ASPRODE's goal of 80%). The trainings will help the community to better separate the waste for a more efficient management and treatment.



196 kg
of metal cans

441 kg
of plastics

Gathering the community to celebrate efforts in solid waste management

The Salvadoran Foundation for Social Promotion and Economic Development (FUNSALPRODESE) organized a community festival to present accomplishments completed through the project implemented in the municipality of Pasaquina. During the festival, FUNSALPRODESE, along with the municipality, unveiled a new municipal ordinance aimed at improving solid waste management, developed with support from the project. They also conducted workshops centered on best practices for solid waste management at home, and presented awards to 35 young 'environmental ambassadors' who completed train-the-trainer workshops centered on solid waste management and replicated these workshops at their schools. The festival launched "Verde", a theater play written to raise awareness on the importance of protecting natural resources, and the negative impacts of improper solid waste management. The goal of the play is to encourage conversation and share solutions and ideas for the proper management of solid waste.

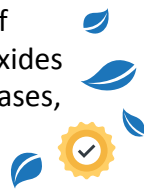


➤ Site Visit to Small Grants Project in Acajutla, El Salvador.





The first inventory of criteria pollutant emissions enabled Guatemala to develop estimates of emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur oxides (SO_x), total organic gases, reactive organic gases, carbon monoxide (CO), ammonia (NH₃) and suspended particles.



Training workshops led to improved institutional capacities for the control and monitoring of the timber trade.

12 people received training on the applied use of the XyloTron for the identification of species. 25 people received training in supplementary macroscopic wood identification techniques.



GUATEMALA

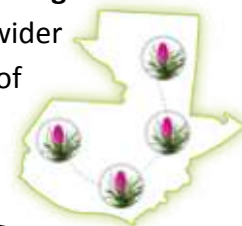


Guatemala adopted a process to **combat wildlife trafficking** at the sub-national level.

Capacity building workshops provided reinforcement to several communities for **protection of the scarlet macaw habitat**.



A new **taxonomic guide** now enables wider identification of Tillandsia.



Environmental Protection and Public Participation in CAFTA-DR Countries

9 projects implemented focused on raising environmental awareness, promoting public participation and providing workshops on environmental legislation.

340 workers representing **15 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** improved their knowledge about environmental legislation to strengthen their country's compliance with environmental requirements.

40 women created and managed a small business to sell simple alternative energy solutions and other useful products (such as seeds and small plants) to the local community.



1,493 people participated in environmental awareness campaigns, public participation workshops and training workshops on environmental legislation and Environmental Chapter of CAFTA-DR.

2 indigenous communities learned about the use of public participation mechanisms for environmental decision-making and received a practical guide on the use of public participation mechanisms provided in the Environmental Chapter of CAFTA-DR and in their languages (Mam and K'iche).



Strengthened Enforcement of Wildlife Legislation and Public Participation

Law enforcement officials from Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras participated in workshops and field trainings.

Multiple participants completed the **Governance and Wildlife Law Enforcement Strategy and Action Plan**.

The **CITES** Authorities of Guatemala and El Salvador finished **collecting data on shark catch and fisheries in order to use the data to update their shark CITES non-detriment findings (NDFs)**.

Newly established and strengthened **practices and techniques for protected area management** are now available for dissemination in the region.

SELECTED OUTCOMES PER COUNTRY



▶ Photo Courtesy of Mancomunidad Trinacional Fronteriza Río Lempa.

A collection route for recyclable materials

The project by the Mancomunidad Trinacional Fronteriza de Río Lempa (MTFRL) aimed to strengthen recycling policies and practices in four communities. MTFRL launched the “Clean City” campaign aimed at establishing routes for recyclable material collection in the municipalities of Asunción Mita, El Progreso, Olopa and Esquipulas, and a route for organic waste collection in Asunción Mita. The project provided coordination for a group of informal waste collectors, and helped set-up a micro-enterprise for processing recyclable materials. Waste arriving to the facility now receives proper handling in the final disposal cell. The plant achieved separation and proper management of plastic, organic waste, and recyclable material. Organic waste is treated via vermicomposting that generates liquid and solid fertilizers of commercial value. Selling the fertilizers locally could generate an additional income for the municipalities.

Environmental protection certificate for 30 young people in Nahualá

The organization Mancomunidad de Tzolojya (communities of Tzolojya) worked with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) to create an environmental protection training program for 30 students from the National Institute of Basic Education of Nahualá, in the Lake Atitlán upper basin. Manctzolojya implemented MARN's "Ecologic Guardians" program to promote environmental education in Guatemala under a strategy that sets forth a goal to 'change the attitude of the population on the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment and natural resources, and pollution reduction.' The program consisted of four modules that highlight the relationship between the individual and the environment, ecology and climate, support for green initiatives, and public participation. One of the main achievements was that program participants coordinated reforestation efforts of an area affected by forest fire by planting 250 trees. It is important to provide the necessary tools to new generations to address environmental concerns and secure sustainability of natural resources.



► Photo Courtesy of Mancomunidad de Tzolojya.



GUATEMALA

Behavior change in separating solid waste

Another project from the organization Mancomunidad of Tzolojya (communities of Tzolojya) focused on nine rural areas and two urban centers in the Lake Atitlan basin. The goal was to improve solid waste management in communities that are outside the area of coverage for solid waste collection. The project began with implementation of the behavior change RANAS methodology (Risks, Attitudes, Norms, Abilities and Self-regulation) to target an increase in the separation of solid waste at source. The Mancomunidad then sought input from 110 families in 11 communities, and facilitated dialogues with local environmental and natural resource commissions, to help each community develop a plan for the collection and management of solid waste. A year after plan implementation, data collection showed that the percentage of families practicing proper solid waste management rose from 18% to 88%. Change of behavior is one step towards environmental sustainability.



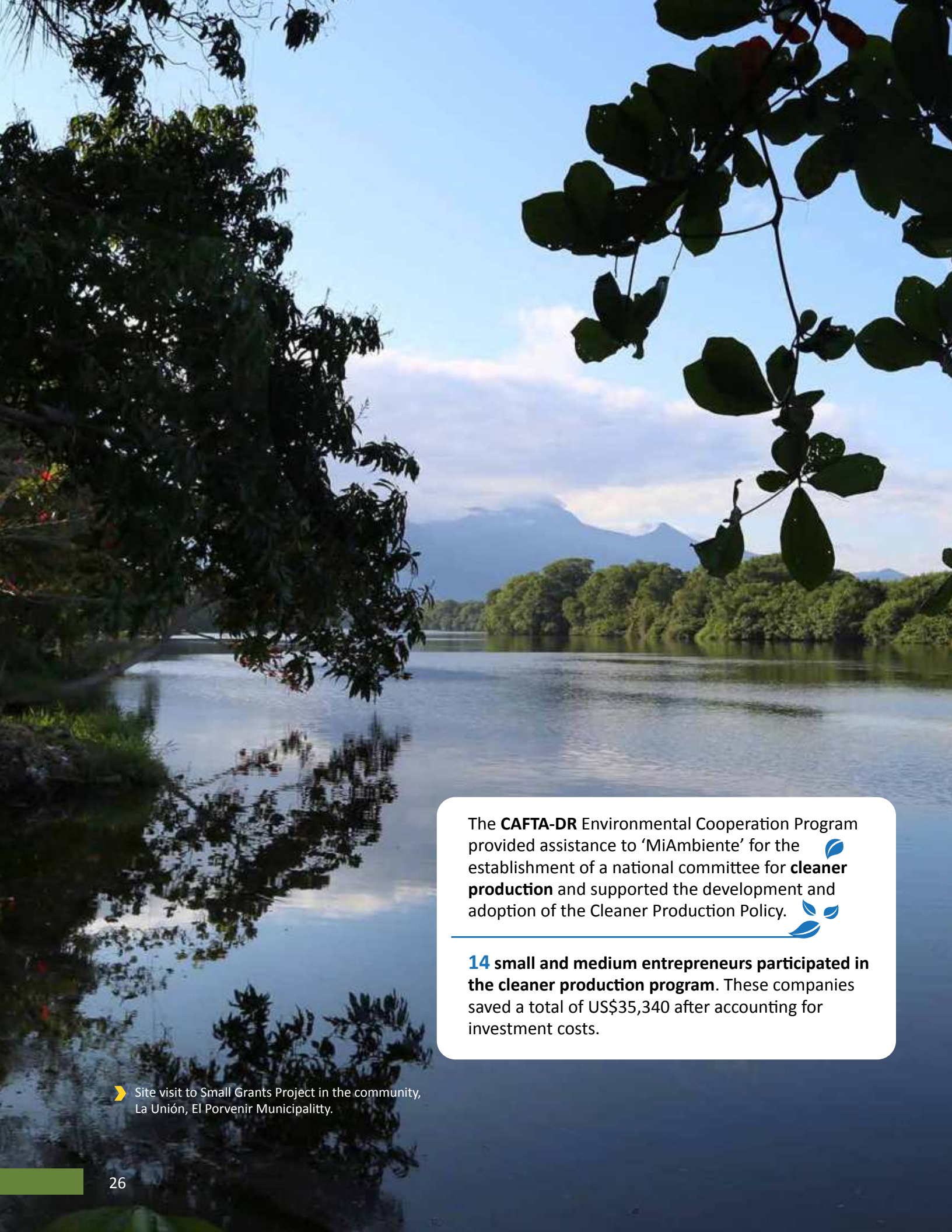
➤ Site Visit to Small Grants Project in Nahualá, Guatemala.

Development of a catalog on traditional practices to reduce solid waste generation

To increase community participation in solid waste reduction, the organization Mancomunidad de Tzolojya (communities of Tzolojya) developed a resource cataloguing traditional practices and alternatives to tackle solid waste. With the help of community members, the organization gathered information, photographs and documented traditional practices from local indigenous peoples that could be used today to reduce waste generation. The team interviewed older members from the Mayan community, including the K'iche, Tz'utujil and Kapchiquel peoples and identified ways to pack and store perishable products based on the use of organic materials such as mud, stone, wood, plant tissues, and other natural fibers. During the official launch of the catalogue, authorities from the Atitlán basin, made a commitment to widely distribute and adopt this resource as a strategy with actionable steps to improve environmental stewardship. This project is not only promoting environmental awareness but also an important cultural and social aspect of these communities: tradition.



► Photo Courtesy of Mancomunidad de Tzolojya.



The **CAFTA-DR** Environmental Cooperation Program provided assistance to 'MiAmbiente' for the establishment of a national committee for **cleaner production** and supported the development and adoption of the Cleaner Production Policy.

14 small and medium entrepreneurs participated in the cleaner production program. These companies saved a total of US\$35,340 after accounting for investment costs.

▶ Site visit to Small Grants Project in the community, La Unión, El Porvenir Municipality.

HONDURAS



305 Honduran enforcement officials strengthened their capacity in **wood identification** to **prevent and combat illegal logging**.

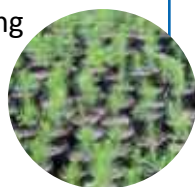


The CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program facilitated the donation of two XyloTron machines to aid in wood identification and in the control of local timber trade.

Honduras and El Salvador conducted **'Operación Golfo'**, a bi-national wildlife and timber enforcement and inspection operation.

Environmental Protection and Public Participation in CAFTA-DR Countries

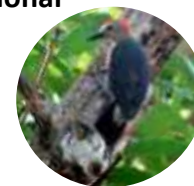
The development of a professional, **four-month university certificate** ("diplomado") course at the National Forestry Sciences School (ESNACIFOR) in Siguatepeque, Honduras, provided training to prosecute timber and wildlife crimes.



Coordination with the **Central American Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN)** in Honduras led to the **collection and evaluation of information about wildlife inspection and implementation measures**.



The new **"National Strategy for the Control of Extraction and Illegal Transport of Forest Products and Wildlife"** helps protect and sustainably manage trade in mahogany and other CITES species present in Honduran forests.



Strengthened Enforcement of Wildlife Legislation and Public Participation

Civil-society organizations **implemented 8 projects** with a focus on raising **environmental awareness, promoting public participation and providing workshops on environmental legislation**.

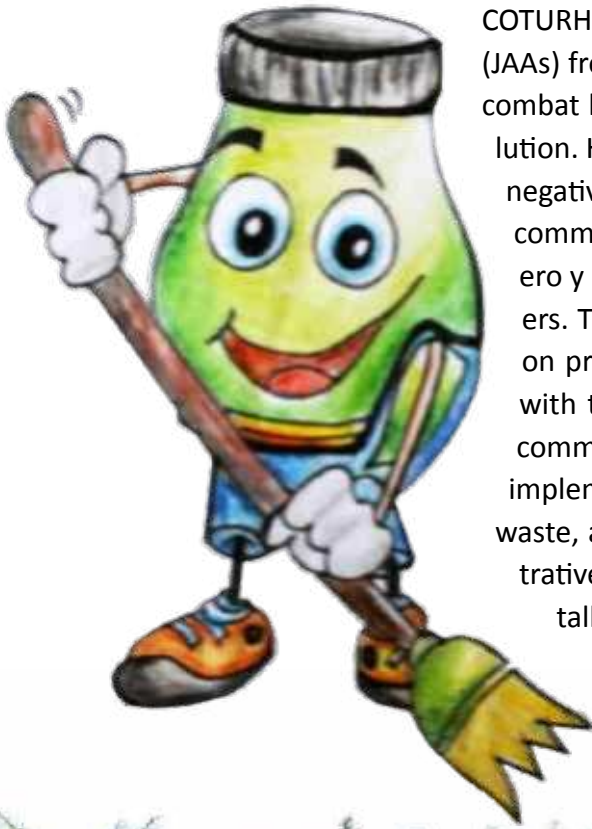


10 communities (approximately 500 families) in five municipalities **received training on issues related to promoting the sustainable use of water and soil resources**.



SELECTED OUTCOMES PER COUNTRY

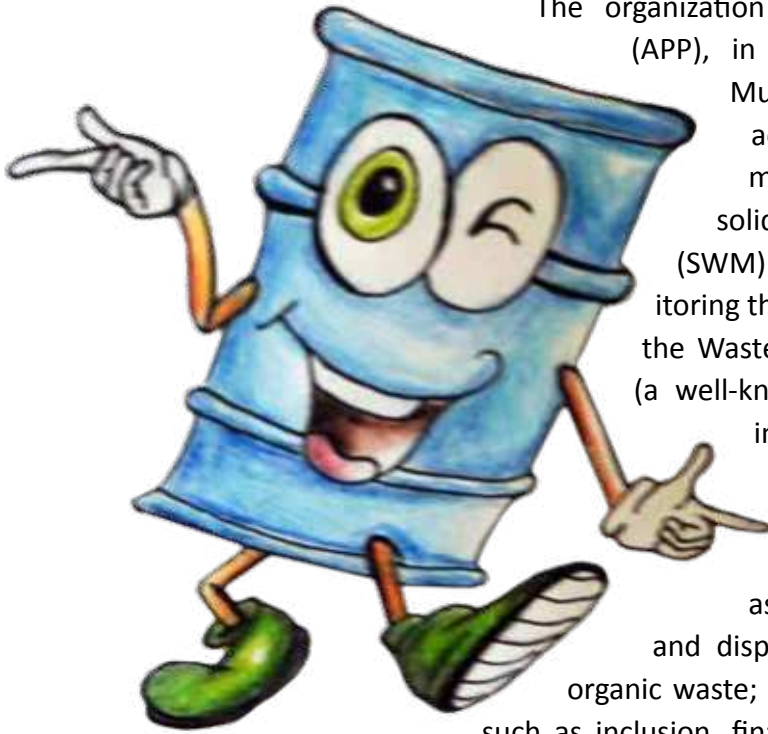
Combating solid waste pollution in rivers and beaches



The Honduran Association for Touristic Communities (LARECOTURH) worked with the water management associations (JAAs) from the communities of La Unión and Salado Barra to combat land-based sources of marine debris and coastal pollution. Historically, improper management of solid waste has negatively affected local natural resources given that both communities are located within the wildlife refuge of "Cuero y Salado" and are adjacent to the Perla and Zacate Rivers. This project focuses on increasing public participation on proper solid waste management. LARECOTURH's work with the community associations resulted La Unión's JAA committing to an allocation of 10% of their budget for the implementation environmental projects addressing solid waste, and a collaboration between Salado Barra's Administrative Committee and their JAA to implement environmentally-focused activities in the community. One of these activities included a beach clean-up event where 3,439 lbs. of garbage were collected. Initiatives at the local level are vital in addressing marine debris and coastal pollution of wildlife refuges.



Implementation of public policies for the proper management of solid waste



The organization Agua Para el Pueblo (APP), in coordination with the Municipality of Humuya, achieved approval of a municipal ordinance on solid waste management (SWM) and a protocol for monitoring this ordinance. By utilizing the Wasteaware ISWM indicators (a well-known set of benchmark indicators for ISWM in cities), this project also established a baseline on technical aspects such as collection, recycling and disposal of organic and inorganic waste; and governance aspects such as inclusion, financial sustainability and strong institutions and proactive policies. These baseline indicators will serve as a reference to measure progress on proper SWM. Implementation of these tools make Humuya a reference municipality for the implementation of similar public policies in municipalities of similar character. Working with local actors guarantees better coordination efforts in managing solid waste.

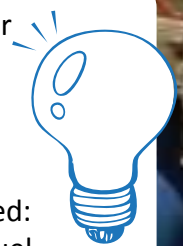
HONDURAS





45 companies participated in an eco-efficiency initiative and received technical assistance to adopt **cleaner production** practices and to improve their **energy efficiency**.

A partnership established with the Chamber of Industries of Nicaragua (CADIN) and Association of Exporters and Producers of Nicaragua (APEN) achieved US\$298,245 in **economic savings** (relative to investments totaling US\$103,990). Other savings included: 456,540 kWh of energy, 43,979 gallons of fuel, 2,997,680 gallons of water, and a reduction in 9,755 m³ of waste waters.



➤ Site visit to sustainable fishing project in the community La Ballona.

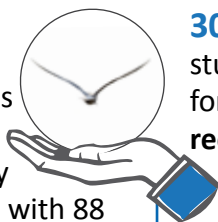
NICARAGUA



A newly formed national committee of **cleaner production** supported the creation and adoption of a “Cleaner Production Policy”.



The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources conducted an intensive capacity building program with 88 park rangers and **20** civil society representatives, which improved the management in all protected areas of Nicaragua.



30 people, including students and forestry inspectors **received training in the use of the XyloTron machine** and the correct identification of various **CITES** protected forest species.

A new map identifies **wildlife trafficking** routes in Nicaragua.

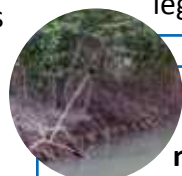


Environmental Protection and Public Participation in CAFTA-DR Countries



There are now **15 newly formed community environmental commissions** in three rural municipalities of Rio San Juan.

Civil-society organizations implemented **9 projects** with a focus on **raising environmental awareness, promoting public participation** and providing **workshops on environmental legislation**.



2 community committees in the protected areas of the Gulf of Fonseca obtained environmental legal representation.

18 hectares of mangroves were repopulated with black shells, and **20 additional hectares of mangroves were restored**.

1,266 participants (704 men and 562 women) from **14 communities attended environmental education workshops** on the sustainable use of natural resources.



19 cooperatives received training in cleaner production practices (490 members: 353 women and 137 men).

Strengthened Enforcement of Wildlife Legislation and Public Participation

Nicaragua collaborated with Costa Rica, and the **CITES** Secretariat to update their binational **CITES** Operations Manual, an important resource for cross-border cooperation.

The CAFTA-DR **Environmental Cooperation Program** contributed to the update and modernization of **CITES** regulations in Nicaragua.

Updates to Decree 8-98 improved norms and procedures associated with the export, import and re-export of species of flora and fauna.

In Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the provision of basic equipment and support for software development to conduct automated **CITES** duties facilitated the day-to-day operations of **CITES** management authorities.



➤ Site Visit to Small Grants Project in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua.

Recycling and beach clean-up days

The Cleaner Production Center (CPML) carried out several awareness campaigns on the importance of addressing solid waste pollution in the community of San Juan del Sur. CPML organized recycling campaigns, beach clean-up days and collection of marine debris from the ocean floor. During one "Recycle-a-thon" event, volunteers collected 655 lbs of solid waste, while during a three-day beach clean-up, 138 volunteers collected 1,115 lbs of solid waste. For the two-day event focused on marine debris collection from the ocean floor, CPML collaborated with a Fisheries Cooperative, the National Port Company, and the San Juan del Sur municipality, as well as leveraged funding from Coca Cola FEMSA. For this event, 68 participants extracted 16,034 lbs of solid waste from the ocean floor, largely reporting vehicle tires. Marine biodiversity is the main tourist attraction of this area and the main source of fishing for neighboring populations.



Collection of marine debris from the ocean floor. ➤
Photo courtesy of CPML - Nicaragua.

Active participation of indigenous communities in solid waste management

The project implemented by the Institute of Research and Social Management in the majority indigenous municipality of Waspam, resulted in the update of a municipal solid waste management plan, last updated in 2003. The new SWM Plan was developed in consultation with government institutions, local authorities, grassroots leaders, religious representatives, municipal market representatives and youth. The final version of the Plan was disseminated widely: it was translated into the local Miskitu language; incorporated into local municipal work plans; and presented to the Waspam Youth Promotion Committee (COPROJUVE), as well as representatives from the municipal market. In addition to working with the new plan, the Institute conducted an environmental awareness campaign focusing on proper management and disposal of solid waste. The campaign reached at least 18,000 people from 12 neighborhoods. Updating a municipal SWM plan with the input of members of community ensures everyone's ownership and engagement in better managing solid waste.



➤ Environmental awareness campaign in Waspam, Nicaragua. Photo courtesy of INGES.





NO
ME DE
COTORRA
CUIDA
—EL—
BOSQUE

— grupojaragua

¡Deja es



— grupojaragua

The Ministry of Environment implemented a monitoring and control system for environmental complaints.



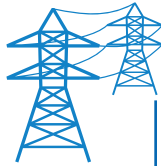
The Manabao Zero Trash Project, implemented under the Small Grants Program, **promoted recycling as a profitable economic activity** while fostering a change in communities' attitude and behavior: 88 people (43 women) received training in composting and producing organic fertilizers, with the goal of creating a small business.



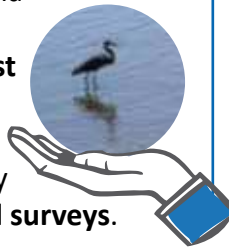
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



New technical guides are available to support the review of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) in the non-metallic and metallic mining, energy and tourism sectors.



Community members in two bird-nesting areas in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park and Isla Saona helped to establish **nest monitoring** programs and regularly conduct **bird surveys**.



Through a workshop in Boca de Yuma, **50** people received training on strengthening the reach of the tourist sector to **protect local wildlife** and **develop alliances with the tourism sector** in La Romana, one of the most important nesting sites for the highly-endangered hawksbill turtle.

Environmental Protection and Public Participation in CAFTA-DR Countries

Civil-society organizations implemented **8** projects with a focus on raising **environmental awareness**, promoting **public participation** and providing **workshops on environmental legislation**.



More than **150** entrepreneurs, **400** students and **25** families in El Diamante neighborhood benefitted from **environmental awareness and energy efficiency activities**.

A total of 27 representatives of **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** received **training in an energy efficiency certification course**: furthermore, these managers conducted energy audits in **12** households in El Diamante, and recommendations were made to homeowners to ensure energy savings.

Strengthened Enforcement of Wildlife Legislation and Public Participation



Inter-agency teams seized 3,443 articles made of Hawksbill sea turtle, following an inspection conducted in hundreds of stores located in six different provinces.

Selected **law enforcement officials participated in workshops and field trainings** conducted in Guatemala, Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Honduras.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Public participation to promote good practices in solid waste management

Through the project “Let’s Recycle,” ECOBASURA implemented and developed a series of open forums in the municipalities of Baní and Azua and in four different points in the National District, to raise awareness and promote proper solid waste management. With the slogan “Cash in on your garbage,” environmental experts led six forums for 1,474 people (936 women and 538 men) including students, community neighbors and the public. The forums included 27 environmental education talks; 74 workshops to teach people how to use recycled materials (e.g., paper, metal and plastic) to make earrings, pencil holders, and decorative items; and an additional 28 workshops focused on raising awareness of hazardous waste management. During the forums, ECOBASURA explained how to separate waste at home and showed attendees an educational video with information on proper management of hazardous and non-hazardous household waste. In parallel, ECOBASURA implemented an awareness campaign to promote messages of environmental stewardship, delivered through radio, television, as well as social networks, reaching almost 35,000 persons in the area. Promoting good practices in solid waste management raises awareness of some of the environmental problems local communities can address.



Decorative items made out of recycled materials.





RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

1

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

With support from the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program (ECP), the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** implemented several projects in the region between 2013-2018. These projects promoted local capacity building, reduction of contamination, and effective enforcement of environmental legislation. Specifically, this work resulted in an update of environmental standards and regulations in areas such as wastewater management, solid waste management, environmental impact assessments, enhanced energy efficiency, and institutional strengthening of the Central American Commission of Environmental Development (CCAD).

CAFTA-DR environmental cooperation has significantly contributed to the exchange of experiences and implementation of best practices in environmental management, aiming towards a better quality of life and more prosperity in the region.



Source: *Building a Sustainable Future*. Regional CAFTA-DR Environmental Program from USAID. 2019

2

INCREASING ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Obligations established in Chapter 17 of CAFTA-DR include ensuring that the Parties' environmental laws and policies provide for and encourage high levels of environmental protection; and to effectively enforce their environmental laws. In support of these long-term goals, the **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** together with local partners, implemented training and workshops aimed at officials from the ministries of environment, lawyers and environmental judges from the CAFTA-DR region, on topics related to dissemination of environmental laws and obtaining and using forensic evidence to ensure environmental compliance. These interventions have helped CAFTA-DR countries advance and update their legal processes to prosecute and sanction environmental crimes.

To improve the enforcement of laws and regulations in each country, the ministries of the environment of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Dominican Republic established a compliance baseline in areas such as wastewater, solid waste, environmental impact assessments, atmospheric emissions, chemical substances, environmental education and legislation. With the establishment of this instrument, these countries now have a guide to measure environmental management.

Furthermore, Costa Rica built an electronic platform for the Environmental Complaints System to facilitate and expedite communication between the public and the corresponding environmental institutions. This platform is geared towards reporting environmental crimes and/or following up on environmental impact assessments, among other services. This tool promotes public participation and generates greater institutional response capacity, leading to better performance in the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations.



CAFTA-DR countries advance and update their legal processes to prosecute and **sanction environmental crimes.**



3

PROVIDING TRAINING TO IMPROVE SUBMISSIONS

After 10 years of processing public submissions (a submission is a written assertion that states that a CAFTA-DR country is failing to effectively enforce its environmental laws), the **Secretariat for Environmental Matters of the CAFTA-DR (SEM)** concluded that there was a need to complete training on preparing proper submissions. The SEM identified the legal clinics associated with universities as potential partners to address this need. The various legal clinics in the region have full-time attorneys to advise practicing students, nationwide coverage, and a legal, physical and academic infrastructure to offer the environmental legal advice for potential submitters.

Since 2017, the SEM has worked with universities legal clinics in the region to provide environmental law advisory service. As a result, the SEM supported four universities in the preparation of environmental litigation manuals in three countries. Further, two universities began dissemination of the manual and capacity building for professors, students and attorneys at their clinics. So far, the SEM has trained a total of 624 people (253 men and 371 women), most of them lawyers or law students, in the field of Environmental Law and the SEM Citizen Submission Mechanism. The Legal Clinics Program received its first submission from citizens who received legal counseling from the Free Legal Clinic of the Autonomous University of Honduras.



SEM has supported **four universities** in the preparation of environmental litigation manuals in **three countries.**



624 people trained

4

COMBATING ILLEGAL LOGGING

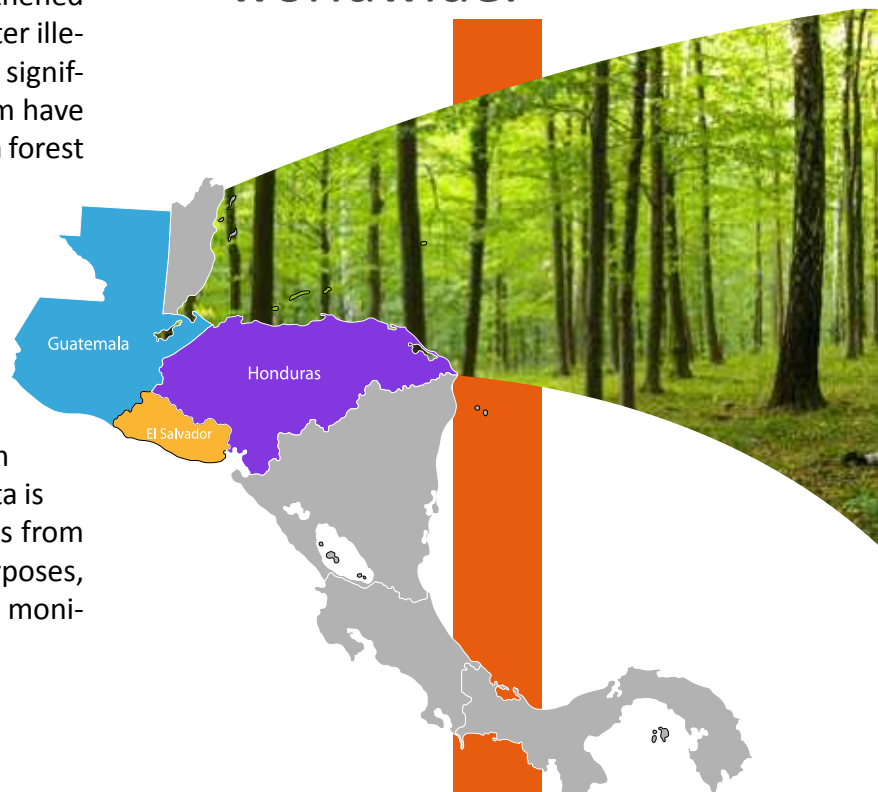
An increase in demand for rosewood (*Dalbergia*) in China has been driving illegal logging of these rare and very valuable tree species across Central America. The deforestation of this species has had a devastating impact on indigenous forest-dwelling communities and the natural resources that sustain their livelihoods. Furthermore, illegal logging lowers global timber prices, and leads to annual losses of more than US\$10 billion worldwide. Under CAFTA-DR, the **United States Forest Service (USFS)** continues its technical assistance to in-country partners to improve natural resource management and forest governance. Efforts focus on collaboration to enhance opportunities for trade and economic development based on legal and sustainable natural resource use.

In El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, USFS conducted forest monitoring, and strengthened wood traceability systems to detect and deter illegal logging. The three countries have made significant but differentiated progress; all of them have forestry inventories and updated maps with forest coverage.

Capacity building activities have benefited a considerable number of national experts. Furthermore, **El Salvador, Honduras** and **Guatemala** have a better access to technology. Significant data is generated mainly by the governments, supported in some cases by the academic sector; this data is mainly used for REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) purposes, the management of protected areas, and monitoring forest incentive projects.



Illegal logging lowers global timber prices, and leads to **annual losses** of more than **US\$10 billion** worldwide.



5

DETECTING WOOD OF ILLEGAL ORIGIN

In 2017, the **United States Forest Service (USFS)** established a group of regional wood identification specialists and trained them in macro and microscopic wood identification. Strengthened capacity in wood identification allows for countries to better control and monitor timber trade and ensure legality, which in turn creates a more level playing field within the global timber industry.

USFS also facilitated training on the use and management of **XyloTron**, an automated wood identification device, and helped develop a regional network of university laboratories that foster institutional collaboration and support the development of the **XyloTron** image library. Having a regional image library and database are key steps to enabling the **XyloTron** to become field operational. Also, USFS assisted in outlining an operational plan to create and feed the **XyloTron** database with a variety of species of commercial interest in the region. Under this proposal, each participating university would collect and prepare samples, which would then be imaged and uploaded into the database. The laboratory at the National Forestry Institute (INAB) in Guatemala, the National University of Science and Forestry of Honduras (U-ESNACIFOR) and the National University of Agriculture in Nicaragua (UNA), each have a **XyloTron** and its associated equipment. One positive unexpected result is that the Guatemala wood forensic laboratory is now independently collaborating with the Forestry Department in Belize.

Wood identification allows for countries to better control and **monitor timber trade.**



6

PRESERVING SEEDS TO SUPPORT REFORESTATION

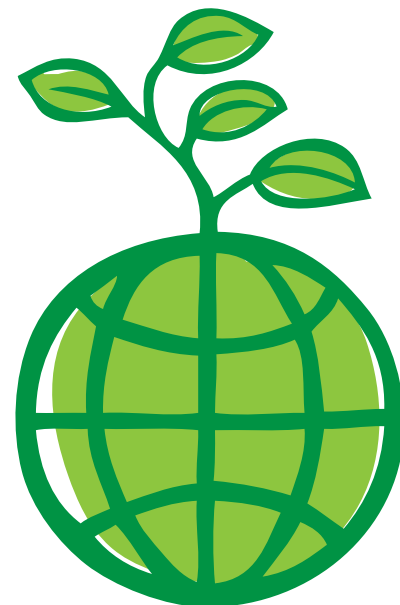
To ensure a sufficient supply of certified genetic stock for native and endemic tree species, a laboratory must have a climate-controlled facility to preserve germplasm (seeds and tissues from which new plants can be grown) and prevent rot, either via cold or dry storage. For many laboratories in tropical, humid environments, cold storage is a more feasible option due to the difficulty in maintaining dry storage facilities.

The CAFTA-DR ECP has facilitated exchanges between the region's seed bank directors. The **United States Forest Service (USFS)** has coordinated regional dialogues on seed banks to share challenges and lessons learned for seed bank development in each country, as well as strengthened the seed bank network in CAFTA-DR countries. These exchanges resulted in the creation of a work plan aimed at establishing alliances among the seed banks and identifying opportunities for technical cooperation and the development of mutual capacity, including training, research, and exchange of experiences. In addition, these exchanges also propelled the establishment of a WhatsApp and e-mail group for consultation and information exchange on seed banks.

Furthermore, USFS provided targeted training for technicians of the National Forestry Institute of Guatemala (INAB) on designing seed bank testing and management protocols, and provided support for the identification of proper quality control and monitoring measures to ensure that the new cold storage room could maintain appropriate conditions for seed storage. This newly inaugurated cold storage facility greatly increases the laboratory's capacity for maintaining an inventory of seeds, and will support reforestation and restoration of threatened timber species for years to come.



Cold storage facility greatly increases the laboratory's capacity for maintaining an inventory of seeds.



7

STRENGTHENING WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT CAPACITY

The **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** provided technical assistance to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic to develop national regulations for wastewater management. As a result, the countries reached agreements on allowable discharge parameters, sludge handling and legislation. EPA observed operations and conducted diagnoses at 12 domestic wastewater treatment plants in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic to propose strategies to optimize plant operations. Consequently, the plants increased their institutional capacity in the regulatory and technical assessment processes. Further, the development of an inter-comparison process among laboratories, and the establishment of a wastewater reference network for the CAFTA-DR region will help increase the sustainability of water resources in the region.



➤ PRCC. Cocabel, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Lempira, Honduras.



EPA observed operations and conducted diagnoses at 12 domestic wastewater treatment plants in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and the Dominican Republic to **propose strategies to optimize plant operations.**

8

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Although Central America and the Dominican Republic have made progress in the development of adequate infrastructure for solid waste disposal, they still rely on open dumping. The CAFTA-DR ECP has contributed towards strengthening capacities for the construction, operation and inspection of solid waste landfills; investigation of contaminated sites; planning of methane gas systems in sanitary landfills; and improving processes for recycling electronic products. Guatemala, Honduras and Dominican Republic held national workshops on landfill inspection protocols aimed at municipalities focusing on adequate siting, design, proper operation, and the importance of closing open air dumps and replacing them with sanitary landfills.

The Dominican Republic received technical assistance on topics related to the reconditioning of sanitary landfills, planning of methane gas systems, optimization of operations and collections, and making use of methane gas at sanitary landfills. This facilitated a feasibility study on the modification of a solid waste dump and a study on the capture and reuse of methane gas, as part of a pilot project carried out in the municipality of San Cristobal.

Furthermore, a regional workshop on the topic of comprehensive management of electronic waste was held with technical support from Fortech Company, a pioneer in the region on the recovery, separation, reuse, and recycling of electronic waste. Participants of the workshop included technical personnel from the Ministries of the Environment from El Salvador, Honduras, and Dominican Republic, as well as representatives from the Executive Committee for the Comprehensive Management of Electronic Waste (CEGIRE) from Costa Rica.



ECP has contributed towards strengthening capacities for the **construction, operation and inspection of solid waste landfills.**



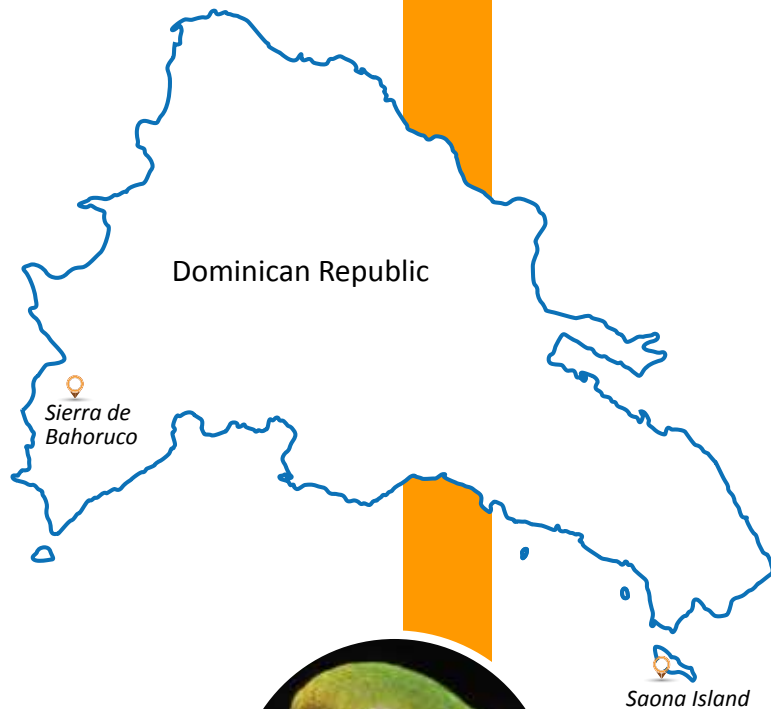
► **Photo:** Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic
Installation of biobardas (floating biofences) in Dominican Republic.

9

STRENGTHENING CAPACITY THROUGH WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) provided technical assistance to Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to improve enforcement of wildlife trafficking laws, by strengthening the capacity of key community organizations through tangible, on-the-ground wildlife conservation projects.

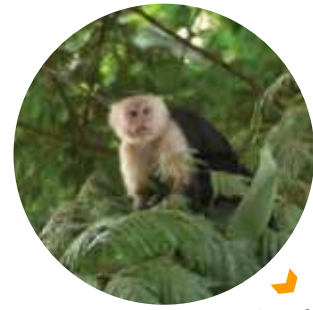
To stem demand of the Hispaniolan Parrot for pet trade in Dominican Republic, WCS developed monitoring programs of the species at two key sites: Sierra de Bahoruco National Park and Saona Island at Cotubanamá National Park. The programs contributed to an increase in the local capacity to protect the Hispaniolan Parrot through training of eight community members at Saona Island, Oviedo, and Pedernales to monitor parrot management and conservation efforts. Newly gathered parrot population data has increased knowledge about the species and will serve as a baseline for a scientific study to be carried out from 2018 through 2021 on parrot ecology and population trends at a national level, in collaboration with BirdLife International and Manchester Metropolitan University. In addition, social media and direct outreach activities using an education toolkit developed for the program, and activities under a Parrot Road Show undertaken in Santo Domingo, Santiago, Duarte, Barahona and Independencia provinces



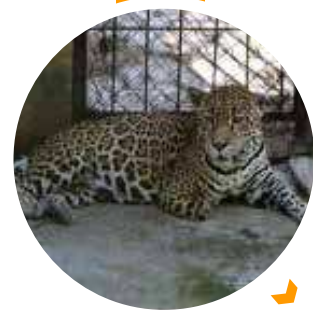
Hispaniolan Parrot, popular pet bird threatened by illegal trade.

reached more than 11,900 people regarding parrot conservation and the threats of illegal trafficking. A strategic Conservation Plan developed for Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, explicitly identifies the Hispaniolan Parrot and its habitat as conservation targets and empowers nine institutions to co-manage and oversee conservation efforts.

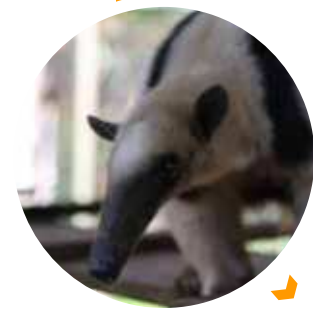
The WCS project in Nicaragua and Honduras focused on the delimitation and cleaning of boundaries in indigenous territories: Kipla Sait Tasbaika KST, Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum MITK, and Mayangna Sauni Bu MSB and detailed summaries of the findings were presented to the indigenous authorities and the government officials from the ministries of environment. The project was enormously popular as cleaning the boundaries was overdue and evaluations of incursions were a high priority. These activities, along with a complementary project designed to deliver technical assistance to manage livestock, were instrumental in the signing of conservation agreements with the territories. These agreements include prohibitions on hunting spider monkeys and white-lipped peccaries, and conditions on controlling agricultural damage by tapirs and jaguars. The work conducted in these three territories has prompted adjacent territories to conduct similar activities.



White-faced capuchin



Jaguar



Tapir



10

WORKING TO PROMOTE CLEANER PRODUCTION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY PRACTICES

The **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** worked with the National Cleaner Production Centers (NCPCs) of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to establish collaborative partnerships with universities and the private sector, specifically in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) located in the watersheds of Acelhuate in El Salvador, Motagua in Guatemala, and Chamelecón in Honduras. The project built local capacities on cleaner production (CP) and Energy Efficiency (EE) among university teachers and students, and MSME personnel, expanded the adoption of CP and EE in MSMEs, and increased awareness of the benefits of CP and its role in integrated watershed management (IWM). Seven universities are participating in the project, including:

El Salvador:

Universidad de El Salvador (UES) and Escuela Superior de Economía y Negocios (ESEN)

Guatemala: Universidad Rural (URURAL), Universidad Rafael Landívar (URL) and Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (USAC)

Honduras: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras en el Valle de Sula (UNAH-VS) and Universidad Católica de Honduras (UNICAH)

Furthermore, WWF collaborated with the Central American University Superior Council (CSUCA) in the development



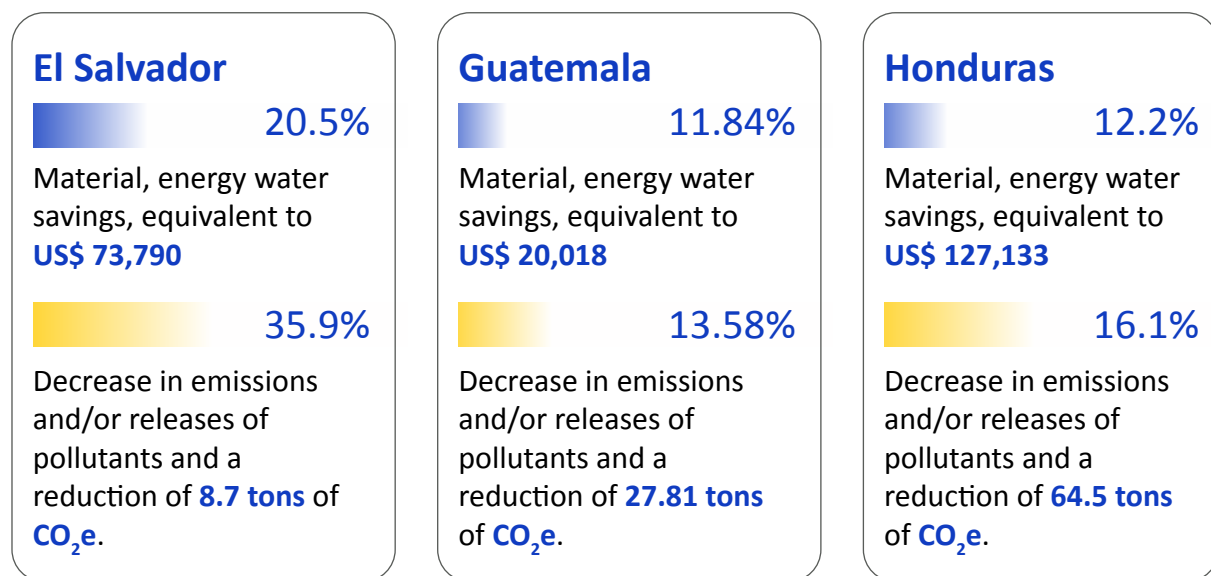
▶ **Photo:** FUNDES Guatemala implemented the project "Towards the export competitiveness of MSMEs through the incorporation of good environmental practices."

of the syllabus for a CP and IWM regional course. NCPCs trained a total of 694 persons: 376 university students, 51 university teachers and 267 MSME personnel. The program included internships in MSME for college students and by October 2018, 132 students had participated: 40 in El Salvador, 61 in Guatemala, 31 in Honduras. The NCPC also carried out roundtables to increase awareness of the benefits of CP and its role in integrated watershed management; the discussion focused on identifying joint actions to adequately prepare university students to implement CP in enterprises.



► **Photo:** FUNDES Guatemala implemented the project "Towards the export competitiveness of MSMEs through the incorporation of good environmental practices."

To expand the adoption of CP and EE in MSM, the project conducted 34 In Plant Assessments (IPAs): 11 in El Salvador, 12 in Guatemala, 11 in Honduras. Through the concluded IPAs, 347 recommendations were identified: 50 in El Salvador, 73 in Guatemala, and 224 in Honduras. From this total, 116 CP recommendations have been implemented: 19 in El Salvador, 13 in Guatemala, 84 in Honduras. The process of implementing recommendations identified through the IPAs has finished for 26 MSME. Some of the overall benefits included material, energy water savings, equivalent to US\$220,941, and a reduction of 682.01 tons of CO₂e. The benefits by country are as follows:



11

EXPANDING SKILLS ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Energy efficiency is a topic of interest for the CAFTA-DR region because of its impact on the productive sector, including but not limited to the textile industry. In Guatemala, support provided by **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** under the CAFTA-DR ECP jointly with the Center for Cleaner Production of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources and the Association of Apparel and Textiles Industry, included technical workshops to 10 small and medium textile enterprises on topics such as efficient use of energy to optimize the productive processes and use of energy. Additionally, both entities worked together on the creation of an Energy Efficiency Guide that was shared among members of the textile sector, and later disseminated and enforced in companies. The guide was designed to help Small and Medium Enterprises make better use of energy to reduce emissions levels and increase economic benefits.

In El Salvador, the banking sector received training on the design of energy efficiency products, such as credits to offer clients interested in the environment. With support from the National Energy Center of El Salvador, and PROMERICA Bank, which has been preparing these types of products in Costa Rica and Honduras, USAID shared their experience with representatives of the Salvadoran financial system. This public-private cooperation strengthened the capacity of 10 financial institutions to support the development of projects that aim at financing initiatives centered on energy efficiency.



Workshops to 10
small and medium
textile enterprises
on topics such as
efficient use of
energy to optimize
production
processes.

12

AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

There is considerable variation in the current capacity of parties to CAFTA-DR to manage their air quality programs. For example, some countries conduct little-to-no routine air quality monitoring, while others regularly collect and share high quality ambient air quality measurements. Similarly, vehicle import and emission restrictions and fuel quality standards vary by country, as does the existence and enforcement of stationary source emission limits. Air quality modelling capabilities for policy planning purposes also vary by country. U.S. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** and Battelle Institute are currently working to address the issue of air quality management in CAFTA-DR countries through the implementation of a work plan that includes regional dialogues, and delivery of webinars related to air quality management. Based on the discussions generated at the dialogues, the CAFTA-DR representatives agreed to address four AQ issues: emissions inventories, AQ/QC, AQ standards development, equipment, and maintenance and data analysis.

A series of webinars developed in collaboration with Battelle addresses the priority areas identified by CAFTA-DR countries. In the development process of the webinars, EPA and Battelle worked closely with the Pan-American Health Association (PAHO) and the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office of Latin America and Caribbean. This collaboration led to the use PAHO's platform to launch the webinars, allowing for an opportunity to share knowledge and expertise with the region and beyond.



Regional dialogues and delivery of webinars related to **air quality management**.

AIR QUALITY



13

MODERNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) provide a tool to integrate environmental, economic, and social concerns, while mitigating adverse impacts on natural and human environments. EIAs allow governments to set conditions for approval (i.e., for site selection, construction, operation and closure), plan for infrastructure needs and land use, and monitor impacts and compliance. If EIA requirements are circumvented prior to construction there can be significant environmental, economic and social costs down the road. Unnecessary costs and delays caused by inefficiencies in the EIA process reduce the benefits sought from economic investment. With support from the CAFTA-DR ECP, **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** and **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** developed an initiative to upgrade the environmental impact assessment systems in Central America and Dominican Republic. The work focused on strengthening the technical capacities and developing the technology needed to improve environmental standards in order to promote economic growth without negative effects on the environment.

For instance, in El Salvador, before the CAFTA-DR ECP intervention, the process for the approval of environmental permits, particularly in the construction sector, was lengthy and complex. The issuance of environmental permits is now faster and more efficient given enhancements conducted on El Salvador's Environmental Assessment System. This new system is the first on-line platform of its kind able to categorize the projects proposed as “low”, “medium” or “high” risk to the envi-



A tool to **integrate environmental, economic, and social concerns**, while mitigating adverse impacts on natural and human environments.

ronment. The “low-risk” projects, which represent 60% of the projects in the construction sector, can now be streamlined thanks to the quick categorization process and on-line revision. According to MARN, this tool has reduced the revision period for obtaining an environmental permit deemed as “medium-risk” to the environment, from 62 to 40 days; and the revision period for “high-risk” projects has been reduced from 40 to 5 days. This new system has been successful in practice and could become a model for other countries in the region.

In addition, USAID supported MARN in the implementation of three complementary modules to improve the Environmental Assessment System, in the control and follow-up of projects, including consolidation of consultations, follow-up and alerts of the processes and integration of geographic information, which contributes to the decision-making process. In the Dominican Republic, support provided to the electronic platform to follow-up on Environmental Compliance Reports (ICA, in Spanish), considerably reduce costs by simplifying the compliance report without the need of intermediaries. This electronic platform also helps to strengthen transparency and provide real-time information that facilitates the decision-making process.

Involving the public and stakeholders in the EIA process leads to better identification of economic, social, and environmental costs and the development of future monitoring systems. Clear and transparent enforcement of EIA requirements, procedures, and commitments to mitigation and monitoring helps governments, investors, civil society and Indigenous nations mitigate risk and increase opportunities for longer term sustainable economic growth.



**Control and follow-up
of projects**

**Follow-up and alerts of
the processes**

**Integration of the
geographic information**

14

STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OF PORTS

The **Central American Commission of Maritime Transport (COCATRAM)** conducted activities in the region to strengthen institutions for effective compliance and enforcement of environmental legislation and protection at ports in the CAFTA-DR region. These activities strengthened the capacity of Port Environmental Management Units (57 ports operators), by improving implementation of National and Port Action Plans and the ISO 14001 standard (the international standard that specifies requirements for an effective environmental management system); and complying with the Central American “Green Code”. Several workshops aimed at port operator helped improve the implementation of Environmental Management Systems (SIGAP) audit; subsequently, working groups were established so participants from these workshops could serve as instructors on these topics.



► Photo: Puntarenas Port, Costa Rica.



Activities strengthened the capacity of **Port Environmental Management Units** and compliance with the **Central American Green Code**.

15

COMBATING ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

The Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization's (OSPESCA) interventions in the CAFTA-DR countries focused in prevention, control, and eradication of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by updating the fishing registry included in the Regulation OSP-01-09 "Integrated Registration System of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America" (SIRPAC). This process included assistance to countries with the incorporation of data into the system; delivery of SIRPAC 2.0; and training 16 technicians to operate SIRPAC 2.0.

In addition, OSPESCA developed a program for regional inspection, and established the profile for the selection of inspectors. Both the program and the profile were adopted by the OSPESCA Executive Committee. OSPESCA also updated regulation OSP-03-10, which addresses monitoring systems and the use of satellite technology to combat IUU Fishing. Six officials received training to operate the updated system. Furthermore, the Executive Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America and the Dominican Republic (SE-COMISCA) and the Specialized Regional Directorate of OSPESCA, in conjunction with the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (DER SICA/OSPESCA), jointly purchased equipment and services for monitoring fishing vessels in the CAFTA-DR region via satellite.



Training activities benefited **83 government officials and inspectors** (58 men and 25 women).

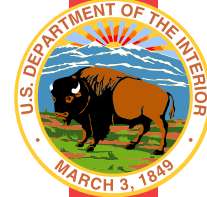


► **Photo:** Sustainable fishing project in the community La Ballona, Nicaragua.

16

STRENGTHENING CAWEN

The **Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN)** constitutes a regional forum for cooperation, exchange of experiences and the strengthening of institutions in charge of implementing wildlife legislation. It is an important mechanism in the region that promotes the enforcement of policies and strategies to combat national and international trafficking of flora and fauna.



9 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

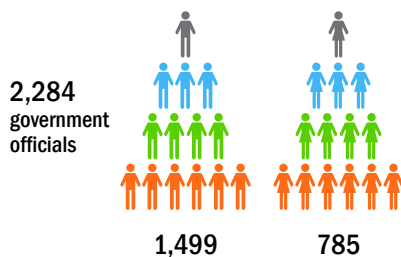
National and Regional Trainings



Meetings

8 annual meetings for evaluation, strategic planning and information exchange
4 binational meetings for coordination and planning of seizure operations

Participants in CAWEN activities 2010 to 2018



Seizure operations

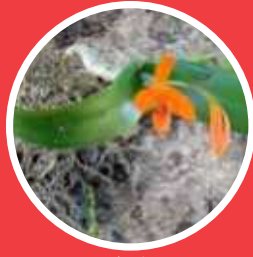


More than 30 national and local operations

- Loading Inspections
- Border patrols
- Checkpoints
- Luggage check
- Postal Mail Review



Rhinoceros iguana



Orange Orchid



Scarlet macaw



Strawberry poison frog

CAWEN supports enforcement of policies and strategies in the fight against crime in national and international **traffic of flora and fauna.**

CAWEN Focal Points coordinated numerous anti-trafficking operations with ecological, environmental, and national police counterparts and with other enforcement and prosecution agencies in their governments. The following are some of the operations that took place between January and September 2018:

- **Operation Cazador** in El Salvador (May 2018) – national scope
- **Operation Artemisa II** in Honduras (February 2018) – national scope
- **Operation Gaia** in Honduras (October 2018) – national scope
- **Operation** in Costa Rica (April-May 2018) – national scope

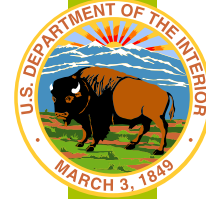
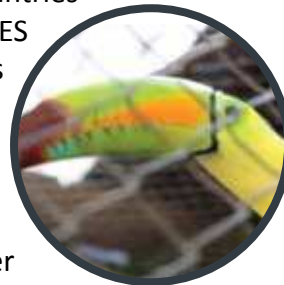
Results from these experiences have not only been shared among CAFTA-DR countries but also with other regions; the Regional Office of the United Nations Environment Program (UN Environment) invited CAWEN Secretary and Focal Points to participate as panelists in the Mesoamerican Dialogue on Illegal Wildlife Trafficking held in May 2018.

17

COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

The **U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP)** continues to support the countries' efforts to improve the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and coordination among CITES authorities and other officials involved in combating the trafficking of wild flora and fauna in the region.

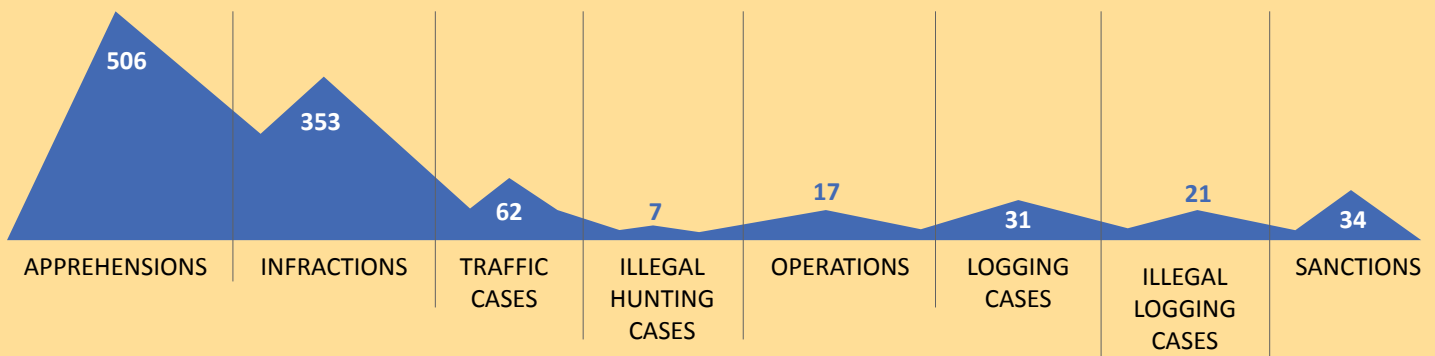
At a regional level, DOI-ITAP continues working with the CAFTA-DR countries on the systematization and data collection of law enforcement and prosecution activities within the framework of the Central American and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN). This data collection will be used for a variety of purposes including preparation of the Annual Report on the illegal trade of CITES species, which countries are now required to send to the CITES Secretariat annually. The countries provided data and updates for the official report from the sub-region, formally presented at the 70th meeting of the CITES Standing Committee held in Sochi, Russia in October 2018. Countries have agreed to continue working on national data collection; planning operations and exchange results and lessons learned from these operations; and analyzing advancing in the consolidation of regional information to identify the species of flora and fauna most trafficked and the routes that the criminal networks use.



DOI-ITAP continues working with the CAFTA-DR countries on the **systematization and data collection of law enforcement and prosecution activities.**

Furthermore, DOI-ITAP in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) - Office of Law Enforcement at the Port of Miami, organized an exchange to share best practices for inspecting wildlife shipments and verifying documents. Representatives to CAWEN from the national CITES authorities, prosecutors/solicitors, and police/investigators completed a site visit to the International Airport cargo facility that week. They also discussed how to better coordinate information on enforcement and compliance across the region, and to detect illegal wildlife and control the legal trade of species. Participants also observed a canine inspection by an inspector from FWS Wildlife and discussed the benefits of a wildlife canine program.

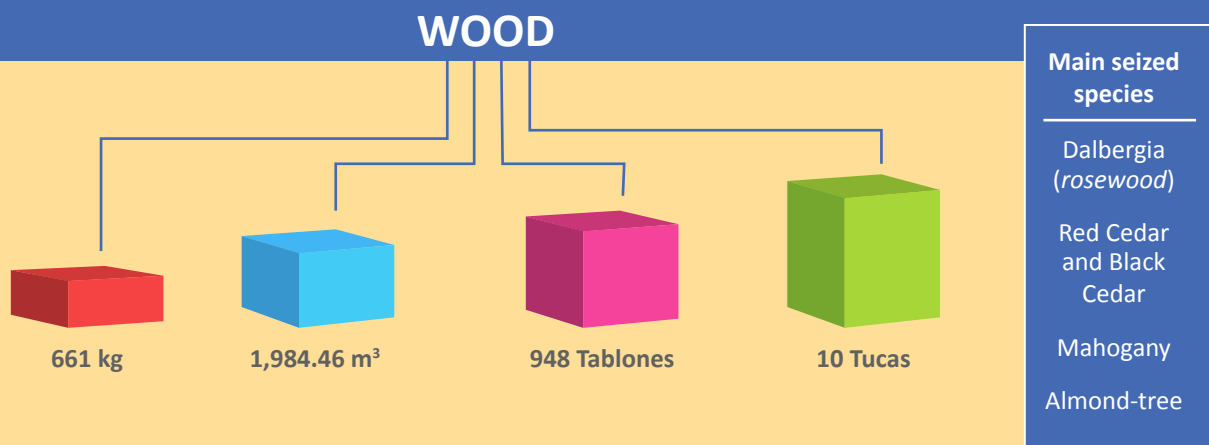
Data on crimes, sanctions and detentions in 2018



Countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Dominican Republic.

Source of Information - CAWEN Focal Points

Data on wood seizures reported by countries in 2018

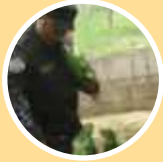


Note: data only for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama and Dominican Republic.

Source of Information - CAWEN data systematization project.

2018: Wild and Marine Fauna Confiscation Data

Confiscated wildlife live animals



Birds (parrots, parakeets, limpets)



Mammals (spider monkey, marmoset, lowland paca)



Reptiles (iguanas, lizards, turtles)

Total of 4,598 specimens

Marine fauna and sub products



1,932



2,175



1,033



408



15

Total of 5,563 specimens

Other species



7,058 Orchids



1,861 Insects



3,730 Wild meat

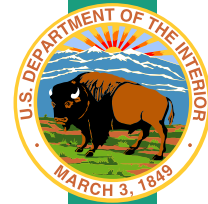
➤ **Source of Information** - CAWEN data systematization project.

18

EXPANDING THE VIDA SILVESTRE MOBILE APP

The **U.S. Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP)**, in coordination with CAWEN Focal Points and regional CITES authorities, continues to provide training on the use of the Vida Silvestre mobile app to government officials responsible for the application of regulations, and control of the trade of wild flora and fauna. The Vida Silvestre / Wildlife mobile application has been designed so that Inspectors, Customs Officers, Law Enforcement Officials and the public can identify different wildlife species and learn about the regulations that govern their protection, conservation and trade. In July 2018, law enforcement authorities of El Salvador organized a national CAWEN working table to learn about the Vida Silvestre mobile app in detail. As a result of the meeting, participants agreed to initiate a national dissemination campaign of the Vida Silvestre mobile app. DOI-ITAP developed multimedia materials to publicize the app. CAWEN partners are using this material for their information and dissemination campaigns.

DOI-ITAP has worked with government officials from Colombia, Chile, Peru, and Ecuador to identify 35 species of flora and fauna most trafficked, of concern, and/or endangered, and created information “tabs” that are available on the Vida Silvestre mobile app. The Vida Silvestre mobile app is available to download for free for iOS and Android devices.





Since 2005, over US\$ 95 million has been invested in environmental cooperation projects implemented under the Central America-Dominican Republic-United States Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) Environment Chapter to address shared challenges. In the last few years, areas of cooperation have focused on building capacity to combat illegal wildlife trade; developing air quality standards, including urban air monitoring systems; strengthening wastewater and solid waste management, emphasizing the cost-benefit of improving these norms; strengthening the capacity to conduct environmental impact assessments (EIA); promoting conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems; and fostering public participation as well as increasing civil society's knowledge of environmental laws.

Conservation of wildlife and sustainable use natural resources are vitally important topics for economic development and environmental protection in the CAFTA-DR region. In this context, wildlife trafficking represents a very serious threat. The CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program (ECP) provided for technical assistance that enabled governments in the region to improve law enforcement related to wildlife protection; implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); combat wildlife trafficking in the countries and cross-border. In addition, support from the ECP led to a strengthening of the Central America and Dominican Republic Wildlife Enforcement Network (CAWEN), and implementation of public awareness programs and campaigns on the impact of illegal wildlife trade.

To address the considerable variation in the current capacity of CAFTA-DR countries to manage their air quality programs, the ECP supported the implementation of a work plan that includes regional dialogues, and delivery of webinars related to air quality management. The focus of these include: emissions inventories, AQ/QC, development of air quality standards, equipment, and maintenance, and data analysis.

Thanks to the ECP, the countries now have an optimization tool in place for their wastewater treatment plants, and have greater institutional capacity in the regulatory and technical assessment processes of wastewater treatment plants. El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Dominican Republic received technical assistance for developing national regulations for wastewater management and they currently have internal effluent discharge regulations in place that determine the maximum permissible limits. Furthermore, diagnoses were executed in 12 domestic wastewater treatment plants to observe their operations, propose optimization strategies, and standardize technical procedures for wastewater management. The ECP also promoted strengthened technical skills of plant operators and an increase in knowledge among regional laboratories to accurately determine the quality of wastewater discharge.

To increase public participation in Municipal Solid Waste Management (MSWM), the ECP supported activities to reduce the quantity of discarded material deposited in uncontrolled dumpsites. Other activities included public awareness and education campaigns to engage a broad range of stakeholders and promote dialogue and cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

The ECP worked on building citizens' capacities to participate in environmental decision-making and enforcement of environmental legislation, as well as increasing their knowledge on the opportunities for public participation that Chapter 17 of the CAFTA-DR offers. The ECP also served as a forum to gather high-level authorities to examine the role of environmental courts and tribunals in the enforcement of environmental laws; as well as discuss opportunities and challenges associated with interagency and intergovernmental coordination, the importance of data collection and sharing, and the potential for addressing these challenges through technology.

With support from the ECP, the Environmental Impact Assessment systems in Central America and Dominican Republic are part of an on-going upgrade that focuses on strengthening the technical capacities, and developing the technology needed to improve environmental standards to promote economic growth while avoiding negative impacts on the environment. For instance, the Environmental Assessment System (SEA, in Spanish) of El Salvador and its on-line platform were upgraded. As a result, environmental permits are issued faster and more efficiently. This new system is the first on-line platform of its kind able to categorize proposed projects as "low", "medium" or "high" risk to the environment. This new system could become a model for other countries in the region.

Solving the environmental challenges faced by the region requires a multi-stakeholder approach, involving the public and private sector, non-governmental organizations, and communities, for the development and implementation of sound environmental practices. The success of the ECP depends on the ability of the countries, in collaboration with implementing entities, to successfully execute specific activities with measurable results. The achievements of the ECP in the region are the outcomes of a process sustained over time that contribute to strengthening the legal, scientific, administrative and operational capacity of the governments, and the empowerment of citizens and communities for proactive participation in environmental decision-making. Furthermore, it is important to take stock of the lessons learned throughout the years of project implementation and put these insights into action to continue to improve the effectiveness of the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program.

Annex 1 - Registry of Citizen Submission

Secretariat for Environmental Matters CAFTA-DR

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2007	CAALA/07/001 TORTUGAS MARINAS RD	Dominican Republic	May 9, 2007	Factual Record Published	May 16, 2011	The Submitter (Humane Society International) asserts that the Dominican Republic is not effectively complying with its environmental legislation by not carrying out the inventory of products derived from Hawksbill turtles which would allow separating the products made before the ban from those that were produced during the validity of the ban is illegal.
2008	CAALA/08/001 EXTRACCIÓN DE ARENA EN LAS CANAS RD YELLEN	Dominican Republic	November 17, 2008	Archive	March 6, 2009	<p>The Submitters (Kristi and Mark Herritz) claim that the government of the Dominican Republic has failed to comply with certain environmental legislation by allowing the extraction of sand from the beaches in Las Canas.</p> <p>The Secretariat sent a notice to the Environmental Affairs Council that the Submitters, Kristi and Mark Herritz, decided to withdraw their Submission in light of the quick response by the Government of the Dominican Republic.</p>
2008	CAALA/08/002 EXTRACCIÓN DE ARENA EN LAS CANAS RD YELLEN	Dominican Republic	December 2, 2008	Archive	March 6, 2009	<p>The Submitter (Mark Yellen) claims that the government of the Dominican Republic has failed to comply with certain environmental legislation by allowing the extraction of sand from the beaches in Las Canas.</p> <p>The Secretariat sent a notice to the Environmental Affairs Council that the Submitter, Mark H. Yellen, decided to withdraw his Submission in light of the quick response by the Government of the Dominican Republic.</p>
2009	CAALA/09/001 URBANIZACIÓN EL ESPIÑO ES	El Salvador	April 24, 2009	Suspended	February 26, 2010	<p>The Submitter (V́ctor Hugo Mata Tobar) claims that the government of El Salvador has failed to comply with certain domestic environmental legislation in relation to the urbanization and distribution of land in the area known as El Espino (San Salvador), which has brought negative environmental consequences for the area.</p> <p>The Secretariat determined that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspends review of the Submission.</p>
2010	CAALA/10/001 RESIDENCIAL VILLA VERANDA ES	El Salvador	January 14, 2010	Factual Record Published	August 13, 2012	<p>The Submitter claims that the Government of El Salvador failed to enforce certain domestic environmental legislation when it authorized the Villa Veranda Housing Project to be developed in Northwest Santa Tecla, La Libertad.</p> <p>The Secretariat works on the preparation of a Factual Record.</p>

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2010	CAALA/10/002 INCUMPLIMIENTO DE LA LEY DE CAZA GALAS GT	Guatemala	February 3, 2010	Suspended	April 27, 2010	<p>The Submitter (Guatemalan Center for Legal, Environmental and Social Action (CALAS)) claims that the Republic of Guatemala has failed to enforce the so called General Hunting Law (Decree 36-04) by not prosecuting those that have committed crimes covered by the law.</p> <p>The Secretariat has determined that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspends review of the Submission.</p>
2010	CAALA/10/003 LOS COBANOS FUNDARRECIFE ES	El Salvador	February 4, 2010	Suspended	October 11, 2010	<p>The Submitter states that the area referred to as Los Cóbano Reef, which has been declared the Los Cóbano Protected Natural Area Complex, is the only reef in the Pacific between Panama and Mexico and that it is an important part of El Salvador's natural heritage. In this light, the Submitter denounced that, beginning in 1996, it has demanded that the Ministry of the Environment, "[...] enforce the Law on the Environment in regards to two tourism companies that have caused serious damage to the ecosystem and that jeopardized the entire reef system and existing biodiversity in the area. This is especially true in the case of the Decamerón Hotel, which has constructed a breakwater in the ocean with the goal of changing currents and taking possession of area sand [...]"</p> <p>The Secretariat has determined not to request a response from the Republic of El Salvador.</p>
2010	CAALA/10/004 LACHÚA GT	Guatemala	February 15, 2010	Suspended	May 17, 2010	<p>The Submitter claims that the Government of Guatemala has failed "to effectively enforce national environmental legislation, specifically articles 46, 64, 97 and 128 of the political constitution of the republic of Guatemala, Decree 4-89 – Protected Areas Law and Regulations, Decree 68-86 law to protect and improve the environment, Decree 5-95 that ratified the convention on biological diversity, and Decree 4-88 that ratified the convention on wetlands of international importance, especially as waterfowl habitat (RAMSAR). All of the above is related to the construction of the Transversal Corridor of the North roadway project, specifically the Rubelsalto-Playa Grande section of the road, which crosses the border of the Laguna Lachuá National Park."</p> <p>The Secretariat has determined not to recommend the preparation of a factual record</p>

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2010	CAALA/10/005 ATITLÁN GT	Guatemala	February 15, 2010	Suspended	May 19, 2010	<p>The Submitter (Guatemalan Center for Legal, Environmental and Social Action (CALAS)) claims that the Government of Guatemala has failed to comply with different laws governing the protection and management of Lake Atitlán located in the Department of Sololá, and as a result the lake is on the verge of environmental collapse.</p> <p>The Secretariat determined that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspended review of the Submission</p>
2010	CAALA/10/006 LAGUNA DEL TIGRE FONPETROL GT	Guatemala	March 8, 2010	Suspended	June 27, 2012	<p>The Submitter claims that the State of Guatemala is not enforcing, among other regulations; Congressional Decree number 4-89, the Protected Areas Law (specifically articles 19 and 20); Congressional Decree 5-90 and its reforms declaring the “Maya Reserve” in the department of El Petén a protected area and the corresponding master plans; Decree 71-2008, the National Economic Development Fund Law; and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971). According to the Submitter, the “[...] modification, expansion and extension of oil exploitation contract 2-85, signed by the Ministry of Energy and Mines and PERENCO GUATEMALA LIMITED,” will represent State non-compliance with these regulations.</p> <p>The Secretariat is working on the preparation of a Factual Record according to the work plan submitted to the Environmental Affairs Council.</p>
2010	CAALA/10/007 OMOA HN	Honduras	March 8, 2010	Suspended	March 15, 2011	<p>The Submitter (FUNDAMBIENTE) claims that there have been a series of irregularities and non-compliance with the national legislation of the Republic of Honduras related to the installation and expanded operation of the Gas del Caribe Company in the site known as La Puntilla, Municipality of Omoa.</p> <p>The Secretariat, after analyzing both the Submission and the response from Honduras, recommended the preparation of a factual record to the Environmental Affairs Council</p>
2010	CAALA/10/008 HOSPITAL NACIONAL DE MIXCO-MONTE REAL GT	Guatemala	July 27, 2010	Review suspended	July 27, 2010	<p>The Submitter (Monte Real Community Development Council) claims that the State of Guatemala has not effectively enforced its environmental legislation in regard to the construction of a hospital in the Monte Real Neighborhood, located in Zone 4 of Mixco in the Department of Guatemala.</p> <p>The Secretariat determined that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspends review of the Submission. (The Submitter had 30 days to file an expanded Submission).</p>

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2010	CAALA/10/009 JARDINES DE TICKAL II GT	Guatemala	September 3, 2010	Review Suspended	September 3, 2010	<p>The Submitter (Amilcar Lobos Yong) claims that local car repair shops, auto body workshops, car importers, parking lots, informal used car lots, and dog breeders pollute the environment and affect the life of the neighbors in "Jardines de Tikal II," Guatemala, City.</p> <p>The Secretariat determined that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspended review of the Submission</p>
2010	CAALA/10/010 CONTAMINACIÓN AUDITIVA-ANTIGUA GUATEMALA GT	Guatemala	October 1, 2010	Suspended by submitter	January 23, 2011	<p>The Submitter (Hotel Casa Florencia and 7th Avenue Neighbors Committee of Antigua Guatemala) argues that the State of Guatemala is not enforcing certain national environmental legislation in regard to noise pollution in the city of Antigua, Guatemala, located in the department of Sacatepéquez. Specifically, the Submitter argues that Antigua, Guatemala is a World Heritage Site and that the noise pollution caused by regular city activity and, specifically, the El Esfuerzo Sports and Social Club, affects public health and interferes with the daily activities of the city.</p> <p>The submitter requested to the Secretariat the temporary suspension of their submission.</p>
2011	CAALA/11/001 SEA TURTLES CR	Costa Rica	January 10, 2011	Review suspended	March 6, 2011	<p>The Submitter (Association Sea Turtle Restoration Program –PRETOMA) claims that there have been anomalies in the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) by several shrimp trawlers in violation of domestic regulations designed to protect sea turtles in Costa Rica. In addition, the Submitter denounces irregularities in processes related to the issuance of fishing licenses that regulate what activities said boats may pursue.</p> <p>The Secretariat determines that the Revised Submission was presented after the 30-day time limit had already passed and concludes review of the case</p>
2011	CAALA/11/002 NATIONAL MIXCO HOSPITAL II GT	Guatemala	April 4, 2011	Review Suspended	April 4, 2011	<p>The Submitter (The Community Development Council for the Monte Real Neighborhood) claims that the State of Guatemala has not effectively enforced its environmental legislation in regard to the construction of a hospital in the Monte Real Neighborhood, located in Zone 4 of Mixco in the Department of Guatemala.</p> <p>The Secretariat determines that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspends review of the Submission</p>

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2011	CAALA/11/003 DEFORESTATION LOS AMATES GT	Guatemala	May 4, 2011	Review Suspended	May 4, 2011	<p>The Submitter denounces the deforestation of the upper part of the basins where the Cacaguatalla, Frio, Corral de Piedra and El Jute rivers are born and whose water, supplies the water distribution and bypass tank system used by the communities surrounding the Pontezuelas Farm located in the Los Amates Municipality in the department of Izabal.</p> <p>The Secretariat has determined that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspends review of the Submission</p>
2011	CAALA/11/004 WEST BAY ROATAN HN	Honduras	May 16, 2011	Factual record published	April 10, 2013	<p>The Submitter claims that, during the construction and expansion of a hotel complex on the West Bay coast of the Island of Roatán in Honduras, no prior environmental impact study was prepared, a series of irregularities were committed and national Honduran legislation was not enforced.</p> <p>The Secretariat for Environmental Matters has notified the Environmental Affairs Council of a time extension for issuing determinations.</p>
2011	CAALA/11/005 SEA TURTLES-TED II-CR	Costa Rica	August 27, 2011	Suspended	June 6, 2012	<p>The Submitter claims that there have been anomalies in the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) by several shrimp trawlers in violation of domestic regulations designed to protect sea turtles in Costa Rica. In addition, the Submitter denounces irregularities in processes related to the issuance of fishing licenses that regulate what activities said boats may pursue.</p> <p>The Secretariat for Environmental Matters has notified the Environmental Affairs Council of a time extension for issuing determinations</p>
2011	CAALA/11/006 OMOA II – HN	Honduras	September 28, 2011	Suspended	February 7, 2012	<p>The Submitter (FUNDAMBIENTE) claims that the State of Honduras, either through action or omission, has not enforced, among other regulations, the General Law on the Environment, Decree 01-93 (specifically articles 1, 5, 7, 35, 41, 48, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59, 62, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 78, 79 and 80) as well as articles 65, 68 and 145 of the Constitution of the Republic of Honduras. This claim is regarding the “[...]installation and expanded operation of the Gas del Caribe company in the site known as La Puntilla located in the northern part of the urban center of the Omoa municipality [...]”</p> <p>The Secretariat is currently analyzing the Submission to determinate whether it fulfills requirements of Article 17.7.2 of the CAFTA-DR.</p>

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2011	CAALA/11/007 AGUA CALIENTE RIVER ES	El Salvador	November 14, 2011	Suspended	January 30, 2012	<p>The Submitter (Environmental Management Committee of Ciudad Arce) claims that a local company is not complying with regulations governing the treatment of solid waste and residual waters that are being discharged into the Agua Caliente River and that the authorities have been notified of this situation but have done nothing about it.</p> <p>The Secretariat determines that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspends review of the Submission</p>
2011	CAALA/11/008 MAYA BIOSPHERE GT	Guatemala	November 14, 2011	Suspended	May 1, 2012	<p>The Submitter claims that the State of Guatemala is not effectively enforcing certain domestic environmental legislation related to Administrative Case File Number 19-2-2009, Area PTN-1-2008, created by the Ministry of Energy and Mines in regards to the invitation for hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation within the perimeter of the Maya Biosphere Reserve and adjacent areas.</p> <p>The Secretariat determines that the Submission does not comply with all of the requirements of CAFTA-DR Article 17.7.2 and suspends review of the Submission</p>
2012	CAALA/12/001 "OMOA III-HN"	Honduras	July 27, 2012	Suspended	September 11, 2012	<p>The Submitter (FUNDAMBIENTE) claims that there have been a series of irregularities and non-observance of internal Honduran legislation in regard to the installation and expanded operations of the Gas del Caribe Company in the area known as La Puntilla, located in the northern part of the main city in the municipality of Omoa.</p>
2012	CAALA/12/002 NOISE POLLUTION II – ANTIGUA GT	Guatemala	October 2012	Suspended	June 12, 2012	<p>The Submitter (casa Florencia Hotel) argues that the State of Guatemala is not enforcing certain national environmental legislation in regard to noise pollution in the city of Antigua Guatemala, located in the department of Sacatepéquez. Specifically, the Submitter argues that Antigua Guatemala is a World Heritage Site and that the noise pollution caused by regular city activity and, specifically, the El Esfuerzo Sports and Social Club affects public health and interferes with the daily activities of city residents</p>
2013	CAALA/13/001 LAKE MASAYA NI	Nicaragua	February 28, 2013	Suspended	April 2, 2014	<p>The Submitter (Democratic Federation of Public Service Workers) claims that the State of Nicaragua has failed, either through action or omission, to comply with the Political Constitution of the Republic of Nicaragua, specifically articles 23, 24, 25, 27, 26, 46, 47, 48, 52, 55 and 130 as well as Article 641 of the General Law on the Environment and Natural Resources, the Penal Code of Nicaragua, the Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Penal Procedures Code, as the result of environmental deterioration caused by polluting Lake Masaya in the department of Masaya in the Republic of Nicaragua.</p>

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2013	CAALA/13/002 HAZARDOUS WASTE DR	Dominican Republic	May 23, 2013	Suspended	July 8, 2013	The Submitter (Green Eco Recycling Industrial S.A.) points out the lack of effective enforcement of the environmental legislation regulating the treatment of hazardous wastes and their disposal in the Dominican Republic.
2013	CAALA/13/003 EMISIONES CONTAMINANTES LOS ALCARRIZOS RD	Dominican Republic	June 19, 2013	Active	July 10, 2013	The Submitter (Board of Neighbors Amor y Fe) claims that there is non-compliance with environmental legislation due to the alleged irregular operations of a biodiesel plant in the Los Alcarrazos area. The Submitter claims that the air and water has been polluted as the result of this situation as oils are being dumped into the soil in the area.
2013	CAALA/13/004 CUYAMEL II HN	Honduras	August 23, 2013	Factual record published.	May 21, 2017	The Submitter (Environmental Law Institute) claims that the Republic of Honduras is failing to effectively enforce environmental legislation concerning the legality of the authorizations for constructing a hydroelectric project located in the Cuyamel River micro basin.
2013	CAALA/13/005 HAZARDOUS WASTE DR	Dominican Republic	October 23, 2013	Suspended	November 20, 2014	The Submitter (Green Eco Recycling Industrial S.A.) points out the lack of effective enforcement of the environmental legislation regulating the treatment of hazardous wastes and their disposal in the Dominican Republic.
2014	CAALA/14/001 Dixon Cove Bay – HN	Honduras	September 10, 2014	Factual record published.	Junio 6, 2019	The Submitter (Environmental Law Institute) claims that the Republic of Honduras is failing to effectively enforce environmental legislation regarding the legality of the authorizations for constructing a cruise terminal port in the island of Roatán, Honduras.
2014	CAALA/14/002 Colonia Centroamerica	Guatemala	October 14, 2014	Suspended	November 6, 2014	The Submitters (Group of neighbors of Colonia Centroamerica) claim that the Republic of Guatemala is not effectively enforcing environmental legislation regarding the operations of a restaurant in the neighborhood.
2015	CAALA/15/001 Landfill ES	El Salvador	February 6, 2015	Suspended	May 31, 2017	The Submitter (Las Chinamas Limpia y Saludable Association – ACHINAMAS) claims that the Republic of El Salvador is not effectively enforcing environmental legislation regarding the construction of a landfill in a community located in the Chinamas village in the department of Ahuachapan in El Salvador.
2015	CAALA/15/002 Rastro Municipal	Guatemala	April 6, 2015	Suspended	June 1, 2015	The Submitters (Group of lawyers of Puerto Barrios, Izabal) claim that the Republic of Guatemala is not effectively enforcing environmental legislation regarding the operation of a slaughterhouse located in Puerto Barrios Izabal.
2015	CAALA/15/003 Sierra de Bahoruco	Dominican Republic	November 9, 2015	Withdrawn by Submitter	May 18, 2016	The Submitter (SOS Ambiente RD) claims that the Dominican Republic is not effectively enforcing environmental laws 64-00 and 202-04 as well as other legislation concerning the widespread and accelerated deforestation of the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park.
2016	CAALA/16/001 Oakland GT	Guatemala	May 18, 2016	Suspended	October 10, 2016	The Submitter (Association of Oakland neighbors) claims that the Republic of Guatemala is not effectively enforcing environmental legislation regarding the construction of two apartment towers in Guatemala City.

Year	Submission Code	Party	Date Filed	Current Status	Most Recent Activity	Summary
2016	CAALA/16/002 Protección Animal	Dominican Republic	August 5, 2016	Awaiting comments on the accuracy of the draft Factual record.	July 4, 2019	The Submitter (Dominican Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) asserts that the Dominican Republic has failed to effectively enforce its environmental legislation derived from the alleged situation of the animals housed in the Moca Zoo, Espailat province.
2016	CAALA/16/003 San Ángel	Guatemala	August 10, 2016	Suspended	February 7, 2018	The Submitters (Associations of several neighbors) assert that the Republic of Guatemala has failed in the effective enforcement of its environmental legislation derived from the alleged approval of projects that have created an alleged deforestation of the sector's forests and elimination of fauna without consulting or listening to the neighbors.
2017	CAALA/17/001 Contaminación Río Motagua	Guatemala	April 4, 2017	Suspended	May 23, 2017	The Submitter (Neighborhood Association of Cabo Tres Puntas) asserts that the Republic of Guatemala has failed to effectively enforce its environmental legislation derived from the alleged contamination of marine waters, reefs and beaches as a result of large quantities of plastic and other solid waste that the Motagua river throws to the Caribbean Sea.
2018	CAALA/18/001 Contaminación Auditiva - ES	El Salvador	June 13, 2018	Suspended	August 13, 2018	The Submitters (group of residents of the "Escalón" neighborhood) affirmed that the Republic of El Salvador is not complying with the effective enforcement of its environmental legislation due to the excessive noise produced by an unnamed disco located in the "Escalón" municipality of San Salvador, which pollutes the environment and puts the health of neighbors at risk.
2018	CAALA/18/002 Sierra de Bahoruco II - RD	Dominican Republic	June 19, 2018	Request for additional information to the Dominican Republic (Section 5.2)	May 11, 2019	The Submitters (SOS Ambiente RD) resume the communication CAALA/15/003 in which they asserted the breach of the General Law on Environment (64-00) and the Sectorial Law of Protected Areas (202-04) due to the deterioration caused by the deforestation of the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park.
2018	CAALA/18/003 Puerto Sandino - NI	Nicaragua	October 29, 2018	Analysis of additional information to issue Determination 17.7.2	February 6, 2019	The Submitters (group of citizens and the Alexander Von Humboldt Center) claim that the Republic of Nicaragua is not complying with the effective enforcement of environmental legislation due to the contamination of soil, water, air and the damages caused by the spill of crude oil and of the fire of four storage tanks in the hydrocarbon terminal located in Puerto Sandino, Department of León, Nicaragua.
2019	CAALA/19/001 Rastro Distrito Central - HN	Honduras	May 24, 2019	Request for additional information to the submitter (Section 5.2)	July 3, 2019	The Submitters (group of citizens accompanied by the Free Legal Office of UNAH) state that the Republic of Honduras is not complying with the effective enforcement of its environmental legislation in the case of pollution caused by the operation of the slaughterhouse located on the road to Olancho in Tegucigalpa MDC.
2019	CAALA/19/002 Vertedero Las Terrenas - RD	Dominican Republic	May 24, 2019	Request for additional information to the submitter (Section 5.2)	July 4, 2019	The Submitter (Samana Smiles Foundation) asserts that the Dominican Republic is not complying with the effective enforcement of its environmental legislation due to the pollution produced by the landfill located in Las Terrenas, Samana Province, Dominican Republic.

Annex 2 - Performance Measurement Framework of the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program

Indicators	Cumulative Progress
Number and type of public institutions that have stronger capacity to enforce environmental legislation and preservation and ensure effective stakeholder compliance	<p>More than 116 public institutions have strong capacity to enforce environmental legislation and preservation and ensure effective stakeholder compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 new and/or improved procedures for EIA review and environment permits and 6 countries implement a system of follow-up and control of environmental complaints. <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater management: the ECP has helped in the development of reference laboratories, as well as improving implementation of performance standard methodologies and regulations in wastewater management (5). <input type="checkbox"/> (EPA) Effluent Guidelines development process and the data required to complete the effluent limits for industrial sectors to staff of the El Salvador Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (1) <input type="checkbox"/> 4 countries' institutions (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua) have a policy/strategy for solid waste management (e.g., proposals for laws, regulations, policies, strategies and action plans for the sound management of solid waste). <input type="checkbox"/> 30+ institutions have had training (EPA) in emergency management of spilled harmful substances. <input type="checkbox"/> Capacity was built through hands-on joint field inspections of mine sites, tailored training for government mine inspectors, specialized equipment donation, private sector partnerships, and follow-up web-based learning opportunities. Guatemala and Costa Rica - ministries of energy and mines and ministries of environment (4) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 CAFTA-DR government agencies were involved in coordinated law enforcement and inspection operational planning and post-operational assessment meetings (DOI-ITAP) <input type="checkbox"/> 32 capacity building workshops completed for country representatives on the SEM and environmental submissions. <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced capacity of newly created forensic laboratory in Guatemala (1) for the identification and description of woods found in CITES. Individuals from Universities / Government were trained from El Salvador, Laboratorio Forense de Maderas from the San Carlos University, Guatemala, the Laboratorio de Tecnología de Maderas from the Universidad Agraria of Nicaragua, the Universidad de Ciencias Forestales de Honduras personnel, and forestry inspectors from the Fiscalía de Medio Ambiente de Honduras (5 minimum). <input type="checkbox"/> USAID has provided and undertaken numerous workshops, field visits, technical visits, etc. to improve the capacity of public institutions in the areas of wastewater, solid waste, EIA, law compliance, and energy efficiency, as well as has helped to strengthen the CCAD.
Number of people trained within public institutions in institutional strengthening for effective compliance and enforcement of environmental legislation and preservation	<p>87,160+ individuals trained (e.g., port operators, judiciary, inspectors, community leaders, environmental managers, etc.) Within public institutions in institutional strengthening for effective compliance and enforcement of environmental legislation and preservation.</p>
Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of CAFTA-DR ECP.	<p>261 laws, policies, strategies, plans, agreements, or regulations addressing climate change and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 improved regulation to strengthen Regional Regulations of OSP-03-10 - Regional Fishing Vessels Monitoring System (OSPESCA) <input type="checkbox"/> 39 policies, laws, agreements or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation were implemented through the small grants programs implemented by Helvetas. <input type="checkbox"/> 2 CITES NDF protocol pilot studies conducted, which reinforce the existing regional, voluntary CITES marine species CITES NDF protocol established through this project. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 territorial conservation agreements finalized and signed in January 2017 in Bosawás, Nicaragua. <input type="checkbox"/> 2 co-management agreements of the Sierra de Bahuco established, law 64-00 enforced and new regulation to approve SB Action Plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Implementing agencies worked with CAFTA-DR countries to refine 150 existing laws and adopt 28 new laws and regulations addressing issues related to wastewater, air pollution and solid waste.

Indicators	Cumulative Progress
Number of people reached through education and training activities that foster communication between civil society and governments to facilitate public participation in environmental decision making	<input type="checkbox"/> 127,035+ individuals (8,384 trainers) reached through education and training activities that foster communication between civil society and governments to facilitate public participation in environmental decision making .
Number of individuals that have <i>potentially</i> been reached through campaigns and outreach material on public participation mechanisms and environmental information	2,076,098+ individuals have potentially been reached through campaigns and outreach material on public participation mechanisms and environmental information .
Number of laws, regulations, standards or management plans on environment matters influenced or created by the public, through public participation mechanisms	224 laws, regulations, standards or management plans on environment matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Implementing agencies worked with CAFTADR countries to refine 150 existing laws and adopt 28 new laws and regulations addressing issues like waste water, air pollution and solid waste. <input type="checkbox"/> 39 policies, laws, agreements or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation were implemented as a result of CAFTA-DR ECP through the small grants programs (Helvetas), which focused on enhancing public participation. <input type="checkbox"/> In Dominican Republic 2 co-management agreement of Bahoruco established, law 64-00 enforced and new regulation to approve SB Action Plan
Number of new or improved tools used by public institutions in charge of enforcing CITES to enhance wildlife protection and forestry species conservation (training, plan, studies, monitoring, community initiative, standards, list of species, etc.)	42 new or improved tools used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> New laws and regulations have been adopted to strengthen the CITES legal framework and foster biodiversity protection, including legislation in Costa Rica, El Salvador (e.g., Salvadoran CITES Authorities' Category I status for national CITES legislation compliance was formally approved at the CITES Conference of the Parties in Doha, Qatar) and Honduras (2) <input type="checkbox"/> At least 4 taxonomic guides have been developed for <i>Tillandsia</i> identification (Guatemala), species at risk (El Salvador), iguanas, and forest species, to name only a few <input type="checkbox"/> 2 community digital wildlife trafficking route maps have been completed for Nicaragua and El Salvador. <input type="checkbox"/> Governmental process institutionalized to combat wildlife trafficking at sub-national level in Guatemala (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Development of a CD with an interactive course that contains administrative, legal and technical aspects of the implementation of CITES (1) <input type="checkbox"/> An interactive training CD on animal handling was developed, including field guides and references to CITES regulations, as well as providing training (1) <input type="checkbox"/> An economic valuation study of CITES species in CAFTA-DR countries was undertaken, as well as a study to analyze the behavior of trade in CITES species in the region (2) <input type="checkbox"/> Updated listings of endangered species were prepared through an effort supported by USAID, the DOI-ITAP, and other agencies (presented in CITES's COP 15 in Qatar) (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Development of monitoring systems, as well as the development of guidelines for Non-Detriment Findings (NDF) (e.g., sharks) (2) <input type="checkbox"/> 5 countries received assistance on upgrading their CITES information systems to improve data quality and decision-making capabilities (permit emissions), specifically Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador (5) <input type="checkbox"/> Costa Rica's electronic CITES permit system has been further updated (1); El Salvador in process <input type="checkbox"/> USFS also developed and published a high quality identification manual on 25+ most commonly traded wood species, which widely distributed throughout region to customs and forestry officials (1) <input type="checkbox"/> Numerous reports published on issues such as how listing migratory marine species in CITES impacts communities, enforcement and judicial activities for wildlife and timber, population and ecology and trade information of the genus Dalbergia, (3)

Indicators	Cumulative Progress
<p>Number of new or improved tools used by public institutions in charge of enforcing CITES to enhance wildlife protection and forestry species conservation (training, plan, studies, monitoring, community initiative, standards, list of species, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establishment of the Community Wild Fires Commission and implementation of the Early Warning System for the Prevention of Wild Fires in Guatemala. Strengthened organizational capacities of community bodies relevant for the protection of nesting habitat of the scarlet macaw (2). <input type="checkbox"/> In the Dominican Republic, the Grupo Jaragua team established nest monitoring programs (several survey protocols also developed) with the help of local community members in two nesting areas in southern Dominican Republic (Sierra de Bahoruco National Park and Saona Island within Cotubanamá National Park). (2). <input type="checkbox"/> Design a reward program for protected parrot nestlings with the involvement of known poachers.(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 1 of the Vida Silvestre mobile App. contains 84 complete species descriptions has been launched (1). <input type="checkbox"/> Development and adoption of an Inspector Profile, the Regional Program of Inspection, and the Regional Program of Training to Inspectors to combat IUU fishing. (2) <input type="checkbox"/> User's manual produced that guides the operation of SIRPAC. SIRPAC software package for logging data and its associated user manual (registry platform) have been updated and are running for regional use. (1). <input type="checkbox"/> Tools and technologies (Xylotron; wood identification training) to reduce inconsistencies in controlling the timber trade (2)
<p>Number of people reached and sensitized by public awareness campaign on wildlife protection or conservation</p>	<p>More than 25 million people have been reached through outreach campaigns (social media and in person) throughout the region</p> <p>DOI-ITAP continues to support CAWENS communications the CAWEN website and Facebook pages, used to disseminate information regarding their activities, enforcement actions, training events, and outreach as well as their participation in regional and international events</p> <p>Open mobile App for wildlife identification and a closed component allowing designated government officials to receive wildlife violation and trafficking reports from the public and other officials and respond to these accordingly materials</p>
<p>Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of CAFTA-DR ECP</p> <p><i>F indicator 4.8.1-26 Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management as a result of USG assistance]</i></p>	<p>Over 1,838,464 million ha of biological significance are under improved natural resource management as a result of CAFTADR ECP</p> <p>Over 131.7km of perimeter (e.g., delimiting and cleaning, fire breaks, capacity building patrols, etc.) under improved natural resource management as a result of CAFTADR ECP</p>
<p>Number of people trained in wildlife protection and their habitat for long-term economic and environmental development</p>	<p>4,915+ individuals trained in wildlife protection and their habitat for long-term economic and environmental development (e.g., trained to improve CITES implementation and enforcement, wildlife legislation and economic alternatives to poaching, prevent and combat illegal logging, ecological risk assessment methodologies etc.), including custom officers, other officials Government representatives, judiciary, forest guards, community members and leaders, indigenous representatives and leaders, scientists and NGO representatives</p> <p>3,287 school children and high school students participated in workshops (HSI) on wildlife protection. Environmental education talk (WCS) attended by over 65 students and two teachers at Colegio Dominicano in Santiago regarding avian conservation in the Dominican Republic</p>
<p>Number of people trained in the development of ecotourism and or sustainable agricultural practices</p>	<p>31,476+ individuals from 28+ communities have attended best practices events, workshops, and trainings on ecotourism, sustainable or environmentally-friendly agricultural practices, food alternatives, organic certification, school garden management, composting and organic fertilizer production, natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation.</p>

Indicators	Cumulative Progress
Number of farmers (or farms) using improved cocoa/coffee/banana/pineapple production methods which benefit the environment	<p>20,751+ farms/farmers/others are using improved technologies or management practices</p> <p>20,700+ farms growing bananas, coffee and cacao in CAFTA DR countries were certified between 2007 and 2013</p> <p>9 fields of organized farmers were certified covering different products (fruits, vegetables and fish)</p> <p>42 micro, small and medium enterprises have completed the Green Deal Tourism Certification and are applying Sustainable Tourism Good Practices</p>
Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of CAFTA-DR ECP assistance	At least 190,755 ha are under improved technologies or management practices (e.g., certified crops, mangrove management and native and endangered tree planting) as a result of CAFTA-DR ECP operations, including 44,745 ha of high biological significance
Type of improved practices in cocoa/coffee/banana/pineapple production being used by farmers	<p>12 general improved practices being utilized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Protection of shade trees <input type="checkbox"/> Planting of additional native shade trees (fruit and forest trees) <input type="checkbox"/> Planting of native and endangered tree species <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance of wildlife corridors <input type="checkbox"/> Utilization of organic fertilizers <input type="checkbox"/> Application of green manure during the fallow period <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction of reliance on pesticides in favor of biological and natural alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited use of any banned pesticides <input type="checkbox"/> Optimization of water use for irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Improvement of food safety practices <input type="checkbox"/> Micro-grafting of superior cacao clones, resulting in better yields and fewer disease-infested crops <input type="checkbox"/> Improved mangrove management
<p>Change in SMEs' energy use [measured in kW]</p> <p>Change in SMEs' fuel use [measured in gallons]</p> <p>Change in SMEs' water usage [measured in gallons]</p> <p>Change in SMEs' generation of waste/pollution [measured in tons]</p> <p>Change in SMEs' generation of wastewater [measured in gallons]</p> <p>Change in SMEs' GHG emissions [measured in tons of CO2]</p>	15,000+ ton decrease in yearly greenhouse gas emissions
Ratio between cost savings (per year) through the adoption of cleaner production practices and technologies and total investments realized by SMEs (after one, two and three years)	Approximately US\$ 3,324,471 million in Savings have been generated since 2007
Number and % of SMEs that have adopted new technologies or practices to respond to environmental standards	813+ SMEs have adopted new technologies or practices to respond to environmental standards.
Number of people trained in cleaner production and increased private sector's environmental performance	<p>Over 1,292 individuals (e.g., students, teachers, CPC persons, and SME personnel) have been trained in cleaner production and Environmental Management Systems (EMS)*</p> <p><i>*Note that this value is based upon reporting from the last few years; previously, more people had been trained in the hundreds of SMEs that received CP assistance, but the number trained was not reported</i></p>



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