Scaling up the Costa Rica experience in Mesoamerica

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IUCN WCPA International Connectivity Conservation Network: http://connectivityconservation.net

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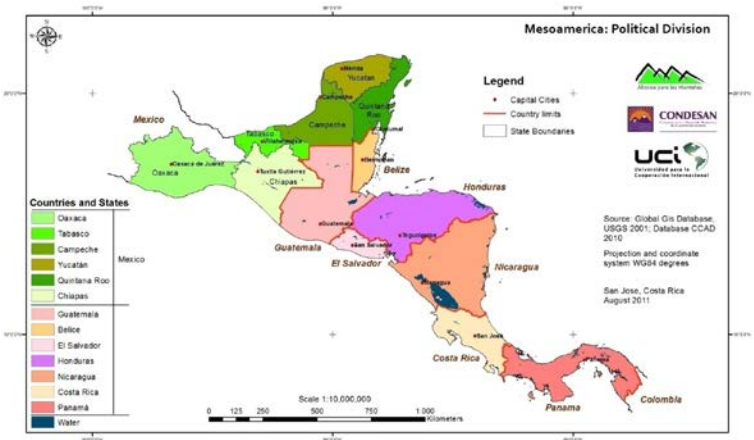

The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC)

- The MBC is one of the first, most international, and best funded international corridor initiatives (1997).
- Politics and science not always aligned.
- Gap between official discourse and real results.
- Most conservation achievements in Mesoamerica are only tangentially linked to the official corridor initiative.

Evolution of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC)

- Evolved from space bounded proposals for specific cores, buffers and connectors to reach the entire region.
- Became a formally endorsed and government led, top-down initiative and a centerpiece of regional environmental policy.
- Over $400 million in direct investment by multilateral agencies alone—most on meetings, consultancies, and bureaucracy.

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Some challenges remaining

- Poor representation of habitat types in PAs, particularly marine, freshwater, piedmont, dry forests.
- Gap analysis and systems plans designed for a static world.
- Most funding project based and short term, often with limited impact / donor fatigue.

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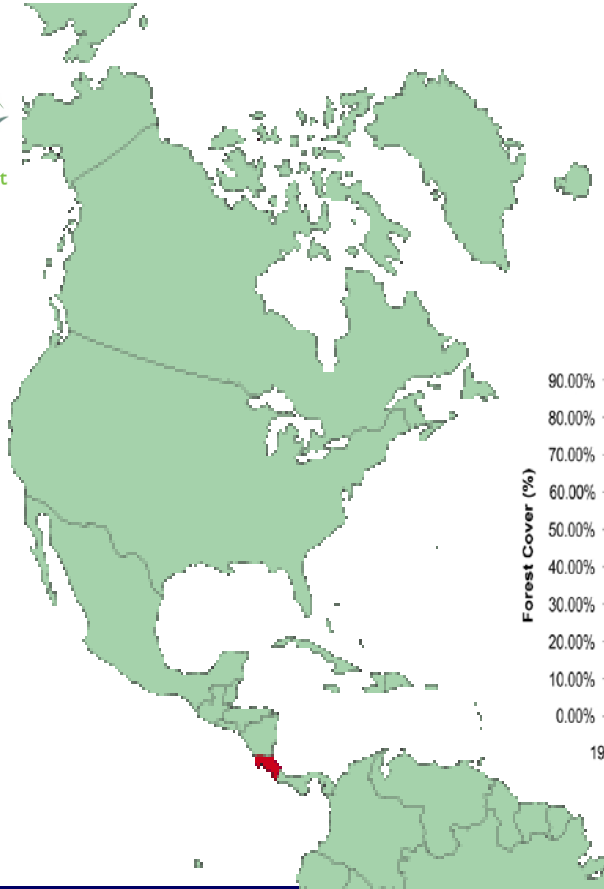
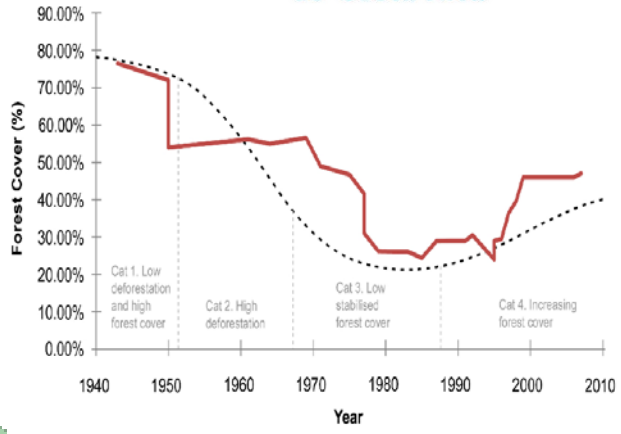
Programa Nacional de Corredores Biológicos de Costa Rica

Costa Rica

The National Biological Corridor Programme





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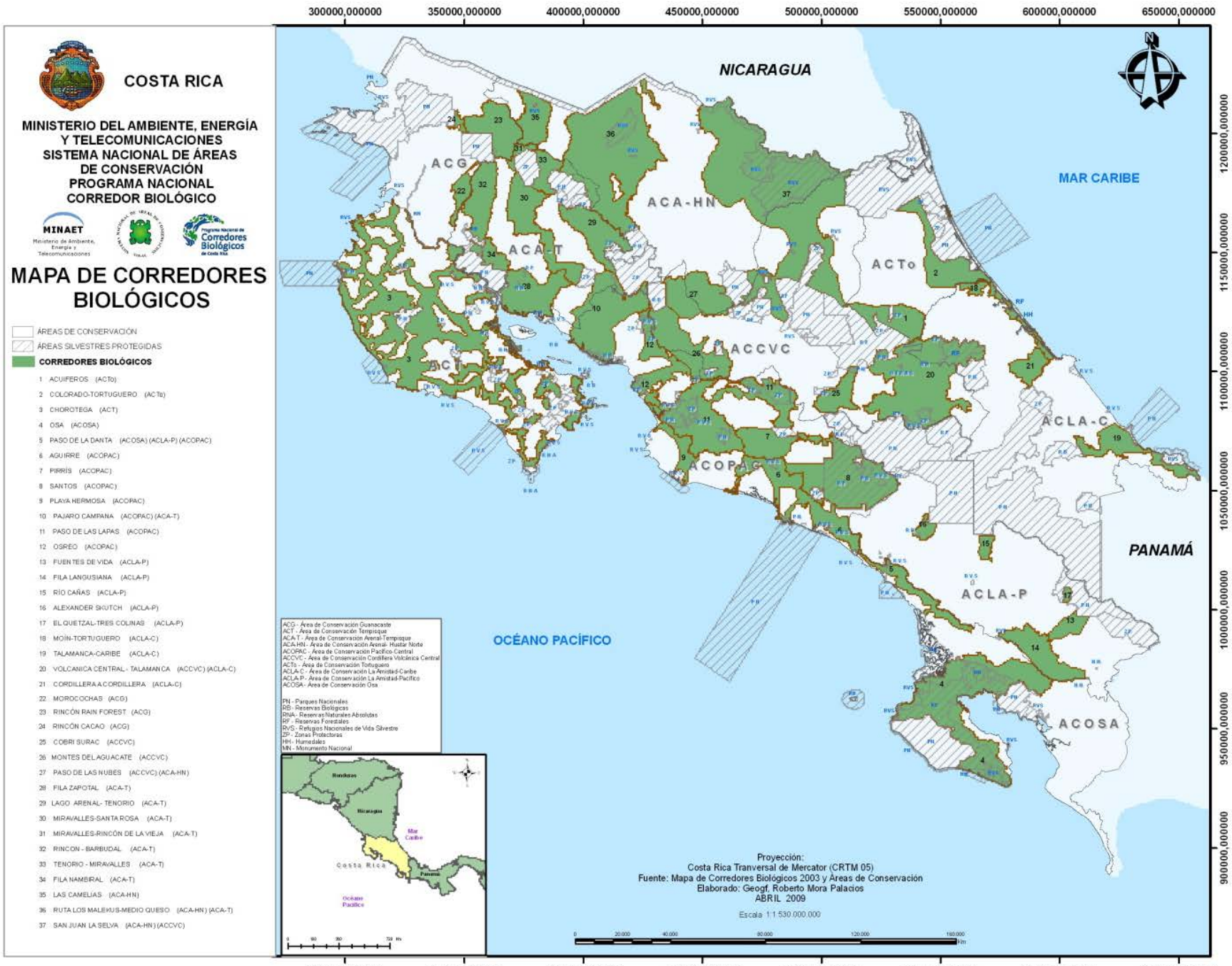
Some characteristics of the national programme

- Created through the regional MBC project in 1997 (SINAC).
- Adapted to the decentralized Costa Rican governance model, opened to civil society.
- Legislation that favors connectivity conservation.
  - Empowerment of local councils (legal entities)
  - Allocation and prioritization of Environmental Services Payment
  - Guidelines on the establishment and implementation of biological corridors
- Technical Support Committee (2008), National Network (2010).


COSTA RICA
MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE, ENERGÍA Y TELECOMUNICACIONES
SISTEMA NACIONAL DE ÁREAS DE CONSERVACIÓN
PROGRAMA NACIONAL CORREDOR BIOLÓGICO
MINAET
Ministerio de Ambiente, Energía y Telecomunicaciones
Programa Nacional de Corredores Biológicos de Costa Rica
MAPA DE CORREDORES BIOLÓGICOS
ÁREAS DE CONSERVACIÓN
ÁREAS SILVESTRES PROTEGIDAS
CORREDORES BIOLÓGICOS
1 ACUIFEROS (ACTo)
2 COLORADO-TORTUGUERO (ACTo)
3 CHOROTEGA (ACT)
4 OSA (ACOSA)
5 PASO DE LA DANTA (ACOSA) (ACLA-P) (ACOPAC)
6 AGUIRRE (ACOPAC)
7 PIRRÍS (ACOPAC)
8 SANTOS (ACOPAC)
9 PLAYA HERMOSA (ACOPAC)
10 PAJARO CAMPANA (ACOPAC) (ACA-T)
11 PASO DE LAS LAPAS (ACOPAC)
12 OSREO (ACOPAC)
13 FUENTES DE VIDA (ACLA-P)
14 FILA LANGUSIANA (ACLA-P)
15 RÍO CAÑAS (ACLA-P)
16 ALEXANDER SKUTCH (ACLA-P)
17 EL QUETZAL-TRES COLINAS (ACLA-P)
18 MOIN-TORTUGUERO (ACLA-C)
19 TALAMANCA-CARIBE (ACLA-C)
20 VOLCANICA CENTRAL - TALAMANCA (ACCVC) (ACLA-C)
21 CORDILLERA A CORDILLERA (ACLA-C)
22 MOROCOCHAS (ACG)
23 RINCÓN RAIN FOREST (ACG)
24 RINCÓN CACAO (ACG)
25 COBRI SURAC (ACCVC)
26 MONTES DEL AGUACATE (ACCVC)
27 PASO DE LAS NUBES (ACCVC) (ACA-HN)
28 FILA ZAPOTAL (ACA-T)
29 LAGO ARENAL- TENORIO (ACA-T)
30 MIRAVALLES-SANTA ROSA (ACA-T)
31 MIRAVALLES-RINCÓN DE LA VIEJA (ACA-T)
32 RINCON - BARBUDAL (ACA-T)
33 TENORIO - MIRAVALLES (ACA-T)
34 FILA NAMBIRAL (ACA-T)
35 LAS CAMELIAS (ACA-HN)
36 RUTA LOS MALEKUS-MEDIO QUESO (ACA-HN) (ACA-T)
37 SAN JUAN LA SELVA (ACA-HN) (ACCVC)
ACG - Área de Conservación Guanacaste
ACT - Área de Conservación Tempisque
ACA-T - Área de Conservación Arenal-Tempisque
ACA-HN - Área de Conservación Arenal- Huetar Norte
ACOPAC - Área de Conservación Pacífico-Central
ACCVC - Área de Conservación Cordillera Volcánica Central
ACTo - Área de Conservación Tortuguero
ACLA-C - Área de Conservación La Amistad-Caribe
ACLA-P - Área de Conservación La Amistad-Pacífico
ACOSA - Área de Conservación Osa
PN - Parques Nacionales
RB - Reservas Biológicas
RNA - Reservas Naturales Absolutas
RF - Reservas Forestales
RVS - Refugios Nacionales de Vida Silvestre
ZP - Zonas Protectoras
HH - Humedales
MN - Monumento Nacional
Honduras
Nicaragua
Mar Caribe
Costa Rica
Panamá
Océano Pacífico
NICARAGUA
MAR CARIBE
PANAMÁ
OCÉANO PACÍFICO
ACG
ACA-HN
ACA-T
ACTo
ACCVC
ACLA-C
ACOPAC
ACLA-P
ACOSA
Proyección:
Costa Rica Tranversal de Mercator (CRTM 05)
Fuente: Mapa de Corredores Biológicos 2003 y Áreas de Conservación
Elaborado: Geogf, Roberto Mora Palacios
ABRIL 2009
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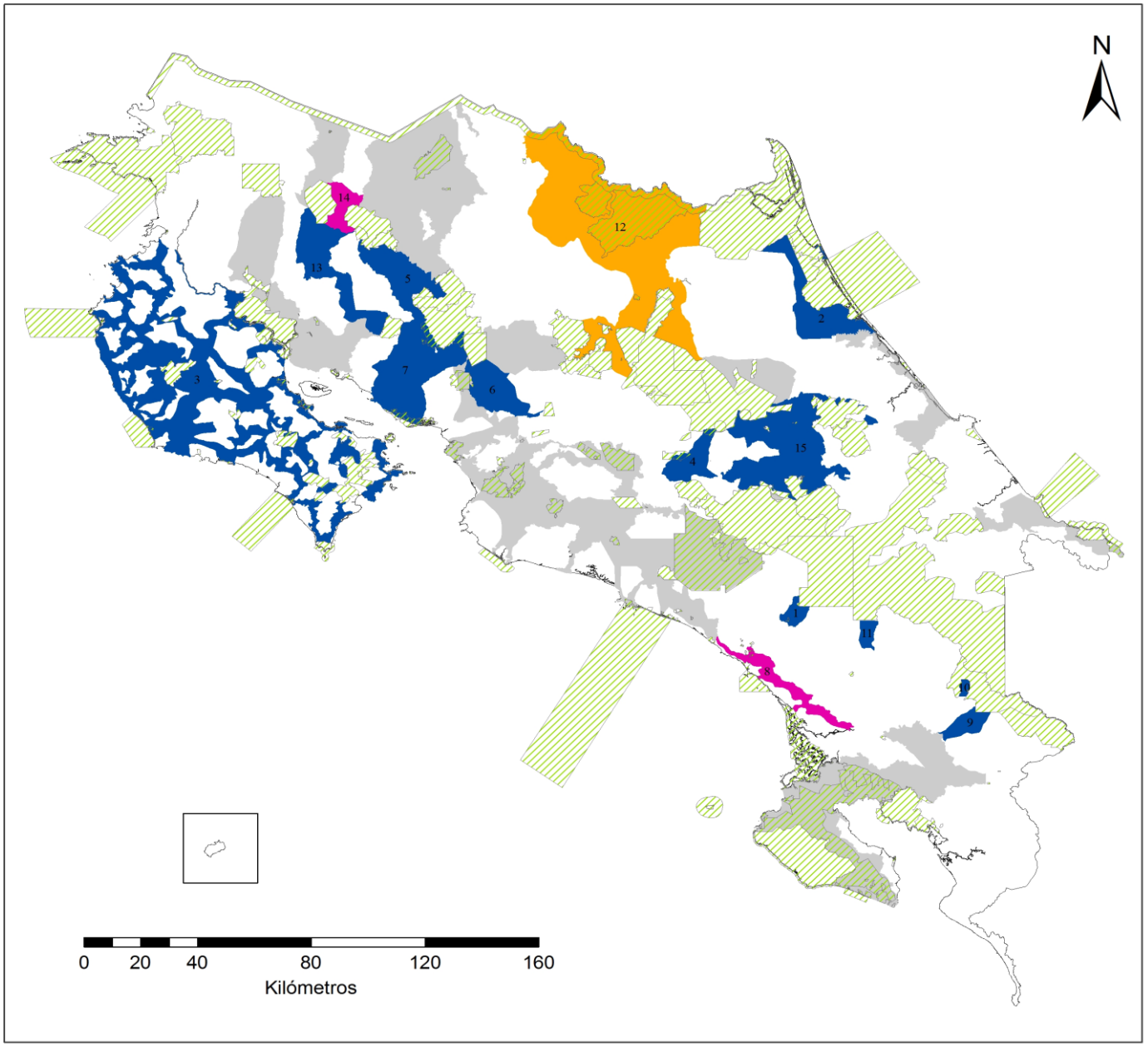
Diagnóstico Nacional de Corredores Biológicos



SIMBOLOGÍA

- Fase I
- Fase II
- Fase III
- Corredores no activos

CORREDORES BIOLÓGICOS

1. CoBAS
2. CBBCT
3. CBCh
4. COBRI - SURAC
5. CBAT
6. CBMA
7. CBPC
8. CBPD
9. CBPVLA
10. CBQTC
11. CBRC
12. CBSS
13. CBSR
14. CBTM
15. CBVCT

FUENTES:

Programa Nacional de Corredores Biológicos.
Canet - Desanti et al. 2009

Elaboración:

Adriana Baltodano Fuentes
2009

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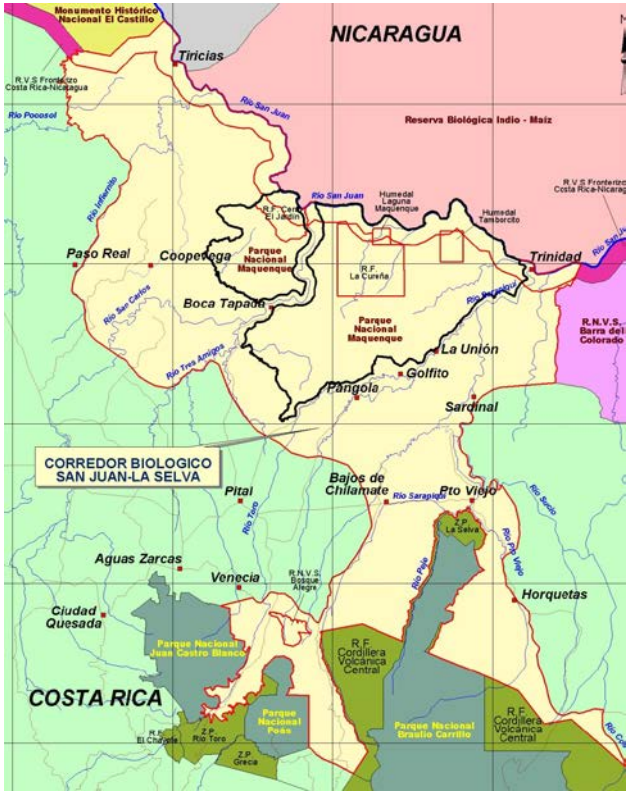
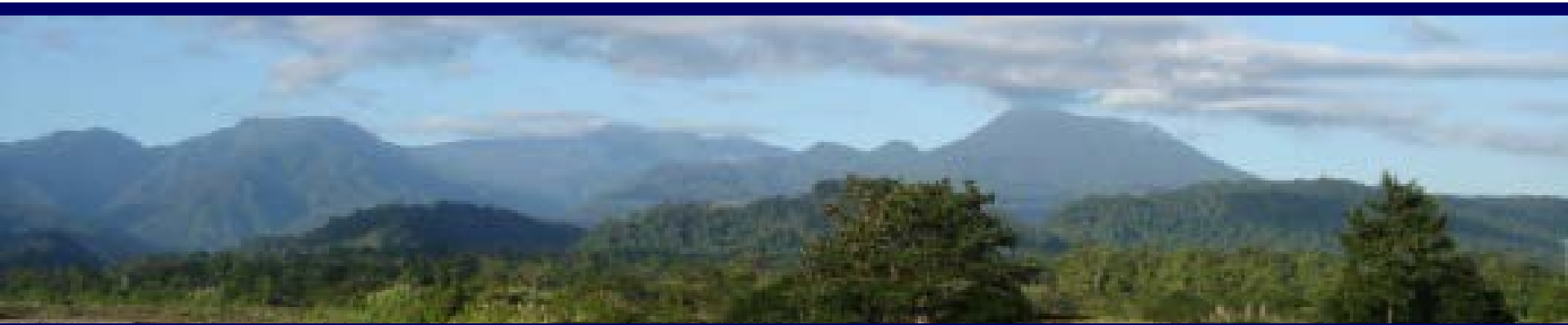
TNC
Conservando la naturaleza.
Protegiendo la vida.

San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor

- To maintain the biological connectivity between Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve, in Nicaragua, with the protected area system of the Central Volcanic Range, in Costa Rica.
- Great Green Macaw as flagship species
  - 1994: 210 individuals
  - 2010: 302 individuals





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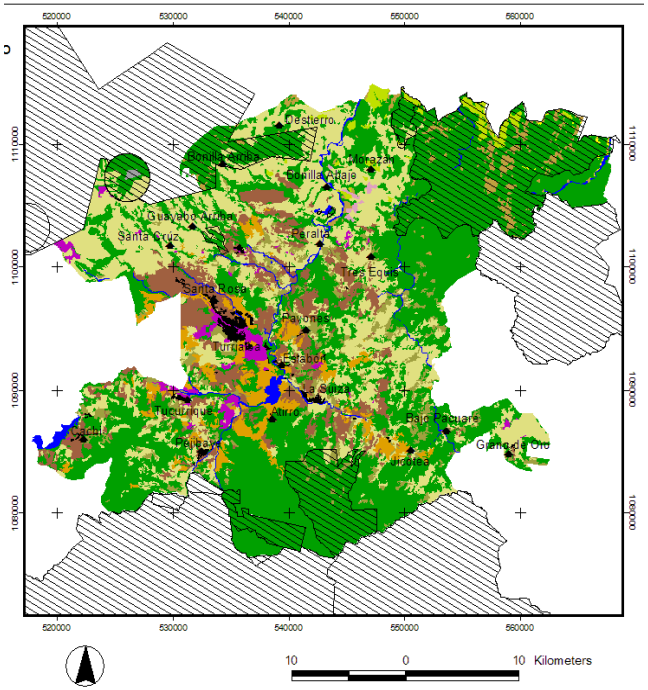
Volcánica Central – Talamanca Biological Corridor



- To maintain the biological connectivity between Indio-Maíz Biological Reserve, in Nicaragua, with the protected area system of the Central Volcanic Range, in Costa Rica.
- Jaguar as flagship species

San Juan La Selva & Volcánica Central – Talamanca biological corridors : enabling conditions

- Protected areas within a larger connectivity landscape concept.
- Practitioner's agenda drives the policy agenda.
- Altitudinal and latitudinal corridor (30-3300 m).
- Ideal for pilot projects (hotspot, Ramsar, Biosphere Reserve, IBA, heterogeneous protected areas).
- Adequate governance.
- Open and inclusive participatory mechanisms.
- Long-term biodiversity monitoring (Great Green Macaw / Jaguar).

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San Juan-La Selva & Volcánica Central – Talamanca biological corridors : lessons learnt

- Adaptive management and multi-disciplinary approach / ecosystem-based approach.
- Horizontal management, with open and inclusive participatory mechanisms.
- Transparency (information, funds).
- Consensus decision making.
- Leadership, follow up, commitment and ethics from the coordination.
- Efficiency in financial investment.
- Applied research as the basis for management.

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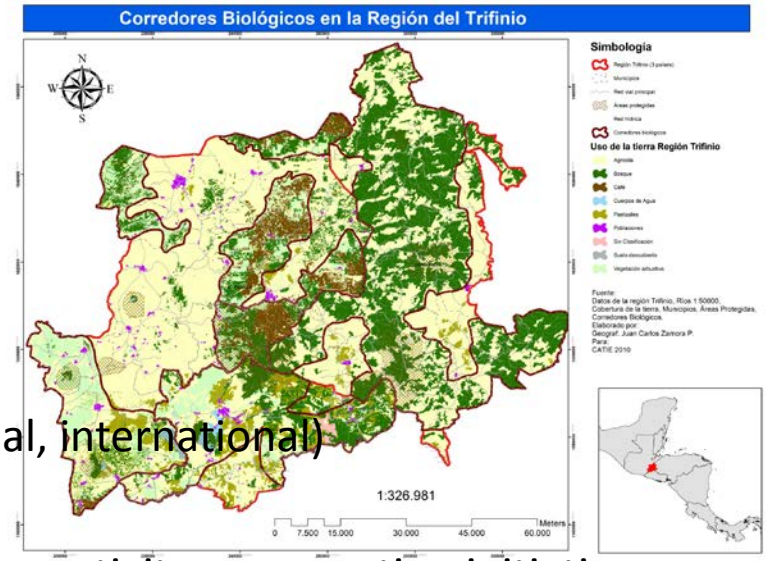
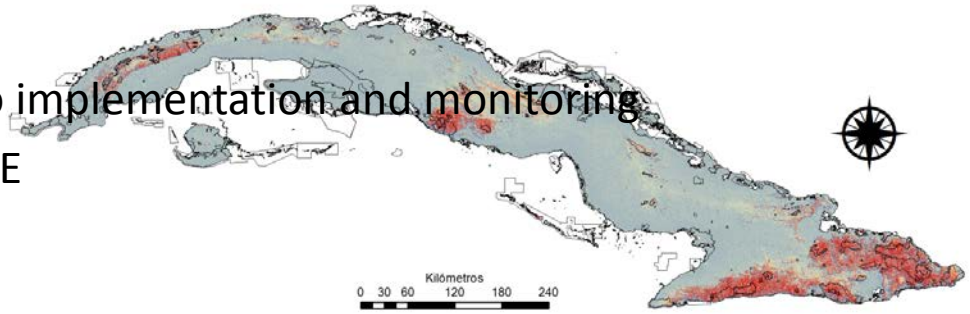


The work of CATIE in Mesoamerica

- Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala (local, national, international)
- Based on the Costa Rica experience
- Guidelines on how to design and implement connectivity conservation initiative
- Helping drafting out a national biological corridor programme in Honduras
- Building capacity

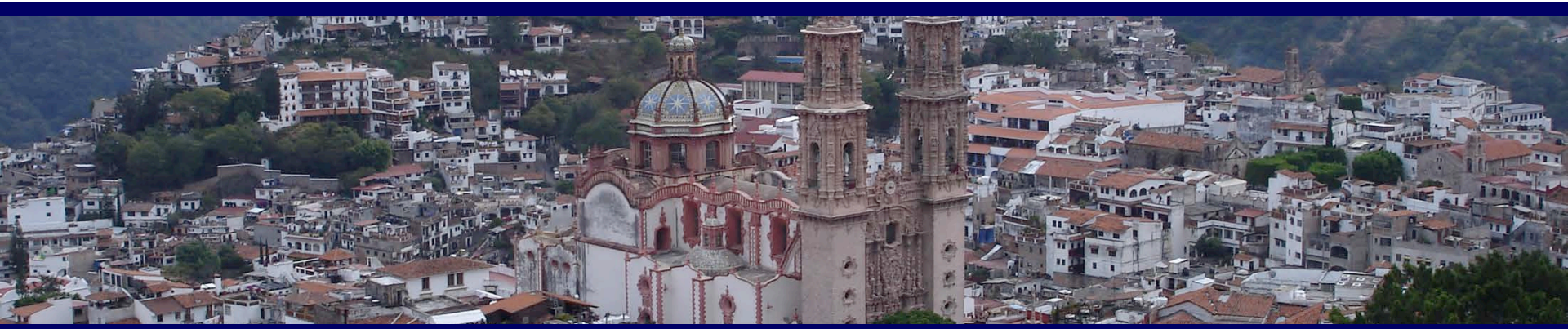
Connectivity conservation planning

- Guidelines established for Cuba
- Step by step process: from design to implementation and monitoring
- A collaboration between TSC & CATIE
- A practical tool soon to be available
- Replicability



Recommendations

- Build connectivity initiatives on existing transboundary and connectivity initiatives
- Work on different levels with all stakeholders (sub-national, national, bilateral, regional)
- Foster grassroots efforts where available
- Focus efforts on the provision of ecosystem services and goods for human well-being
- Push forward participatory processes




Thank you!