

# Restoring Ecosystems and Landscapes

## Green Development Fund for the SICA region/ REDD+ Landscape

### Initial Situation

Central America and the Caribbean are among the regions worldwide most affected by climate change effects. The frequency and scale of extreme weather events is increasing, causing droughts, floods, avalanches, fires, the increase of pests and diseases as well as phenomena that put the livelihoods of rural populations at risk. In addition, natural resource degradation - resulting from land misuse and deforestation - has drastically reduced essential ecosystem services, such as water and microclimate regulation, soil protection and biodiversity in general.

Ecosystem and landscape restoration ensures important ecosystem services for the people and strengthens resilience to the effects of climate change. That is why the governments of the region, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement (NDC), give high priority to ecosystem and landscape restoration as an adaptation strategy to climate change.

GIZ, through the "REDD+ Landscape" program funded by the German Ministry of Environment (BMU) in coordination with the Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA), has supported since 2014 the implementation of national landscape restoration strategies through pilot projects and the development of specific financial mechanisms, thus creating the starting point for a regional financial mechanism.

On that basis, it is necessary to consolidate and integrate financing, implementation and monitoring mechanisms at the regional level and validate their functionality and impacts in a transparent manner in order to attract large-scale investment.

In this context the European Union co-finances the programme to develop the Green Development Fund for the SICA region as an investment mechanism that finances mixed funds (public and private) for ecosystem restoration projects in priority landscapes, designated by each country.

### Objective

Increase adaptability to effects of climate change in SICA countries and contribute to more resilient sustainable development.

Name of the program	Green Development Fund for the region SICA/ REDD+ Landscape
Donors	European Union (EU) Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMU)
region	Central America and the Caribbean
Implementing organization	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	4 years (2018 - 2022)

### Strategy

The Programme focuses its efforts mainly on local investments aiming at improving the ecosystem services essential for adaptation to climate change through:

- Restoration of forest ecosystems and landscapes
- Basin management adapted to climate change
- Agro-ecological practices and agro-forestry systems for resilient livelihoods
- Climate change-related disaster risk reduction and management

At the same time, the capacities of actors at regional, national and local level will be consolidated and the political framework, monitoring system and regional dialogue will be strengthened, through the following lines of work:

- Implementation of the operational mechanism of the Green Development Fund for the SICA region
- Technical support in the development and implementation of national policy instruments and financial mechanisms
- Creation of a new regional platform for knowledge management, monitoring and impact measurement
- Capacity building of actors for implementation at regional, national and local level
- Promote opportunities for leveraging public and private funds



Description of the photographs: Left: Dredging of mangrove Barra de Santiago, El Salvador. Credit: Sergio Izquierdo  
 Central: Sunrise in Nosara, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. Credit: Sergio Pucci  
 Right: Measuring the height of trees, Costa Rica. REDD+ Landscape Program Credit

## Partners & Allies

The Green Development Fund for the SICA region is financed by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) of the Federal Republic of Germany, within the framework of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) as part of the "REDD+ Landscape" program; and implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in coordination with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), which is part of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

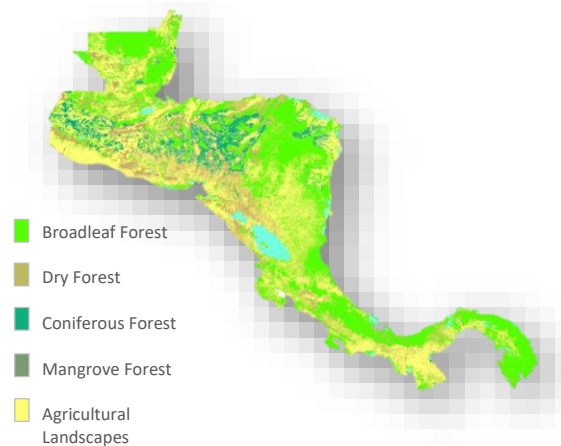
## Expected results

1. Stabilization and restoration of forests and ecosystems at risk
2. Improvement of water reserves, hydrological regulation, soil conservation and productivity in vulnerable areas
3. Improving livelihoods and food and nutrition security of vulnerable populations through resilient production systems
4. Reducing risks associated with climate change through the development and implementation of policy instruments for ecosystem and landscape restoration and their ecosystem services (water, climate, biodiversity)
5. Availability of a regional platform for knowledge management on ecosystem and landscape restoration issues and related financial mechanisms in SICA countries
6. Strengthening the capacities of relevant actors at regional, national and local level for ecosystem-based adaptation, climate risk management and appropriate financing mechanisms that have been developed on a sound scientific basis, in a gender-sensitive manner
7. Implementation of specific funding mechanisms for integrated ecosystems and forest landscape restoration in selected areas in at least 4 countries
8. Mobilizing investments through diversified financing and public-private partnerships for the restoration of climate-resilient ecosystems and landscapes



Mangrove Forest in Barra de Santiago - El Salvador  
Photo Credit: REDD+ Landscape-GIZ Program ©

## Forest coverage of the region



Forest Cover Map for Central America and the Dominican Republic

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication

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