

Second Workshop

River Basin Commissions and other Joint Bodies for Transboundary Water Cooperation: Technical Aspects

09-10th of April 2014



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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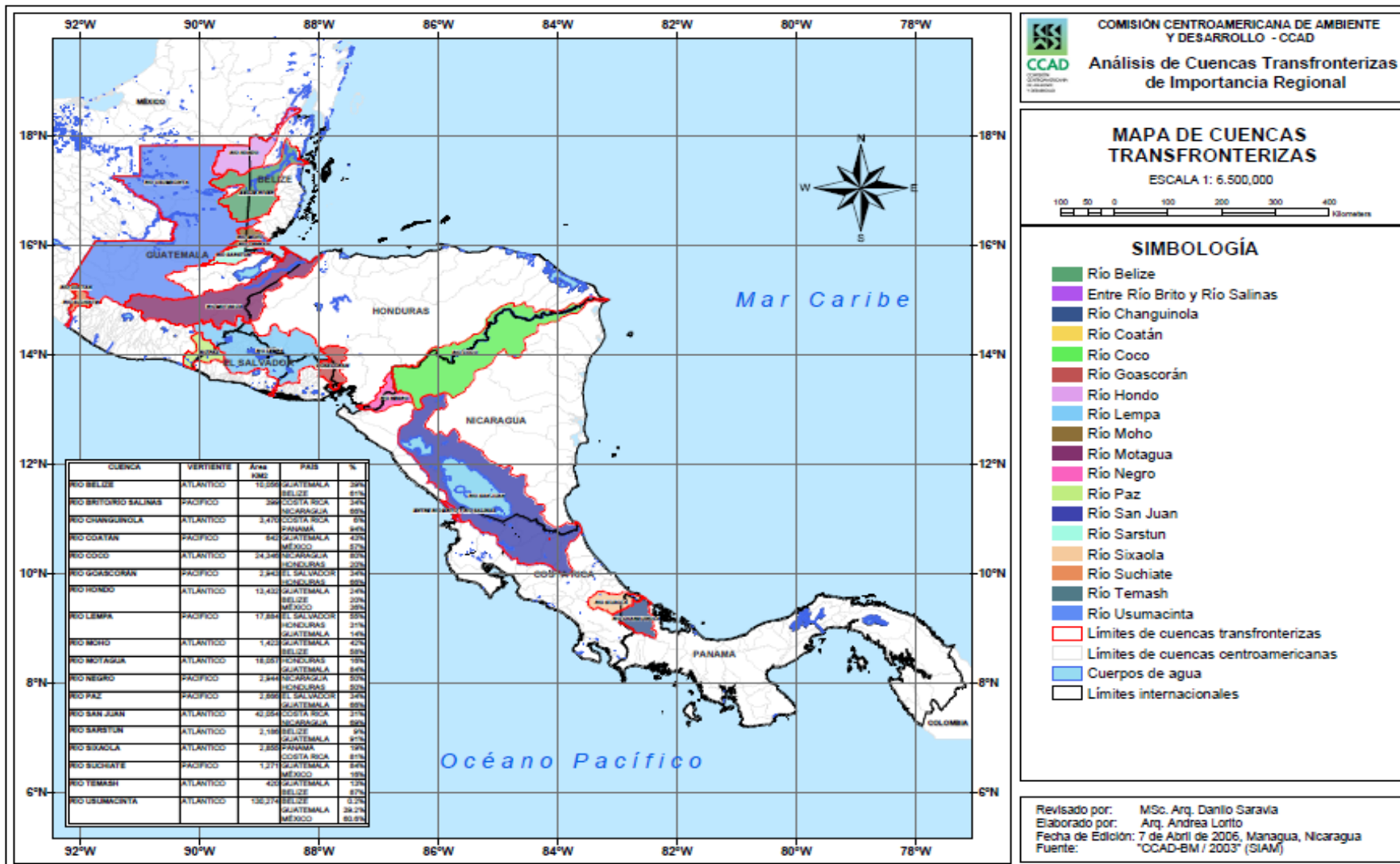
Cooperación Suiza
en América Central



Costa Rica - Panama Binational Commission for Integrated Management of the Sixaola River Basin

*Mr. José Joaquín Chacón, Deputy Director,
Water Directorate, Ministry of Environment
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Geographic Location



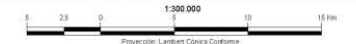
Binational Sixaola River Basin



PLANO INTEGRADO DE ÁREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS Y TERRITORIOS INDÍGENAS

ESTRATEGIA DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE DE LA CUENCA BINACIONAL DEL RÍO SIXAOLA

PLANO INTEGRADO DE ÁREAS NATURALES PROTEGIDAS Y TERRITORIOS INDÍGENAS



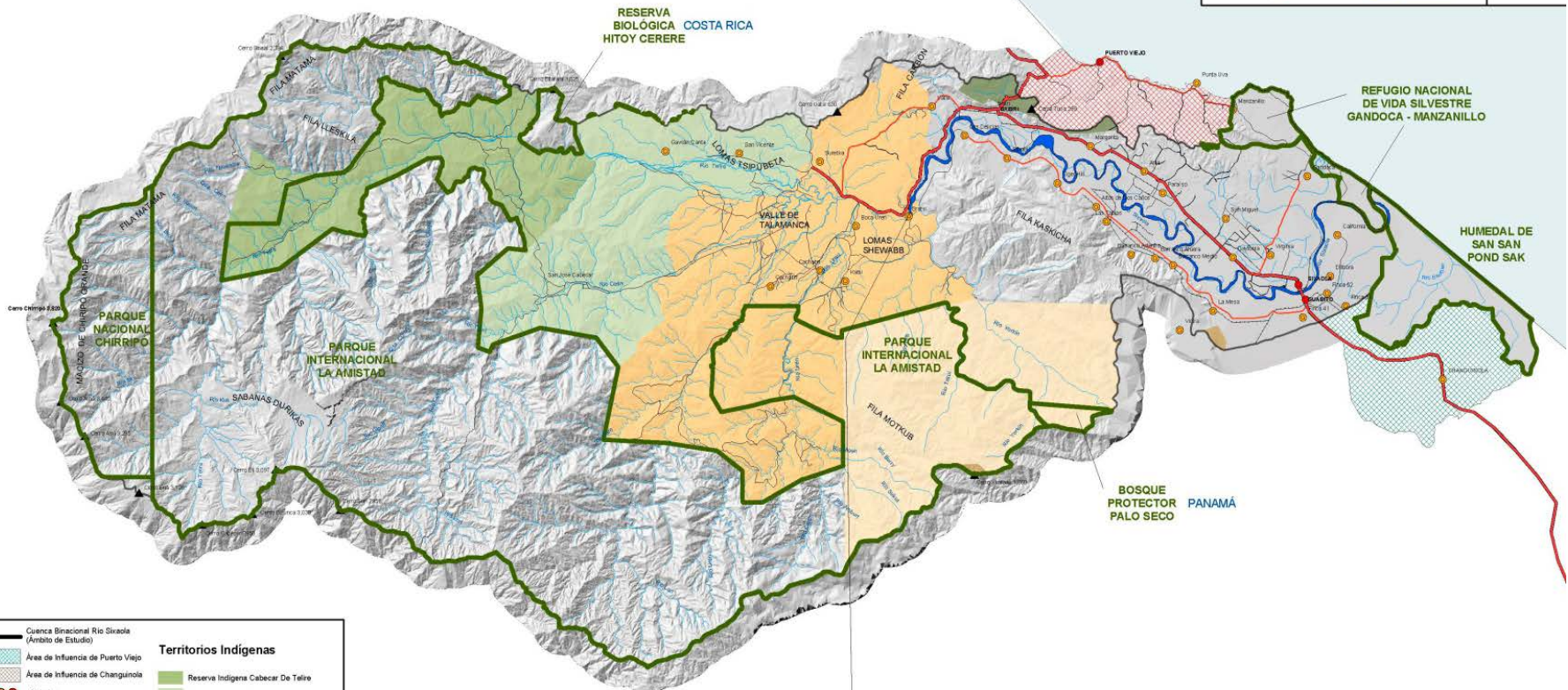
Proyección: Lambert Cónica Conforme
Datum: NAD 83
Escala: 1:300,000



Consultores:



Fecha: Noviembre 2011



	Cuenca Binacional Río Sixaola (Ámbito de Estudio)		Territorios Indígenas
	Área de Influencia de Puerto Viejo		Reserva Indígena Cabecar De Tefre
	Área de Influencia de Changuinola		Reserva Indígena Cabecar De Talamanca
	Poblados		Reserva Indígena Bribri De Talamanca
	Carreteras Principales		Reserva Indígena Bribri
	Carreteras Secundarias		Reserva Indígena Bribri De Kekoldi (Cocles)
	Caminos		Reserva Indígena Naso
	Ríos		
	Ferrocarril		



The Binational Sixaola River Basin Commission



- **Background:**

- Between 2003 and 2004, a participatory strategy for Sustainable Development of the Sixaola River Basin was formulated.
- As a result, the “Integrated Management of Ecosystems in the Sixaola Binational River Basin” project was formulated in conjunction with the main contributors.
- In 2008, the project was approved by both governments and funded by GEF / IDB.
- In 2009, the Binational Sixaola River Basin Commission was founded.



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Binational Sixaloa River Basin Commission Costa Rica – Panama



April 2014



BRIDGE Project: Building River Dialogue and Governance



- **Objective:** Improving governance in nine transboundary basins using as an approach capacity building, momentum of leadership, establishment of a consensus and demonstration of the results.
- **Global Project implemented by IUCN in nine transboundary basins, located in three areas:**
 - Mekong region (Asia).
 - South America.
 - **MESOAMERICA. (Sixaola River Costa Rica-Panamá)**
- **Funded by the “Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation” - SDC:**
 - First phase 2011-2013.
 - Second phase 2013-2015.

Binational Sixaola Commission 2012

- **Background:**

- Unconsolidated Commission.
- Fully dependent on the Binational Sixaola Project.
- Inadequate functioning regulations

- **Membership (21)**

- 14 public institutions.
- 6 civil society representatives,
- 1 project coordinator.



- **STRATEGIC ALLIANCE** between IUCN's BRIDGE Project, the Binational Sixaola Project and Executive Secretaries from the transboundary agreement.



Basic Principles of the Convention on Co-operation in Transboundary Development



- a. The basin as a shared resource
- b. Good neighbourliness:
- c. Sustainable development
- d. Ethnic and cultural diversity
- e. Cooperation
- f. Equitative use
- g. Prevention, reduction and control of pollution
- h. Social Participation
- i. Subsidiarity:
- j. Environmental Impact Assessments:
- k. Exchange of information
- l. Good faith negotiation process
- m. Recovery
- n. Environmentally-friendly productive activities



Binational Sixaola River Basin Commission Agreement



PROYECTO BINACIONAL SIXAOLA



ANAM - MINAE - BID/GEF

REGLAMENTO de la Comisión Binacional de la Cuenca del Río Sixaola



Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany



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Un instrumento para la sostenibilidad social y ambiental...

New Regulations

- In 2013, preparatory meetings were held in order to summon new contributors.
- **Elections of civil society representatives** (October-November): native territories (6), producers (2), business associations (2), local development associations (2).
- **First General Assembly on November the 18th 2013:** the Binational Commission of the Sixaola River Basin restructured, with the ratification of 28 members and the designation of a Coordinating Unit.
- **In January 2014, the Binational Sixaola Commission established eight special task groups and they are currently working on their plans of action:**
 - Agriculture, Environment, Risk Management, Health, Infrastructure, Enhancement, Trade and Tourism.





New Regulations

What is the Binational Sixaola Commission?

- ◆ Binational and Transboundary Governance Unit for Integrated Management in the Sixaola Binational River Basin

Functions:

- Coordination and development of the necessary measures for the **Integrated River Basin Management**.
- Preservation of natural resources and biodiversity.
- Promotion of sustainable production.
- Strengthening the binational institutional framework under the transboundary agreement and the current legislation of both countries.





Challenges



- (Financial) Sustainability :
 - Roadmap and clear objectives.
 - Maintaining the interest of local contributors/ incentives / food and water safety.
 - Training to submit proposals.
 - Institutional budgets ??
- Institutional and legal arrangements: facilitation of processes.
- Empowerment (local contributors) and active participation.
- Political will for transboundary cooperation and implementation of principles of International Water Law.
- Appropriation of local contributors **demanding** cooperation to the binational structure.
- **Grassroots empowerment makes cooperation possible.**
- **Without grassroots participation = no hydro-diplomacy = no peace**



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