

1. General Description:

1.1 Project Title:

Conserve and increase the carbon of secondary forests in the North of Costa Rica.

1.2 Submitting Country/ies:

Costa Rica

1.3 Specific Location & Country/ies/regions/areas benefitting from the project:

Provinces of Alajuela and Heredia, Cantons of San Carlos, Sarapiquí and La Cureña.

1.4 Endorsement from ITTO Focal Point:

DG-OF-043-2021.pdf

1.5 Intended Project Duration (in months):

24

1.6 Indicative Budget (in US\$):

ITTO	112226
Counterpart	11222
Total	123448

1.7 Programme Line Focus (select 1):

Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods

1.8 Project Type (select up to 3):

Pilot/demonstration project, Policy development/implementation

1.9 Proposal Summary:

The Huetar Norte Region of Costa Rica is an area that has a high agricultural development, with various crops, mainly pineapple, studies indicate that the sustained increase in pineapple cultivated areas arouses concerns in various sectors due to the environmental impact that expansion entails. From this crop to new lands, pineapple crops cover 57,327 hectares of the national territory, the vast majority in the Huetar Norte Region, according to a report by the MOCUPP of Costa Rica (CENAT) 2015-2016. The increase in the sowing area has caused the removal of many areas of secondary forest. These forests have productive potential, but their owners cannot obtain permits from the State Forestry Administration to manage their forests, due to the costs and because they prefer to switch to another more profitable activity. With the execution of the project, a rational management could be given to secondary forests, which would allow their permanence, thereby protecting and increasing carbon sinks through management and restoration of secondary forests in the northern zone of Costa Rica, involving the owners of the forest, in the management and conservation of the forest resource, thus avoiding the loss of coverage generated by the illegal logging of these forests and their change in land use, to be used in other crops. With the experiences generated in the project, improvements to the instruments of the national policy regarding the management and restoration of secondary forest would be recommended, and this activity would be promoted in other areas of the country, to expand the effect of the project.

2. Proponent Information:

2.1 Executing Agency Information:

Name of Agency/Organization/Institution:

Asociación Comisión de Desarrollo Forestal de San Carlos

Name of main Contact Person:

Luis Fernando Pérez Obando

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2.2 Type of Organization:

Other

Type of Organization- other case:

Non-Governmental Organization

2.3 Collaborating Agency/ies:**Name of Agency/Organization/Institution:**

Asociación Comisión de Desarrollo Forestal de San Carlos

Name of main Contact Person:

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2.4 Relevant experience of FAO

The organization has a lot of experience in processing permits for use in forests and plantations, forest conservation projects, forestry consultancies in reforestation, agroforestry systems, it has participated in projects financed by DIFD of the Government of the United Kingdom, the Costa Rica Canada Fund, AID's Costa Rica Netherlands Fund, in consultancies for companies such as Bosques Selectos, and for institutions such as EATH.

3. Relevance:

3.1 Conformity with ITTO objectives (ITTA, 2006) and priorities (current SAP):

The project develops activities to contribute to sustainable forest development, and seeks to generate resources for forest producers, promotes the repopulation of secondary forests, through the regeneration of lands that were denuded in the past. It motivates the owners to carry out an adequate management of the forest, thus avoiding illegal logging, and the change of land use, carrying out interventions in the forest according to the principles, criteria and indicators of sustainability. With the incorporation of secondary forests to the management, the production of wood is achieved continuously, and also the payment for the environmental services that the forest generates is promoted.

3.2 Relevance to the ITTO Programme Lines:

The project is relevant in several ITTO program lines, in programmatic line N ° 1, it promotes, through management plans, the commercialization of wood by legal means, generating income for producers, and offering products for the national market and international with known sources of production. In programmatic line N ° 2, work is being done on the conservation of secondary forests, and intervention is made to develop their potential in the production of wood, and of the other ecosystem services that forests have, generating an improvement in the landscape and carbon fixation. In programmatic line N ° 3, the conservation and management of forests is promoted by different means, fostering an increase in the areas of secondary forest in the region, and an increase in sources of employment is generated in the most marginal areas, of the north of Costa Rica.

3.3 Relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Forest Goals (GFGs) and other forest related global agenda:

With the implementation of the project, the identification of secondary forests in the area is achieved, the classification of said forests by their composition and development, and with the completion of management plans, it is achieved that the owners have income with the products that they they generate, turning the forest into a source of goods and services for the producer and for the country. In this way, it is possible to maintain the forest cover, with the ecosystem services that it produces. Thus contributing to the conservation of wildlife, and the permanence of carbon reservoirs, and the increase in carbon fixation by the application of treatments. The permanence of secondary forests is necessary, but they will be maintained over time if the owners obtain income from these areas, either by rational use and by paying for the environmental services that it provides to society.

3.4 Relevance to submitting country's policies:

In the country, the REDD + strategies, the National Forest Development Plan (PNDF), and the Forest Law No. 7575 establish a series of provisions so that forest management, among other activities, forms a real and effective mechanism in conservation and development. sustainable, being a pillar in the fulfillment of the fight against climate change, especially contained in axis ten of the Decarbonization Plan proposed and implemented by the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica.

3.5 Linkages to previous/ongoing ITTO and other projects/activities (if any):

IT doesn't have

4. Project synopsis:

4.1 Objectives (reflecting reference to elements within all ITTO Guidelines as applicable):

1. Identify and classify the secondary forests of the Huetar Norte Region, to develop and protect them as carbon reservoirs. The one that is congruent with objective J. that supports the repopulation of forests, and the rehabilitation and regeneration of forest lands.
2. Develop the management model according to the type of secondary forest that optimizes the production of ecosystem goods and services (Carbon). The one that subscribes to objective C. of sustainable development and poverty reduction.
3. Create pilot farms where 50% of the owners are women, secondary

forest management aimed at improving ecosystem services is implemented. Which coincides with objective Q, since it promotes a better knowledge of forest production, and the management of forest resources, among the political decision-makers of the country. 4. Promote the improvement of the national policy instruments regarding the management and conservation of secondary forests, in accordance with the lessons learned in the Project, involving schools and colleges from neighboring areas so that new generations understand the importance of secondary forest management. This objective is related to ITTO Objective N, which seeks to improve forest law enforcement and governance.

4.2 Key problem(s) to be addressed:

In the North Huetar Region of Costa Rica there are about 40,000 ha of secondary forests, which are being threatened by agricultural expansion, where the companies producing Piña are eliminating these secondary forests to make their plantations. Together with this, secondary forests have not been managed adequately as productive units, it is known about their potential, but there are few areas of secondary forest that have been managed, granting a benefit to their owners. Therefore, the owners prefer to eliminate these areas and dedicate them to another productive activity, The Costa Rican State does not provide facilities to those who want to manage these areas, and does not encourage the good of one of these areas, the instruments for the approval and monitoring of management plans are not known by the owners, nor by the AFE officials. , since they have not implemented them.

4.3 Main stakeholders and beneficiaries:

The community in general is the first interested in conserving these forest areas, since they produce many environmental services to the local and regional environment. The others interested in managing these areas are the owners who are aware of the importance of secondary forests, but have not had the tools to develop activities in the forest. The sustainable production of wood from secondary forests can benefit local industries, transporters, logging operators who in recent years have seen their sources of employment diminish. The National Forest Financing Fund and SINAC are interested in conserving these forests to be carbon reservoirs, and to host wildlife.

4.4 Key activities:

1. Identify and classify the secondary forest areas present in the Huetar Norte Region.
2. Carry out forest management plans on farms where the owner authorizes

it. 3. Develop demonstration farms, where sustainable management work is carried out, in which it is possible to promote the practices that can be developed in these forests. 4. Promote improvements in management and conservation policies for secondary forests in Costa Rica.

4.5 Expected outcomes and impacts, including innovation/transformation:

1. Have a list of farms that have secondary forests, which are characterized by their composition and development. 2. There are 300 ha of secondary forest that has a management plan approved by the AFE. 3. There are 3 secondary forest management units, which demonstrate the management that can be carried out in these areas. 4. It is known how many tons of carbon stored per hectare the forests have with a management plan. 5. The management of the secondary forest is promoted through field days, talks, folders that have information on the results of the project. 6. A document is made where improvements are made to current procedures to process secondary forest management plans. 7. Local entrepreneurs who are interested in the products generated by the secondary forest are activated.

4.6 Existing funding for (related) initiative(s)/established contacts to potential donors:

There is no funding to carry out these initiatives, a project similar to IKI Small Grants was proposed, which is under analysis. The national Forestry Financing Fund is analyzing the possibility of incorporating secondary forests, within the modalities to be considered for making a payment for environmental services. At CODEFORSA we have tried to promote forest management, but we require the resources to carry out the studies, and to provide facilities to the owners, who for the most part do not have the resources to execute the management plans in their secondary forests.

4.7 Any other information deemed necessary/important:

Doesn't have

4.8 Risk mitigation measures:

Risk 1: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused all activities to be subject to what the Ministry of Health dictates, in order to control the impact of the virus on people, if very strict measures are taken and depending on the deadline, could delay or prevent the execution of tasks. Safety measures must be adopted to avoid contagion, such as: keeping distance, constant hand washing, use of a mask, temperature measurement of the members of the work crew, teleworking when

possible, regulating the number of people per event. Risk 2: SINAC is the entity in charge of approving the secondary forest management plans, it is necessary that this process be agile, that there be personnel who know the subject, and that FONAFIFO implement a modality of Payments for Environmental Services for the management and restoration of secondary forests. Approaches are made with SINAC to inform them about the project, they will be invited in the field days, and in the meetings that will be held to disseminate the results of the project, in addition, it seeks to influence FONAFIFO to implement a PSA for the management of secondary forests Risk 3: In the forests where the project will be executed, they are private property, it is necessary that the owners authorize the performance of data collection and execution of tasks in the forest Many farms with potential will be evaluated and visited, to then select the owners who show interest in participating, the owners will be motivated through the benefits of having a management plan on their farm, and the possibility of incorporating your area into the PSA

5. Indicative Budget (in US\$):

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Description	ITTO	Counterpart	Total
Personnel	74014	0	74014
Sub-contracts	0	0	0
Travel and DSA	25951	0	25951
Capital Items	7216	0	7216
Consumables	1555	0	1555
Publication / Dissemination	944	0	944
Miscellaneous	2546	11222	13768
Total	112226	11222	123448

Description	ITTO	Counterpart	Total