



COMISIÓN CENTROAMERICANA DE AMBIENTE Y DESARROLLO



2015-2020 Framework Regional Environmental Strategy

Central American Commission on Environment and Development
December 2014

Presentation

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) recognizes the need to formulate a Framework Regional Environmental Strategy that responds to the challenges of the region and that address the new problems of sustainability from the current framework of systemic crisis; promoting a friendly economics with the environment, enabling the eradication of poverty and social inequalities; promoting sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth; and in compliance to the guideline issued in the Punta Cana Declaration on June 27, 2014 as a result of the XLIII Ordinary Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Central American Integration System, who agreed to "support and accompany the process of formulation, validation and implementation of Regional Environmental Strategy 2015-2020 promoted by CCAD", promoting the synergic action of the Multilateral and Regional Environmental Agreements of which our countries are signatory, so that it contributes to sustainable development and to the process of integration of the region."

This approach takes the concept of sustainable development, adopted in 1994 by the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES): "Sustainable development is a process of progressive change in the quality of life of the human being, which places it as a center and primary subject of development, through the economic growth with social equity and the transformation of the production methods and consumption patterns, and that is based on the ecological balance and the vital support of the region. This process implies respect for the regional, national and local ethnic and cultural diversity, as well as the strengthening and full civic participation, peaceful coexistence and harmony with nature, without compromising and ensuring the quality of life of future generations".

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) was founded with the mission of

developing a regional regime of cooperation and environmental integration which will help to improve the quality of life of the populations of Member States. Its has responded to Environmental Plans of the Central American Region (PARCA); the first was adopted in 1999 for the period 2000-2004, and was aimed to implement the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES) and start the consolidation of the CCAD altogether. The PARCA II covered the period of 2005-2009 and raised an approach focused on the development of instruments for environmental management and the establishment of cross-sectoral regional alliances. The PARCA III 2010-2014, focused on environmental governance. Since its term ended, the Council of Ministers agreed to develop a strategy effective for 2015-2020.

The construction process of this strategy comes from the institutional collaboration and the participation of the different stakeholders involved in the environmental management of the region, fulfilling the objectives of coordination and governance and considering the right to participation and transparency, in accordance with the principle of participation outlined at the Stockholm Summit of 1972 and consolidated in the Declaration of Rio 92, which Principle 10 states that the best way of treating environmental issues is with the participation of all citizens.

CCAD promoted a broad and unprecedented participatory and inclusive process for the construction of the Strategy, through a series of consultation workshops covering different sectors: international cooperation, ministries of environment, organized civil society on the Advisory Board of the SICA, the different secretariats and/or sectoral entities of SICA, the private sector organized regionally, international environmental NGOs and the Regional Academy. With the present 2015-2020 Framework Regional Environmental Strategy, the region has a tool that allows it to give coherence and alignment efforts that are executed in the field of environmental management.



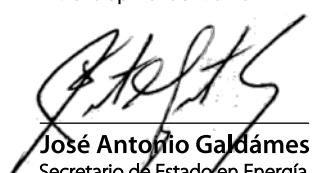
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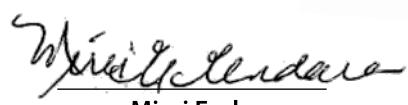
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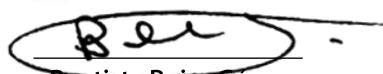
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Scope and Approach of the Strategy

This framework document has been elaborated with the purpose of establishing a direct link between regional sector strategies and vision of integration which the CCAD must perform based on its mandate.

The strategy responds comprehensively to three Framework Conventions of the United Nations: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification; under the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which establishes that developing countries will exercise effective leadership over their policies and development strategies; that donor countries will base their aid in development strategies, institutions and procedures of the recipient countries; and that both donor

countries and receivers countries commit to be mutually accountable around the results of development aid.

The present document contains the general objective and strategic lines identified for the next five years, as well as the objectives and specific actions that are expected to be implemented to achieve the expected results for each strategic area of work, including performance indicators.

The focus of the Regional Strategy integrates the efforts of other subsystems of SICA and national efforts in order to facilitate and promote the actions needed to ensure the environmental sustainability of the ecosystems of the region in each of the countries according to their unique social, environmental, institutional and economic conditions.

Regional Context

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) was founded with the mission of developing a regional regime of cooperation and environmental integration which will help to improve the quality of life of the populations of Member States. It has responded to the Environmental Plan for the Central American Region (PARCA); the first was adopted in 1999 for the period 2000-2004, and was aimed to implement the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES) and start the consolidation of the CCAD altogether. The PARCA II covered the period of 2005-2009 and raised an approach focused on the development of instruments for environmental management and the establishment of cross-sectoral regional alliances. The grim REAPER III 2010-2014, focused on environmental governance. Since its term ended, the Council of Ministers agreed to develop a strategy effective for 2015-2020.

The Central American region is geographically rich in biodiversity. It contains 8% of the global biodiversity ecosystems 206, 33 eco-regions and 20 life zones. It has around 12% of the coasts of Latin America and the Caribbean, including 567,000 ha of mangroves, and 1,600 km of coral reefs.

The management of this biodiversity in this region is conditioned pair the social structure of the land ownership, the growth of the population and of inequalities, migration and poverty, as well as (mainly agricultural) productive practices that have generated loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution and environmental degradation (State of the Region, 2008).

From the current context of the economy and the environment, the SICA countries currently performed important efforts in adapting the productive matrix for their inclusion in regional and global markets, and in search of optimal trade-offs between energy patterns and negative externalities produced by polluting emissions. In this regard, the region has shown serious commitments by the private sector in the process of carbon neutrality and environmental certifications as well as changes in the regional energy grid.

Although the Central American region has a water capital per capita of approximately 31.064 mm³/year, this resource is not distributed evenly due to the same natural system that distributes the resources in time and space in a non-

uniform way already characteristics of systems in the region. 8% of the water supply only takes advantage of the demand side.

Access to water and sanitation coverage is low and there is little treatment of wastewater and public sewers. The lack of water for human consumption affects the health of the inhabitants. The data indicate that two-thirds of the Central American population do not have sanitation services (IUCN, 2011).

The region as a whole is highly dependent on the imported fossil fuels as the main source of primary energy for development, which added to a complex international scene and the increasing climate vulnerability, interlaces and inevitably contrasts the model of economic development to environmental conservation. In addition to the above, the geographical location of this region has been defined highly vulnerable by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC (IPCC, 2007). The recurrence of droughts, floods and hurricanes puts at risk the region's economy based on natural resources that are heavily dependent on climate (agriculture, tourism, etc.). In this context, the countries of the region have shown interest to direct actions against the threat of climate change, intensifying efforts in this regard; on one hand, they have to attack the structural causes of socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to improve adaptability of populations; and, in the other hand, reduce their CO₂ emissions.

In contrast, biological and cultural wealth that express themselves a social and environmental resilience of enormous importance, are a fundamental asset to face these challenges both in the environmental and development areas. Strengthened and well managed, these bastions and alliances and active participation

from the public and private sectors, will certainly guarantee the security of the inhabitants of this region, preserve the natural heritage and meet their global responsibility. Below is a summary of the current state and the main challenges facing the region:

The region is more populated, is more urban, with economies open to the international system and electoral democracies. (State in the Region, 2008).

In demographic terms, there is a growing young population and a high rate of migration. In the economic and social areas, a booming economic growth but with huge social inequalities that add up to thousands of people in poverty.

From the political area, there are democracies and institutions with a legal framework that promotes the protection and environmental conservation but that require to strengthen their response capacity to fully comply with the implementation of the standards and policies in this field, access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.

The region, both for its location geographic and natural, as by its high rate of poverty and social deficit, is nowadays one of the regions most vulnerable and threatened by climate change. It is currently a subject of new regimes of heavy rains and storms, large droughts and new environmental phenomena.

The energy produced in Central America is fundamentally derived from fossil fuels; there are also countries that in some percentage have included in their energy matrix some renewable energies such as hydro-electrical, geothermal, wind, solar, biomass (waste from the sugar cane and biogas) and biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel).

Formation Process of the Strategy

The strategy has been formulated through a broadly participatory and inclusive process that considered consultations with all key stakeholders in the region, with the participation of organizations that develop actions of environmental management, the private sector, civil society, strategic partners and cooperation agencies, Ministries of Environment of the countries and other governmental institutions represented through the different secretariats of the Central American Integration System; which are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Consultancy workshops held.

Workshops Held	Place	Date
Strategic Partners and Cooperation	San Salvador, El Salvador	May 14
Ministers of Environment of Central America and Dominican Republic	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	June 26
Technical Committees of Ministries of Environment of C.A. and Dominican Republic	San Salvador, El Salvador	August 13-14
Advisory Board of SICA; Environment and Rural Development Committee	San Salvador, El Salvador	August 19
Secretariats of SICA.	San Salvador, El Salvador	September 4
Private Sector, Economic Affairs Committee, CC-SICA, Red Integrarse and BPM.	San José, Costa Rica	September 24
NGOs and Academy.	San Salvador, El Salvador	October 1
Validation Workshop Council of Ministers CCAD	Belize City, Belize	November 6
Petit Validation Workshop Committee of consulted sectors	San Salvador, El Salvador	November 26

Objective of the Strategy

“Promote environmental integration in the region for economic and social development of their people, coordinating efforts and potentiating the resources available.”

Lines and Strategic Actions

As a result of the consultation workshops with key stakeholders, the main strategic lines identified in which the region should put their efforts are presented as follows:

- a. Climate Change and Risk Management.
- b. Forests, Seas, and Biodiversity.
- c. Comprehensive Management of Water Resources.
- d. Environmental Quality.
- e. Trade and Environment.
- f. Funding Mechanism.

Climate Change and Risk Management

Aimed at mainstreaming the approach to mitigation and adaptation to climate change and the comprehensive risk management in all policies and national plans to ensure the protection of the life of the population of the region and their private and public property. It is included the responsiveness in climatic phenomena in the countries, the development of human and institutional capacities, the strengthening of a vision of prevention and adaptation, and above all to the generation of proposals that will ensure a comprehensive response, including the causes that produce it and considering aspects of resilience.

Environmental Quality

Seeks to increase the use of clean technologies to ensure the reduction of the levels of pollution in the production process and increase the competitiveness of the private sector, finding optimal trade-offs between energy patterns and negative externalities by polluting emissions, moving towards environmentally sustainable economies, low in emissions and adopting technologies that minimize impacts on natural resources and the environment. This implies the harmonization of national regulatory frameworks, the improvement of the environmental performance of the private sector, the promotion of sustainable consumption and the development of instruments for environmental sanitation.

Trade and Environment

This strategic line will promote and facilitate compliance with environmental commitments within the framework of current and future trade agreements in order to position an innovative region in compliance with international environmental standards. Includes the development and capacity-building and technology transfer to the productive sector and the incorporation of actions needed for the fulfillment of the provisions in chapter 17 of the DR-CAFTA, those included in the Association Agreement with the European Union and other arrangements that may arise during Strategy validity period.

Funding Mechanism

In order to ensure financial resources for the implementation of the Framework Regional Environmental Strategy, this strategic line intends to promote a financial mechanism to support environmental integration, as a tool for management of funds and implementation of structured procedures, to implement actions aimed at the conservation and restoration of degraded areas and protection of the remaining natural ecosystems promoting stewardship of public and private agents, and the ones coming from the international cooperation.

Comprehensive Management of Water Resources

This Strategy considers water as a finite and vulnerable resource. This strategic line seeks to strengthen the modern and efficient management of the water resources in the region to ensure its sustainability, which means working under the approach of comprehensive management of water resources and its implementation through national and regional institutions, the improvement of the protection and conservation of the goods and services; as well as the strengthening of the policy and institutional frameworks and mechanisms of governance of water resources.

Strategic Line	Climate Change and Risk Management				
Aim of the line:	Mainstreaming the approach to mitigation and adaptation to climate change and the comprehensive risk management in all policies and national plans to ensure the protection of the life of the population of the region and their private and public property.				
Current Situation:	<p>The region is one of the regions most vulnerable to climate change despite it only contributes 0.5% of the total GHG emissions. The recurrence of droughts, floods and hurricanes puts at risk the region's economies based on natural resources that are heavily dependent on climate (agriculture, tourism, etc.).</p> <p>Countries in the region have shown interest to current and future direct actions against the threat of climate change, redoubling efforts in this regard, to address the structural causes of the socio-economic and environmental vulnerability to improve the resilience of populations and while reducing CO2 emissions.</p>				
Results:	Strategic Actions:	Relevant Stakeholders	Strategic Partners	Related Instruments:	Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The environmental vulnerability of the territories has been reduced from actions of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. • The capacity of the Central American region to meet the challenges of climate change and climate variability has improved. • Improved legal and institutional regulatory framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce CO2 emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote the restoration of ecosystems and the development of sustainable landscapes, and thus increasing community resilience. • Develop methodologies and capabilities that enhance Blue Carbon Projects. • Promote the implementation of approaches on losses and damages associated with the adverse effects of climate change. • Create tools and methodologies for reducing vulnerability and increasing the capacity of adaptation to climate change. • Position the region in the international climate change negotiations. • Enable actions for adaptation and mitigation of climate change through the strengthening of the legal and institutional framework. 	Ministries of Environment, CCAD, CEPREDENAC, Institutions Responsible for Risk Management, Municipal Governments and Local Communities.	Multilateral Agencies, Cooperation, Research Bodies, NGOs, Academic Sector, Private Sector and Civil society.	Regional Strategy for Climate Change (ERCC); Agri-environment and Health Regional Strategy (ERAS); Framework Convention; EMSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of CO2 emissions per capita from deforestation and forest degradation. • Amount of Has restored. • Amount of meteorological tools. • Occurrence of extreme events and population and infrastructure affected by type of phenomenon. • Number of instruments created. • Investment in risk management and adaptation to climate change.

Strategic Line:	Forests, Seas and Biodiversity				
Aim of the line:	Ensure the sustainability of biodiversity, terrestrial and marine systems in the region to ensure their availability for the society and for production processes.				
Current Situation:	The Central American region contains 8% of the global biodiversity ecosystems 206, 33 eco-regions and 20 life zones. It has around 12% of the coasts of Latin America and the Caribbean, including 567,000 ha of mangroves and 1,600 km of coral reefs. Biodiversity comprises important goods and services which are vital to local and national economies, and from a multi-functionality point of view, ecosystems play an important role in water regulation, erosion control and sedimentation of reservoirs, filtering contaminants and scenic beauty. The management of biodiversity in this region is conditioned by the social structure of the ownership of land, the growth of the population and of inequalities, migration and poverty, as well as productive (mainly agricultural) practices which have generated loss, degradation and fragmentation of habitats, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution and environmental degradation. (State in the Region, 2008).				
Results:	Strategic Actions:	Relevant Stakeholders	Strategic Partners	Related Instruments:	Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened institutional management of the territories and forest ecosystems. • Divulgation of the financial assessment of the multi-functionality of ecosystems. • Terrestrial/marine biological corridors have been consolidated. • The conservation of biodiversity has been promoted in a participatory manner. • Strengthening of institutional management of the protected areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation, participatory management and sustainable management of forest resources. • Conservation, participatory management and sustainable management of marine coastal resources. • Coherence between forest policies and biodiversity, with other sectoral policies. • Recovery of species and vulnerable ecosystems. • Strengthen the connectivity of protected areas and biological corridors, terrestrial and marine systems. • Contribute to the processes of marine spatial planning. Promote the valuation of goods and environmental services. • Promoting sustainable tourism. • Promote sustainable fisheries. • Strengthening the participation of local communities, indigenous peoples and people of African descent. • Promote sustainable productive activities and facilitate the development of economic alternatives for the communities who live in protected areas. • Contribute to the establishment of control plans for invasive species that affect the biodiversity of the region. • Develop actions of monitoring biodiversity. 	CCAD, CAC, OSPESCA, SITCA, Central Government, specially the institutions responsible for Forestry, Environmental Management, Agriculture, Tourism, Municipal Governments and Local Communities.	Multilateral Cooperation Agencies, Research Bodies, Academic Sector, NGOs, Private Sector and Civil Society.	PERFOR; CITES; RAMSAR Cartagena Protocol; 2011-2020 CDB Strategic Plan and EMSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of forest cover. • Annual rate of change in forest cover. • Stock of volume, biomass and forest carbon. • Index of connectivity or fragmentation of forests. • The number of endangered species. • Percentage of territory with protected areas. • Surface of protected areas by type of ecosystem, use and conservation. • Number of terrestrial and marine protected areas sustainably managed which promote economic alternatives.

Environmental Quality

Strategic Line:	Environmental Quality				
Aim of the line:	Increase the use of clean technologies to ensure the reduction of the levels of pollution in the production process and increase the competitiveness of the private sector.				
Current Situation:	The current context of the economy requires that it suits the productive matrix for their inclusion in regional and global markets, finding optimal trade-offs between energy patterns and negative externalities by polluting emissions, moving towards environmentally sustainable economies, low in emissions and adopting technologies that minimize impacts on natural resources and the environment. In this sense, the Central American region has shown serious commitments from the private sector, making processes of carbon neutrality and environmental certifications, as well as changes in the regional energy grid.				
Results:	Strategic Actions:	Relevant Stakeholders	Strategic Partners	Related Instruments	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonized National Regulatory Frameworks. • Improvement of the environmental performance of the private sector. • Promotion of sustainable consumption and production. • Developed instruments of environmental sanitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote friendly economy with the environment by using clean technologies, sustainable consumption and production. • Promote the generation of clean energy from resources such as water, geothermal, wind, solar and biomass. • Promoting sustainable use of wood as an energy source. • Link the normative frameworks of discharges, waste, emissions and environmental assessment systems. • Contribute to basic sanitation of the areas of greater population density. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCAD, CAC, CRCB-CAM, Central Government, specially the institutions responsible for Environment, Municipal Governments and Local Communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multilateral Cooperation Agencies, Research Bodies, Academic Sector, Municipal Governments and Local Communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guides and guidelines of EAE and EIA System; EMSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentages of energy generated from renewable sources. • Number of companies/enterprises with certification processes. • Number of metropolitan areas which have instruments of environmental sanitation in execution.

Strategic Line:	Comprehensive Management of Water Resources				
Aim of the line:	To strengthen the modern and effective management of water resources in the region in order to guarantee its sustainability.				
Current Situation:	The Central American region has a water capital per capita of approximately 31.064 Mm3/year, but this resource is not distributed evenly due to the same natural system that distributes the resources in time and space in a nonuniform manner and the characteristics of the systems in the region. On the demand side, access to water and sanitation coverage is low; there is little treatment of wastewater and public sewers. The lack of water for human consumption affects the health of the inhabitants. The data indicate that two-thirds of the Central American population do not have sanitation services (IUCN, 2011).				
Results:	Strategic Actions:	Relevant Stakeholders	Strategic Partners	Related Instruments	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a Comprehensive Management of Water Resources by national and regional entities. • Improved protection and conservation of the goods and services provided by ecosystems. • Water resources governance mechanisms have been strengthened through policy and institutional frameworks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting systems of governance for sustainable use of water. • Support the development of capabilities and technologies to guarantee water security (adaptation to climate change). • Develop tools for integrated management of international watercourses. • Promote the conservation of the basins of superficial and underground water sources in terms of quality and quantity of water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCAD, CRRH, CAC, Central Government, especially institutions responsible for the management and operation of water resources, Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, Municipal Governments and Local Communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multilateral Cooperation Agencies, Research Bodies, Academic Sector, NGOs, Private Sector and Civil Society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECAGIR; PACAGIRH; ERAS; Central American Water Agreement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of watersheds that have management plans. • Number of watersheds with operating governance mechanisms. • Number of legal instruments. • The amount of pressure exerted on the water resource according to sector of use. • Water Balance (offer-demand).

Strategic Line:	Trade and Environment				
Aim of the line:	Promote and facilitate the implementation of environmental commitments within the framework of current and future trade agreements to position itself as an innovative region in compliance with international environmental standards.				
Current Situation:	Currently the region seeks to promote and facilitate the implementation of environmental commitments within the framework of current and future trade agreements in order to position an innovative region in compliance with international environmental standards. Includes the development and capacity strengthening and technology transfer to the productive sector and the incorporation of necessary actions for the fulfillment of mandates in chapter 17 of the DR-CAFTA, those included in the Association Agreement with the EU and other arrangements that may arise during the Strategy validity period.				
Results:	Strategic Actions:	Relevant Stakeholders:	Strategic Partners:	Related Instruments:	Indicators:
• Compliance with the CAFTA-DR environmental commitments, Association Agreement and other agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and strengthen the capacities and transfer of technology for productive, financial and public sector. • Promote good environmental practices in priority productive sectors which allow the development of sustainable value chains. • Creating incentive mechanisms that contribute to the increase of the competitiveness. • Support compliance with standards in intra-regional trade. • Incorporate the actions needed for the implementation of the mandates in chapter 17 of the DR-CAFTA. • Develop the actions needed for the implementation of other agreements that may arise during the Strategy validity period. 	CCAD, SIECA, Central Government, especially Institutions Responsible for Environment, Economy, Foreign Affairs, Private Sector, and SMEs.	Multilateral Cooperation Agencies, Research Bodies, Academic Sector, NGOs, Private Sector and Civil Society.	Documents of Agreements signed, ratified and committed to compliance with chapter 17 DR-CAFTA and EMSA Association Agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of fulfilled commitments, DR-CAFTA, AdA and other arrangements that may arise during the Strategy validity period. • Documented changes in the adoption of good practices from the strengthening of capacities and technology transfer. • Number of developed incentive mechanisms.

Strategic Line:	Funding Mechanism				
Aim of the line:	<p>Ensure financial resources for the implementation of the 2015-2020 Framework Regional Environmental Strategy by promoting stewardship of public and private agents.</p>				
Current Situation:	<p>Ensure the permanent provision of ecosystem services is fundamental both for environment-friendly economies and for adaptation to climate change. It is necessary to ensure the resources aimed at the conservation and restoration of degraded areas and protection of remaining natural ecosystems. The financial support mechanism to environmental integration, is proposed as an instrument of management of financial funds and implementation of structured procedures, to facilitate actions that ensure the implementation of the Framework Regional Environmental Strategy, involving different stakeholders, as well as the integration of the countries to increase their level of ownership and prioritized national implementation of regional instruments for the implementation of the action lines.</p>				
Results:	Strategic Actions:	Relevant Stakeholders:	Strategic Partners:	Related Instruments:	Indicators:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation projects and programs have been aligned to regional priorities set out in the Framework Regional Environmental Strategy. • The participation of the private and financial sectors has been promoted to support the implementation of the Framework Regional Environmental Strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulate regional portfolio of projects. • Encouraging Corporate Social Responsibility. • Promote Public-Private Partnerships. • Promote the design of economic instruments that facilitate sustainable development. 	<p>CCAD, CAC, CEPREDENAC, CRRH, SIECA, Central Government, especially Institutions Responsible for Environment, External Cooperation, Finance, Municipal Governments and Local Communities.</p>	<p>Multilateral organizations, Bilateral Cooperation, Research Bodies, Academic Sector, NGOs, Private Sector and Civil society.</p>	<p>Bilateral and Regional Financing Agreements; Regional Instruments of CSR and Clean Production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of mechanisms or financial instruments implemented. • Number of established public-private agreements. • Investment in the environmental sector coming from the private sector. • Investment in the environmental sector coming from the public sector. • Investment in the environmental sector coming from the cooperation.

Cross-cutting Axes

Five cross-cutting axes were identified at the different strategic lines which are to be considered as a priority:

a. Capacity-building and Knowledge Management.

Linked to the priority themes in the strategy, including the participation of civil society and the management of knowledge, promoting regionally the exchange of experiences and the potentiating of good practices that generate knowledge based on the approach of “learning by doing”, including indigenous peoples and rural communities.

b. Legal and Regulatory Framework. Promote innovative legal frameworks and innovative instruments both in legal, financial and technical areas.

c. Dialogue and Inter-sectoral Coordination: Including the promotion of dialogue with the different stakeholders and sectors involved, and the consolidation of the interrelation between the environmental subsystem, economic subsystem and social subsystem of SICA. It is expected to keep an unified agenda of regional issues both with instances of SICA and other entities (strategic partners and local stakeholders, giving priority to the strengthening of synergies).

d. Regional System of Environmental Indicators.

Promote a system of harmonized indicators that allow consolidating the Environmental Regional Observatory and strengthening national systems of environmental indicators.

e. Research and Development of Technologies. With the aim of finding innovative solutions to ensure sustainable development through new technologies that minimize damage to the environment and reduce the levels of pollution in the production process.

Implementation Mechanism

The Framework Regional Environmental Strategy requires a scheme of governance based on an intersectoral and multilevel dialogue. The intersectorality will be made at three levels:

A regional level within the framework of SICA, and especially with the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), the Council of Ministers, which is the body responsible for the implementation of the 2015-2020 Framework Regional Environmental Strategy, where it will play a key role in the agendas and strategies of other organizations of SICA as CEPREDENAC, CRRH, CAC, CC-SICA, etc. This level will have advisory groups that will be formed by the regional stakeholders who were consulted in the strategy formulation stage; also, it will incorporate the technical committees that are already in operation and respond to each of the strategic lines established in the ERAM.

A national level led by the Ministries of Environment, who will contribute to the articulation of the Framework Regional Environmental Strategy. Therefore, existing technical dialogue platforms will be used for different topics, ensuring a broad participation of stakeholders.

A local level where actions will be implemented as a result of the synergies identified between the different organizations of SICA, which are linked in the Framework Regional Environmental Strategy. At this level, it is important to strengthen the structures of governance of the territories, through capacity building of stakeholders, organization and institutional strengthening, knowledge management, promotion of the exchange of experiences.

Follow-Up Mechanism

Monitoring and decision-making on Strategy is the sole responsibility of the Council of Ministers of CCAD. For the monitoring and follow-up of the measures proposed in the 6 strategic lines, they will be supported at the Regional Environmental Observatory, regional specialized tool that allows the Council of Ministers and other relevant stakeholders up-to-date and timely delivered information for decision-making, derivative of the actions proposed in this Strategy.

It has been also identified a Committee for strategic support, integrated from different sectors who participated in the consultative process for the formulation of this strategy and which are described below has also been identified for strategic support.

Strategic Partners and Cooperation	Private Sector	CC-SICA/Committee of Environment and Rural Development	Secretariats and Entities of SICA	NGOs and Academy
CEPAL	CCIE	FEDMESO	SIECA	WWF
Government of Germany	Red INTEGRARSE	Central American Council of Accreditation	SISCA	CATIE
COSUDE	Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamérica (BPM)	Solidarity Front	COMMCA	GWP
OEA			COMISCA	
European Union			CAC	
PNUMA			CSUCA	
			SITCA	

Acknowledgements

The Central American Commission on Environment and Development would like to thank all those institutions of public and private sectors, civil society, and international cooperation who attended the invitation and actively participated in the consultation process for the construction of 2015-2020 Framework Regional Environmental Strategy.

- Ministries of Environment:

- Ministry of Forests, Fisheries and Sustainable Development of Belize
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of El Salvador
- Secretary of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Mining of Honduras
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua
- Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica
- National Authority of Environment of Panama
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Dominican Republic

- Donors and Strategic Partners:

- Spain International Cooperation Agency (AECI)
- Switzerland Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC)
- Department of State of the United States of America (two)
- Department of the Interior of the United States (DOI)
- Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in El Salvador
- Germany Technical Cooperation (GIZ)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Spain (MAGRAMA)
- Autonomous Organism of National Parks (OAPN) Spain
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- European Union (EU)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean {ECLAC}
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- Secretary General of the Central American Integration System (SG-SICA)
- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)

- Secretariats and Entities of SICA:

- Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE)
- Central American Agricultural Council (CAC)
- Center for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises in Central America (CENPROMYPE)
- Coordination Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC)
- Regional Center of the Basel Convention for Central America and Mexico (BCRC)
- Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM)
- Regional Committee on Water Resources (CRRH)
- Central American Council of Tourism (CCT)
- Council of Ministers of Finance of Central America, Panama and the Republic Dominican (COSEFIN)
- Council of Ministers of the Women of Central America (COMMCA)

- Directorate of Integration, Secretary General of the SICA

- Directorate of Democratic Security, Secretary General of the SICA
- Central American and Dominican Republic Forum of Water Supply and Sanitation (FOCARD-APS)
- Organization of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector in Central America (OSPESCA)
- Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA)
- Secretariat of the Central American Social integration (SISCA)
- Second Program to Support the Central American Regional Integration (PARCA II)
- Advisory Council of the SICA:
- Indigenous Coordinating Association of Community Agroforestry (ACICAFOC)
- Latin American Association of Small Farmers (United Front)
- Confederation of Artisan Fishermen (CONFEPESCA)
- Indigenous Council of Central America (CICA)
- Central American Federation of Transport (FECATRANS)
- Union of Small and Medium-size Coffee Producers of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (UPROCAFE)
- Mesoamerican Network of Private Conservation (FEDMESO)
- Confederation of Cooperatives of the Caribbean and Central America (CCC-CA)
- Central American Council of Accreditation (CCA)
- Coordinator of Association of Central America and the Caribbean (CSACC)

- Regional Private Sector:

- Federation of Private Entities of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (FEDEPRICAP).
- Federation of Chambers and Industry Associations of Central American and Dominican Republic (FECAICA).
- Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the Central American Isthmus (FECAMCO)
- Center for the Action of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CENTRARSE)
- Central American Federation of Rice (FECARROZ)
- Confederation of Cooperatives of the Caribbean and Central America (CCC-CA)
- Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM)
- Chiquita Brands International
- Business Association for Development (AED)
- Dole Food Company
- Bank of Central America (BAC).
- International Environmental NGOs and Regional Academy:
 - World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - Rainforest Alliance (RA)
- World Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Conservation (CI)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- MARVIVA
- INCAE Business School
- Agricultural Center of Research and Training (CATIE)
- Pan-American Agricultural School (Zamorano)
- Earth University

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Central American Integration System (SICA)

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