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Ecosystem-based adaptation in Costa Rica: Policy perspectives

CONTENT

A. Overview of policy issues

B. Examples of implementation in

i. marine realm

ii. terrestrial

iii. freshwater



Costa Rica has historically recognized the relevance of ecosystem services to human survival and economy

Forestry Law (1996) introduced the concept of Environmental Services from forest ecosystems and created a mechanism (PES) to enhance its conservation, including:

- Carbon sequestration
- Tourism
- Freshwater protection
- Biodiversity

Public policies for protected areas and payment for environmental services: 1996 – 2006 (updated) Inbio and NGO's support

- Identification of priority conservation areas (species and ecosystems, physical importance –freshwater and soil- and archeological importance.
- Health of ecosystems and definition of conservation targets (restoration)
- Identifying public and private conservation initiatives
- Conservation Gaps and assessment of pressures to identified conservation priorities
- Assessment of the implementation feasibility through local workshops and use of current legal and institutional mechanisms: PES, Changes in categories or are of PA's, Biological corridors.

National policy objective

To protect 90% of biodiversity resources in the country

Implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy
Consolidation of PES program
Consolidation of PA's Program

GOBIERNO DE COSTA RICA

Plan Nacional de Desarrollo

JORGE MANUEL DENGGO OBREGÓN

2006-2010

Costa Rica has implemented a protected areas system currently covering a 26% of national territory (land) and some marine areas.

Protected areas have provided

- Multiple benefits
- Freshwater availability
- Tourism related to Protected areas
- 6% of GNP (preliminary)

REGIONAL and National frameworks

REGIONAL

PARCA

Mesoamerican biological
corridor

PERTAP:

PROMEBIO:

Regional Conventions on
Biodiversity, Climate Change
and Forest Resources

NATIONAL

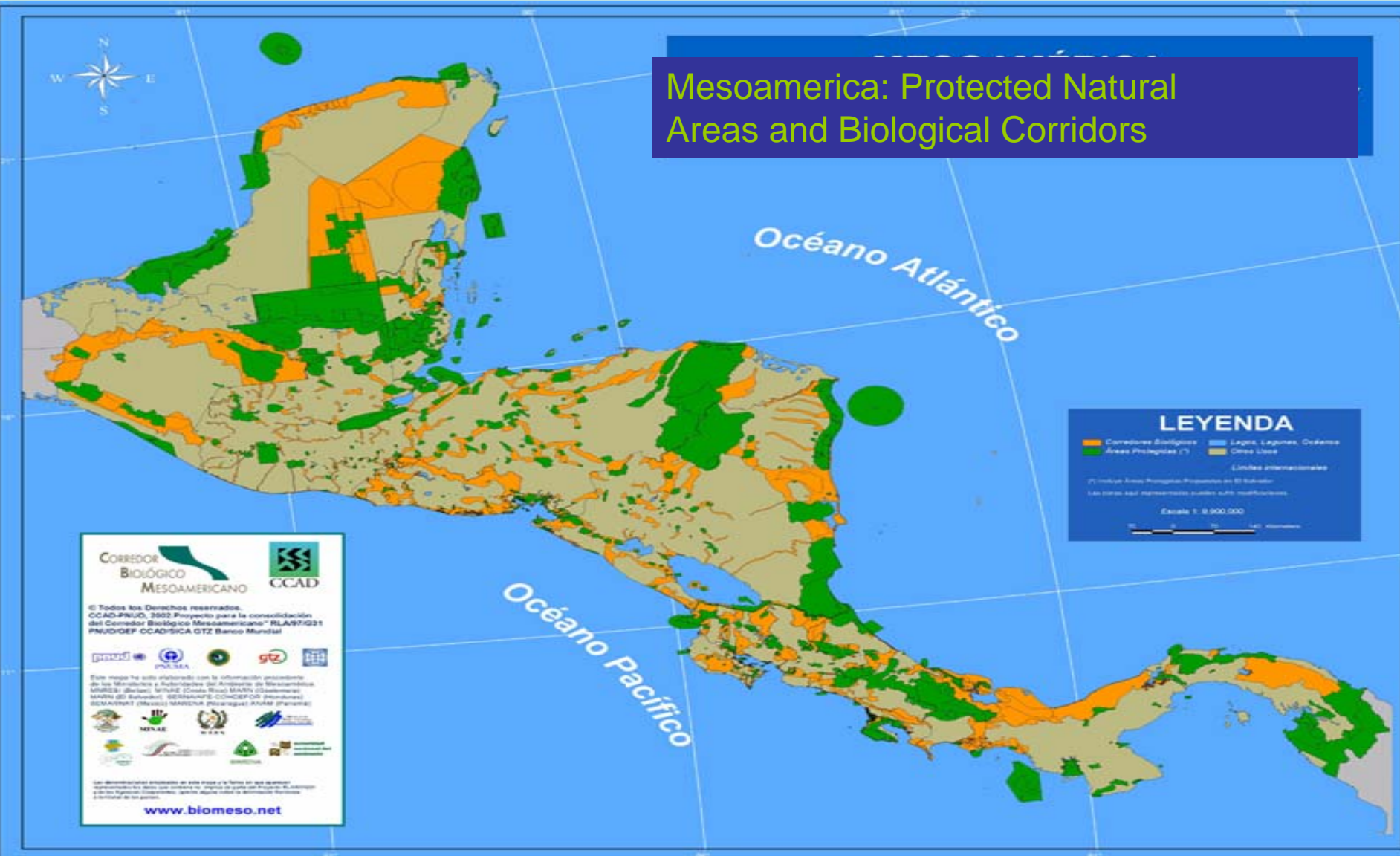
Biodiversity strategy

Climate change strategy

National adaptation program
(Biodiversity and coastal-marine
area)

Mesoamerican Biological Corridor

Mesoamerica: Protected Natural Areas and Biological Corridors



National institutional arrangements within Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications

FONAFIFO

Payment for environmental services

SINAC (terrestrial and freshwater)

Ecological gap analysis (GRUAS II)

National program of biological corridors

National Marine Strategy

Expansion of marine protected areas

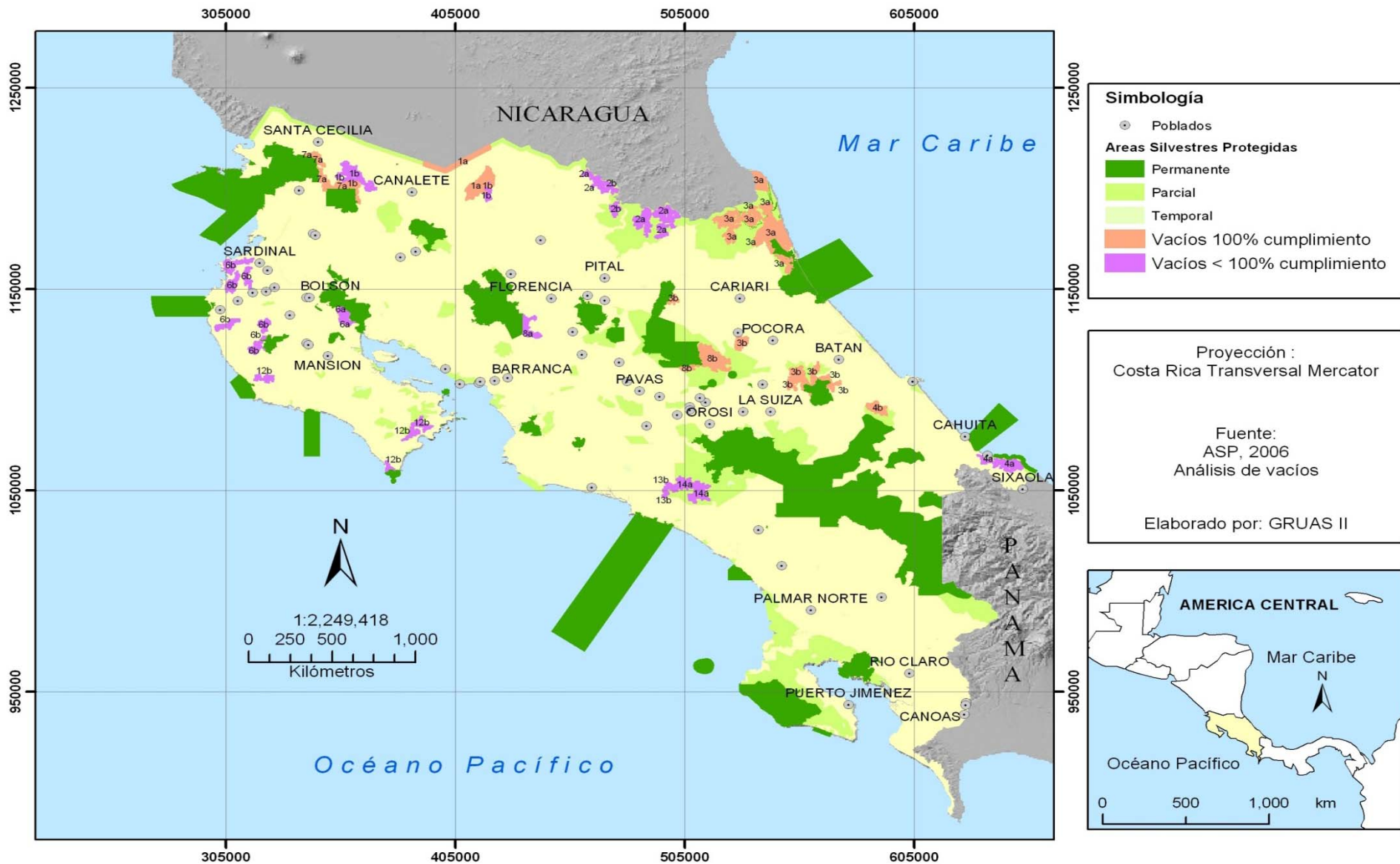
Freshwater Department

Integrated water management strategy

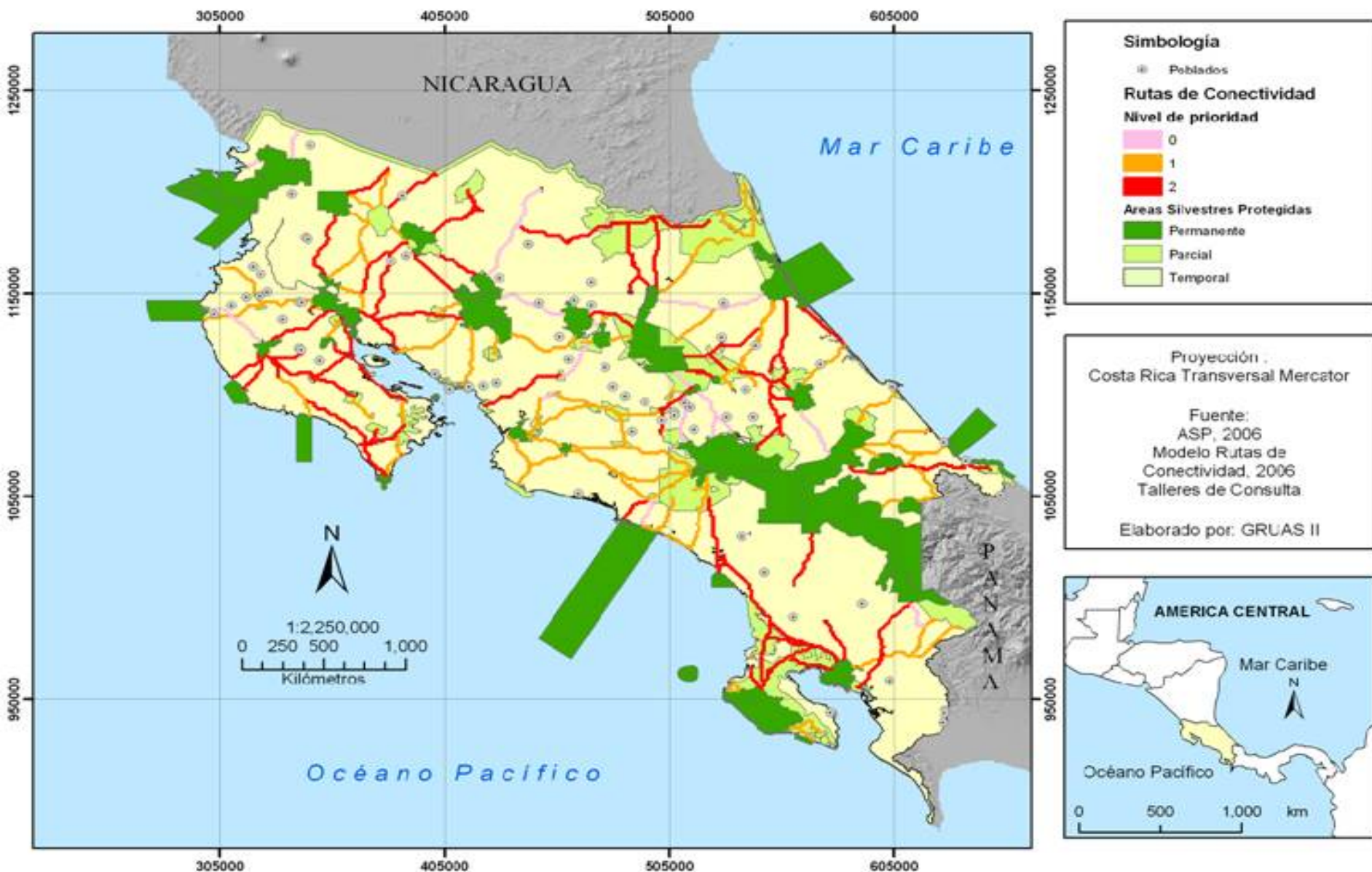
New water user tariffs scheme

Freshwater inventory

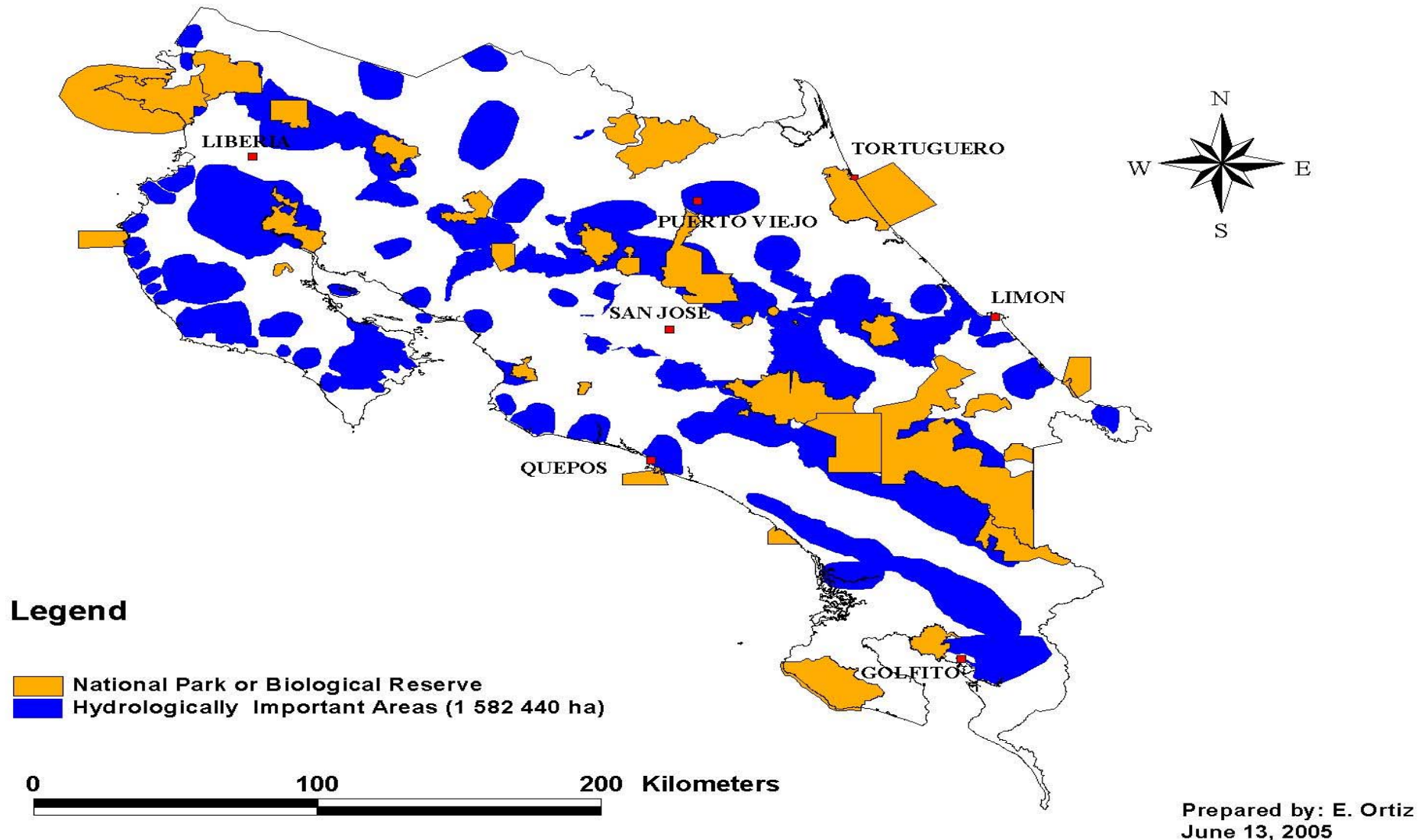
Stabilisation and terrestrial gaps



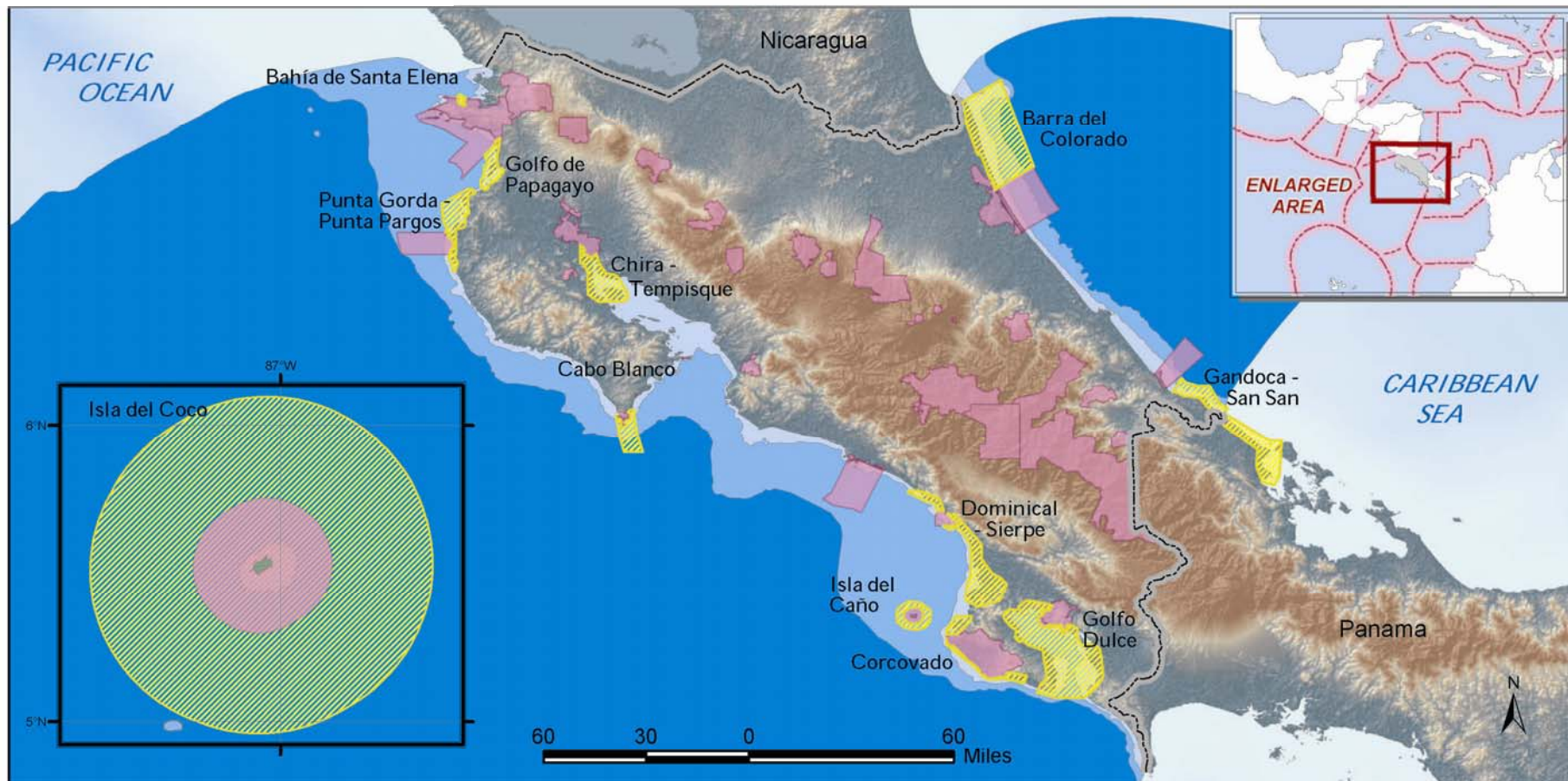
Connectivity Gaps and proposals



Priority freshwater areas



Forever Costa Rica (Current Protected Areas and New Expanding Areas) Costa Rica - Central America



- National Boundary
- Economic Exclusive Zone
- New Expanding MPA's
- Strict Protected Areas

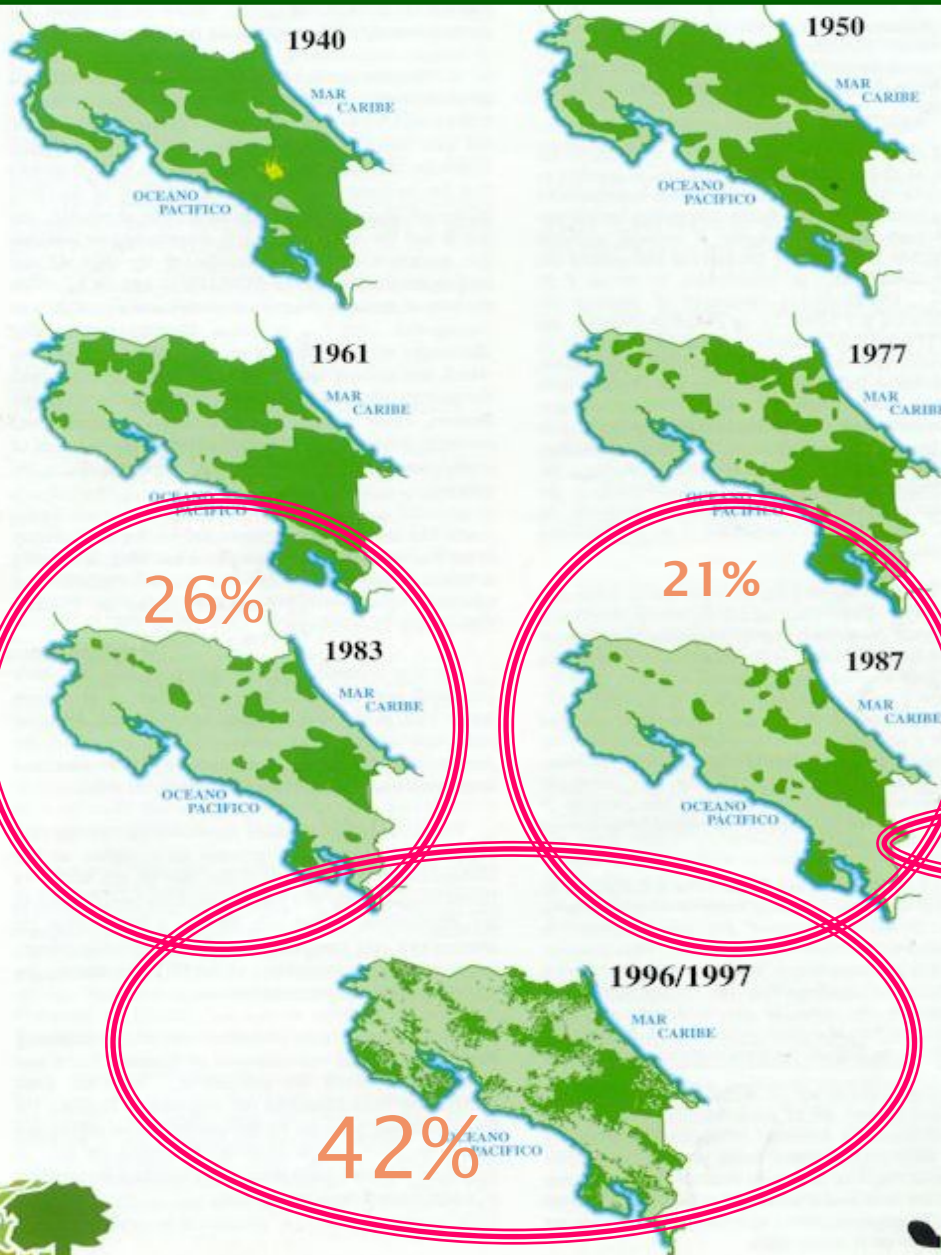
Marine regimen

- Nearshore (0 - 30 m)
- Shelf (30 - 200 m)
- Offshore (more than 200 m)

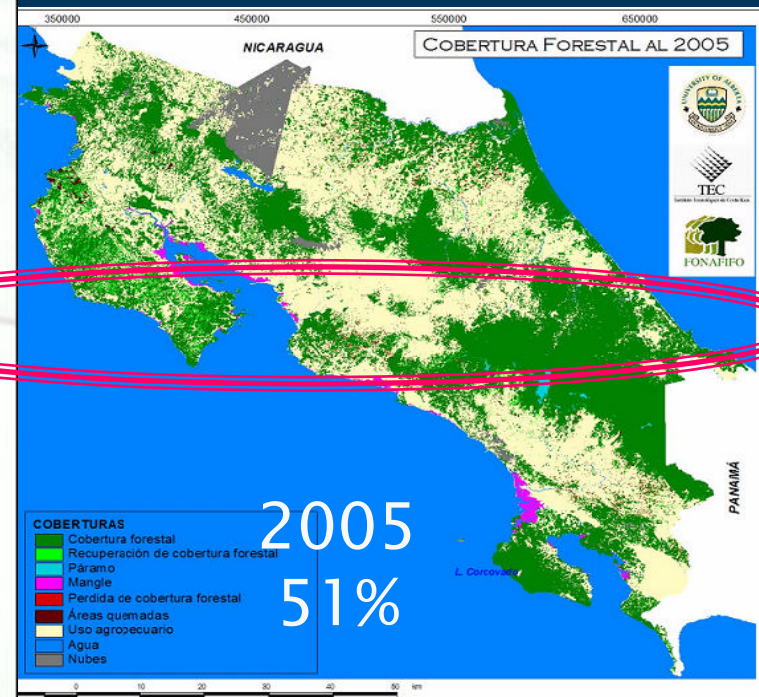
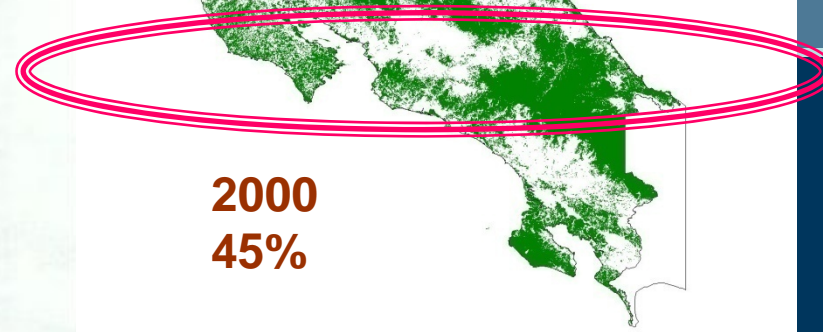
MACR - Mesoamerica & Caribbean Region
MPA - Marine Protected Area

January 21, 2009
Map Created by :
Marco Castro
MACR Science Program
Costa Rica Field Office
Data Sources:
Protected Areas DB - TNC-MACR (2007);
Gruas II - SINAC (2008)
Map Projection:
North American 1927 Datum - UTM Zone16

Forest Cover



Fuente: FONAFIFO



- Highest level Political commitment to:
 - recognize and value the importance of ecosystems for adaptation (sustained support by the Government)
 - the vital role they play in sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and resilience to climate change,
 - particularly for many of the most vulnerable people (indigenous peoples, forest-dependant communities),
 - places
 - economic activities (food production, energy, etc.)
- Reflected in national policies and strategies (National, sectoral and institutional plans)
- Linkages with National Human Development Strategies.

Ecosystem based adaptation: guiding principles

- Financial provisions and mechanisms (to secure implementation) including private sector participation
 - Secure funding sources for PES (currently from a carbon tax on fuels and water use tariffs)
 - International cooperation (GEF, WB, UNEP, UNDP)
 - Other market and non-market mechanisms
- Institutional capacities (science and delivery)
- Collaboration with partners and stakeholders on the basis of national goals and policies (Local and international NGO's (IUCN, CI, TNC, WWF, others) and IGO's (UNDP, UNEP, WB))