

Participatory Protected Area Management in Barra del Colorado Wildlife Refuge, Costa Rica

A protected area with people

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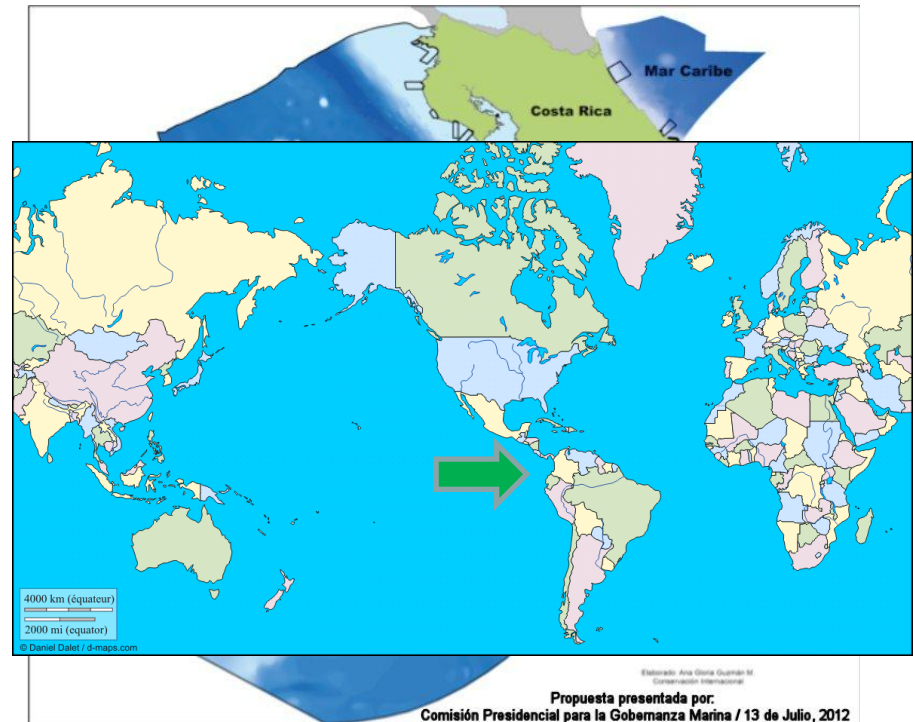
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Introduction to Costa Rica

1. Location and Territory.

- A) Central America
- B) 51,000km² land territory (From 0m to 3,800m altitudinal diversity)
 - 26% protected
- C) 500,000 km² of sea territory
 - 3% protected
- D) Population: 4.6 milions aprox. (2011)



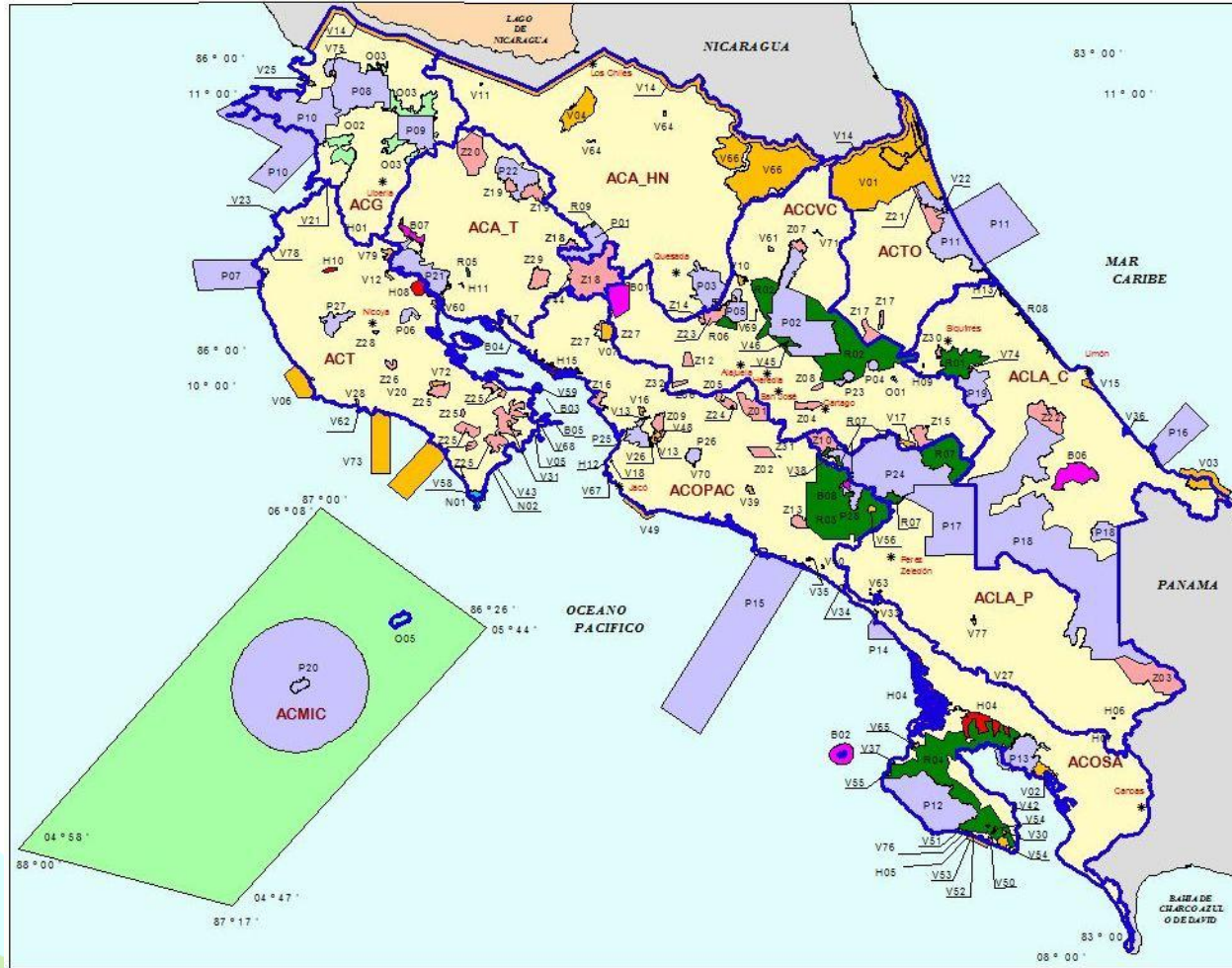
Protected Areas in Costa Rica

Costa Rican Management Category	IUCN Equivalent Category	Number
Forest Reserves	VI	9
Protected Zones	VI	31
National Parks	II	28
Biological Reserves	I a	8
National Wildlife Refuges	IV	67
Wetlands	IV	12
Natural Monuments	III	1
Marine Reserves	VI	-
Marine Management Areas	VI	1
Others categories	(Ia – II)	3

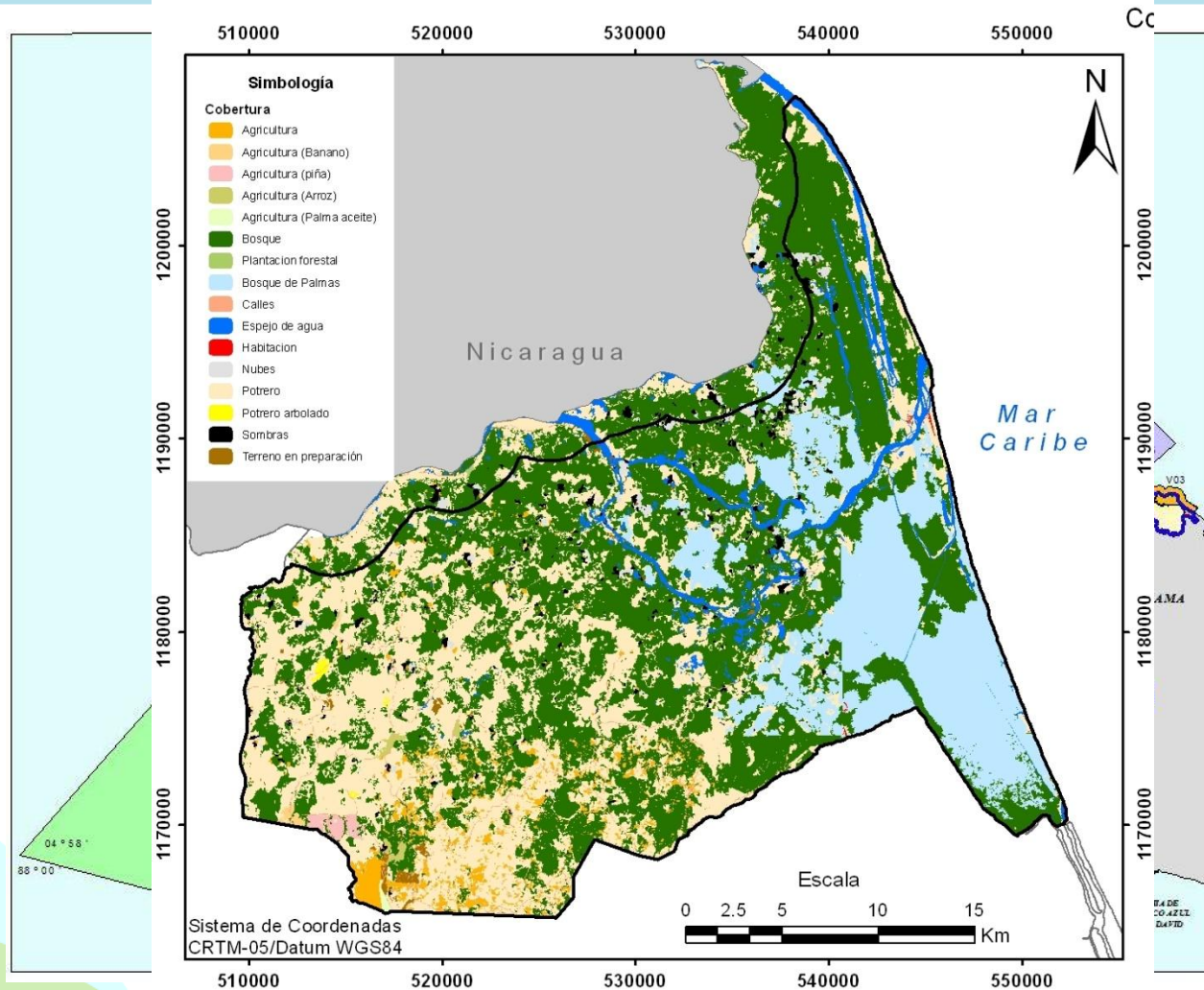
Resource: ASP management office,
SINAC, 2014



Protected Areas in Costa Rica

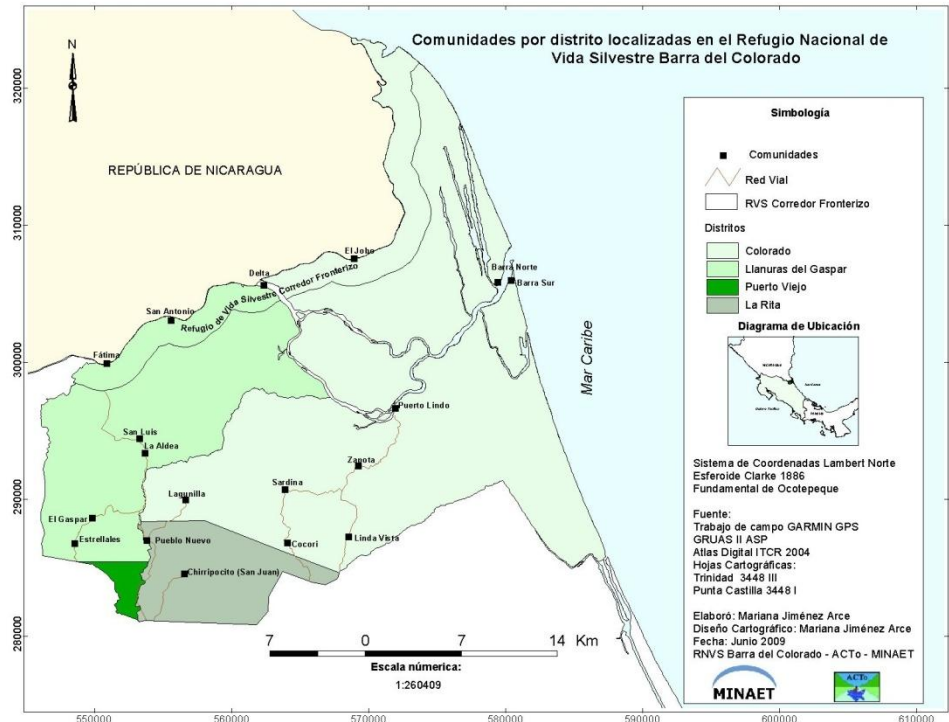


Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge



Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

1. 81,177 ha.
2. Established in 1985
3. 14 communities identified with 3000 inhabitants aprox.
4. Mixed land tenure: Private and Public.



Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Technical justifications for the establishment of the refuge:

- Important wetland for birds species.
- Presence of endangered species such as: manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Green macaw (*Ara Ambigua*) etc.
- Soil Potential: Not suitable for agriculture but for tourism



Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Historical Background of management (1/2)

- Establishment without detailed study or participation of local stakeholders.
- Opposition from the local people and the communities.
- Management as an Annex of Tortuguero NP, not as a “Wildlife Refuge with local communities”.



People have been living there before the establishment of the protected area. Some in a sustainable manner, others not.

Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Historical Background of management (2/2)

- The “management” consisted in “repressive patrol and control”
- More conflict between governmental authority and the local communities.



Patrol and control are necessary activities but not enough.

Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Turning point in 2006 !!

Assignment of the first administrator as a “independent” wildlife refuge!!



Proposal of a project to build a capacity of wildlife refuge management with local stakeholders



The first and actual administrator



Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

First Project with JICA

Participatory Management
of Barra del Colorado
National Wildlife Refuge

2008-2011



Six new staffs with
bachelor's degree for BC
NWR as a national efforts



Staffs of Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge, March 2008



Participatory Management of Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Basic capacities for participatory management with local stakeholders such as:

- Environmental education
- Promotion of eco friendly agriculture



A hand puppet workshop in a local high school as an environmental education activity



Participatory Management of Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Basic capacities for participatory management with local stakeholders such as:

- Organization of activities with local stakeholders
- Local Council
- Environmental events
- Participatory biodiversity monitoring



Celebrating World Wetland Day

Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Actual Project with JICA

Promotion of Participatory
Biodiversity Conservation
(MAPCOBIO)

2013-2018



Conserving with people



Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

MAPCOBIO

Follow up to the prior project
in BC NWR

To Strengthen:

- ◉ Environmental education
- ◉ Putting land tenure in order
- ◉ Local council
- ◉ Review of the management plan



Sharing our experience and knowledge is the objective of the project MAPCOBIO. A regional seminar on participatory protected area en RNVS BC, Costa Rica

Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

MAPCOBIO

Follow up to the prior project in
BC NWR

To strengthen :

- Development of marketing of environmental friendly agriculture



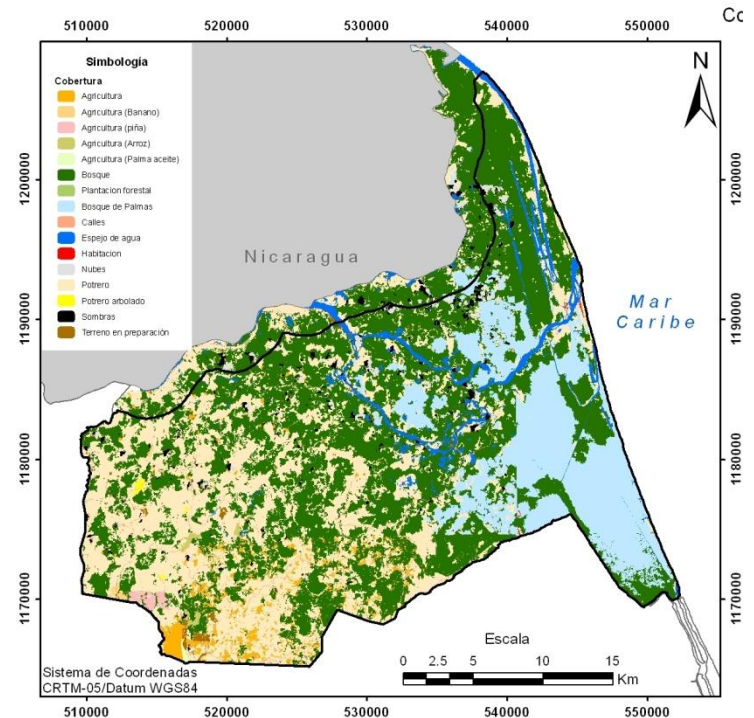
Development of markets and a additional value to the local nature friendly products are a challenge.



Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Lessons learned

1. Landscape level management is required.
2. Importance of the governance of a territory (not just an ecosystem management)



Governance of a territory composed by a mosaic of natural and agricultural ecosystems is a reality for this protected area administration.

Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge

Lessons learned

3. Inter-institutional efforts is needed (Min. of Agriculture and Livestock, Social support Institution etc.)
4. Improving Local production is a good point to enter the local communities.



Agricultural training course for local people organized by protected area administration. Cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture and livestock is indispensable.

*Thank you very much
for your attention.*



Conserving with people

