IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Jesús María River Basin			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)			
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English	
Keywords	Ecosystem restoration, Watershed management, Erosion, Forest restoration			
Date of submission	6 March 2017			
Web link	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6012/comdeks_ii_case_study_publication.pdf#page=64			

Geographical Information

Country	Costa Rica			Location(s)	Puntarenas Province				
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	https://www.google.com/maps/@9.9126976,-84.7198927,11z								
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	x
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
The Jesús María River Basin consists of several sub-basins, whose headwaters are located up to 1,440 m above sea level, converge in the flat lands in the lower part of the watershed, and drain into the Pacific Ocean in the Tivives wetland (a Wildlife Protected Area), with its mangrove and estuarine system. The diverse landscape is comprised of forests, coffee and fruit trees, mangroves, pastures, plantations, water bodies, and urban areas.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
Approximately 30 percent of the target landscape is covered by forests, which are mostly composed of secondary forest, teak plantations, and coffee and fruit trees. Although originally a productive landscape rich in biodiversity, it has lost the majority of its forest cover due to agrarian producers clearing the riparian forest. The main economic activity in the area is agriculture, while parts of the landscape are undergoing rapid cultural transition with urbanization.									

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Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017
Rationale			
Due to deforestation, the area is facing increasing degradation, as well as pressure from reductions in freshwater availability. The watershed is also experiencing declines in biodiversity and agricultural productivity. In spite of its current productivity, there is concern that the environmental threats to the Jesús María River Basin will have adverse socioeconomic consequences.			
Objectives			
Land degradation is addressed through actions that prevent soil erosion and sediment transport to water bodies; Forest cover is increased through mechanisms such as Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and strengthening of protected areas; Sustainable agricultural production practices are established; Scientific knowledge, traditional knowledge and technological innovation is strengthened and shared; Governance and landscape management capacity is strengthened.			
Activities and/or practices employed			
Restoring and reconnecting basin forests and generating income; Reforming grazing practices and diversifying income; Harvesting, storing, and managing water for agriculture; Implementing soil conservation measures; Promoting organic agriculture; Documenting, organizing, and making available information on sustainable production practices.			

Results	
Communities have planted some 54,000 trees in degraded forest areas; Zero-grazing livestock production systems have been put in place; Farmers have started using new techniques for harvesting and conserving water; Some 280 farmers have received training in organic agriculture; Several knowledge products have been assembled, including a toolkit for Agricultural Extension Agents, a planning tool that famers can use to track their farm production, and a series of documents that documented traditional and scientific knowledge about best practices.	
Lessons learned	
The assessment highlighted the need to improve the dissemination of scientific knowledge at the farmer level; Soil salinization is a critical issue; Increasing forest cover and stabilizing riverbanks with fruit trees will likely have a positive impact; A more homogeneous area in terms of culture and production allows farmers to work together and to be open to new technologies and innovative solutions that could increase their production.	
Key messages	
One way to encourage farmers to participate in a Payment for Environmental Services program is to have them sign a voluntary agreement; Many partnerships with government departments such as the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment have offered a base of support services and training to communities; This offers a good basis going forward for landscape governance and community-led projects to restore resilience and support sustainable livelihoods.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 280,000.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Costa Rica.

Contributions to Global Agendas

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the "direct" or "indirect" contributions to the following global agendas respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
■	●		●	●		●	■		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Strategic Goal C			**Strategic Goal D**			**Strategic Goal E**			
●	■	■	●	●			●	■	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)

●	●			■			■	■
1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
		●	■		●			
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	