

5TH ANNUAL
REGIONAL
WORKSHOP

IKI

Central America & Caribbean

28–30·05·2025
SYSTEMATIZATION



Supported by:



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IKI
INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE INITIATIVE



CENTRAL AMERICA
AND CARIBBEAN

A.	IKI Central America & Caribbean Workshop 2025	03
B.	IKI: Strategic partner for climate and biodiversity	06
C.	The IKI ecosystem in Central America and the Caribbean	09
	Ideas 360° - Results and Possible Synergies	10
	Group 1	12
	Group 2	14
	Group 3	16
	Group 4	18
	Group Discussion (Open Spaces)	19
D.	Technical discussion during side events	22
	NDCs 3.0: Strengthening Pathways to Climate Ambition in Central America and the Caribbean	23
	Resilient Coasts, Thriving Communities: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) to Mitigate Land-Sea Use Conflicts in the Caribbean and Central America	24
	Environmental Tax Expenditure: Channelling Public Finances towards Climate Transition and a Green Economy	25
	NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs: An opportunity to work together?	26
E.	From theory to practice: Field trips	28
	Experience 1 Integrated Approaches for Conservation and Marine and Coastal Value Chains	29
	Experience 2: The circular route of the “green sheep” of Cartago	30
F.	Annex	31

A.

5th IKI Central America & Caribbean Workshop 2025



May 28 to 30,
2025



Hotel DoubleTree by
Hilton, Cariari,
Costa Rica



In-person



Live streaming of
selected activities



In order to achieve the goals set out in the Paris Agreement and the Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly in a region as vulnerable to the impacts of climate change as Central America and the Caribbean, it is key to connect people and join efforts to advance the sustainable development of the countries in the region.

To this end, various organizations implementing projects of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and representatives of the German government met at the **5th IKI Central America & Caribbean 2025 Meeting**, with a view to:

- **Learn about** IKI's global and regional developments.
- **Promote the exchange of experiences** in climate action and biodiversity conservation among projects in the region to contribute to mutual learning and encourage networking among projects and countries.
- **Encourage bilateral dialogue** between the donor, projects, and national counterparts.
- **To showcase the impacts achieved** by international cooperation in the region.

AGENDA

Day
1

Creating connections:
Networking and exchange

Day
2

Sharing experiences and
lessons learned: Technical
discussion

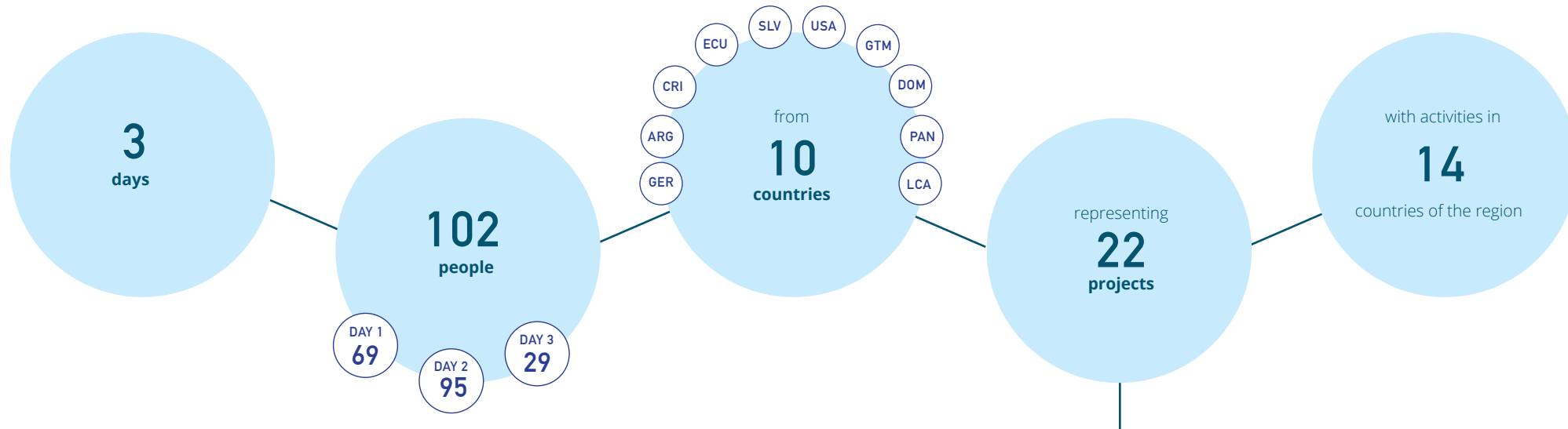
Day
3

From theory to practice:
Field visits of IKI projects





THE 2025 MEETING IN FIGURES!



MITIGATION

- ACCIÓN Clima (GIZ)
- Cool Contributions C4 (GIZ)
- EcoAdvance (GIZ)
- Green Economy Transformation (GIZ)
- Greener Reefers (GIZ)
- Youth for Climate Action in El Salvador (BfdW)
- NAMA Hydrogen (GIZ)
- NDC-TEC (GIZ)
- PEEB Cool (GIZ)



BIODIVERSITY

- BES-Net phase II (PNUD)
- Biofin (PNUD)
- ICCA-GSI (PNUD)
- Raising Coral
- Save the Blue 5 (GIZ)
- From Farm to Fork (GIZ)
- SCALA (FAO)



ADAPTATION

- Resilient Caribbean Communities (CCR)
- EbA Facility (CBF)
- EbA LAC (GIZ)
- PoliLAC (GIZ)



REDD+ & FLR

- REDD Landscape (GIZ)
- Transforma-Innova (GIZ)

B.

IKI: Strategic partner for climate and biodiversity

The Central American and Caribbean region **is home to the greatest biological diversity on the planet**, including some of the **world's megadiverse countries**. At the same time, its countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change. This is why the region has been a key partner for IKI since the implementation of the first cooperation project in Jamaica in 2008. In 2020, Costa Rica was identified as a priority country for IKI with the commissioning of the IKI ACCION Clima interface project. To date, **more than 125 projects** have been implemented in the region **by more than 30 implementing organizations**.



Mauricio
Sánchez

Advisor to the Office of the Vice Ministry of Strategic Affairs
of the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica

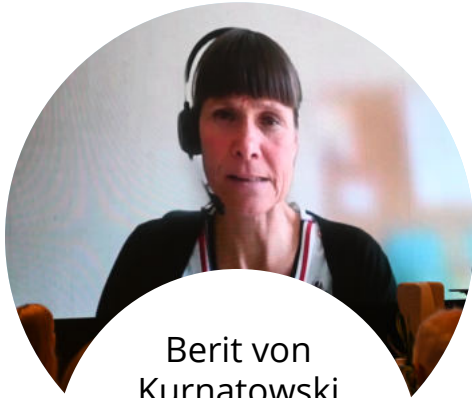
“Despite contributing relatively little to global greenhouse gas emissions, the Central American and Caribbean region is emerging as an incubator for integrated solutions that can be brought to other countries throughout Latin America and around the world. ... You are the launching pad to achieve this, because you hold the knowledge and technical capabilities to generate tools and design public policies that lead to a resilient region. ... We recognize the region’s valuable experience and perspectives, and we are grateful for the opportunity to learn from them and grow together.”



Alexandra
Herr

Counselor, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany
in Costa Rica

“Climate change is, without a doubt, the greatest environmental challenge of our time. And that’s because it knows no borders – it affects all of us, without distinction. That is why the solutions cannot remain individual. They must be built through cooperation and partnership. ... If there is something that especially excites me about this workshop, it is that it will not remain within this room. We will witness real project results through faces and people who will inspire you to continue working toward that purpose.”



Berit von
Kurnatowski

Policy Advisor at the Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE)

“You and your organisations play a significant role in the climate and biodiversity cooperation between Germany and Costa Rica and the Caribbean. It is an honor for us to have been working with you all these years...Let me thank you on behalf of the IKI departments involved for your commitment to implement projects in the region.”



Felipe
Gomez Villalta

Policy Advisor at the Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE)

“Since 2008, over 1000 projects have been approved by the IKI, involving a funding volume of almost €7.5 billion. The 2025 budget is €635 million (still subject to reservation). Thus, the IKI is a significant component of German international climate financing and contributes to the fulfilment of Germany’s obligations as a contracting party under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). With the new IKI strategy, we have identified fields of action in the four funding areas to maximise the impact of our work.”

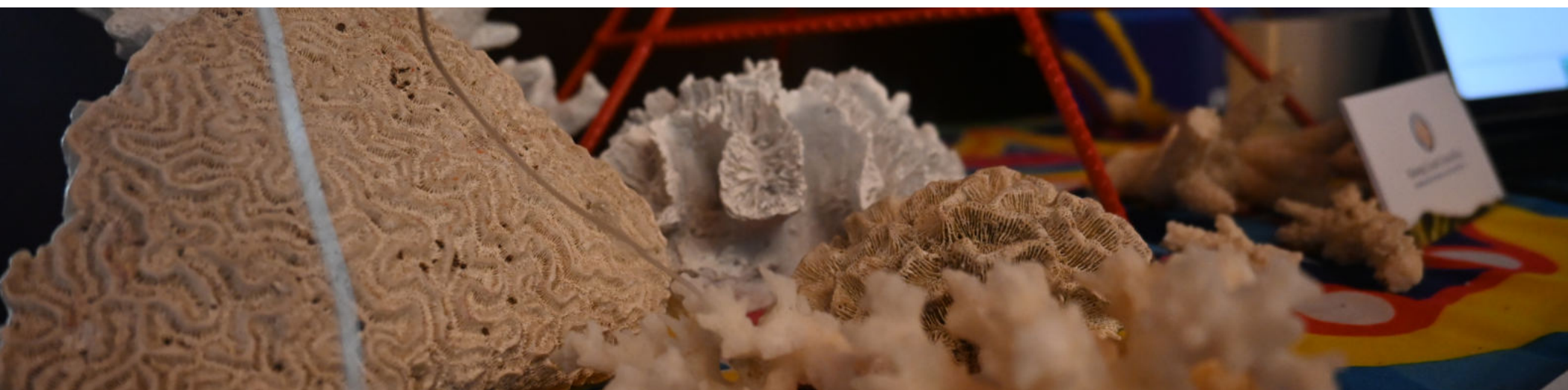


Petra
Nieland

Senior Project Manager and Adaptation
Specialist, IKI Office at ZUG

“In the current international political climate, climate and biodiversity action has become a highly politized issue. This is why monitoring the impacts and results of your IKI projects is so important: It allows us to be accountable for the efficient use of IKI funding, be transparent about the allocation of funds, and provide valuable data to inform future decision-making. Understanding what works and what doesn’t helps us refine our strategies.”

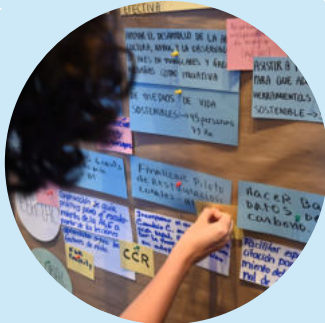




C.

The IKI ecosystem in Central America and the Caribbean

In order to better understand the current IKI portfolio in the region and strengthen the bonds between participants, we developed a series of interactive exercises.



STEP 1

Getting to Know Each Other

IKI Marketplace
Bingo

In a journey full of surprises, we visited stands for nine incredible projects that participated in the IKI Market. Each one creatively and interactively showcased the activities they carry out – a true celebration of ideas and energy!

And who said Bingo is boring? For this activity, we moved through the room looking for people who met certain characteristics – from someone who has a compost bin at home to someone who prefers biking or walking to the office. This helped us connect, laugh, and of course, compete for one of the delicious honeys, courtesy of the PoliLAC project!

STEP 2

Identifying Synergies

Ideas 360°

Through the Ideas 360° activity, we immersed ourselves in the worlds of the 23 projects present. In small groups, we rotated around the room to gain an in-depth understanding of each project's activities. This interactive and collaborative experience allowed us to get a more complete picture of the projects' work and to identify those connections and potential areas of common ground that could lead to future collaborations.

STEP 3

Engaging in Dialogue

Open Spaces

Finally, we gathered in groups to begin an open and enriching dialogue on key topics for cooperation. We shared experiences, learned from one another, and built ideas to strengthen collective work through our projects.



Ideas 360°

Results and Possible Synergies



GLOSSARY

In the following pages, you will find the possible synergies identified among projects. Get to know the abbreviations we use to identify your project and the common themes you have found with others:

Abbreviation	Project
AC	ACCIÓN Clima
Biofin	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
C4	Cool Contributions
CAP	From Farm to Fork
CCR	Resilient Caribbean Communities
EbA LAC	EbA LAC
EcoAdvance	EcoAdvance
GR	Greener Reefers
ICCA-GSI	Global ICCA Support Initiative 30x30
J-AC	Youth for Climate Action in El Salvador
PADF	EbA Facility PADF
PEEB Cool	PEEB Cool
PoliLAC	PoliLAC
PTI	Programa Transforma-Innova
RC	Raising Coral
REDDOM	EbA Facility REDDOM
SCALA	SCALA
StB5	Save the Blue 5
TNFD	Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures

Group 1

ACCIÓN Clima (AC)

Contact: Suiyen Ramírez suiyen.ramirez@giz.de, Catalina Molina catalina.molinabustamante@giz.de, Andres Domian, andres.domianastorga@giz.de

**EbA LAC, PoliLAC,
PEEB Cool, SCALA,
PADF, EcoAdvance,
PTI, BIOFIN**

**RC, CCR, PoliLAC,
PADF, StB5**

1. Support the process of updating Costa Rica's NDC.
2. Identify climate refuges (terrestrial and marine) for biodiversity adaptation in Costa Rica, through the collection and analysis of environmental variables, spatial modeling, and data management, on a platform that facilitates decision-making.
3. Identify joint support actions and the exchange of both knowledge and experiences from Costa Rica to the region (energy, renewable generation, electromobility, energy efficiency, and others related to SICA countries' environmental goals).

Cool Contributions (C4) / Greener Reefers (GR)

Contact: Andres Domian, andres.domianastorga@giz.de

PTI

Update knowledge in Reefer maintenance and operation.

PEEB Cool

Equip Technical Professional Schools with new equipment.

Training in the use of natural refrigerants, such as CO₂ and propane.

Support closing gender gaps in the RAC sector (refrigeration and air conditioning).

EcoAdvance

Contact: Gloriana Chavarría, gloriana.chavarriasolis@giz.de

**BIOFIN, MarViva,
PoliLAC**

Develop a roadmap to create mechanisms and financial incentives to certify SMEs with eco-labels.

Train and certify SMEs for the eco-labeling of their products.

Develop the national policy on strategic public procurement and then publish the implementation plan for strategic public procurement in the infrastructure and transportation sector.

PEEB Cool

Contact: Federico Corrales, federico.corrales@giz.de

EcoAdvance

Conduct a bioclimatic architectural study and a thermodynamic simulation study of the San Ramón hospital, to develop a catalog of measures to improve the building's energy efficiency and its cost/benefit relationship.

Develop a national baseline on energy consumption (kWh/m²) for four building typologies (residential, educational, health, and industrial).

AC

Propose the main lines for a national energy efficiency strategy for buildings in Costa Rica.

Youth for Climate Action in El Salvador (J-AC)

Contact: Camilo Chaves Navarro, camilo.chaves@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

**StB5, REDDOM, PTI,
EbA LAC, AC**

Training in green entrepreneurship, mitigation.

Knowledge exchange north-south, south-north, south-south.

Seed capital for green technologies for young Salvadorans.

Group 2

Biofin/TNFD

Contact: Natalia Meza, natalia.meza@undp.org

RC, StB5, DaBio, PTI, EcoAdvance

Conduct an analysis of the Financing Gaps in the National Biodiversity Strategy 2026–2035, and develop the Financing and Investment Plan for Biodiversity in Costa Rica.

PoliLAC, StB5

Conduct training on Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD): a framework for the disclosure of risks, opportunities, impacts, and dependencies related to nature, for the financial sector.

Launch two new support programs for nature+ ventures:

a. **EbALAC, PoliLAC, DABIO**

a. biological corridors

b. **CCR, PTI, ICCA-GSI, J-AC, PoliLAC, CAP, SCALA**

b. rural, women-led bioeconomy.

Save the Blue 5 (StB5)

Contact: Esteban Estrada, esteban.estradamora@giz.de y Raquel Romero Chaves, raquel.romero@marviva.net

PTI, RC, REDDOM

Implement seven pilot initiatives in marine conservation, responsible fishing, environmental education, and responsible tourism.

PADF, BIOFIN

LATAM Network of Marine Protected Areas.

Priority species monitoring plan.



Raising Coral de IKI Small Grants (RC)

Contact: Laura Jiménez Villalobos, laura@raisingcoral.org y Line Asbahr, line.asbahr@giz.de

Develop tourism training based on coral reef restoration in the Golfo Dulce and Cahuita, for project stakeholders.

**PADF, StB5,
Ecoadvance, Biofin**

Test the pilot reef restoration model with project stakeholders in Golfo Dulce and Cahuita.

PTI, DABIO

Publish and distribute a manual on best practices for reef tourism.

Global ICCA Support Initiative 30x30 (ICCA-GSI)

Contact: Viviana Rodríguez, viviana.rodriguez@undp.org

**BIOFIN, PoliLAC, EbA
LAC**

Local solutions on food sovereignty.

PTI

Strengthen regional Indigenous networks.

EbA LAC

Recover ancestral knowledge as a comprehensive approach in environmental and health terms.

Group 3

EbA LAC

Contact: Sabrina Geppert , sabrina.geppert@giz.de y Astrid Michels, astrid.michels@giz.de

PoliLAC, REDDOM

Develop a practical guide for scaling up Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) based on lessons learned from success factors.

StB5, CCR, PTI, Biofin, EcoAdvance, MarViva

Incorporate climate change analysis into municipal planning to increase public investment in adaptation.

REDDOM, StB5, SCALA, PTI, CCR

Facilitate training spaces to strengthen the EbA's national monitoring and evaluation system.

PoliLAC

Contact: Lucía Artavia, lucia.artaviaguzman@giz.de y Daniel Ortuño, daniel.ortunofajardo@giz.de

REDDOM, PADF, CCR

Design monitoring protocols for pollinator insects.

TNFD, MarViva, PTI

Field awareness strategy on the importance of pollinator insects.

CAP, Biofin, StB5, EcoAdvance

Agreements with farms for pollinator-friendly practices.

Resilient Caribbean Communities(CCR)

Contact: Carlota Mato Urcelay, carlota.matourcelay@welthungerhilfe.de y Alex Voets
Alexander.Voets@welthungerhilfe.de

CATIE

Finalize 14 Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) plans, developed through participatory processes after conducting a socio-environmental diagnosis of the areas.

EbA LAC, DABIO

Assess the integration of EbA into public policies in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba, and formulate recommendations for effective integration.

PADF

Consolidate 17 “Container Groups” following the MAP approach, including local authorities, civil society, and the academic and private sectors, to oversee the inclusive and participatory implementation of EbA measures in communities.

EbA Facility REDDOM (REDDOM)

Contact: Rosa Lamelas, rlamelas@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org y Jesús De Los Santos,
jesus@fundacionreddom.org

CCR, PoliLAC

Implement through community engagement EbA oriented initiatives focused on sustainable management of forestry and agroforestry, including ecotourism initiatives in the Watershed and protected area of El Limón River => 420 Ha.

PoliLAC

Support the development of beekeeping, kayaking and bird watching in mangrove and nearby areas as sustainable livelihood initiatives => 45 people, 79 Ha.

StB5

Assist local fishermen to adopt sustainable fishing practices and tools => 50 fishermen.

EbA Facility PADF (PADF)

Contact: Madeline St. John, mstjohn@padf.org y Rosa Lamelas, rlamelas@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

Small blue economy grants – Haiti.

RC

Finalize the coral restoration pilot program – Haiti.

Create a carbon database – Haiti.

Group 4

Transforma-Innova (PTI)

Contact: Valeria Zumbado Escalante valeria.zumbadoescalante@giz.de, Paola Apestegui papestegui@conservation.org y Jairo Serna jairo.serna@undp.org

PolilAC, SCALA

Support three NAMAs in Costa Rica: coffee, livestock, and Musaceae.

Develop management tools (marine master plan, restoration plans) and implement and prioritize actions.

SCALA, REDDOM

Develop baselines in coffee, livestock, and Musaceae (MRV).

Del Campo al Plato (CAP)

Contact: Mauricio Solano, mauricio.solano@giz.de

PTI, SCALA, PolilAC, Biofin, J-AC

Support the development of national strategies and promote a training program for the use of bio-inputs in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

Develop an acceleration program for winning ventures from the ideas competition that include the incorporation of biodiversity into the banana and pineapple value chains in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

EbA LAC, REDDOM, PADF, CCR

Develop an acceleration program for winning ventures from the ideas competition that include the incorporation of biodiversity into the banana and pineapple value chains in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

SCALA

Contact: Ericka Ríos Zamora, ericka.rioszamora@fao.org y Jairo Serna jairo.serna@undp.org

EbA LAC

Improve equipment and laboratory capacity. Enhance soft skills and capabilities of UPI-DNFA (ECA).

REDDOM

Strategic consolidation of research and sustainability for the Agricultural Innovation and Transfer Program.

PADF, Biofin, PolilAC

Launch of RECSOIL (global soil recarbonization).

Strategic Communication

Financing for Cooperation

Private Sector Participation

**Implications for International Cooperation
Arising from the Rise of Authoritarian Regimes**

Implementation of projects through consortia

**Results of the
group discussion**
(Open Space)

Strategic Communication

In international cooperation, it is essential to effectively communicate both the work being done and its importance to contributors, beneficiaries, and donors. However, it is particularly challenging to tell the story of work that is not immediately visible, as is often the case with many projects. This discussion group identified three key elements to strengthen strategic communication: understanding the interests and needs of communities, voters, partners, and donors; fostering a sense of ownership through the projects; and transparently communicating both data and stories.



Financing for Cooperation

Under the premise that “without cocoa there is no chocolate,” this group explored the importance of financing in climate change efforts, as well as the need to expand funding sources. The discussion focused specifically on the need for financing plans to support the implementation of objectives established under instruments such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and the Nationally Determined Contributions. The group also emphasized the importance of broadening the financial base to support Costa Rica’s decarbonization pathway.



Private Sector Participation

This group discussed the need for greater coordination and closer engagement with the private sector. The conversation focused on private financing for environmental cooperation projects and ways to attract private banks and create enabling conditions. One challenge identified was that credit analysts and bankers often lack knowledge of these issues, making it necessary to create shared spaces to encourage engagement. In this context, the group proposed developing business cases, which could, for example, highlight ecosystem services within a project model.



Implications for International Cooperation Arising from the Rise of Authoritarian Regimes

In light of the current international political context, this group discussed the implications of the rise of authoritarian regimes in the region for international cooperation. They explored possible measures that IKI project implementers can adopt to continue their activities without being severely affected by restrictive public policies. Proposed strategies included reallocating budgets to be executed from other countries in the region, promoting political strategies with positive impacts, and adjusting activities in anticipation of worst-case scenarios.



Implementation of projects through consortia

This session explored the advantages and disadvantages of implementing cooperation projects through consortia, a modality that is being used more frequently. While coordination among partners can be more complex, this approach allows for clear and transparent role distribution, which can be highly effective. It was also noted that IKI offers greater flexibility for consortium projects, in terms of making adjustments and accommodations. The conclusion was that this modality reflects the complex reality of the world today.



D.

Technical discussion during side events

During the second day of the workshop, parallel thematic sessions organized by IKI projects fostered technical discussion and allowed for a deeper understanding of concrete actions, achievements and lessons learned.

- **NDCs 3.0:** Strengthening Pathways to Climate Ambition in Central America and the Caribbean

- **Resilient Coasts, Thriving Communities:** Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) to Mitigate Land-Sea Use Conflicts in the Caribbean and Central America

- **Environmental Tax Expenditure:** Channelling Public Finances towards Climate Transition and a Green Economy

- **NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPs:** An opportunity to work together?

NDCs 3.0:

Strengthening Pathways to Climate Ambition in Central America and the Caribbean

Objective: This panel discussion explored the progress, challenges, and innovative solutions that Central American and Caribbean countries have adopted while updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, and St. Lucia shared their experiences in accelerating the implementation of more ambitious climate goals, strengthening multisectoral coordination, and mobilizing the resources needed for a just and resilient transition in the face of climate change. The IKI Office representative from ZUG also shared insights into the support IKI provides through its cooperation projects.

The Role of International Cooperation: The representatives expressed their appreciation for IKI and agreed that international cooperation has helped create the enabling conditions necessary for updating and implementing the targets outlined in these instruments. They also emphasized the importance of building technical capacities to strengthen these processes.

Ambitious Yet Feasible Targets: The discussion highlighted that the primary challenge is **the high economic cost** of implementing climate targets, particularly for developing countries. One best practice shared was the strategic design of NDCs in a way that clearly identifies, from the start, which objectives require financial support to be achieved. Participants therefore agreed on the need to strengthen financial systems and increase private sector involvement to channel funds toward these processes.

In this same vein, the group discussed the importance of ensuring that the transition is truly just – one that prioritizes reducing inequality and meeting the needs of communities as a central part of NDC implementation.



Organized by:
ACCIÓN Clima (GIZ)

Contact:
Suiyen Ramírez
suiyen.ramirez@giz.de



"Encuentro
IKI 2025 - Side
event: NDC 3.0"

Resilient Coasts, Thriving Communities: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) to Mitigate Land-Sea Use Conflicts in the Caribbean and Central America

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) is an umbrella fund that ensures financing for sustainable development in the Caribbean. Currently, 75 projects benefit from its support. Its work focuses on three programs: the Conservation Program, the Climate Change Program, and the Nature-Based Economy Program. During the event, two fund grantees participated: the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) and the Fundación Rural Economic Development Dominicana (REDDOM).

Objective: To highlight how Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) measures offer a solution to the growing conflicts between productive activities and ecosystem conservation, based on the experiences of the REDDOM and PADF foundations in implementing these measures in the Caribbean.

PADF's Experience in Haiti: Despite the severe environmental degradation the island has experienced, few organizations are active in the area due to the complex sociopolitical context. PADF implements a range of projects in Haiti that integrate conservation with conflict mitigation, emphasizing community participation. One of the main actions promoted is the establishment of nurseries as a sustainable livelihood strategy, since they create job opportunities for young people.

REDDOM's Experience in the Dominican Republic: This project focuses on the community of El Limón, whose population is highly vulnerable to climate change, as most residents live in poverty and are located in a geographical zone exposed to hurricanes, storms, and flooding. The project has centered on ecosystem preservation, collaboration with local communities, and promoting sustainable economic activities. As a result of community involvement, 425 people have directly benefited, nurseries have been established that enabled the restoration of 50 hectares of mangroves, and alternative livelihoods – such as sustainable fishing and ecotourism – have been introduced to help preserve ecosystems.



Organized by:

**EbA Facility
(Caribbean Biodiversity Fund)**

Contact:

Rosa Lamelas
rlamelas@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

Presentations:

**Climate Change
Program CBF EbA Facility – Rosa
Lamelas**

**Conflict mitigation
through EbA in Haiti – Madeline
St. John**

**Mitigating
unsustainable use of coastal
and marine resources and
land use conflicts in El Limon,
Dominican Republic – Jesús De
Los Santos**

Videos:

**Promoting sustainable
fishing practices**

**Beekeeping and
Ecosystem-Based Adaptation
(EbA)**

Environmental Tax Expenditure:

Channeling Public Finances towards Climate Transition and a Green Economy

Objective: To discuss the implications and opportunities of reforming tax expenditures that negatively impact the environment in Costa Rica. Based on the findings of a study conducted by the Green Economy Transformation (GET) project, the panel analyzed how better alignment between fiscal instruments and environmental policy can accelerate the shift toward a green, resilient, and low-emissions economy.

GET Project Closure:

The following achievements were highlighted:

- Development of a study on environmentally harmful tax expenditures, which found that 59% of tax expenditure has a negative environmental impact, while only 6% contributes positively.
- Design of a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system for the national circular economy strategy, currently in the final stages.
- Creation of a catalog of economic instruments for the circular economy, along with capacity-building efforts in partnership with the Institute for Municipal Development and Advisory Services (IFAM).
- A case study in collaboration with the Complementary Pension Operator of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, which applied principles of responsible investment and fostered regional and global networks and alliances.

Perspectives from the Panel Discussion

- **Adriana Bonilla** (Director, Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica – MINAE): This topic shows that the climate agenda is broad and that climate change is increasingly shaping the way public management is conducted.
- **Juan Carlos Brenes** (Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance of Costa Rica) – On coordination between the Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Ministry of Finance: The key is to establish shared criteria and objectives across the government. A common foundation is the principle of “the polluter pays,” and identifying shared values is essential for building coordinated action.
- **Juan Pablo Jiménez** (Center for Economic Research): To reform tax expenditures, it is necessary to balance fiscal costs with social and economic costs. Four key elements must be considered: clarifying the government’s position, developing a strong and coherent rationale, building broad consensus and support from civil society, the private sector, sector chambers, and the executive branch to shape a viable law for reform, and defining the law’s scope.



Organized by:

Green Economy
Transformation (GIZ)

Contact:

Karen Araya
karen.arayavarela@giz.de

Presentations:

Tax Expenditure
with Environmental Impact:
Toward a Qualitative and
Quantitative Assessment
of Its Impact – Juan Pablo
Jiménez (Spanish only)

Green Economy
Transformation (GET 4.0):
Pathways for Transformation
and Decarbonization of
the Green Economy in
the Context of Economic
Recovery – Elizabeth Venegas
(Spanish only)

NDCs, NAPs y NBSAPS: An opportunity to work together?

The approach to achieving the targets set forth in these instruments has been fragmented. Yet, just as the climate and biodiversity crises are interconnected, successful implementation of each agreement depends on the other. Therefore, it is crucial to promote intersectoral collaboration that aligns objectives, institutions, actions, financing mechanisms, and governance structures.

Objective: To assess the current status of progress or integration of these instruments in the participating countries, identify the challenges encountered during the process, and define areas where IKI projects can contribute.

Level of Progress by Country: The event featured representatives from seven countries of the region: Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. It was found that all are at different stages of progress; some are currently updating or implementing these instruments, while in other cases, the responsible authorities have not formally reported on their current status.

Main Challenges: Mapping obstacles revealed major difficulties in accessing information and ensuring the participation of certain population sectors – especially minority groups – in these processes. The complexity of these efforts was more evident in countries with weak public institutions, affecting aspects such as interministerial coordination. Additionally, the short validity periods of these instruments require considerable government effort to keep them updated, while also posing challenges to meeting their targets. Finally, financing remains essential but limited.

Contributions from International Cooperation: After prioritizing key success factors, the role of international cooperation was emphasized, particularly in generating and transferring knowledge. Collaboration with local governments and institutions, such as ministries of environment, was highlighted, especially for promoting ecosystem-based adaptation to help meet the goals of the three instruments discussed. Another valuable contribution has been the advisory support provided to strengthen soft skills for inter-institutional coordination.



Organized by
PoliLAC (GIZ) y
EbA LAC (GIZ)

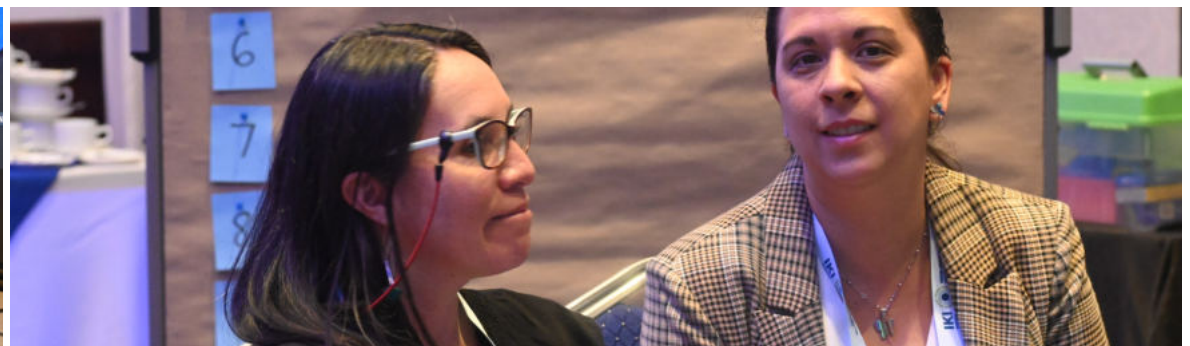
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"NDCs, NAPs and NBSAPS:
An opportunity to work
together?" (Spanish only)

D. | Technical discussion during side events



E.

From theory to practice: Field trips

After two days of exchange and discussion, we left for Puntarenas and Los Santos, respectively, to learn about two experiences that demonstrate what IKI projects do in Costa Rica.

Experience 1: Integrated Approaches for Conservation and Marine and Coastal Value Chains

Project:

Transforma-Innova
(GIZ, CI, PNUD, CRUSA,
FUNBAM, CATIE)

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Location:

Puntarenas

Experience 2: The circular route of the “green sheep” of Cartago

Project:

ACCIÓN Clima
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Location:

Los Santos and Cartago



The TRANSFORMA-INNOVA Program supports the transformation of Costa Rica's agricultural and marine-coastal systems toward more sustainable, low-carbon, biodiverse, and climate-resilient production models. Within its blue economy component, the program fosters value chains – from producers to differentiated markets – and supports the restoration and conservation of key mangrove ecosystems that sustain coastal communities and their livelihoods.

Restoration and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems

As follow-up to a long-standing community effort, the program supports the ongoing restoration of the Estero Puntarenas wetland, initiated by the community associations of La Pitahaya and El Establo, in collaboration with Conservation International, a member of the program's consortium. Current efforts are focused on consolidating conservation work in the mangrove and its surroundings, which form part of a national protected area.

Marine-Coastal Value Chains

Strengthening these value chains requires a comprehensive approach that opens up new and improved market opportunities for all involved stakeholders. One example is Isla Cocos restaurant in Puntarenas, which sells fresh seafood sourced from local fishers who follow sustainable practices aligned with government regulations, ensuring fair compensation for their work.





ACCIÓN Clima promotes circular economy initiatives across a range of sectors. By supporting local action, it has raised community awareness and facilitated public-private partnerships for more holistic organic waste management in the Los Santos region. The initiative has also supported start-ups with business models rooted in sustainable development through its climate finance component.

Comprehensive Waste Management: Being Green Sheep in Our Communities

In response to the national emergency caused by exhausted landfill capacity, the Oveja Verde (Green Sheep) campaign was launched to raise awareness about the need to rethink how solid waste is managed. A prior assessment in the Los Santos area revealed a major challenge: the cantons of León Cortés, Dota, and Tarrazú lack established waste collection routes, and all solid waste must be transported to a landfill located 60 kilometers away. In response, the three municipalities, in partnership with the coffee cooperative CoopeTarrazú and ACCIÓN Clima, launched a pilot program for waste separation and comprehensive management. One hundred participating families were trained in proper waste separation. Today, this waste is collected by municipal vehicles and transported to CoopeTarrazú, where it is processed into organic fertilizer used on the cooperative's own coffee plantations and those of its members.

Sustainable Innovation

Smatter is one of the start-ups supported by ACCIÓN Clima's business acceleration program, which targets innovative and sustainable solutions. Led by three young entrepreneurs, the initiative merges innovation and biotechnology to transform agriculture.

They propose to replace traditional plastic seedling pots with biodegradable containers made from biomaterials, which not only nourish the plants but also naturally decompose – preventing the accumulation of polluting waste.

Attachments to this documentation are supported at:
<https://iki-cac.org/doc-IKI-workshop-2025>

- Agenda
- List of participants
- Powerpoint Presentations
- Photographs
- Video summary