



Sustainable management of water resources with a focus on resilience and climate financial inclusion in the Goascorán River basin

The Goascorán River Basin is a transboundary basin of interest to Honduras, which over the years has become a model of water management and governance promotion, however, due to the location of the middle and lower area of the basin in the Honduran "Dry Corridor", this region faces multiple challenges that were identified through a study in 2019 that highlight five main threats: drought, floods, landslides, fires and earthquakes. Disasters caused and intensified by climatic phenomena constantly affect the scarce livelihoods of the population, with periodic floods that have become critical due to the deforestation of mangroves in the Amates Coast, according to PAH (2021) causing the total loss of homes and even the lives of young people, women and children.

Honduras, as one of the countries with the highest vulnerability index to the effects of climate change in Central America, has intensified in recent years the approach with financing mechanisms and promoted national strategies that identify opportunities to achieve compliance with the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) presented in 2021 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA). This planning has allowed joint work with the EUROCLIMA+ programme which, through the governing secretariat for environmental actions of the state, requested in 2022 a new country dialogue to identify the areas of work with the greatest impact on Honduran society, concluding with the prioritisation of an action with 3 expected results by the cooperation agencies that are members of the programme (Expertise France, AECID and GIZ).

Within the framework of previous phases, Expertise France has led actions in the "Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems (BBE)" sector, which within the country dialogue contributes to action 1 "Sustainable management of water resources with a focus on resilience and climate financial inclusion in the Goascorán river basin". This action seeks to strengthen water resource management with a focus on resilience and financial inclusion through actions to strengthen governance and capacities, development of financial instruments, and pilot actions for the construction of water harvesting infrastructure, forest restoration and sustainable productive activities in three selected territories in the highlands. middle and lower basin.

To respond to the consultancy: Sustainable management of water resources with a focus on resilience and climate financial inclusion in the Goascorán river basin, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation presents an intervention proposal based on knowledge of the territory and its actors, lessons learned during the development of similar experiences and updated information on the problems and needs felt by the population of the micro-basins and relations with local organizations and authorities. It proposes to develop the actions by applying participatory methodologies adjusted to the local socioeconomic context and integration tools validated in multiple territories over 17 years of experience in the implementation and advice of project programs in watershed management, forest restoration and local economic development in Honduras.

The initiatives described in this proposal include Helvetas' vision to promote the development of the area and also the manifestation of the needs of the main actors of the Goascorán River Basin who perceive through their experiences in the territory the demand for community-based actions, technologies and strategies to achieve the restoration of degraded ecosystems in the region and the creation of new livelihoods that reduce irregular migration and growing food insecurity due to the drought characteristic of the region.

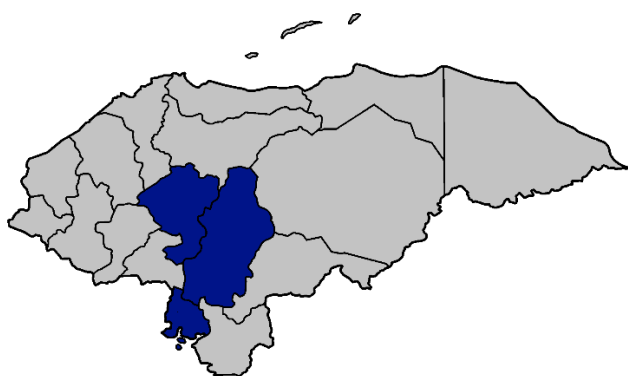
General Objective

Design and implementation of actions for the protection and management of natural resources in the basin, in coordination with the preservation of water resources.

Specific Objectives

1. Preparation of a diagnosis of sustainable water management, based on the multiple uses and actors identified in the basin.
2. Design and implementation of forest and mangrove management or restoration actions, based on the needs prioritized by local populations.
3. Design and implementation of "innovative" actions to support the improvement of the living conditions of families in the basin.
4. Systematization and capitalization of experiences with a view to possible extensions of these pilot actions.

Geographical Area



FAST FACTS

Geographical Location:

The population is prioritized in 8 micro-watersheds that are distributed in:

1. **Cuenca Alta**, in the micro-basins: Cancire and Paniaguara, Apalicina in the department of La Paz.
2. **Middle Basin**, in the micro-basins: Apalicina, Quebrada Honda and Guarina in the department of La Paz.
- **Cuenca Baja**, in the micro-basins: Victoria – La Arada and Costa de los Amates in the department of Valle; and Apasapo in Aramecina, Valle/Curaren, Francisco Morazán.

Phase and duration: 1 phase, 18 months

Start date: January 2025

End date: June 2026

Phase budget: € 450,000.00

Entities Involved:

1. Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment – SERNA
2. Honduran Institute of Forest Conservation – ICF
3. Watershed and Micro-watershed Council
4. Grassroots organizations (Water Boards, Indigenous Councils, women, youth, rural banks, producers, associations)
5. Local governments and the Municipal Environmental Unit (UMA)
6. Committee for the Defense and Development of the Flora and Fauna of the Gulf of Fonseca (CODDEFFAGOLF)
7. Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE)
8. Academy
9. Implementing agencies of the Country Action Plan: AECID for water resources and GIZ for the financing mechanism.

Donantes:

- Euroclima Programme, co-financed by the European Union and German Cooperation, implemented and administered in Honduras by Expertise France

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