



# **REPORT**

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## **STATE OF CONSERVATION RÍO PLÁTANO MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE RESERVE**

**WORLD HERITAGE SITE RÍO PLÁTANO  
BIOSPHERE RESERVE, NO.196**

**DECISION 45 COM 7A.1**

**2022-2023  
PERIOD**





WORLD HERITAGE SITE  
**RÍO PLÁTANO BIOSPHERE RESERVE**  
NO. 196

## Content

Executive Summary .....	4
General Context.....	5
<b>Actions Implemented in Response to the World Heritage Committee's Decision .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>NUMERAL 3.....</b>	<b>6</b>
1. Combating Environmental Crimes in the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve .....	6
2. Strengthening Indigenous Territorial Governance in the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve .....	13
<b>NUMERAL 4 .....</b>	<b>14</b>
1. Oversight of the Recognition Process of Property Rights for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples.....	14
2. Regularization of Land Tenure in the Buffer Zone.....	14
<b>NUMERAL 5 .....</b>	<b>15</b>
1. Progress during the 2022-2023 period in achieving the goals set as indicators for the removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in Danger. ....	15
2. Interinstitutional Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Management for the Protection of the Río Plátano Reserve.....	21
<b>Proposal for indicator modification .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>NUMERAL 6 .....</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Other current conservation challenges .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>NUMERAL 7 .....</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>NUMERAL 8 .....</b>	<b>35</b>



## Executive Summary

This report highlights the actions implemented for the Natural Heritage Site "Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve in Honduras" in the years 2022 and 2023. In response to the decision of the World Heritage Committee, the strengthening of indigenous territorial governance and measures to restore the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property are celebrated. Despite the loss of forest cover, a significant reduction of 66.59% compared to the previous year is observed, demonstrating notable efforts that have been undertaken to address these pressures and ensure the integrity of the site.

In combating environmental crimes, there has been collaboration between governmental and non-governmental institutions to strengthen surveillance and control of illicit activities. The operational transformation of the National Institute of Forest Conservation (ICF) with a focus on detecting and combating illegal activities is highlighted, as well as the implementation of an early warning system and a Technical Unit to coordinate the Interinstitutional Task Force. Operations and patrols have been carried out to directly address criminal activities such as deforestation, wildlife trafficking, and illegal settlements. The inauguration of an interinstitutional control post to monitor the illegal trafficking of wood and wildlife is highlighted, as well as the establishment of a military outpost to strengthen control and surveillance.

Regarding the strengthening of indigenous territorial governance, the Management Committee for the Management and Conservation of the Reserve has been formed, with alliances with non-governmental organizations, training, and hiring of community forest rangers, and the creation of the Interinstitutional Subcommittee for land tenure and protection of territories and natural resources.

In terms of management and progress in indicators, progress in land titling and management of indigenous and Afro-Honduran territories is highlighted. Local and international projects strengthen management and conservation, addressing the reduction of deforestation and promoting community and indigenous participation. Modifications to indicators are proposed to adapt to changing challenges based on the current context of the site, and technical assistance from UNESCO is recommended.

Concerns about the Patuca III Hydroelectric Plant are addressed with mitigation measures and environmental commitments. Despite the decrease in deforestation, persistent challenges such as extensive livestock farming and road openings are highlighted, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, resources, and political will.

The removal of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve from the List of World Heritage in Danger will require continuous efforts, effective strategy implementation, and active participation of the local community, measures that the government has prioritized through the implementation of the Renewed Vision Plan for the Conservation and Defense of the Moskitia.

## General Context

The World Heritage site of Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve was first inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1979, identified as No. 196 under the category of Natural World Heritage Site of Humanity due to its diverse composition of terrestrial, marine, and cultural ecoregions and its anthropological richness. This heritage site is within the boundaries of the largest and most important protected area in the country, the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve.

Heritage site No.196 covers an area of 350,000 hectares, located in Honduras within the departments of Olancho, Colon, and Gracias a Dios. Within the boundaries of this heritage site converge a mestizo population, three indigenous peoples, and an Afro-Honduran people, belonging to the Miskito, Tawahka, Pech, and Garifuna peoples respectively. Furthermore, Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve is one of the most biodiverse sites in Honduras.

The heritage site currently faces different pressures that endanger its integrity, including the advancement of deforestation due to changes in land use, road opening, hunting of endangered wildlife, illegal land grabbing, among others. The State Party has committed to develop actions that can help curb anthropogenic pressures within this unique Natural Heritage site in Honduras and the protected area Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve.

*\*\*For the purposes of this report, "Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve" shall be understood as the boundaries of the protected area created by the government of Honduras through legislative decree 977-80, and "Río Plátano Biosphere Natural World Heritage Site" as the boundaries of the heritage zone declared in 1979 by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the latter being of lesser extent.*

## Actions Implemented in Response to the World Heritage Committee's Decision

### NUMERAL 3

**Welcomes** the strengthening of indigenous territorial governance, and biodiversity conservation measures to restore the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and **notes with satisfaction** the ongoing inter-institutional efforts to address illegal activity in the property, including poaching and illegal settlement.

The report by the Forest Information and Heritage Center (CIPF) marks the beginning of a crucial reflection on forest coverage within the Heritage site during the period 2022-2023. During this time frame, there was a loss of 1,790.05 hectares, compared to the 5,358.32 hectares lost in the previous period (2021-2022), representing a reduction of 0.37%. his initial analysis highlights a significant effort in combating deforestation, while also emphasizing the ongoing challenges that the State seeks to address through the following actions:

#### 1. Combating Environmental Crimes in the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve

With the aim of strengthening surveillance and control of environmental crimes, a coordinated collaboration has been established between various governmental and non-governmental institutions. Under the leadership of the National Institute of Conservation and Forest Development, Protected Areas, and Wildlife (ICF), this joint effort focuses especially on combating illicit activities threatening the integrity of ecosystems within the boundaries of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve protected area and, consequently, within the boundaries of the Heritage Site.

During 2022 and 2023, various actions have been taken to confront illegal activities in the area, including:

##### a. Institutional Operational Transformation of the National Institute of Conservation and Forest Development, Protected Areas, and Wildlife (ICF): Priorities, Detection, and Combating Illicit Actions.

Strategically, the authorities of the ICF have determined that controlling and combating deforestation and forest degradation, with particular emphasis on the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve, are the primary priorities for the conservation and management of the country's natural resources. This priority prevails even over other relevant actions such as restoration and other measures implemented for ecosystem management.

With the aim of addressing this threat, a change in the institutional operational model has been implemented, prioritizing a focus on the detection and combat of illicit activities, especially deforestation. This transition has resulted in decisive actions to combat deforestation and has significantly strengthened the ICF in technical terms.

In this context, various actions have been undertaken, among which the following stand out:

- **Early detection of deforestation using an early warning system:** This system has been essential in increasing the number of cases addressed. Historically, the level of reporting was minimal, and human and logistical resources for patrols are limited in relation to the territory's extent and the magnitude of the threats. This tool is based on GLAD and RADD alerts available on Global Forest Watch and is automatically combined with national information for subsequent validation using satellite imagery, which may lead to field control actions. Now, available resources are primarily focused on addressing and controlling illicit activities, as nearly real-time information on deforestation locations is available. (Annex N3.1)
- **Technical Unit establishment to coordinate the Interinstitutional Task Force Against Environmental Crime (FTIA):** During this period, support was provided by a coordinator and four technicians hired at the central level, the latter with the support of WCS. Additionally, a technician was hired for the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve in 2023. It is essential to highlight that the personnel hired in the FTIA solely focus on addressing illicit activities, and the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve has been one of the areas with the highest intervention during the year 2023.
- **Increase in Institutional Presence:** Forest rangers and technical staff have been hired to strengthen institutional presence in the area, with the support of the National Guard Resources Program (PNGR/FAPVS) and the Padre Andrés Tamayo Program. In 2022, through the PNGR and funded by the Fund for the Management of Protected Areas and Wildlife (FAPVS), 10 forest rangers and 5 daily laborers were hired in the area. As of 2023, there are 13 forest rangers for the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve. Additionally, in 2023, through the Padre Andrés Tamayo Program, 10 forest rangers were hired, distributed among 3 local offices under the Río Plátano Biosphere region (Marañones, Sico-Paulaya, Palacios). The institutional presence of the ICF has been complemented by the support of the Honduran Armed Forces at various control points. (Annex N3.21)
- **Implementation of the Communication and Monitoring Protocol for deforestation alerts:** During 2023, a Communication and Monitoring Protocol for deforestation alerts was developed and officially endorsed. This protocol addresses responsibilities and workflows for monitoring, including response phases to control deforestation until cases are referred to the Environmental Prosecutor's Office (FEMA). This protocol represents a significant step in strengthening institutional response to deforestation, leveraging human and logistical resources to prioritize actions towards the central problem faced by ecosystems, particularly those of the Río Plátano Biosphere. (Annex N3.1)
- **Development of a Mobile Application for Monitoring Deforestation Alerts:** This tool will automate communication and monitoring protocols to respond to deforestation alerts. Its launch and implementation will proceed in 2024. (Annex N3.2)
- **Support Program for Addressing Threats and Illegal Activities in SINAPH:** The foundations have been laid for the implementation of the support program aimed at addressing threats and illegal activities in SINAPH, with its first phase focusing primarily on counteracting deforestation, especially in the protected area of the Río Plátano Biosphere and adjacent regions. The initial phase is expected to be funded through the Fund for the Management of Protected Areas and Wildlife (FAPVS). In 2023, a call for proposals was launched for organizations with expertise in the field to apply for a fund of 15 million lempiras allocated to execute this initial phase of the program, whose proposal has already been approved for respective implementation. Further resources

will be sought to strengthen this program, which complements institutional action within protected areas, particularly in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve. (Annex N3.3)

#### b. Patrols and Operations

Interdisciplinary teams have carried out specific operations in the field to identify and directly address criminal activities, conducting inspections, control, and detection of anthropogenic threats. Additionally, technical reports have been prepared in response to recorded environmental crimes, detailing their nature, affected areas, verification methods, documentation, and inspection support.

During the period between 2022 and 2023, patrols were conducted to monitor areas where human occupations and illegal activities, such as deforestation and the establishment of new settlements, had been detected. Likewise, field inspections were conducted to assess damages caused by anthropogenic activities within the boundaries of the Heritage Site.

*Table 1. Patrols and field operations conducted in coordination with various governmental and non-governmental organizations within the Río Plátano Biosphere Heritage Site.*

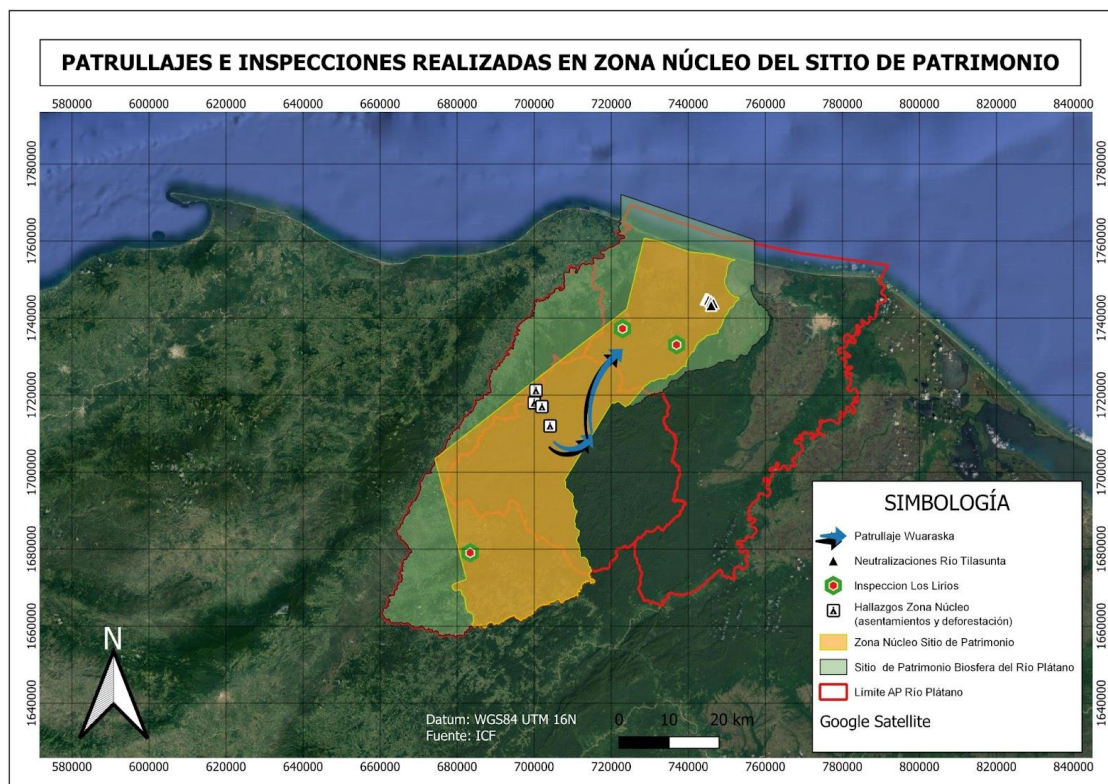
No.	Site	Date	Goal	Results	Institutions involved	Obs
1	Core Zone RHBRP, Brus Laguna, Gracias a Dios	March 14th to 21th, 2022	Documenting and detecting anthropogenic threats. Implement SMART system. Confiscation of firearms and other weapons used for hunting and fishing, confiscation of products and by-products derived from wildlife, and placement of spy cameras for monitoring environmental crimes.	74 anthropogenic threats were documented, including: debris, logging, illegal land appropriation, and wildlife exploitation. Confiscations of native fauna and weapons were carried out. Spy cameras were installed to monitor illicit anthropogenic activities.	ICF, National Guard Resources Program of Honduras (PNGR), Military and C-9, WCS, Panthera Corporation	Annex N3.4
2	Los Lirios, Dulce Nombre de Culmí municipality, Olancho department	August 26th, 2023	Assessment and documentation of anthropogenic damage caused.	A deforested area was identified, averaging 60 manzanas, for basic grain cultivation and livestock. Temporary	ICF	Annex N3.5



				rivers and streams were observed near the area.		
3	Shores of the Tilasunta River, Brus Laguna, cultural zone of the RHBRP.	August 26th, 2023	Neutralization of illegal dwellings in the cultural zone of the RHBRP.	Neutralization was achieved in 8 properties located on the shores of the Tilasunta River, Brus Laguna, cultural zone of the RHBRP.	FTIA/ICF	Annex N3.6
4	Biophysical Diagnosis of the Tilasunta River	October 26th to November 6th, 2023	Performing a biophysical diagnosis of the neutralized area in the Tilasunta River.	A field inspection was conducted to assess the effective implementation of a methodology developed for the restoration of the recovered area in Tilasunta.	FTIA/ICF	Annex N3.6
5	Core zone of the Rio Platano Man and Biosphere Reserve	February 6th to 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2023	Documenting and detecting anthropogenic threats, implementation of the SMART system, confiscation of firearms and other weapons used for hunting and fishing, confiscation of products and by-products derived from wildlife, neutralization of sites for illegal hunting and fishing.	Recognition patrol in the Core Zone of the Rio Platano Biosphere Reserve.	The results indicate threats such as illegal land appropriation, presence of houses in protected areas, and illegal activities, including a cocaine plantation, identification of threatened wildlife.	Annex N3.7
6	Sulawala	April, 2023	Verify the deforestation in the area.	A deforested area was found	ICF forest rangers/ FFAA	Annex N3.8

				in the Sulawala site.		
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Map 1. Patrols and operations conducted in the core zone of the Rio Platanó Biosphere Heritage Site, period 2022-2023.



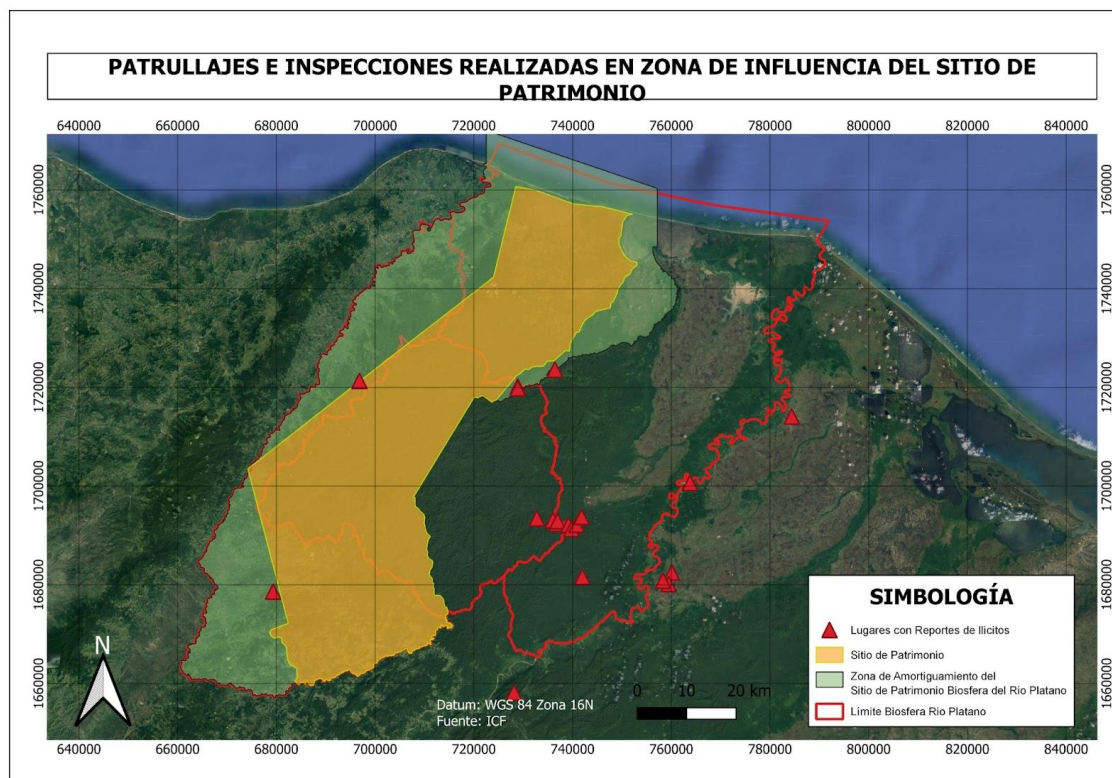
Furthermore, during this period, actions were carried out in the influence zone of the Heritage Site, mainly within the limits of the protected area of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, as part of an inter-institutional coordination. These measures have allowed the identification of illegal anthropogenic activities, such as deforestation and the creation of new settlements in restricted areas. Detecting these illicit activities facilitates the implementation of coercive measures to counteract, reduce, and monitor their incidence in the area.

Table 2. Patrols and field inspections conducted in the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve.

No.	Site	Date	Goal	Results	Institutions involved	Obs
1	Dopawas	January 1st, 2023	Inspect illegal logging.	A deforested area of approximately 25 manzanas was found.	ICF/forest rangers, Armed Forces (FFAA)	Annex N3.9
2	El Cerrito	February 2023	Verification of crimes.	Various threats were detected within the zones of the Territorial Councils.	ICF/Forest rangers, CT Members, and Armed Forces (FFAA)	Annex N3.12

3	Llano Pista Grande	February 2023	Identify deforested areas.	An area of approximately 18 hectares was identified as deforested.	ICF/forest rangers, Armed Forces (FFAA)	Annex N3.13
4	Sutawala	January 26th-27th, 2023	Follow up on evictions carried out in 2021.	It was identified that the evicted individuals returned to live in the area.	ICF/forest rangers, Armed Forces (FFAA)	Annex N3.10
5	Bratingni, Antin Bila, palpa, Wampusirpi	April, 2023	Conduct patrols to detect environmental crimes in the cultural zone of the RHBRP.	An area of approximately 2 manzanas was found to be deforested.	ICF/forest rangers, Armed Forces (FFAA)/FTIA	Annex N3.11

Map 2. Patrols and field inspections conducted in the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve



### c. Establishment of the Interinstitutional Control Post of Krausirpi

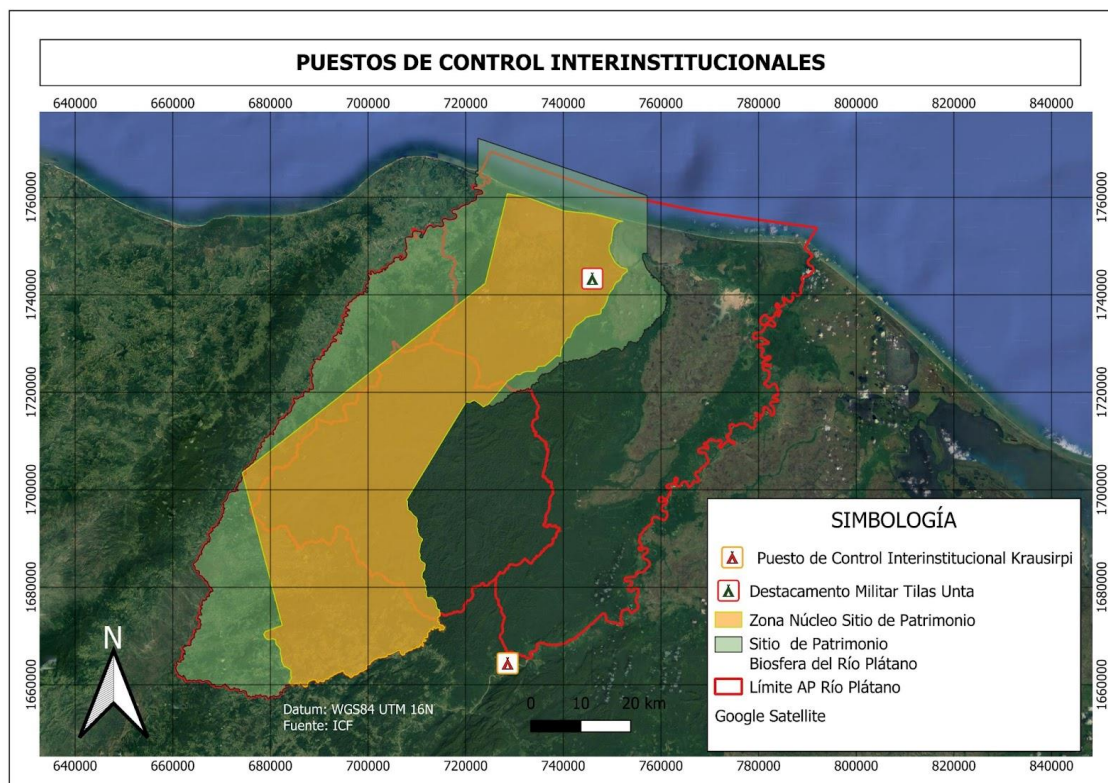
The main purpose of this post is to control the traffic and circulation of machinery, chainsaws, livestock, and potential invaders. Its objective is also to stop the illegal trafficking of timber and wildlife. Additionally, it is conceived as a management model for future strategically located control posts. The establishment of this control post entails interinstitutional collaboration, both between the Armed Forces (FFAA) and the Forest Conservation Institute (ICF), as well as with other entities such as the Attorney General's Office (PGR) and the Special Prosecutor's Office for the Environment (FEMA).



The inauguration of this interinstitutional surveillance and control post consolidates the presence in the area, significantly contributing to environmental protection and area security.

Likewise, a military outpost was established at the site called Tilas Unta, located in the municipality of Brus Laguna. This action adds to the control and surveillance activities of the Río Plátano Biosphere Heritage Site and RHBRP protected area and complements the actions carried out from the outposts established in the municipalities of Iriona, Juan Francisco Bulnes, Brus Laguna, and Wampusirpi. (Annex N3.14)

Map 3. Interinstitutional Control Post Krausirpi



#### d. Additional measures

The protection and defense actions for the Río Plátano Biosphere and the Honduran Moskitia have been intensified, aiming to preserve the natural resources and the communities depending on them. The following initiatives stand out:

- **Efforts with International Cooperation and Strategic Alliances:** Action plans have been established with international cooperation for the conservation, restoration, and comprehensive management of the Río Plátano Reserve, detailed in section 5 of this report.
- **Coordination with the Honduran Armed Forces:** Collaboration has been underway in the operation of interinstitutional control posts and military outposts as part of the green battalion initiative to protect the environment and halt illegal logging and forest trafficking. (Annex N3.14)
- **Reduction of Jaguar conflicts with cattle farms:** Within the Río Plátano Biosphere, conflicts between Jaguars and cattle farms result in the death of felines and economic losses for the cattle farms. One of the main reasons for this conflict is the location of the

cattle farms near the forest, as the livestock directly borders the habitat of this feline. Another cause is the hunting of the Jaguar's main prey. Similarly, this conflict is linked to the illegal trafficking and hunting of wildlife, as Jaguars hunted due to the conflict often have their skins and fangs sold in the black market, and in case a female is eliminated, it also facilitates the trade of their cubs to be placed in captivity. Therefore, in conjunction with the MIBIOSFERA Project, the NGO Panthera, and the Pan-American Agricultural School (Zamorano), a pilot project aimed at reducing JAGUAR-LIVESTOCK conflicts has been developed, implementing electric fences and other anti-depredation measures, and local capacity building. In 2024, it is expected to replicate this experience, financed through the FAPVS. (Annex N3.15).

## **2. Strengthening Indigenous Territorial Governance in the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve**

With the objective of consolidating and strengthening indigenous territorial governance in the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve, various initiatives and collaborations have been implemented. Below are the key points highlighting the commitment and achievements made in this collective effort:

- a. **Protected Area Management Committee for the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve:** The Management Committee for the Management and Conservation of the Reserve was formed, with active participation from youth and representatives of indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils. (Annex N3.16)
- b. **Partnerships with Non-Governmental Organizations:** During the period 2022-2023, collaboration was established with the association of non-governmental organizations CASM-AYUDA EN ACCIÓN, through the "Prawanka" project, aimed at developing the Mosquitia and promoting collaboration with various state secretariats. (Annex N3.17)
- c. **Interterritorial Dialogue Meeting and Declaration:** In 2022, the Interterritorial Dialogue Meeting and Declaration was held in the Bilalmuck community, Wampusirpi municipality, establishing the "Declaration of the Interterritorial Dialogue journey of the 7 Territorial Councils of the RHBRP area". (Annex N3.17)
- d. **Training and Hiring of Community Ranger Resources:** Training and hiring programs for community forest rangers were conducted, strengthening local capacity in monitoring, incident reporting, and sustainable territory management. (Annex N3.17)
- e. **Strengthening of the Local MaB Management Committee:** The strengthening of the Local MaB Management Committee continued as an advocacy platform for territory management, involving local and territorial authorities. (Annex N3.18)
- f. **Establishment of the Youth Network:** The Youth Network of the the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve was established to ensure generational succession in the defense of territories, supported by various organizations and project funding. (Annex N3.20)
- g. **Workshops and Support from External Organizations:** Organizations such as CASM and IUCN conducted workshops on indigenous rights, conflict resolution, and support in the development of planning tools for the management and conservation of traditions and natural resources. (Annex N3.17)
- h. **Partnerships with Municipal Governments:** Partnerships were established with municipal governments, coordinating actions within the framework of territorial governance and administration. (Annex N3.19)



- i. **Actions Aimed at Land Sanitation:** The Interinstitutional Subcommission for Titling, Expansion, Sanitation, and Protection of the Territories and Natural Resources of the Honduran Mosquitia Region was formed and officially launched. (Annex N3.6)

These actions demonstrate the commitment and ongoing collaboration to strengthen indigenous territorial governance in the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve, highlighting progress towards the conservation and protection of the region's natural and cultural heritage.

## NUMERAL 4

**Expresses concern** that the expected completion of the land titling process in the cultural zone of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve has been further delayed to 2022 and **urges** the State Party to complete the process within the newly proposed timeframe.

### 1. Oversight of the Recognition Process of Property Rights for Indigenous and Afro-Honduran Peoples

The titling process in indigenous territories began in 2016, with the titling of the Plaplaya communities, inhabited by Garifuna population (Afro-Honduran), was still pending. Furthermore, a bipartite title was projected between the Garifuna territories of Plaplaya, represented by the Garifuna territorial development council "BARAUDA," and the communities of Piñales and Betania, belonging to the Misquita territorial development council "RAYAKA."

It is relevant to highlight that **the titling process has concluded**, and the titles are duly registered in the Property Registry of Honduras. Only the delivery of the mentioned titles to the communities remains pending, and this activity is scheduled to take place in February 2024.

During 2022, actions to sanitize the territories continued, aiming to establish absolute control and exercise regulations more effectively. However, it is important to acknowledge that territorial governance still poses a challenge in the heritage site. (Annex N4.1)

### 2. Regularization of Land Tenure in the Buffer Zone

During the period 2022-2023, the State Party committed to complying with Executive Agreement No. 019-2019 of the ICF, which establishes the creation of the Family Usufruct Maintenance Unit. These processes are carried out in collaboration between the ICF, through the Forest Region of the Río Plátano Biosphere, and the Municipality of Dulce Nombre de Culmí.

During this period, a total of 30 maintenance contracts were received. For the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve, within the unit, a total of 157 contracts were already under maintenance, while 7 new contracts were delivered. Additionally, there are 52 Family Usufruct Contracts (FUC) to be delivered, which are already signed. These actions were developed in the buffer zone corresponding to the municipality of Dulce Nombre de Culmí.

As for the boundaries of the Río Plátano heritage site, 51 contracts were delivered (from 2019 to 2023), while 13 contracts are still pending delivery. (Annex N4.2)

*Table 3. Status of Family Usufruct Contracts in Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve and the Río Plátano Biosphere Natural World Heritage Site*

Family Usufruct Contracts	Maintenance	Delivered	Pending delivery
Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve	157	7 (2022-2023)	52
Río Plátano Biosphere Natural World Heritage Site	12	51 (delivered since 2019 to 2023)	13

## NUMERAL 5

**Notes** the State Party's progress to achieve the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), however, **notes with concern** that many challenges remain, and **also urges** the State Party and its partners to ensure the corrective measures are expeditiously and fully implemented, through improved collaboration and resourcing.

The State Party acknowledges significant challenges in achieving effective management of Heritage Site No. 196. Nevertheless, it emphasizes substantial progress and strategic changes as outlined in numeral three. Additionally, it highlights strategies, actions, and outcomes underscoring the importance of the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve, as well as the preservation of its exceptional values for the conservation of biological, cultural, and human diversity overall.

During the years 2022 and 2023, the State Party implemented various actions within the framework of corrective measures to remove the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger. These actions were aimed at ensuring the integrity of the Heritage Site and maintaining its relevance in terms of biodiversity and cultural conservation and protection.

### 1. Progress during the 2022-2023 period in achieving the goals set as indicators for the removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in Danger.

Table 4. Progress in achieving the goals set as indicators for the removal of the property from the list of World Heritage in Danger.

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the World Heritage List in Danger	Progress
Biological Indicators	1	By 2025, the current percentage of broadleaf forest cover in the Reserve of Man and the Biosphere of the Río Plátano is maintained.	The Center for Information and Forest Heritage (CIPF) conducted an analysis of forest cover, encompassing data collected between 2021 and 2023. The results of the statistical analysis for the 2021-2022 period reveal a loss of 5,358.32 hectares, followed by a decrease of 1,790.05 hectares during the 2022-2023 period. These figures have contributed to a notable reduction in the deforestation rate, by 66.59% during that period. (Refer to Annex

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the World Heritage List in Danger	Progress
			N5.1) of the Report on the Status of the Coverage of the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve 2021-2023.
	2	By 2025, 300 hectares of degraded land within the core zone have been restored.	The report presented by the Center for Forest Information and Heritage (CIPF) regarding forest coverage within the heritage site during the period 2022-2023 showed a loss of forest coverage of 1,790.05 hectares compared to the period 2021-2022, which was 5,358.32 hectares. This represents a reduction of 0.37%, indicating that the coercive actions implemented in the heritage site have been positive.
	3	By 2025, the abundance index of Jaguar ( <i>Panthera onca</i> ) populations and their prey ( <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> , <i>Tapirus bairdii</i> ) remains stable or increases.	<p>In 2022, significant monitoring efforts were carried out in the heritage site area and the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve protected area, yielding very important results such as the documentation of the three most significant and threatened large mammals in Mesoamerica: the tapir, the peccary, and the jaguar. Reports of the other four feline species reported for the country were also documented.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there is no population study available. During the 2022-2023 period, presence or absence monitoring of jaguars and their prey within the heritage site and its areas of influence was conducted. A total of four adult jaguars were counted within the heritage site, with five reported in the site's influence zone.</p> <p>All these detections can be seen in the felines and tapirs update documents, which are annexed to</p>

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the World Heritage List in Danger	Progress
			<p>this report (See Annex 5 Biological Monitoring Reports in the RHBRP), along with occurrence data of jaguars and their prey as well as other species.</p> <p>Additionally, the presence of a black jaguar is reported for the first time in the heritage site, as evidenced in Annex N5.2.</p> <p>These threats are anchored or uploaded to the comprehensive monitoring system SIMONI. <a href="http://www.simoni.icf.gob.hn">www.simoni.icf.gob.hn</a></p>
	4	By 2020, within the cultural and buffer zones, 101,719.22 hectares of forest are under sustainable management through the allocation of Community Forest Management Contracts, applying processes to ensure the legality of forest products.	<p>The State Party has reported that efforts continue to strengthen the community forestry strategy, specifically regarding shared forest management through the equitable and fair distribution of forest benefits, by assigning the management of national forests to organized communities.</p> <p>The heritage site maintains 156,181.7 hectares under sustainable management assigned through community forest management. These management areas are mainly concentrated in the buffer zone and cultural zone of the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve. The allocation of these areas also improves governance and helps reduce pressure on the forest. (Annex N5.7)</p> <p>Therefore, it is reported that this indicator is already fulfilled by the year 2023 within the heritage site.</p>
Indicadores de Integridad	5	By 2017, the current presence of populations and work areas within the core zone of the Río Plátano Man and	During the years 2022 and 2023, a total of 8 properties were intervened in various locations within the core zone. Among the neutralizations

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the World Heritage List in Danger	Progress
		Biosphere Reserve has been completely eliminated by 100%.	<p>were 4 shacks and 6 houses. These efforts were accompanied by the Interinstitutional Task Force (FTIA).</p> <p>As part of the FTIA actions, a visit to the Tilas Unta site, municipality of Brus Laguna, Gracias a Dios department, cultural zone of the RHBRP, was conducted following a complaint, where the neutralization of houses took place.</p>
	6	By 2020, indigenous peoples (Miskitos, Pech, and Afro-Hondurans) were integrated into the management of the protected area through a territorial governance scheme, with the titling of 424,123.87 hectares under conservation safeguards and respect for their ancestral rights in the entire cultural zone of the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve.	<p>The State Party reports that by 2022, 385,327 hectares had been titled in favor of indigenous peoples and Afro-Hondurans.</p> <p>By 2023, the titling process was completed in favor of the Garifuna (Afro-descendant) population of the Plaplaya community under the BARAUDA territorial council (2,171 hectares), and in the bipartite territory of the Rayaka - Misquito and Plaplaya - Garifuna territorial councils (6,893 hectares).</p> <p>In total, 394,391 hectares have been titled to indigenous peoples and Afro-Hondurans in the Reserve of Man and the Biosphere of the Plátano River. This includes the entirety of the terrestrial area of the cultural zone of the Reserve, as well as 8,238 hectares of the buffer zone, which includes the entire territories of Pech de Jocomico and Culuco, and partially the Misquito territory of Rayaka and the Pech territory of Las Marías.</p> <p>It should be clarified that when the goal was established, the entirety of the cultural zone area was included, but since approximately 34,120 hectares are marine and do not</p>



Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the World Heritage List in Danger	Progress
			correspond to titles, the goal was achieved to title the entirety of indigenous and Afro-Honduran territories within the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve.
	7	By 2020, management responsibilities and usage rights have been assigned to all residents within the buffer zone who meet the requirements established by law through the signing of family usufruct contracts.	<p>The State Party, in compliance with Executive Agreement No. 019-2019 of the ICF, conducted the maintenance of Family Usufruct Contracts in the southern buffer zone of the heritage site during the 2022-2023 period.</p> <p>The maintenance of Family Usufruct Contracts takes place in the southern buffer zone of the RHBRP, which corresponds to the Municipality of Dulce Nombre de Culmí in the department of Olancho. Currently, a total of 157 CUFs are under maintenance, with 52 CUFs signed and awaiting delivery, and 7 CUFs already delivered to their holders.</p> <p>Regarding the boundaries of the Río Plátano heritage site, 51 contracts were delivered (from 2019 to 2023), while 13 contracts are pending delivery.</p>
Indicadores de Protección y gestión	8	Until at least the year 2025, the <b>acceptable</b> management scale is maintained in the application of the Management Effectiveness Monitoring Methodology concerning the implementation of the Area Management Plan.	<p>During the year 2023, the management effectiveness of the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 was assessed by conducting Management Effectiveness Evaluations (MEE) for the three years due to the setbacks experienced in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Because of a different application of the Management Effectiveness Monitoring Methodology, the results are not comparable.</p>

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the World Heritage List in Danger	Progress
			<p>However, it is noteworthy that among the main results obtained in the latest Management Effectiveness Evaluation for the RHBRP, the most positively evaluated index was Natural and Cultural Resources, with a score of 61%. (See Annex N5.3)</p> <p>Due to the difference in the application of methodologies at the site, comparing the last two management effectiveness evaluations conducted in the area of the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve would be highly biased.</p>
	9	Annually, the AD-HOC Committee has developed and implemented a Work Plan aimed at fostering resource management efforts and political advocacy.	<p>The government has currently strengthened the Interinstitutional Task Force against Environmental Crime (FTIA), increasing the number of operations and the personnel from both institutional and armed forces, who carry out many of the functions of the AD-HOC committee.</p> <p>In this regard, during the years 2022 and 2023, monitoring, surveillance, and coercive actions were carried out through the Interinstitutional Environmental Task Force (FTIA) in various areas of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve and the RHBRP protected area. Likewise, there has been close coordination with the National Congress's Environment and Climate Change Commission to promote several reforms and legislative initiatives aimed at strengthening the protection and conservation actions for biodiversity in protected areas.</p>
	10	By 2017, at least one co-management arrangement	The management committee of the reserve, composed of indigenous

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the World Heritage List in Danger	Progress
		was established in the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano.	and Afro-Honduran organizations, central government institutions, local governments, agroforestry cooperatives, and projects in the area, carried out various actions as a committee for the conservation of the heritage site throughout the years 2022 and 2023.  To ensure better management within the heritage site in 2023, a cooperation agreement was signed with the organization Ayuda en Acción (AeA). (Annex N3.16)

## 2. Interinstitutional Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Management for the Protection of the Río Plátano Reserve

With the aim of strengthening strategies and measures aimed at preserving the area and removing the site from the World Heritage List in Danger, efforts continue to manage strategic alliances, technical and financial assistance, as well as the establishment of coordinated communication and planning mechanisms. Below are the most notable advances and achievements resulting from these efforts and alliances.

### a. Integrated Management Project of the Río Plátano Biosphere (MI BIOSFERA)

The Integrated Management Project of the Río Plátano Biosphere (MI BIOSFERA) focuses on the buffer zone of the Culmí municipality, addressing various areas through three grants:

- **ICF:** Leads the project, focusing on governance and restoration of areas, among other aspects.
- **Zamorano Grant:** Focuses on the sustainability of cattle farms, agroforestry systems, carbon measurements, among others.
- **Consortium Grant (UNAG, FUNDER, SERNA):** Works on climate financing and sustainable production systems, among other aspects.

The geographical intervention of the project is in Dulce Nombre de Culmí, covering 99 communities and approximately 1,158.48 km<sup>2</sup>. The project aims to expand its activities, especially in climate change adaptation and forest restoration.

Steering Committees have been established, and management and planning instruments have been prepared. Restoration plans have been developed, and maintenance of Family Usufruct Contracts has continued, working on cattle farms with their CUF in restoration and land regularization.

The project has developed a Visibility and Communication Strategy, installation of signs and billboards. Exchanges of experiences have been carried out in Biosphere Reserves, and a visibility and communication campaign has been initiated.

Regarding activities with the consortia (Funder, UNAG, SERNA), compliance with scheduled activities has been verified, including environmental education and technical assistance. The Zamorano grant has conducted research on land use and land cover changes and sustainability assessment in silvopastoral systems. Monitoring and follow-up indicate a 95% compliance with the activities scheduled for 2023.

As part of the project, the Launch of the "Save the Río Plátano Biosphere" campaign has been promoted and realized, with the aim of establishing a joint work agenda with government institutions, civil organizations, organized communities, donors, academia, and most importantly with the general population, to preserve and defend their natural resources, allowing for the environmental and cultural recovery of this region, which represents the second most important forest in the Mesoamerican region.

Through the proposed visibility approach, national and international institutions are expected to become aware of the efforts and join Honduras' interest in "Zero Deforestation." Through an inclusive socialization process, from local to national levels, several meetings were held for the launch of the Communication and Visibility campaign. (Annex N5.4)

#### **b. Renewed Vision for Conservation and Defense of the Moskitia**

At COP28, Honduras presented a Renewed Vision for the Conservation and Defense of the Moskitia, the region that hosts the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve. This comprehensive plan focuses on addressing threats such as illegal cattle ranching, deforestation, and organized crime. Key commitments include reducing deforestation by 66%, establishing an Environmental Protection Battalion, and creating checkpoints to combat environmental crime. Additionally, the restoration of 100,000 hectares is highlighted to benefit indigenous communities, along with the implementation of innovative financial mechanisms to ensure long-term sustainability.

The strategy also acknowledges and respects indigenous rights, granting land titles to Miskitu and Garífuna communities, and suspending primary industries in the Moskitia. Furthermore, the establishment of an environmental court to address complaints of environmental crimes has been promoted, and coordination with the Armed Forces and international cooperation has been strengthened. Strengthening the Interinstitutional Task Force (FTIA) against Environmental Crime and canceling unsustainable forest management plans are crucial steps towards environmentally respectful development.

This strategy not only represents a revitalized approach to the conservation of these areas but also plays a crucial role in strengthening and enhancing ongoing efforts, providing a comprehensive platform to advance towards removing the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve from the list of World Heritage Sites in danger. (Annex N5.5)

#### **c. Cooperation Agreement for Strengthening the National System of Protected Areas and Wildlife between ICF and WCS**

Within the framework of the technical cooperation agreement between ICF and WCS, shared objectives have been established to institutionally strengthen ICF and SINAPH, provide

technical assistance and training in the management of protected areas, including environmental protection activities and the use of the SMART tool in patrol development. Additionally, ecological, socioeconomic, management, and governance assessments and monitoring are conducted, along with the promotion of scientific research. In this context, WCS has played a fundamental role as the executor of various projects, especially in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve, directly contributing to the institutional capacity strengthening of ICF for the management of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve. (Annex N5.6)

Below are the ongoing projects executed by WCS within the Río Plátano Natural World Heritage Site, as well as in its direct influence areas:

*Table 5. Projects in progress in the Natural World Heritage Site and the protected area Río Plátano Man and Río Plátano Biosphere Natural World Heritage Site.*

Funder	Project	Objective	Amount (USD)	Executor	Progress
The Roatan Chocolate Factory	Cause marketing license agreement	Supporting the voluntary indigenous ranger program in the Bakinasta territory, so they can continue to carry out patrolling and surveillance tasks in coordination with honduran authorities.	14,400.00	Binational WCS program (Honduras-Nicaragua)	The voluntary indigenous forest ranger group in the Bakinasta territory has been financially sustained despite the challenging security situation prevailing in the area.
RE:WILD	"Stopping the tide", conservation actions in the Indigenous Territory of Bakinasta and the Biosphere Reserve Tawahka-Asagni, Honduras, 2019-2021"	To collaborate with the authorities of Honduras, including the ICF and the interinstitutional task force against environmental crime, as well as the indigenous territorial councils, in the management of their territories and the protection of the Río Plátano and Tawahka Biosphere Reserves.	402,638.00	Binational WCS program (Honduras-Nicaragua)	Support for strengthening the capacity of indigenous forest rangers in Bakinasta and conducting routine patrols using the smart patrol tool. Strengthening of the control post in Krausirpi and support for the ICF office in Wampusirpi.
Re: Wild	Protecting the Honduran Moskitia's forests and people through improving	Supporting the Territorial Council of Diunat in the management of their territory and in	188,861.94	Binational WCS program (Honduras-Nicaragua)	



Funder	Project	Objective	Amount (USD)	Executor	Progress
	capacity for indigenous Territorial management	preventing deforestation and land encroachment, collaborating with national authorities in creating landmark legal cases to halt deforestation.			
Us Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)	Strengthening capacity and commitment to combat wildlife trafficking in Latin America	Supporting the Honduran government authorities, particularly the ICF and institutions under the interinstitutional task force against environmental crime, to carry out Law enforcement actions in La Moskitia, especially in the Río Plátano and Tawahka Biosphere Reserves.	1,432,156.05	Binational WCS program (Honduras-Nicaragua)	<p>Strengthening the FTIA through the hiring of technical personnel, made available to the ICF, aimed at improving institutional presence and providing a more effective response against environmental crimes.</p> <p>Support in the formation of The Moskitia subcommittee for the operationalization of the indigenous land sanitation process, through the technical working group of the subcommittee; using the Bakinasta Territorial Council as a pilot area.</p> <p>Logistical support in various ground operations of the FTIA aimed at neutralizing environmental crimes. As a result, 236.6 hectares cleared in the Brus Laguna area were recovered.</p>
The Overbrook Foundation	Proactively addressing	Support indigenous	49751.24	Binational WCS program	Logistic support has been

Funder	Project	Objective	Amount (USD)	Executor	Progress
	emerging threats to Mesoamerica's forests and wildlife	leadership in their advocacy efforts with the authorities of the government of Honduras to address the issues existing in the Moskitia region related to land invasion, deforestation, and illegal cattle farming.		(Honduras-Nicaragua)	provided for the management and mobilization of indigenous leaders in their efforts to legalize their organizational status before national authorities. Meeting with authorities to report the situation of threats and land invasion, and to seek support in their environmental justice work. Collaboration has been established with leaders from Diunat, Bakinasta, and the communities of Mabita and Rus Rus in Finzmos.
UE-DESIRA	5 Large Forests	Support indigenous conservation solutions and forest-based income sources, protect intact ecosystems, and eliminate illegal cattle farming in the five forests of Mesoamerica.	563,842.4	BINATIONAL WCS PROGRAM (HONDURAS-NICARAGUA)	Recovery of the Cayo Cañones area and definition of the restoration methodology.  Patrols in the territorial councils of Diunat and Bakinasta.  Monitoring of cocoa agroforestry systems in the communities of the Bakinasta territorial council.  Diagnosis of agroforestry cooperatives and assigned areas in the communities of Pimienta and Wampusirpi.
BLF	Resilient and biodiverse landscapes or	Reduce poverty and create opportunities	1,267,208.60	Binational WCS program	Strengthen fire prevention teams in Diunat and

Funder	Project	Objective	Amount (USD)	Executor	Progress
	Northern Mesoamerica	for sustainable economic development for communities living in and depending on ecologically critical landscapes in the Maya, Moskitia, and Trifinio forests of Mesoamerica through lasting landscape protection, sustainable management and restoration, investment in sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity protection, and maintenance and improvement of ecosystem quality.		(Honduras-Nicaragua)	Finzmos during the 2024 and 2025 seasons, support the reconstruction of the local ICF office in Brus Laguna, and provide investments to help communities adapt to the effects of climate change.

**d. Non-Reimbursable Financing Proposal, Fund for the Management of Protected Areas and Wildlife (FAPVS).**

In 2023, the call for proposals for Non-Reimbursable Financing for prioritized protected areas was launched, aiming to strengthen the effective management of protected areas within SINAPH (National System of Protected Areas), supporting the implementation of activities outlined in Operational Plans and enhancing actions geared towards the sustainability of protected areas. (Annex N5.7)

In this context, the allocated amount for implementation in the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve is \$4,000,000.00. Priority was given to the following activities:

- Strengthening of capacities and infrastructure through the construction of facilities for the Local Office of Wampusirpi, located in the municipality of Wuampusirpi, Gracias a Dios department.
- Demarcation and labeling of 15 micro-watersheds located on the boundaries of the buffer zone and cultural zone of the protected area, Reserve of Man and Biosphere of the Río Plátano.
- Enhancement of technical and operational capacities of Forest Rangers assigned to the protected area through training sessions.
- Enhancement of management capacities within the protected area through the development of management tools.

#### e. **Interinstitutional Reforestation and Watershed Protection Program, "Padre Andrés Tamayo" ICF-PPAT**

The Interinstitutional Reforestation and Watershed Protection Program, "Padre Andrés Tamayo" (ICF-PPAT), aims to "promote restoration in 24,000 hectares of deforested and degraded lands in 300 micro-watersheds, 150 municipalities, 18 departments (8,000 ha. of forest plantations, 15,000 ha. under management and protection of natural regeneration, and 1,000 ha. with agroforestry systems), including the declaration of 100 water protection zones, strengthen actions to control and combat forest crimes, and monitor 46 protected areas to reduce environmental degradation", promoting comprehensive water management in 1,220 communities, increasing social, economic, and environmental values, and generating prosperity for 2,000,000 people.

Positively, in the Río Plátano Biosphere Forest Region (RFBRP), the ICF-PPAT has developed actions and results that involve the participation of all actors in the territory. The intervention strategy for this area includes the components: (a) Restoration and reforestation, (b) Community watershed management, (c) Community agroforestry systems, (d) Forest protection and defense, and the cross-cutting axes of community development, gender approach, interculturality, and social and environmental safeguards.

Main achievements in the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve:

- **Reforestation and Restoration:**
  - Establishment of 6 nurseries.
  - Active forest restoration in 166.09 ha.
  - Protection of 143.43 ha of natural regeneration.
  - Intervention in 6 micro-watersheds for water conservation.
  - Project to improve drinking water distribution systems.
- **Community Agroforestry Systems (SAF):**
  - Intervention in 146.45 ha with 19,120 timber plants and 16,365 fruit plants.
  - Benefiting 129 families from 19 communities.
- **Forest Protection and Defense:**
  - Construction of 38.04 km of firebreaks.
  - Control of 22 forest fires.
  - Hiring of 12 people for surveillance and patrolling.
  - Registration and evaluation of 44 threat incidents.
- **Monitoring and Management:**
  - Creation of 50 direct jobs.
  - Implementation of environmental and social safeguard manuals, environmental education, awareness raising and gender inclusion, and collection of seeds and community nurseries.

These actions demonstrate a comprehensive commitment to conservation and sustainable development in the RFBRP, promoting community participation and the protection of natural resources. (Annex N3.21)

#### f. **Cooperation Agreement between ICF and Help in Action Foundation (AeA)**

In 2023, the formal signing of the cooperation agreement between ICF and the Help in Action Foundation (AeA) was formalized. The purpose of this agreement is to establish technical

collaboration that allows for the construction of solid foundations and mechanisms to leverage coordination opportunities within the competencies, capacities, and possibilities of both parties.

The objective of this agreement is to promote actions aimed at the conservation, protection, and development of communities in agreed-upon protected areas, especially in the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano. Likewise, it aims to contribute to the development of joint and participatory processes in related territories, with the preparation of a work plan that includes scientific research and dissemination of management tools for management and planning within the RHBRP protected area. Additionally, efforts are sought within the framework of Biosphere Reserves and the National Man and the Biosphere Committee (MaB).

The main topics addressed in this agreement include mechanisms for the management and conservation of protected areas, especially the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano. It also includes the joint formulation of proposals to donors, exchange of technical capacities, research and monitoring, environmental education, local socio-economic development, communication and dissemination, strengthening of local and institutional capacities, effectiveness of RHBRP protected area management, management of Biosphere Reserves within local management committees and the National Man and the Biosphere Reserves Committee (MaB), as well as the management of Sites of Importance for Wildlife and political advocacy.

It is crucial to highlight that the Help in Action Foundation (AeA) will be responsible for managing the funds allocated to the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano by the Fund for the Management of Protected Areas and Wildlife (FAPVS). It is anticipated that this will generate positive and impactful results in the area in terms of conservation and management of the area's natural resources. (Annex N5.8)

**g. Projects under the Responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA)**

Furthermore, in addition to the efforts, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) assumes the responsibility for monitoring and supervising the implementation of various projects aimed at conserving the ecosystems of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve. These projects encompass initiatives focused on the protection and preservation of the rich biodiversity and natural resources present in the region. SERNA deploys coordinated actions to ensure environmental sustainability and the integrity of this important natural heritage, seeking the well-being of local communities and future generations.

*Table 6. Projects in progress in the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA)*

Project	Cooperating	Amount	Strategic line
Integrated Program for the Critical Forest Biome of Mesoamerica	UICN/FAO	58,147,493.00\$	Sustainable Forests and Landscapes
Biodiversity Program: "Linking the Central American Landscape"	BMZ / kfW	18,900,000.00 Eur	Sustainable Forests and Landscapes



Five Great Forests of Central America	EU - EU DeSIRA Program	4,015,000.00 Eur	Sustainable Forests and Landscapes Climate Change and Comprehensive Risk Management
Conserving the Intact Forests of the Honduran Moskitia	UICN	2,000,000.00 Eur	Comprehensive Water Resource Management Climate Change and Comprehensive Risk Management

### Proposal for indicator modification

Table 7. Proposal for indicator modifications and its justification

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger	Reformulation	Justification
"Biological Indicators"	1	By 2025, the current percentage of broadleaf forest cover in the Reserve of Man and the Biosphere of the Río Plátano is maintained.	By 2027, the net rate of forest cover change has been reduced by 70% in the Biosphere Natural Heritage Site of the Río Plátano, compared to the period 2019-2023.	The main threat to the Outstanding Universal Value is deforestation, which is removing primary forests. Therefore, efforts will focus intensively on addressing this issue. Despite not having a 100% target, it is considered an ambitious yet achievable goal, given the magnitude of the problem and its underlying causes. The indicator will progressively measure the progress of the state in reversing the situation and include all forest ecosystems present at the site.

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger	Reformulation	Justification
	2	By 2025, 300 hectares of degraded land within the core zone have been restored.		We propose that this indicator be removed considering that the target is not significant in relation to the magnitude of the areas affected by deforestation. On the other hand, restored areas are included in the indicator proposed in the previous paragraph.
	3	By 2025, the abundance index of Jaguar ( <i>Panthera onca</i> ) populations and their prey ( <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> , <i>Tapirus bairdii</i> ) remains stable or increases.	For 2035, the ecological integrity index remains at four key sites in the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano compared to the period 2024-2025, using the protocol for monitoring the Jaguar ( <i>Panthera onca</i> ).	In the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano, there is a lack of data to assess the abundance index, and it is a methodology that is not widely used in the country. On the other hand, the proposed methodology has been officially endorsed by the ICF and is being implemented in two sites of RHBRP and in other protected areas of the country. It should be noted that it was not developed in 2015 when the indicators were created. It is suggested that this indicator be categorized as Integrity Indicators.
	4	By 2020, within the cultural and buffer zones, 101,719.22 hectares of forest are under sustainable management through the allocation of Community Forest Management Contracts, applying	This indicator has already been fulfilled.	

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger	Reformulation	Justification
		processes to ensure the legality of forest products.		
<b>Indicadores de Integridad</b>	5	By 2017, the current presence of populations and work areas within the core zone of the Río Plátano Man and Biosphere Reserve has been completely eliminated by 100%.	By 2030, the current presence of populations and work areas within the core zone of the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano will be reduced by 90%.	It is proposed to extend the deadline for the fulfillment of this indicator, given that it was not achieved by 2017, and there are currently several human settlements within the core zone. Furthermore, it is proposed to modify the target because the procedures for carrying out evictions may require considering social aspects that could limit the scope of the intervention.
	6	By 2020, indigenous peoples (Miskitos, Pech, and Afro-Hondurans) were integrated into the management of the protected area through a territorial governance scheme, with the titling of 424,123.87 hectares under conservation safeguards and respect for their ancestral rights in the entire cultural zone of the Río Plátano Man and the Biosphere Reserve.	This indicator was fulfilled in 2023 with the registration of the last titles to the communities of Plaplaya and Rayaka in the Property and Movable Property Registry.	
	7	By 2020, management responsibilities and usage rights have been assigned to all residents within the buffer zone who meet the requirements	It is proposed to eliminate this indicator.	The primary objective of assigning usufruct contracts is to mitigate the impacts of human activities on ecosystems. The ICF has prioritized direct

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger	Reformulation	Justification
		established by law through the signing of family usufruct contracts.		<p>efforts to control deforestation, believing that this approach can have a greater impact on the conservation and integrity of outstanding universal value.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is considered that the contribution to the integrity of outstanding universal value from the delivery of usufruct contracts is less significant than deforestation reduction. This is because usufruct contracts are granted in the buffer zone of the protected area, which is larger than the heritage site and exhibits a high degree of landscape fragmentation.</p> <p>Additionally, the ICF will continue to maintain the usufruct contracts that have been granted.</p>
Indicadores de Protección y gestión	8	Until at least the year 2025, the <b>acceptable</b> management scale is maintained in the application of the Management Effectiveness Monitoring Methodology concerning the implementation of the Area Management Plan.	By 2027, a specific management instrument for the Biosphere of the Río Plátano Natural World Heritage Site is in place.	This indicator is oriented towards the protected area, so the state considers it necessary to build instruments directed at the heritage site. Additional advisory from UNESCO is deemed necessary.

Type of Indicators	N°	Indicator for the Removal of Property from the List of World Heritage in Danger	Reformulation	Justification
	9	Annually, the AD-HOC Committee has developed and implemented a Work Plan aimed at fostering resource management efforts and political advocacy.	By 2025, the Task Force against environmental crime has been strengthened technically, legally, and financially.	To protect the natural resources of the RHBRP, the State has promoted the creation of the FTIA, through which positive results are being achieved in combating environmental crimes. To further boost the FTIA, work is underway to create a legislative decree that will enable the allocation of resources and provide greater support for its assignments.
	10	By 2017, at least one co-management arrangement was established in the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano.	This indicator is fulfilled with the establishment of the Management Committee and Partnerships with Territorial Councils.	
NUMERAL 6				

**Reiterates its request** to the State Party to secure the necessary technical and financial resources required for the consultation processes, especially with indigenous and Afro-Honduran territorial councils, to submit a proposal for a Significant Boundary Modification as a crucial step towards achieving the DSOCR, and in particular to fully consider the archaeological heritage of the property and corresponding actors.

As a State, resources have been prioritized to address the action plan of the Renewed Vision for the Conservation and Defense of the Moskitia strategically and comprehensively, with a focus on actions in Río Plátano to strengthen governance. This emphasizes addressing threats, indigenous participation, land tenure mechanisms, and others, to establish appropriate approaches with indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples and reduce deforestation.

Additionally, efforts are underway to declare new protected areas such as Warunta, Mocerón, and Laguna de Bacalar, adjacent to the heritage site. These will consolidate the legal framework and establish management and governance mechanisms favoring the conservation of the heritage site and potential areas to be incorporated based on the results of the "Studies in View for the Review of the Boundaries of the Río Plátano Biosphere" from International Assistance IA-2741.



In this regard, the State has decided, prior to initiating a Significant Boundary Modification process, to focus efforts on consolidating the management and governance framework to enable the implementation of this process as a State.

### Other current conservation challenges

- **Extensive Livestock Farming:** According to the data generated for the preparation of the latest Forest Emissions Reference Level that the state submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the state party expresses and regrets that one of the biggest problems facing the heritage site is extensive livestock farming. This activity is the main cause of deforestation at the national level and, within the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve between 2016 and 2020, it accounted for 85% of the causes of deforestation. (Reference: [https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref\\_nrf\\_hn2023\\_vf.pdf](https://redd.unfccc.int/files/nref_nrf_hn2023_vf.pdf))
- **Road Opening:** Among the most significant threats within the heritage site is the disturbance of ecosystems due to the opening and improvement of roads and highways in restricted areas of the Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve region. One such road is the highway initiated in 2001 that starts in Olancho and reaches the community of Pao in the municipality of Wampusirpi, significantly crossing the buffer zone of the RHBRP. By the end of 2021, significant progress was verified on this road, which was able to advance from the community of Pao to the community of Kraosirpi.
- **Land Grabbing:** The illegal land grabbing by third parties for land use change is one of the biggest challenges currently facing the natural heritage site and the protected area of the Río Plátano Biosphere. Individuals mainly from the departments of Olancho and Colón illegally obtain large land extensions used for extensive livestock farming, monoculture installation, and drug trafficking. Despite efforts to stop these practices, it remains a major challenge for the State.

The problems associated with the loss of forest cover in some territories of the Man and the Biosphere Reserve of the Río Plátano have a close relationship with illicit activities linked to organized crime (drug trafficking).

## NUMERAL 7

**Regrets** that the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant (HPP) is already in operational testing without the current and potential impacts of the project on the OUV of the property having been thoroughly assessed through a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The State acknowledges the importance of having an advisory mission to carry out the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Patuca III Hydroelectric Project and for the current and potential impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property to be evaluated under the guidelines of the Heritage Center. As a State, it is committed to implementing the recommended actions.

However, although this process has not yet been carried out, it is important to note that in order to safeguard the natural resource, the environment, and labor safety, Resolution No. 2021-2008 has been signed between the Secretariat of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) and the National Electricity Company (ENEE). This resolution contains 108 environmental mitigation measures for the Patuca III Hydroelectric Project, which are strictly binding for ENEE and the contracted and subcontracted companies.

According to the report submitted by the Special Unit of Renewable Energy Projects of the National Electricity Company (UEPER/ENEE), the project is currently in the commercial generation stage under the management of the ACI-GEOCONSULT Consortium. Activities at the dam site and powerhouse have focused on equipment and civil works maintenance, power generation, and reservoir level maintenance. The execution of activities includes monitoring of occupational health and safety, as well as environmental management, based on compliance with the environmental control measures set forth in Environmental Resolution 2021-2008 issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA) and other related laws. In 2023, reservoir levels were maintained between 280.0 meters above sea level and 290.0 meters above sea level. Additionally, net generation was 248.740 GW.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management System (SGAS) for the Power Plant has begun, framed within current national legislation and the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Performance Standards. This system provides tools and socio-environmental management procedures that ensure the sustainability of activities during the project's operation stage, integrating various stakeholders.

Environmental management includes initiatives such as reforestation with a nursery established in the area, donation of plants to local schools, and constant monitoring of reservoir water quality. Additionally, actions are taken to protect local fauna and manage solid waste and chemicals properly.

## NUMERAL 8

**Requests** the State Party to urgently develop a study to identify and monitor any actual and potential impacts of the HPP on the OUV of the property, and to adopt an adaptive management approach, including through development and implementation of necessary measures to mitigate any adverse impacts on the OUV.

In the framework of the implementation of activities at the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant, efforts in environmental management in the plant's influence area are highlighted:

- **Forestry management and reforestation:** During 2023, a forestry management plan was executed in the influence area of the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant. A nursery was established, reforestation activities and forest protection measures were carried out, contributing to the restoration of affected areas.
- **Water quality monitoring:** Periodic physicochemical measurements were conducted to monitor the water quality of the reservoir. The results obtained are within the parameters established by relevant regulations, reflecting a commitment to preserving this vital resource.

- **Fauna management:** Fauna monitoring actions were carried out, recording a diversity of species, and taking measures to protect them, such as capturing and releasing threatened species. Additionally, fishing, hunting, and species extraction within the project area are prohibited.
- **Oil and lubricant management:** Despite reported incidents, cleaning and control measures were taken, including the application of bioremediation technology to mitigate the environmental impacts of oil spills.
- **Solid waste management:** Comprehensive solid waste management practices were implemented, including classification and proper disposal of different types of waste, as well as coordination with authorized environmental managers for the handling of special waste.

These efforts demonstrate a commitment to environmental management in the influence area of the Patuca III Hydroelectric Power Plant. However, the State Party acknowledges the importance of conducting a comprehensive study to identify and monitor the actual and potential impacts of the project on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as well as the need to adopt an adaptive management approach to mitigate any adverse impacts that may arise.

  
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