

# CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Legal Name:** El Colegio de La Frontera Sur

**Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement):** *Baseline Forest Change Detection and Key Biodiversity Areas in Northern Mesoamerica*

**Implementation Partners for this Project:** El Colegio de La Frontera Sur: Conservation International

**Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement):** January 1, 2007 – July 31, 2007

**Date of Report (month/year):** 28 July 2008

## II. OPENING REMARKS

*This project consisted of two linked elements; the identification of Key Biodiversity Areas and the detection of change in forest cover. The project was extended in order to augment the cover change component using classification of recent imagery (2005-2007). This extension was necessary due to some delays in obtaining the imagery and technical challenges in the classification of recent Landsat7 imagery. Identification of KBAs was completed in December 2007. However the data obtained on KBAs was entered into the global database during the period of extension of the project in 2008 . In this way the extension of the project provided an opportunity to increment the value of the work on KBAs. Apart from alterations to the time lines, the project completed all the work as planned and within budget.*

## III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

**Project Purpose:**

- 1) To generate and validate information for evaluating biodiversity conservation outcomes and change in forest cover for Southern Mexico for use by regional actors in future conservation, investment and policy decision making processes.
- 2) To contribute data on priority species, site and landscapes & change detection map of Southern Mexico to larger Mesoamerica regional monitoring effort.

### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	

<p><b>1.</b> 2 Government institutions, 2 academic researchers and 3 local NGOs develop a consensual view of Southern Mexico baseline priority species, sites and landscapes areas and forest cover results and agree to collaboratively employ results as principle tools for informing conservation planning in Southern Mexico.</p>	<p>90%. Conservation International's wider Outcomes Monitoring project for Meso America will be completed in December 2008. Although the classification for Southern Mexico is finished and has been presented to local researchers and NGOs the work will be strengthened when placed in the regional context.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Priority species, sites and landscapes and final forest cover map for Southern Mexico incorporated with outcomes information compiled in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Belize and Guatemala &amp; forest cover analysis conducted in Belize and Guatemala. Information to feed into broader analysis of baseline monitoring across Mesoamerica led by CI-CABS.</p>	<p>100% Data on KBAs entered into global data base. Results will be placed in a broader context when discussed with groups involved in monitoring across MesoAmerica.</p>

***Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.***

In technical terms the project successfully achieved its aims. The project provided a valuable opportunity for developing local expertise in image classification. The original methodology was adapted to the region and refined as a result of the project. However some further work is required in order to ensure that the results impact a wider audience. This will be discussed in a joint workshop held in Honduras in September.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

The cover change methodology was found to suggest somewhat lower rates of deforestation than had been expected. Cover change within protected areas was generally found to be moderate to low. This is not necessarily a negative impact of the project. However if the result is not presented in context there is a danger that it could provoke complacency. Many additional factors threaten the structural and compositional integrity of the forests of the region.

**IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS**

***Project Outputs:*** Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Actual at Completion</b>
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Forest cover change analysis and change detection map generated (1990-2000) for Southern Mexico (see attached map). *ECOSUR will only be conducting change detection analysis for Southern Mexico region. Final map product is a component of larger regional change detection map that includes work conducted by CONANP in Guatemala &amp; Jan Meerman (Belize Tropical Forest Studies) for Belize.</p>	<p>100% completed. However some areas where spectral properties of the vegetation lead to some ambiguity and uncertainty in the classification may be refined slightly after comparisons are made with results from the wider Meso American region.</p>
<p><b>1.1</b> Imagery acquired, assembled and organized into database and all images classified by month 5.</p>	<p>100% completed.</p>
<p><b>1.2</b> Verification/validation of maps (using supplementary ground data) completed by end of month five. Clear statements regarding measurable uncertainties provided in terms understandable to the user</p>	<p>100% completed.</p>

community.	
<b>1.3</b> Digital mosaic map produced for dissemination and use in Southern Mexico as well as for further analysis at the start of month six.	100% completed. Digital mosaic map has been placed on a map server in Ecosur and is available for visualisation on line within the institutional network.
<b>Output 2:</b> Capacity building at regional level provided to ensure continued identification of priority conservation areas, change detection analysis and regional monitoring.	100% completed.
<b>2.1</b> Two ECOSUR technical coordinators (and other local technicians) trained in KBA identification and delineation methodology within the first month.	100% completed.
<b>2.2</b> Two ECOSUR and one CONAP GIS technicians trained in remote sensing methodology for cover change within the first quarter (*CONAP technicians conducting remote sensing work for Guatemala, not Southern Mexico).	100% completed. During the course of the project training was provided for five Ecosur students employed in image classification.
<b>2.3</b> Creation of course materials (in Spanish) and training provided to local technicians in CABS forest cover and change detection methodologies.	90% completed. Original course material has been translated. A manual including extensions to the methodology for future projects is in preparation.
<b>Output 3:</b> Full set of species level targets for achieving conservation outcomes defined and documented for Southern Mexico region.	
<b>3.1</b> Globally threatened species in hotspot identified. Information (distribution, threats, conservation actions, references) synthesized and incorporated in Outcomes database by month 4.	100% completed.
<b>Output 4:</b> Full set of site and landscape scale conservation outcomes defined, documented and mapped for Southern Mexico region.	100% completed.
<b>4.1</b> 6 research institutions and conservation organizations contacted to request locality data for globally threatened species.	100% completed.
<b>4.2</b> Sites across Southern Mexico holding populations of globally threatened species are identified and delineated by month 6. Information (including existing IBA data) entered into Outcomes database.	100% completed.

***Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.***

The expected outputs were produced within the original budget, although the time line had to be extended.

***Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

**No.**

**V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS**

**Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.**

**VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT**

**Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.**

The incorporation of masters students in the project as technicians was found to be a generally positive element of the project. Ecosur students often find employment within local government conservation NGOs. The opportunity to provide both technical training and experience with wider aspects of conservation monitoring provided the project with added value and impact. However the turnover of students at this stage of their career can be rapid as other opportunities present themselves.

**Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)**

The cover change mapping used a pre-established methodology that had already been successfully applied in other regions such as Madagascar. The clarity and structure provided by the documentation of this methodology contributed greatly to the projects success. Nevertheless some aspects of the methodology had to be adapted to the realities of the region.

**Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)**

El Colegio de La Frontera Sur is a federal government dependency. Therefore the internal accounting procedure is placed within a strict formal framework. This has great benefits in terms of transparency and accountability at the expense of flexibility. The project benefited greatly from the positive input to the administrative process from Conservation International staff who helped to ensure compatibility between administrative and technical aspects of the project.

**VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

**Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes

**\*Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)
- B** Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)

- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

***Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.***

CI is implementing a project funded by Starbucks in the Sierra Madre whose objectives include facilitating access for coffee farming communities to voluntary carbon markets. One of the ways of achieving this objective is through a reduction in the rates of deforestation (i.e. carbon emissions from deforestation) followed by the trading of the resulting carbon emission reductions on the voluntary market. As part of the process to facilitate a reduction in the rates of deforestation, an analysis of current forest cover and forest change is necessary. The goal of this analysis will be to support the Starbucks project by refining and updating the baseline product for selected sites in the Sierra Madre. Finer spatial resolution satellite imagery, namely ASTER, will be used for this analysis to enable more robust and current estimates of forest cover and forest change to be derived. Conservation International proposes to work with ECOSUR to collaborate on this analysis using techniques consistent with the methodology previously used to generate the baseline product.

## VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

*CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net), and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.*

*These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.*

**Please include your full contact details below:**

**Dr Duncan Golicher**

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