

Proposed Expansion of IABIN ETN Project: Expansion of the Standardization of the Terrestrial Ecosystems to include all Ecosystems in Central America

Project Manager: Dr. Steven R. Schill, Senior Scientist, The Nature Conservancy

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Summary

To help fulfill the objectives of the IABIN Ecosystem Thematic Network (ETN), The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has recently submitted a proposal to standardize the 53 terrestrial ecosystems that fall within the Central American Pine-Oak ecoregion and enter them into the IABIN standard format. The data that will be used standardized to the IABIN ETN format comes from the recently completed Central America ecoregional biodiversity and threat assessment, a project where TNC and partners identified and mapped ecosystems using a combination of land cover and biophysical factors such as climate, geology, and elevation. This proposal is being submitted to request additional funding to expand this work beyond the 53 ecosystems in the Central American Pine-Oak ecoregion, to include an additional eighteen terrestrial ecosystems within Central America. Including these additional ecoregions would expand the standardization classification to over 500 ecosystems.

In addition to applying the IABIN ETN standard format to eighteen additional ecoregions, the Mesoamerica & Caribbean Region Science Team will provide the existing ecosystem map as an internet map service through our external data portal and hosting institution. TNC will ensure data quality via expert review and corresponding metadata will be developed utilizing IABIN standards. All data developed for this project will be made freely available to the public through our external data portal. The team will submit regular progress reports to IABIN to ensure timely delivery of all products and fulfill the 1:1 co-financing match requirement. The proposed completion date for this project is November 1, 2009.

In summary, we propose to complete the following deliverables:

- 1) Organize and upload all Central America terrestrial ecoregions data into the web-based IABIN ETN standard format. The terrestrial standard format template will be filled out up to level four for each class in the ecosystem classification. The system of ecosystem classification to be used will be based on the following documents;
 - a. Vreugdenhil, Daan, Jan Meerman, Alain Meyrat, Luis Diego Gómez, and Douglas J. Graham. 2002. *Map of the Ecosystems of Central America: Final Report*. World Bank, Washington, D.C.,
 - b. World Bank and CCAD. 2000. "Ecosystems of Central America (ArcView regional mapFiles at: 1:250,000)." World Bank, Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD), World Institute for Conservation and Environment (WICE), and the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE), Washington, D.C. (<http://www.worldbank.org/ca-env>)

The ecosystems within each ecoregion will be completed in two phases according to the following Schedule:

Phase 1 (completed by August 15, 2009)

Central American montane forests
Chiapas montane forests
Chimalapas montane forests

Chocó-Darién moist forests
 Costa Rican seasonal moist forests
 Eastern Panamanian montane forests
 Isthmian-Pacific moist forests
 Sierra Madre de Chiapas moist forests
 Talamancan montane forests

Phase 2 (completed October 15, 2009)

Belizean pine forests
 Central American Atlantic moist forests
 Central American dry forests
 Central American pine-oak forests
 Chiapas Depression dry forests
 Isthmian-Atlantic moist forests
 Miskito pine forests
 Motagua Valley thronscrub
 Panamanian dry forests
 Peten-Veracruz moist forests

- 2) All products developed for this project will be accompanied with IABIN standard metadata. The metadata documents will be delivered in XML format and will be made publically available through the web mapping portal.
- 3) All data developed for this project will be made freely available to the public through an external web mapping portal developed with Open Source standards. TNC will host the data on a web map service that will be linked directly to the IABIN portal.

Schedule

Service	Deliverable(s)	Due Date
1. Apply the standard format to each ecosystem for nine terrestrial ecoregions	1. Completed ETN web template properly filled out to level four: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Central American montane forests b. Chiapas montane forests c. Chimalapas montane forests d. Chocó-Darién moist forests e. Costa Rican seasonal moist forests f. Eastern Panamanian montane forests g. Isthmian-Pacific moist forests h. Sierra Madre de Chiapas moist forests i. Talamancan montane forests 	August 15, 2009
2. Apply the standard format to each ecosystem for ten terrestrial ecoregions	2. Completed ETN web template properly filled out to level four: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Belizean pine forests b. Central American Atlantic moist forests c. Central American dry forests d. Central American pine-oak forests e. Chiapas Depression dry forests f. Isthmian-Atlantic moist forests 	October 15, 2009

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Miskito pine forests h. Motagua Valley thronscrub i. Panamian dry forests j. Peten-Veracruz moist forest 	
3. Metadata	3. IABIN standard metadata for all products delivered	October 15, 2009
4. Internet web mapping application and link to IABIN portal.	4. Design and development of web mapping application and link to IABIN portal.	October 15, 2009
5. Project Final Report	5. Project Final Report (financial and technical included).	November 1, 2009

Budget

To complete the additional eighteen ecoregions, TNC is requesting funding of \$US 15,000. TNC is committed to have the co-financing match of \$US15,000 based on the 1:1 requirement.