



# Boletín DE NOTICIAS

**Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica**  
1st Quarterly Bulletin, 2019  
Summary of Spanish text



## 1. Our New Board Members

We warmly welcome our new members *Macaw Lodge* and *La Tigra Rainforest Lodge*, both tourism companies with outstanding biodiversity programs. Both have been invited to join our board.

## 2. Focus on Panama

In our region, each country has its own character and specific circumstances. To achieve awareness, gain members and create business and biodiversity initiatives requires a sustained effort. In the case of Panama, we have organized a series of events since 2018.

On February 20, we invited businesses to our event “Biodiversity: Challenge and Opportunity for Business, and for the Country”. Our board member Rafael Gallo, founder of *Rios Tropicales* (Tropical Rivers) rafting and environmental tourism company, gave an inspiring account of his sustained efforts to reforest abandoned pasture land with native species, resulting in remarkable increases in biodiversity and changes in the attitudes of local communities.





During this event (hosted by the leading law firm *Morgan & Morgan*), *BPM* and the Minister of the Environment signed an agreement of cooperation in developing environmental project with a focus on biodiversity conservation and restoration.

On February 25, *BPM* organized an event in the Panamanian San San-Pond Sak wetlands (province Bocas del Toro), in cooperation with the German embassy, the ministry of the environment, the local community organization *AAMVECONA*, and the indigenous agricultural cooperative *COOBANA*. We have since submitted a funding proposal aiming to achieve more effective collaborations in protecting the endangered biodiversity of these Ramsar wetlands. Together we celebrated the start of *AAMVECONA*'s annual campaign to protect the leatherback turtles on the Caribbean beaches of the wetlands.



In February we also held a workshop on Business and Biodiversity (“Sustainability with Biodiversity”) at the offices of *CECOM-RO*, a dynamic business association in the Pacific region of Chiriquí. Our proposals were met with great interest. *CECOM-RO*'s board offered *BPM* a MOU of collaboration, a valuable basis for future joint projects (the agreement has since been signed).



*CECOM-RO meeting in David (Panama)*

### 3. Dominican Republic

“A future for the hill country” – a partnership for biodiversity and social development.

This remarkable initiative, established by *BPM*'s leading Dominican member Jesús Moreno (*Grupo La Loma*), aims to provide 200 smallholder families with an income from perennial and organic macadamia nut production, in a region of considerable poverty and unemployment. The project also encourages businesses to contribute to the success of this project, which is fully aligned with sustainable development objectives, reducing poverty and restoring biodiversity at a landscape level.

Organic macadamia nut orchards have the potential to provide small holders with a **long-term source of income** and contribute to **biodiversity** and **water conservation**.



This project is located in the municipality of San José de las Matas (province Santiago). Macadamia orchards are a valuable alternative to the predominant cattle ranching land use, which provides little employment, is associated with soil loss and erosion, and endangers water sources.

Germany's GIZ is playing an active role in supporting this project and in providing the technical evidence of the biodiversity and social benefits. The *Consortio Ambiental Dominicano* (Environmental Consortium) played a pioneering role, and the *Ministry of Agriculture* has provided valuable support. Our sincere congratulations to all involved!

### 4. Costa Rica

*BPM* and the *PROCOMER*, the government's agency for the promotion of small business exports, invited members of *CPFFCR*, the association of Costa Rican flower, foliage and plant exporters to a workshop on biodiversity: “Biodiversity and Commerce: A business perspective”. Our speakers illustrated the commercial value of good environmental practices and



particularly biodiversity conservation in markets (such as the EU) where environmental criteria are of growing importance, and where the value of biodiversity is increasingly recognized by consumers and retailers.

Costa Rican growers, who are affected by intense low-cost competition in international markets, are in a position to adopt biodiversity conservation as part of a differentiated marketing strategy, subject to integrating good biodiversity practices in their policies and production systems. Our dialogue with the community of SME exporters will continue!

## 5. BPM's Collaboration with Colombia

BPM's presence at the COP14 events in Egypt (November 2018), as chair 2018-19 of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, provided an opportunity to propose a regional Latin American Business and Biodiversity event, jointly with the *Secretariat of the Convention of Biodiversity (CBD)* and Colombia's famous *Humboldt Institute*.

A commission including the Colombian environment ministry has been established with the aim of holding the event in October 2019 in the Colombian city of Cali.

*Are you interested in being part of the BPM?  
Get in touch with the Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica team:*



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The Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM) is a model of public-private partnerships for development, created in 2012, which seeks the conservation and regeneration of biological diversity as a key element in business - with people and for people. Its scope of action covers the Mesoamerican region from Mexico to Panama.

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