



Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica: 2015 Overview

About Biodiversity Partnership Mesoamerica (BPM)

BPM is based in Central America, a region of small countries and great tropical biodiversity, ranging from Southern Mexico to Panama. Our core conviction is that without the intervention of farmers, other land users and businesses of all kinds, the decay of biodiversity will continue unabated, with grave damage to the economy and to the quality of life of the region's inhabitants. Society needs the private sector to participate in the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. BPM's role and responsibility is to encourage and enable businesses in our region to play a role in conserving and where possible restoring the bountiful biodiversity of Mesoamerica.

BPM was founded in 2012 and has 27 members. Our organization is in several ways different from other Global Partnership members:

- We are a regional organization, supported by the intergovernmental institutions of Central America, and committed to extending our work across the region from Mexico to Panama.
- Our membership is diverse, including government institutions, businesses, NGOs, universities and individual citizens. We consider that this diversity is a great asset that enables us to build alliances which multiply our resources and impact. We attach great importance to collaborating with local people: "With the community and for the community".
- A particular feature of BPM, of which we are particularly proud, is the energetic support we are receiving from the German government's GIZ.

2015 Results

2015 has been a year of consolidation and reorganization:

To ensure a high level of cooperation and transparency in our BPM-GIZ alliance, we jointly crafted and signed an Agreement of Collaboration. This has given a valuable new impulse to our activities.

A considerable joint effort of BPM and the GIZ DABío team has expanded our regional activities to Honduras and the Dominican Republic. In each case we have developed valuable contacts with the government authorities, the business sector and relevant local organizations, discussed opportunities for biodiversity partnerships, provided information on BPM's aims and purpose, and created a solid foundation to build on in 2016. New members have joined.

A highlight was the conference on Tourism and Biodiversity in the Dominican Republic organized by the GIZ DABIO team.

To refresh BPM's purpose and implementation strategy, commissions of members worked hard to develop an action plan, a 5-year vision, services to members, and improvements to organization and finances.

BPM participated at the Business and Biodiversity conference in Helsinki, and became a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Partnership.

2016 Priorities

Our priorities for 2016 are organized in the following categories:

1. Administration
2. Planning and Coordination
3. Results
 - Services for members (Communication & Information, Co-Financing for leadership projects)
 - Regional development
 - Build on foundations in Costa Rica, Honduras, Dominican Republic
 - Evaluate Panama, Nicaragua
 - Alliances and agreements
 - Global Partnership
 - Executive Committee
 - Knowledge Exchange and Financing working groups
 - COP 13 event & participation