

Name of the TSCC: CCAD Subregional Center for Technical and Scientific

Assistance Reporting period: 2025–2026

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Part I. Background on the TSCC

Introduction

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022 marked a global milestone in the fight against biodiversity loss and in building societies that live in harmony with nature by 2050. In this context, the accreditation of the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) as the host institution of the Subregional Technical-Scientific Support Center (TSCC) in June 2024 represented a decisive step for the SICA region. Subsequently, the start of operations in August 2025 and the official launch in September 2025 consolidated the launch of a regional mechanism specializing in technical and scientific cooperation.

The TSCC currently serves six member countries: Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. These countries, characterized by their extraordinary biological richness and high vulnerability to climate change, find in the Center a space for coordination and capacity building to effectively implement the Global Biodiversity Framework and their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The key results of the needs assessment have made it possible to define priority areas of focus. These include establishing the Center's governance structure, identifying gaps in national NBSAPs, and developing technical and scientific assistance plans tailored to each country's realities. Furthermore, progress has been made in engaging and working with sectors traditionally less connected to biodiversity, such as agriculture and the private sector, recognizing that sustainability requires the active participation of all social and economic actors.

In this way, the TSCC positions itself as a regional catalyst that promotes cooperation, innovation, and inclusion, laying the groundwork for transforming international commitments into tangible and sustainable results for Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Part II. Report on Results

1. Operationalization of the TSCC

Result 1: The TSCC achieves operational milestones and establishes itself as a functional support center for the SICA region

Outputs	Status	Details
R1.P1. Internal and operational functioning of the center Implementing	In progress	The subregional center currently has an internal and operational structure consisting of the subregional center's management, 2 technical assistants, 1 scientific assistant, and 1 communications officer, who are currently driving the center's activities.
R1.P.2 Work plan developed and validated	Completed	The work plan was developed for the 2025–2026 period and validated internally, in coordination with the governance structure and global coordination.
R1.P.3 Memorandum of understanding signed and in effect	Completed	The memorandum of understanding was signed in February 2026 and is currently in full force, constituting a formal framework for cooperation among the parties involved. This

		legal instrument not only establishes shared commitments and responsibilities but also provides legitimacy and stability to the actions promoted by the subregional center in the region. Its validity ensures the continuity of coordination processes and facilitates the implementation of joint activities, strengthening trust among national and international actors. Furthermore, it represents a solid foundation for expanding strategic partnerships and ensuring the sustainability of ongoing programs.
R1.P.4 Working group (steering committee) established	Completed	The steering committee has been established and is composed of CBD focal points, assisted by those supporting the implementation of national NBSAPs and the inclusion of women and indigenous peoples.
R1.P.5 Center advisory group established	In progress	The technical assistance mechanism promoted by the subregional center is in the final stages of refinement, with the aim of ensuring that different national sectors can submit their requests in an orderly, transparent, and efficient manner. This process seeks to establish clear access criteria, define appropriate communication channels, and ensure that requests for support are integrated into the center's strategic planning. The intention is for every institution, regardless of its level of technical expertise or existing capacity, to have the opportunity to articulate its needs and receive timely support. At the same time, the mechanism is intended to function as a coordination tool, enabling the identification of common priorities and promoting intersectoral cooperation. Once consolidated, this system will not only facilitate the management of requests but will also strengthen the center's legitimacy as a regional technical reference point, capable of responding inclusively and effectively to biodiversity challenges.
R1.P.6 Technical and scientific staff dedicated to the center's work	Completed	Currently, there are 3 staff members funded for a fixed term for the subregional center: 2 until 2026 and 1 until 2027. Additionally, support is provided by the communications team.
Additional outcome(s)		

What has worked well, ongoing challenges, and possible solutions

2. Visibility and responsiveness

Outcome 2: The center is recognized as a visible and responsive support center for Technical and Scientific Cooperation in the SICA region

Outputs	Status	Details
R2.P2.1 Communication strategy developed and implemented	In progress	Work is currently underway on the subregional center's communication strategy, which will be validated internally.

R2.P2.2 National launch of the regional center	Completed	The subregional center was launched in September 2025, with the support of the region's council of environment ministers and the necessary political and environmental backing.
R2.P2.3 Technical and scientific assistance mechanism established	In progress	The mechanism is being finalized so that different sectors can submit their requests for assistance.
R2.P 2.4 Stakeholder inventory and coordination scheme validated with stakeholders	In progress	Through various national meetings, an inventory of the different sectors and stakeholders is being compiled and is currently being systematized.
Additional outcome(s)		

What has worked well, ongoing challenges, and possible solutions

One of the greatest challenges faced by the subregional center has been communicating and ensuring understanding of its nature, functions, and relevance within the regional framework. On the one hand, there is widespread unfamiliarity with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its specific implications for various national sectors. This lack of familiarity with international commitments directly affects how the subregional center's role is perceived, as many stakeholders still fail to grasp its importance as a technical and scientific body supporting countries. Consequently, this leads to information gaps, unclear expectations, and limited ownership of the processes the center promotes. Recognizing this situation, a comprehensive communication strategy is currently being launched to raise awareness of the center's work and facilitate a better understanding of its objectives and contributions. This strategy includes the use of social media, newsletters, and the organization of webinars aimed at various audiences, including government institutions, civil society, the private sector, and academia. The goal is to build a clear and accessible narrative that demonstrates how the center contributes to the fulfillment of international commitments and regional coordination. Furthermore, these communication channels are expected to promote the participation of national stakeholders, build trust, and strengthen the center's legitimacy as a technical reference point. Ultimately, overcoming this challenge involves not only informing but also educating and raising awareness, so that the center is recognized as a strategic ally in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework and in building more inclusive and effective environmental governance.

3. Partnership Development and Resource Mobilization

Outcome 3: The center begins developing partnerships and identifying and developing long-term resource mobilization strategies,

Outcomes	Status	Details
R3.P3.1 Financial sustainability plan for the subregional plan developed	In progress	Technical assistance to develop the financial sustainability plan for the subregional center is set to begin.
RP3.3.2 Resource mobilization plan	In progress	Technical assistance to develop the financial sustainability plan for the subregional center is currently set to begin.
R3.P3.3 Relationships and collaboration frameworks with external partners	In progress	The subregional center has been in contact with various external partners, including GIZ, IUCN, Expertise France, JICA, and FAO, among others, with whom it is coordinating the development of funded or joint initiatives.

R3.P3.4 Effective coordination with other for the implementation of joint actions	In progress	We are currently in constant communication and exchange with the Humboldt and CARICOM centers every two months, planning joint activities.
R.3. P3.5 The center's presence and positioning at international and regional events	In progress	An initial presence was established at the 2025 Climate Change COP through side events. Coming soon will be position at COP17 on biodiversity
Additional result(s)	The environment-agriculture agenda for the SICA region was recently signed, with one of its main objectives being the implementation of the Kumming-Montreal Global Framework.	

What has worked well, ongoing challenges, and possible solutions

The biggest challenge today remains securing stable and sustainable funding for the center's staff. Most funders and donors focus their contributions on one-off activities, specific projects, or short-term initiatives, which creates a high dependence on external calls for proposals and funding cycles. This situation limits the center's ability to build a permanent technical team with full-time staff and long-term continuity, capable of ensuring the comprehensive implementation of programs and coordination with member countries. The lack of resources to cover basic staff salaries and benefits directly affects institutional capacity, strategic planning, and the ability to monitor long-term processes. Therefore, it is a priority to design innovative funding strategies, diversify sources of support, and establish agreements that ensure the sustainability of human resources as the backbone of the center.

4. Technical and Scientific Cooperation and Technology Transfer

Outcome 4: The center initiates technical and scientific cooperation activities within the SICA region

Outputs	Status	Details
R4. P4.1 National technical assistance plans developed	In progress	Plans for Panama and the Dominican Republic are currently being developed. Those for Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica will be developed in May
R4.P4.2 Resources mobilized for technical and scientific cooperation	In progress	Resources have been mobilized with the European Union through Expertise France, GIZ, IUCN, and JICA. Consequently, an initial budget is available for the subregional center to cover training, technical assistance requested by the countries, and other activities
R4. P4.3 Capacity-building program developed and implemented	In progress	Upon completion of the national workshops in May, a detailed list of capacity-building activities will be compiled. Assistance has currently been provided to El Salvador and Honduras regarding specific indicators. Additionally, actions will be developed with the Bioma Network at the regional level for the collection and monitoring of biodiversity data to meet the indicators.
R4. P4.4 Program for exchange program with other subregional centers developed and implemented	In progress	An exchange with the European Center is being planned for June, aimed at strengthening international cooperation and fostering joint learning regarding the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. This meeting will facilitate the sharing of

		experiences, methodologies, and innovative approaches that have yielded positive results in the European context, with the aim of adapting them to the realities of the region. Additionally, a similar exchange with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is planned for the near future, which will expand opportunities for collaboration and consolidate stronger, more sustainable networks.
R4. P4.5 System for the exchange of best practices and lessons implemented	In progress	Preparations are underway for a major regional exchange to be held in November, which will bring together various stakeholders from the region to share best practices and lessons learned in implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework. This event aims to serve as a platform for dialogue and cooperation, where countries can present successful experiences, identify common challenges, and explore innovative solutions to strengthen environmental management. The dynamics of the exchange will highlight local and national initiatives that have generated positive impacts, while fostering the development of collective lessons applicable in different contexts. Furthermore, this meeting is expected to help consolidate collaboration networks among government institutions, civil society, the private sector, and academia, promoting a more integrated and participatory approach. In short, the September exchange represents a strategic opportunity to move toward more inclusive and effective environmental governance.
R5. P4.6 Mechanism for Technology Transfer Mechanism implemented for the application of the MGKM	In progress	Currently in development, the environmental AND initiative is being launched in a cross-border area of El Salvador. This pilot project involves the identification and quantification of biodiversity in the area and will be presented at the exchange scheduled for November.
Additional Outcome(s)		

What has worked well, ongoing challenges, and possible solutions

Part III. Summary of Key Achievements and Challenges

1. Key achievements during the 2025–2026 biennium

Achievement 1: Establishment of a governance system

Given that CCAD has 35 years of experience working in the region under the Central American Integration System, the steering committee is integrated into CCAD's governance structure, which is headed by the region's Council of Environment Ministers and led by the Executive Secretariat. The center's governance structure includes CBD focal points, as well as representatives of women and indigenous peoples, the latter of whom are in the process of being incorporated into the center's governance.

Achievement 2: Review of NBSAP gaps among the parties

Based on the workshops conducted with the countries to which the center provides assistance, a regional map of challenges has been consolidated, most of which exhibit common patterns. This analysis allows for the strategic identification of specific technical and scientific assistance activities, as well as the efficient channelling of identified needs to the various cooperation partners

Achievement 3: Definition of technical and scientific assistance priorities

National technical and scientific assistance plans are currently under development. This process is carried out through national workshops with the participation of the competent authority and the sectors involved. Based on the national NBSAP, the support needs to be addressed by the subregional center are being prioritized.

Achievement 3: Coordination and collaboration with subregional centers in the LAC region

In coordination with the Humboldt and CARICOM subregional centers, fluid and systematic communication is maintained, complemented by monthly meetings aimed at exchanging experiences and jointly planning initiatives for the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, including strategic forums such as the donor roundtable and COP 17.

Achievement 3: Political Positioning

The subregional center enjoys solid political backing from the region's Council of Environment Ministers, which constitutes a fundamental pillar of its legitimacy and capacity for action. This support translates into a relationship of trust and ongoing coordination, in which ministers receive detailed information on the progress, results, and impacts generated by the center. These reports, presented systematically every six months, allow not only for an account of the achievements made but also for highlighting pending challenges and opportunities for improvement. The feedback obtained in these forums strengthens coordination with national and regional policies, ensuring that the center's actions are aligned with the strategic priorities of member countries. Furthermore, this political link helps consolidate the center's position as a technical reference and regional coordinator, capable of influencing high-level decision-making processes.

2. Key Challenges for the 2025–2026 Biennium and the Way Forward

Challenge 1: Engagement of diverse stakeholders and sectors, beyond the environmental sector

The agricultural sector, local communities, and the private productive and industrial sectors are not yet fully engaged in the implementation of, or making an effective contribution toward, the achievement of the targets on which they are required to report. *150 words*

Challenge 2: Understanding and evaluating the Kuming Montreal indicators

Sectors involved at the national level still face significant limitations in understanding their connection to the Global Biodiversity Framework indicators. In many cases, there is no clear recognition of the specific role that each institution or sector must play, nor how their contribution directly contributes to the generation of reliable information for the indicators and to the official report submitted to the focal point of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This lack of understanding creates gaps in intersectoral coordination and weakens countries' ability to fully meet their international commitments. Furthermore, the absence of a shared vision leads to fragmented efforts and results in reported data that lacks consistency and comparability. Overcoming this challenge requires strengthening awareness-raising, training, and coordination processes so that each sector assumes its responsibility and becomes an active participant within the national and regional reporting system.

150 words

Challenge 3: Institutional Fragmentation

Currently, there is insufficient coordination among national institutions to ensure compliance with the Global Biodiversity Framework, which represents a significant limitation in the region. This lack of inter-institutional coordination hinders the systematic collection and reporting of indicators, leading to information gaps and delays in presenting results at the international level. Likewise, the absence of a shared vision means that action plans are often developed from a highly sectoral perspective, focused primarily on the environmental sphere, without adequately integrating the social, economic, and productive dimensions that are essential for the effective implementation of the Framework. Although mechanisms for participation and spaces for dialogue exist, these do not always translate into joint planning processes or sustainable commitments. The challenge, therefore, is to move toward a more inclusive and cross-cutting governance model that allows for the coordination of national and regional efforts.

Challenge 3: Funding for the technical team

Currently, there is limited funding covering a maximum period of two years for the hiring of a scientific advisor, which ensures a certain level of continuity in specialized technical support. However, regarding the center's general technical assistance, available resources are sufficient for only one year, highlighting the institution's financial fragility. This situation poses a significant challenge to the sustainability of activities and the consolidation of a stable team. Securing new sources of support and diversifying partnerships to ensure the retention of key staff is a priority.