

MAP OF THE ECOSYSTEMS OF CENTRAL AMERICA

FINAL REPORT

Ecologists have long recognized the importance of a regional approach in trying to understand, monitor, conserve, and sustainably use the rich biodiversity resources of Central America. More than half of the region's land area has already been substantially modified by humans, and remaining areas of natural habitat are under relentless pressure.

The Central American Ecosystems Mapping Project, inspired by the framework of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, was a team effort by the biodiversity and environmental institutions of the Central American countries and their coordinating institution, the *Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo* (CCAD). The result is the first comprehensive and detailed description of the region's ecosystems and their distribution. This information helps establish a modern baseline of the status of the region's biodiversity, and can be used as the basis for national and regional biological monitoring programs, as well as aiding in threat assessment and land-use planning.

For more information on the *Map of the Ecosystems of Central America*, including access to maps, database files, and associated reports, visit the World Bank's web site for environmental projects in Central America: <http://www.worldbank.org/ca-env>.



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