

# Technical Cooperation Projects in Costa Rica

Japan International Cooperation Agency



## **Project : Promotion to Participative Management in Biodiversity Conservation**

### **Background**

Costa Rica has some 95,000 species of flora and fauna, including 235 endangered species in the IUCN Red List, which makes Costa Rica one of the mega-diverse countries in the world. Costa Rica has maintained an important conservation policy since the mid 1980's.

Environmental conservation and sustainable development are prioritized as one of the main themes in the National Development Plan 2010-2014.

According to these efforts, the forest area increased in 2010 to 52% and 26% of mainland was declared as protected areas (hereafter called "ASP").

Costa Rica established the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) in 1998, which

according to the law of biodiversity that is legally creates a decentralized and participatory therefore promotes participatory conservation in conjunction with various stakeholders, creating local councils , Regional and National Conservation Areas.

However, the management of ASPs where communities living in these areas are an integral part of its management requires strengthening by improving the processes of participation and collaboration.

Therefore SINAC and JICA implemented the Project for Participatory Management of National Wildlife Refuge Barra del Colorado, (REBACO) from 2008 to 2011. This project developed staff capabilities in the Tortuguero Conservation Area (ACTo)



regarding REBACO participatory management, through the promotion of Integrated Farms, environmental education and collaborative activities. However, there still exist some issues that require attention, such as the analysis of the impact of integrated farms and the review of existing legislation to analyze the possibility of greater flexibility in the use of natural resources within private farms, taking into account its location in ASPs.

Furthermore, JICA recognizes that the experiences and efforts of Costa Rica for the conservation of biodiversity are handy for other countries that want to conserve biodiversity and JICA expected to Costa Rica is a significant partner to disseminate knowledge on the subject.

In this context, the Government of Costa Rica and the Government of Japan agreed to develop a new technical cooperation project, which shall facilitate the improvement of participatory management of biodiversity in Costa Rica and share the knowledge of their advanced experience in the conservation of it with other countries,

especially in Central America.

This request agrees with the main policy of the Government of Japan for the Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Costa Rica, which coincides in supporting sustainable development focused on environmental issues, including biodiversity conservation.



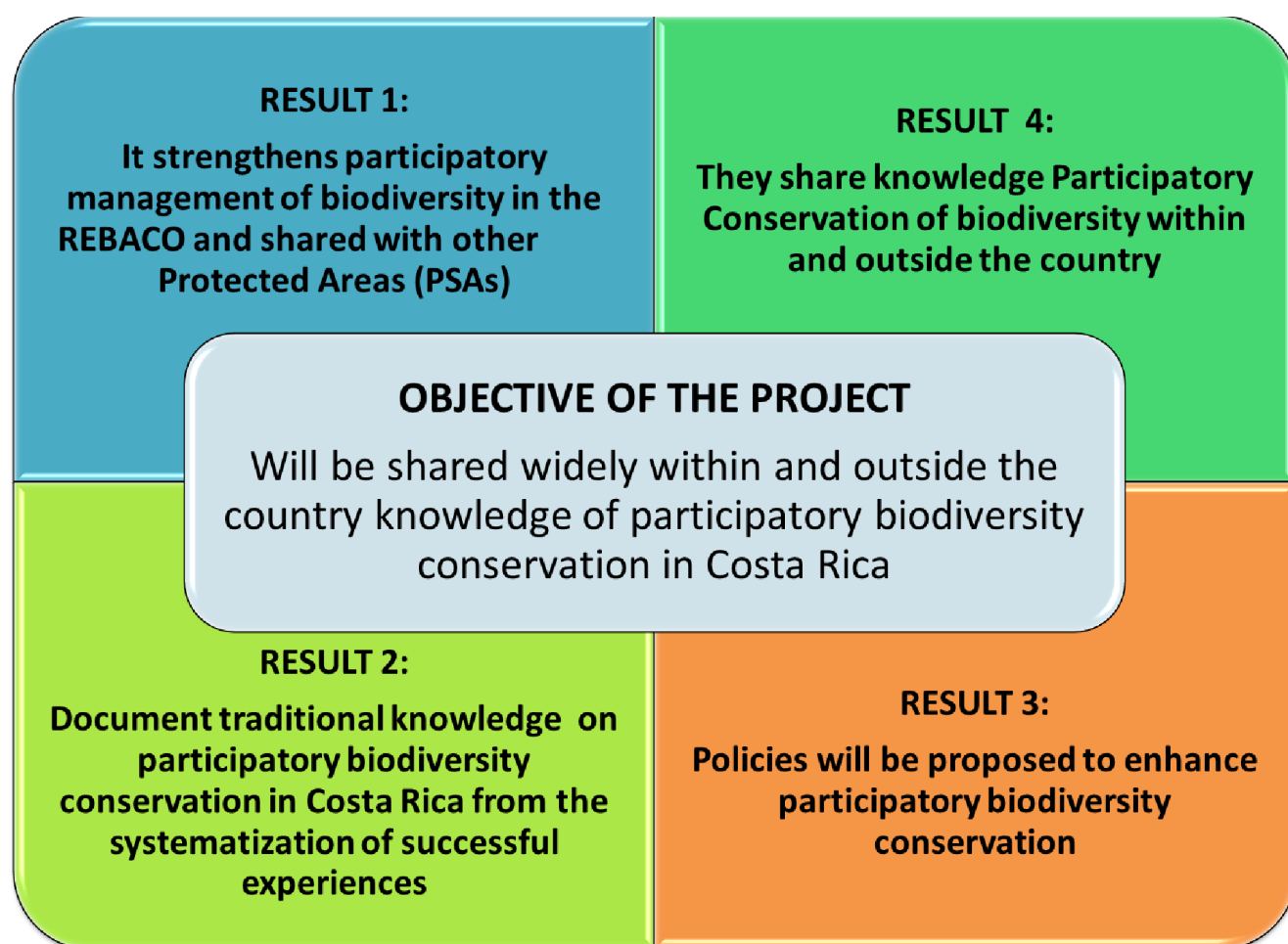
## New Project Start

With the arrival of long-term expert, Sr.Masaki Osawa began, officially, the new technical cooperation project of the International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Costa Rica called "Project for the Promotion of Participatory Management in Biodiversity Conservation "(2013 ~ 2018).

The target is to share within and outside the country the knowledge of participatory management of biodiversity conservation in Costa Rica.

This will be achieved by the systematization of experiences that exist widely throughout Costa Rican society.

One of the expected results of this project are to develop policy proposals to promote participatory management of biodiversity conservation and dissemination of good practices in the country, including the National Wildlife Refuge Barra del Colorado.



Internationally recognized that Costa Rica has a wide experience of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources based on participation, and I am sure that these experiences are extremely important inside and outside the country to promote conservation. The "Project for the Promotion of Participatory Management in Biodiversity Conservation" is a challenge for the International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to leave a mark on the history of conservation in Costa Rica and invite other nations to search a path for sustainable development



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Project Objective :Share knowledge (knowledge) on participatory conservation of biodiversity in Costa Rica widely within and outside the country.

