

Biodiversity in banana and pineapple value chains

The goals of Del Campo al Plato

In the project, **biodiversity conservation** and related **ecosystem services** are successfully integrated into banana and pineapple value chains. Biodiversity protection measures are implemented in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. Recommendations for **improving biodiversity criteria** have been developed and standards and companies motivated to take them into account in certifications and procurement requirements. A **communication campaign** is being implemented in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and Sweden.

Del Campo al Plato addresses **key players** along the value chains. This includes food companies and retailers as well as consumers. The political partners of the project are the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica (MINAIE) and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic (MIMARENA).

The project is funded by the **International Climate Initiative IKI** with the support of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the environmental organizations Global Nature Fund and Lake Constance Foundation. The planned duration was from November 2018 to October 2022. The BMUV has agreed to **extend the project by one year** in order to continue the successful work and strengthen the impact of the project.



What has been achieved so far:

- **17 national and international food standards** were evaluated with regard to their criteria on biodiversity. The results were summarized in a baseline report. All standards received individual feedback with recommendations for improving the criteria.
- In a stakeholder process with actors in Germany, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, recommendations were published for effective biodiversity criteria in standards and procurement specifications. So far, four **international standards** have taken up recommendations and adapted their criteria with relevance to biodiversity.



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- As members of the association "**Food for Biodiversity e.V.**", companies, standards and NGOs in the food industry in Germany have committed to take a basic set of biodiversity criteria into account in the future.
- Companies along the value chains invested over **€1,000,000** in biodiversity measures. In addition, there are large-scale in-kind contributions within the framework of the BAP.

- **139 farms** have gone through the **Biodiversity Check Agricola (BCA)** by the end of 2021 and created a **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)** from the recommended and implemented measures. This involves improved management of biodiversity on farms as well as measures to improve agricultural practices in order to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity.



- **12 pilot farms** with numerous innovative measures for more biodiversity in banana and pineapple cultivation have formed a network and support the training measures.
- With **training modules** for agricultural advisors and farmers, 470 people from around 80 organizations have been trained and their knowledge on biodiversity has been significantly improved.
- A **Biodiversity Performance App** supports farms in recording and monitoring their biodiversity performance. It allows measures and results to be tracked, integrated into corporate reporting routines and reported on in a fact-based manner. Large plantations as well as small cooperatives can document their performance, manage it, communicate it to the market and add value to it.

- **32 producers** with a pro-biodiversity business approach were selected in the **Biodiversity Ideas Competition**. They invested around **640,000 EUR** in their projects and received the same amount for advice, as well as for material and equipment to implement the measures. The projects are diverse and wide-ranging.
- Two **biological corridors** have been established in **Costa Rica** ("Los Malecu" and "Río Parismina") and one in the **Dominican Republic** ("Río Jura"). With these corridors, ecosystems are interconnected and **ecosystem services** strengthened. This is important for the protection of endangered species and for the cultivation areas that depend on the ecosystem services. Companies in the food sector can invest in the maintenance of the corridors.



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- Plantation owners and producer groups have already **pledged financial resources** for the implementation of the biological corridors. Exporters, trading companies and food producers are invited to join in the financing of the corridors and "invest" in the **conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services**.

- In order to **raise awareness** of the **value of biodiversity** among more people, both in the growing regions and in the consumer countries, the project works closely with actors in the implementing countries and in Germany. We are a member of the **Sustainable Banana Action Alliance**, the **Food for Biodiversity Association** and the **Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative**. In the meantime, biodiversity is understood as a pressing topic. There is great openness for our concepts in the industry.

- **"Biodiversity bears fruit"** - the end consumer campaign for more biodiversity was launched in Germany, reaching over **1,000,000 consumers** in four weeks. Campaigns in Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic as well as other European countries have also been implemented. Seven major partners are involved. All others are invited to join. Customized modules are available.

- **CAP shows presence** at relevant events: IUCN meeting, COP26, Fruit Logistica, Fruit Attraction, Biofach and others. All **experiences are evaluated**, good practices are presented in regional and international networks and forums and producers in other regions are motivated to adopt them.



Project name	From Farm to Fork: Integrating biodiversity into agri-food value chains
On behalf of	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
Countries	Costa Rica and Dominican Republic
Counterpart	Ministry of Environment and Energy Costa Rica; Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Dominican Republic
Budget	5,000,000,000 € (5 million euros)
Duration	5 years: November 2018 until October 2023

Already 300,000 ha have been ecologically upgraded through project measures. More than 13,000 people in banana and pineapple farming have received direct support from the project.

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Further information:

Dr Thomas Schaefer,	Marion Hammerl,
Global Nature Fund	Lake Constance Foundation
+49 7732 9995-89	+49 7732 9995-45
schaefer@globalnature.org	marion.hammerl@bodensee-stiftung.de