



Landscape restoration in Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast (RACCN Nicaragua)

Melibea Gallo

Land use specialist

Forest Governance and Economy Unit

IUCN - Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

June 18, 2015 Washington D.C.

Objectives

Share IUCN experience defining Landscape Restoration Opportunity Areas in the Autonomous Region of the North Caribbean Coast (RACCN Nicaragua)

Remark on the importance of land tenure in determining landscape restoration processes in RACCN

RACCN Context



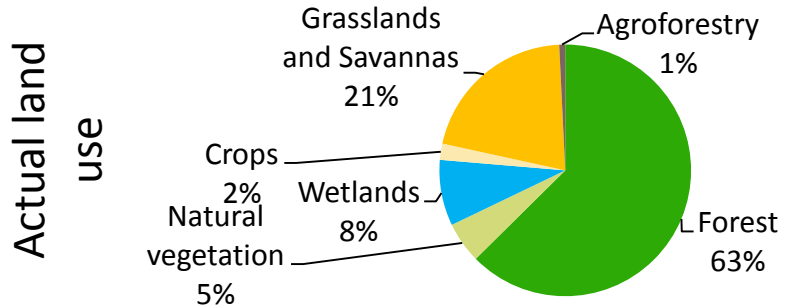
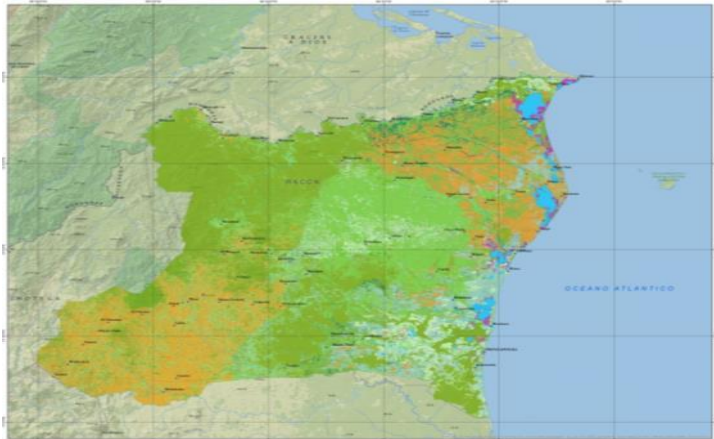
- 27% of Nicaraguan surface (33,000 km²)
- 43% of Nicaraguan forest cover.
- 400,000 people
 - 47% mestizos
 - 45% Miskitos
 - 6% Sumu - Mayangnas
 - 2% Creoles
- 3rd poorest region in Nicaragua

RAAN contribution to GDP

- fishing 40%
- forestry 30%
- livestock 21%
- agriculture 13%

RAAN families economy

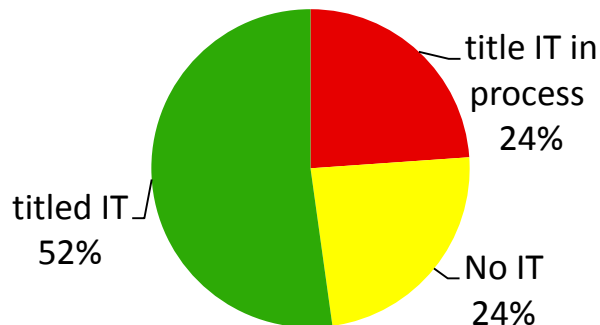
1. agriculture
2. livestock
3. fishing
4. forestry



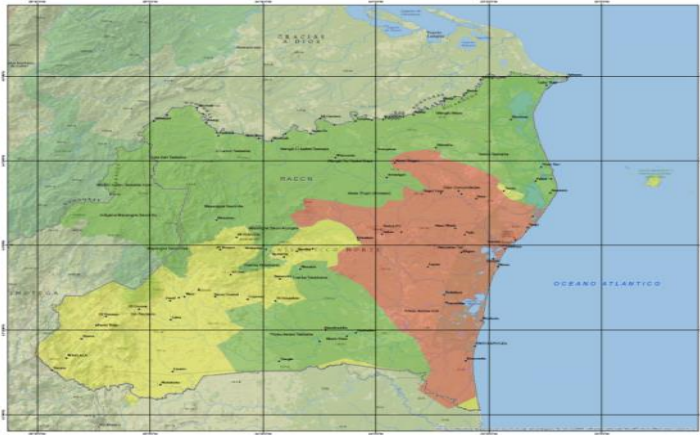
Land tenure and cultural groups



- 76% of RACCN area are Indigenous territories with communal property.
 - Legal certainty related to land titling
 - 17 titled indigenous and afro descendant territories
 - 19% of Nicaraguan land
 - 75% of RACCN land
 - 238 communities
 - 133850 people
- 24% are not areas claimed as indigenous territories



Indigenous and afro descendant territories

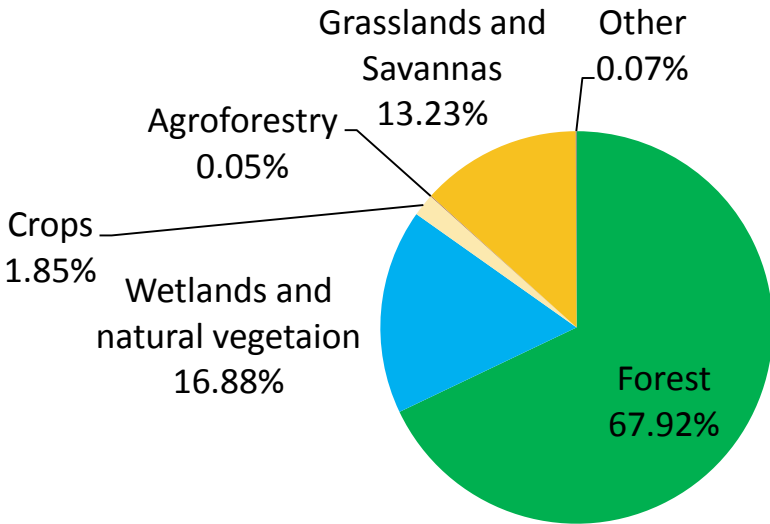


Republic Act guarantees indigenous peoples and ethnic communities full recognition of the rights of use, administration and management of traditional lands and natural resources...

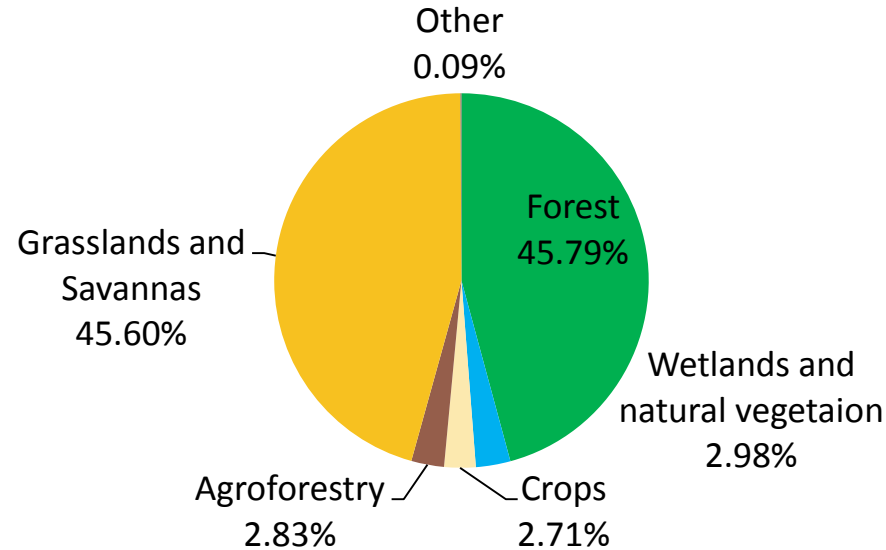
- ... but the process of immigration affects collective property, traditional land use and other customary traditions;
- logging companies are exploiting forest causing deforestation, degradation and loss of land rights of RAAN communities
- the last step of land titling is "sanitation" in which tenure conflict in IT are resolved, this has not yet happened

IT and forests

Land use in IT



Land use outside IT



Landscape restoration limiting factors

Cattle ranching (main cause)

Extraction of firewood and timber harvesting by private companies and illegal loggers

Occupation and illegal trade in properties

Increment in land rents (dedicated to farms and basic grains)

Lack of secure community land tenure

Lack of secure community land tenure

Loss of forest areas and biological diversity

Increased pests and disease vectors (loss of crops)

Impact on traditional livelihoods and collective practices (agriculture, forestry, hunting, collecting of fruits and plants)

Loss of solidarity and reciprocity in the community space.

Individual ownership over common property

Individual work over collective production

Immediate exploitation of resources over sustainable management

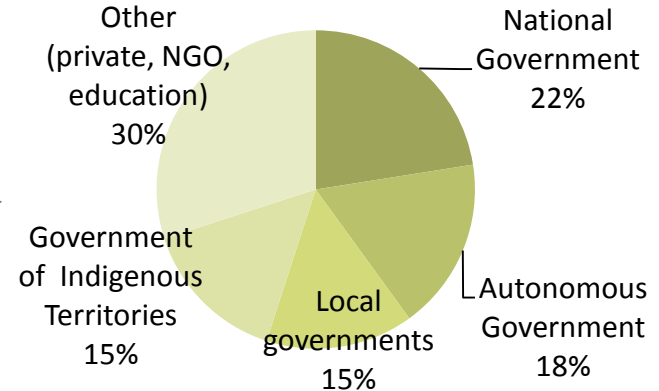
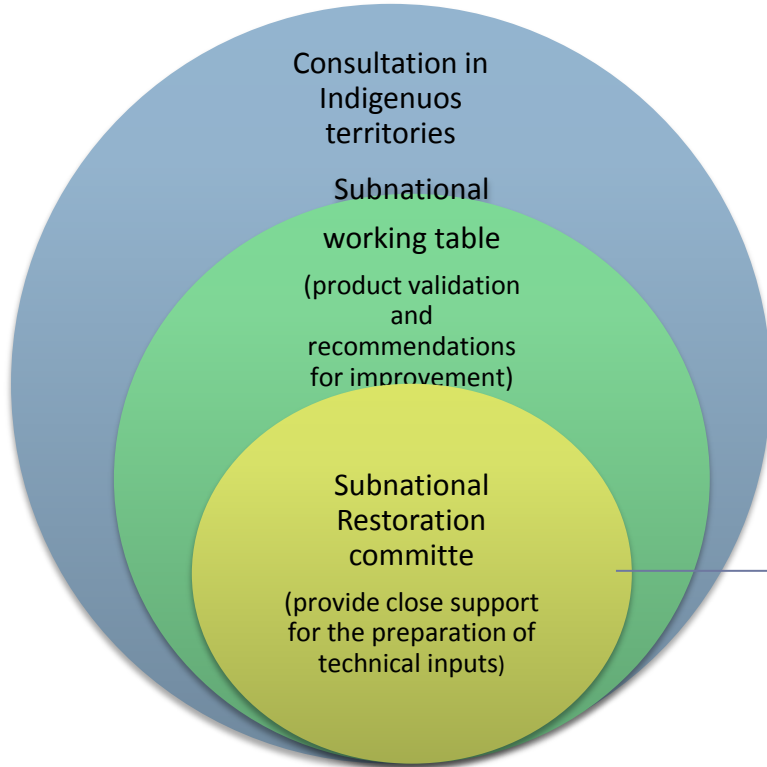
Individual decision over community assembly decision.

Impacts

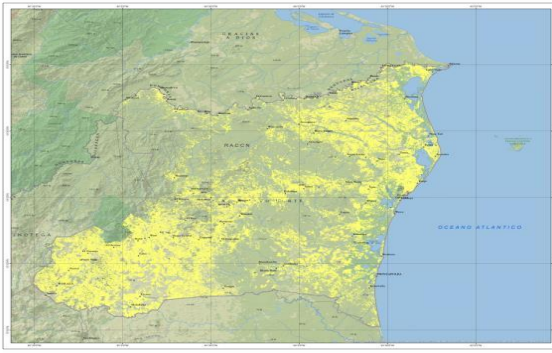
Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology

ROAM IN RACCN

Restoration participatory planning in RACCN

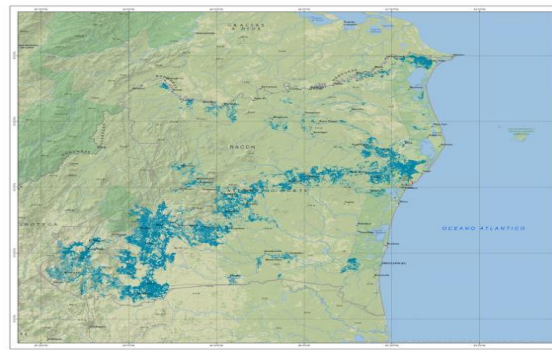


Land – use conflict



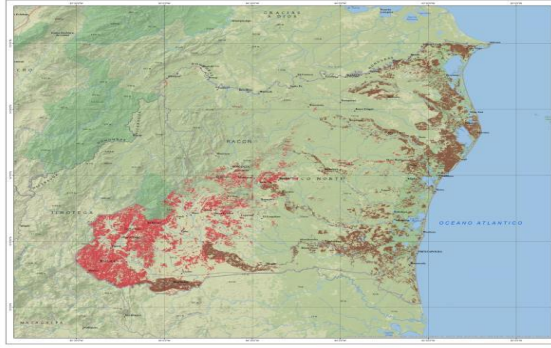
Restore areas whose potential use enhance the current use and key ecosystem services (35%)

Water supply and water bodies



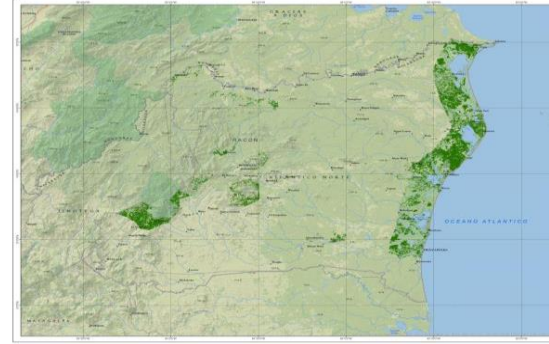
Restore areas that increase the availability of water for human consumption. Protection of water sources that supply production systems (12%)

Area susceptible to disasters



Restore areas to reduce landslide susceptibility and to improve flood and sedimentation control (17%)

Biodiversity and protected areas

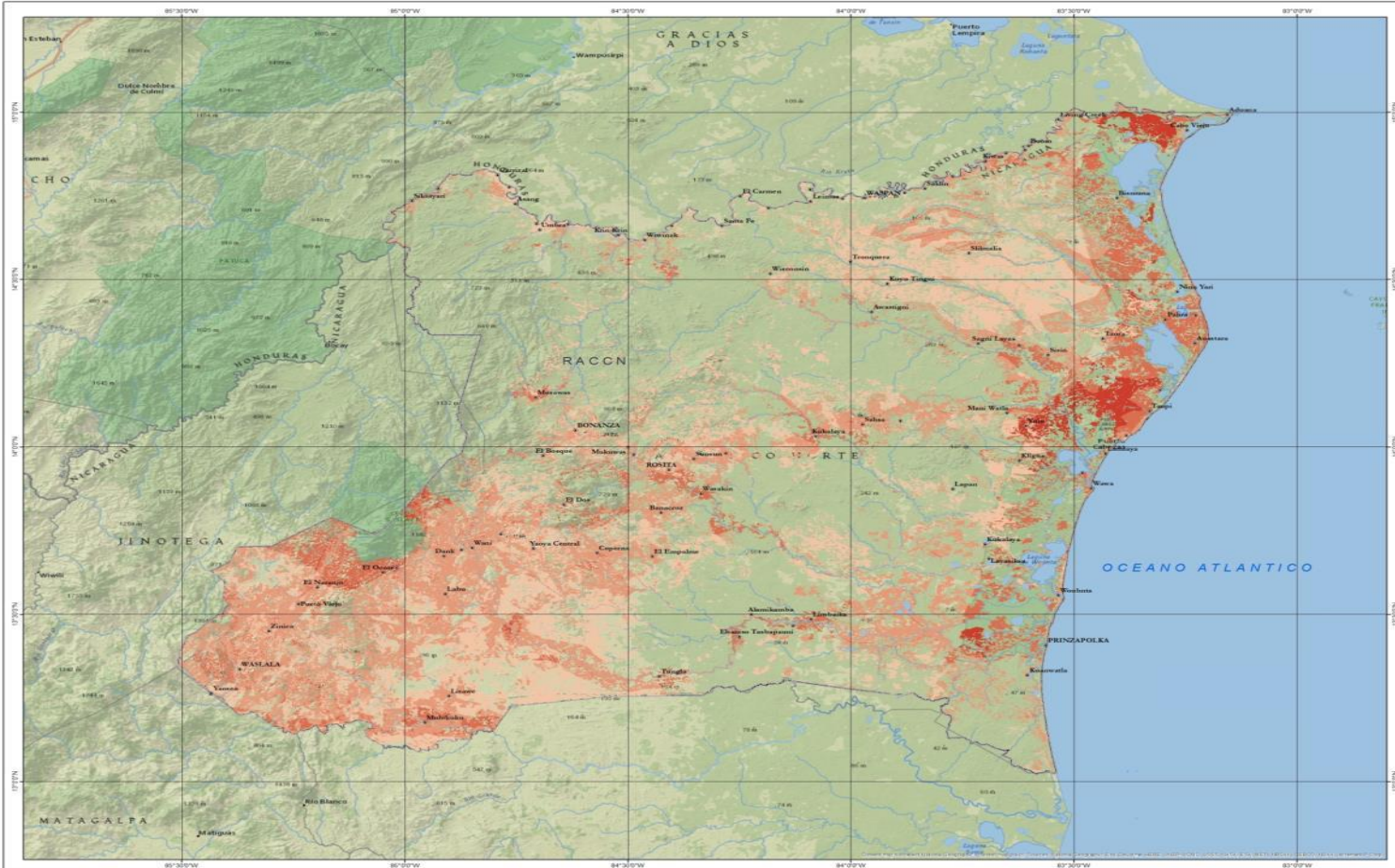
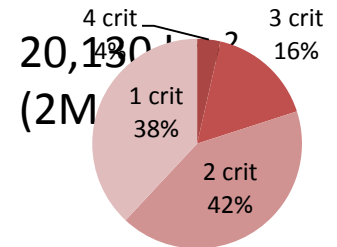


Restore areas to improve ecosystems and biodiversity conservation (6%)

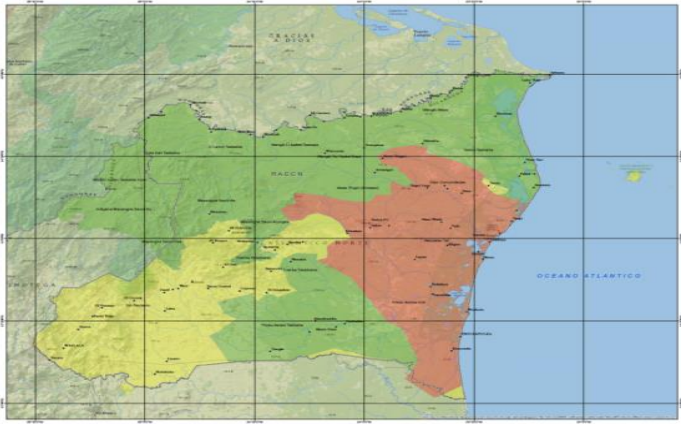
Opportunity area

Definition:

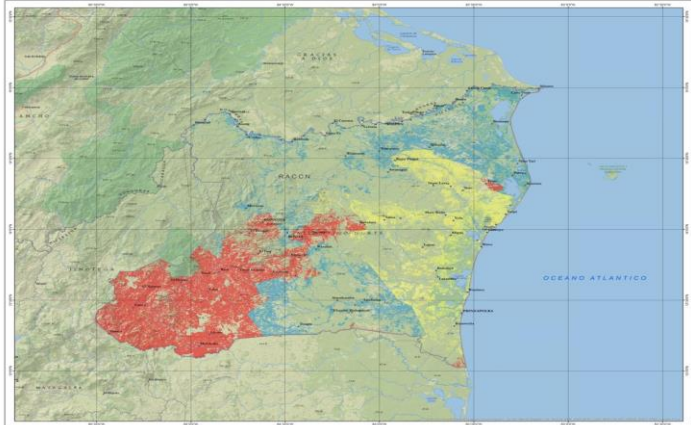
Areas where landscape restoration efforts improve ecosystem services provision to RACCN communities.



Land tenure in opportunity areas



- We have no precise information on land tenure
- It does exist information on IT lands titling, provided by the Government. These IT lands are for community use but with a particular and different system of management in each indigenous territory (we have no georeferenced information about sub zoning)
- 60% of opportunity area is in indigenous territories
- 40% of opportunity area is in unclaimed lands, which represent only 24% of the total area of the RACCN
 - Steep slopes
 - More livestock pressure
 - Effects on the landscape



Restoration options

Actual Land Use	Area (ha)	Restauration techniques	% IT	% not IT
Grasslands /pasture	662193	Silvopastoral systems with forage trees and improved pastures; Livestock and management techniques (confinement) to reduce the area of livestock	6,82	93,18
Savannas / pastures	638741	Pine reforestation; Recovery of traditional perennial crops (cashew, citrus, breadfruit, Acacia magnum; Coconut , palm (Coastal Area)	98,15	1,85
Secondary forest	461040	Natural regeneration and induced regeneration	46,67	53,33
Herb / shrub vegetation	367503	Natural regeneration and induced regeneration	92,72	7,28
Broadleaf forest regeneration	65570	Natural regeneration and induced regeneration	97,24	2,76
Crop / pastures	94627	Silvopastoral systems with forage trees and improved pastures; Livestok management techniques	74,84	25,16
Annual crops	15329	Good agricultural practices; agroforestry systems	21,72	78,28

Needs and challenges

Indigenous government system is a system of collective decisions

Return to the community rules on the management of natural resources

Communal forest zoning (areas of collecting, fishing and logging)

This could favor a comprehensive resource management scheme over the private property

Promote community forest management plans in all communities taking into account their community zoning

Characterize use patterns of cultural groups and integrate them into the restore options.

Integrate areas not claimed by cultural groups within the planning to restore landscapes

40% of the area of opportunity

areas with higher slopes and lowland, affects community lands downstream



THANK YOU

References

- CONADETI 2013. Informe ejecutivo de la CONADETI y las CIDT'S.
- Consejo Regional Autónomo Atlántico Norte. GRAAN CCF. 2003. Estrategia de Desarrollo Forestal de la Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte (RAAN).
- Cunningham, Myrna et.al. Cambio climático: medidas de adaptación en comunidades de las Regiones Autónomas de la Costa Caribe de Nicaragua. / Myrna Cunningham, Dennis Mairena, Mayra Pacheco. – 1ª Ed. Managua, Febrero 2010, 82pp.
- FUNICA CRAAN GRAAN. 2010. Aporte Estrategia del componente de Forestería Comunitaria en la Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte (RAAN).
- GIZ GFA 2013. Sistematización de Prácticas Desarrolladas en el Saneamiento Territorial de Mayagna Sauni Bas y Mayagna Sauni As.
- Gobierno de Nicaragua .. Procuraduría General de la República 2013. Proyecto de Ordenamiento de la Propiedad. PRODEP. Informe de Evaluación Final.
- Instituto Nitlapan de la Universidad Centroamericana (UCA) 2012. Territorialidad y gobernanza. Tejiendo Retos en los Territorios Indígenas de la RAAN, Nicaragua. Compiladoras. Larson A. y Soto F.
- Larson. A. y Mendoza-Lewis Jadder. 2012. Desafíos en la tenencia comunitaria de bosques en la Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte (RAAN) de Nicaragua.
- Mairena, E., Lorio G., Hernández, X., Wilson, C., Müller, P. and Larson, A.M. 2012 Género y bosques en los territorios indígenas de Nicaragua: De la política nacional a la práctica local. Documento de Trabajo 104. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia
- MASAGNI Ford Foundation 2013. Diagnóstico sobre el Saneamiento de los Territorios Indígenas y Étnicos de la RAAN, Nicaragua.
- UICN 2015. Análisis económico de opciones de restauración en RACCN en el marco de la metodología ROAM.
- UICN. 2014. Análisis espacial para ROAM en RACCN.
- UICN CRAAN UKAID 2013. Ruta técnica para Regulación y control forestal vinculado con el saneamiento, uso legal del recurso forestal, en Territorios Indígenas de la RAAN: Una opción para mantener cobertura de Bosque.