

**RSPO
NEW PLANTATION PROCEDURES (NPP)**

**COMPANY:
COMPAÑÍA PALMA TICA S.A.**

**Environmental Impact and High Conservation
Value Areas Evaluation System Summary**

PREPARED BY:



BIO TERRA CONSULTORES AMBIENTALES

COSTA RICA, FEBRERO 2013

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1. Executive Summary

This document presents an integral, participative and independent evaluation of the status of the natural resources and physical and social conditions in the area to be exploited and its influence region, to reduce the project's negative social and environmental impacts as much as possible.

It is considered that the Project development will not jeopardize fragile ecosystems and / or areas considered as AAVC inside or outside of the farms, always which be respected the measures proposed in this study.

The following information is considered relevant:

Primary forests:

The farms included in the proposal are immersed within a mosaic of habitats and associated vegetation resulting from intense activities and anthropogenic developments. The main activity that has degraded the natural ecosystems in this region is the extensive agricultural practices of rice farming throughout many decades.

Mainly due to this reason, a large percentage of the forest patches and regeneration areas in the zone have been subjected to productive activities throughout history and actually they are under a great pressure. The ecosystems that subsist are mainly intervened forest coverage and regenerating areas from exploitation in different degrees, resulting in altered environment such as grasslands, bushes and others.

For this reason, we rule out the existence of ecosystems classified as primary forest or regional importance Climax. It is not considered that the Project will directly influence natural ecosystems in a good state of preservation.

Surface needed to maintain or improve one or more High Conservation Values (HCV):

Farms in general are under enough anthropogenic pressure, due mainly to its agricultural character. Ecosystems, habitats and vegetal associations inside and outside the farm, show an altered environment and have been and are being

exploited and intervened. The main farms' vegetation coverages are rice crops (90% of the area), pastures and bushes.

According to the different analyzed variables, we found that the farms under study, in some specific areas have HCVs, and thus were classified as areas of high conservation value (HCVA), but all under the precautionary principle. This, because even in these areas were identified HCVs, are ecosystems that are highly impacted by agricultural practices that have been carried out in the area for decades, also there is a lack of good connectivity with large, major regional and important forest areas, so its conservation potential decreases and also it can not declare that the wildlife species identified under the categories of protection are in significant concentrations, nor associated ecosystems are critical for their survival.

Notwithstanding the last information, any forest patch and vegetation associated with bodies of water play an important ecological role, even if they have not been listed as HCVA according to the guidelines established in the methodology used, because they are critical or regionally representative.

According to the previous information, with the preservation and protection of all the HCVA identified as well as associated bodies of water of the farms, is considered sufficient to maintain and / or improve the identified HCVs.

Peat soil areas

One of the main features of peatlands is the presence of high levels of MO (> 6.8%). In the proposed area, there were not soils with high content of M.O, for that reason it is not declare the presence of peatlands in any of the three farms analyzed.

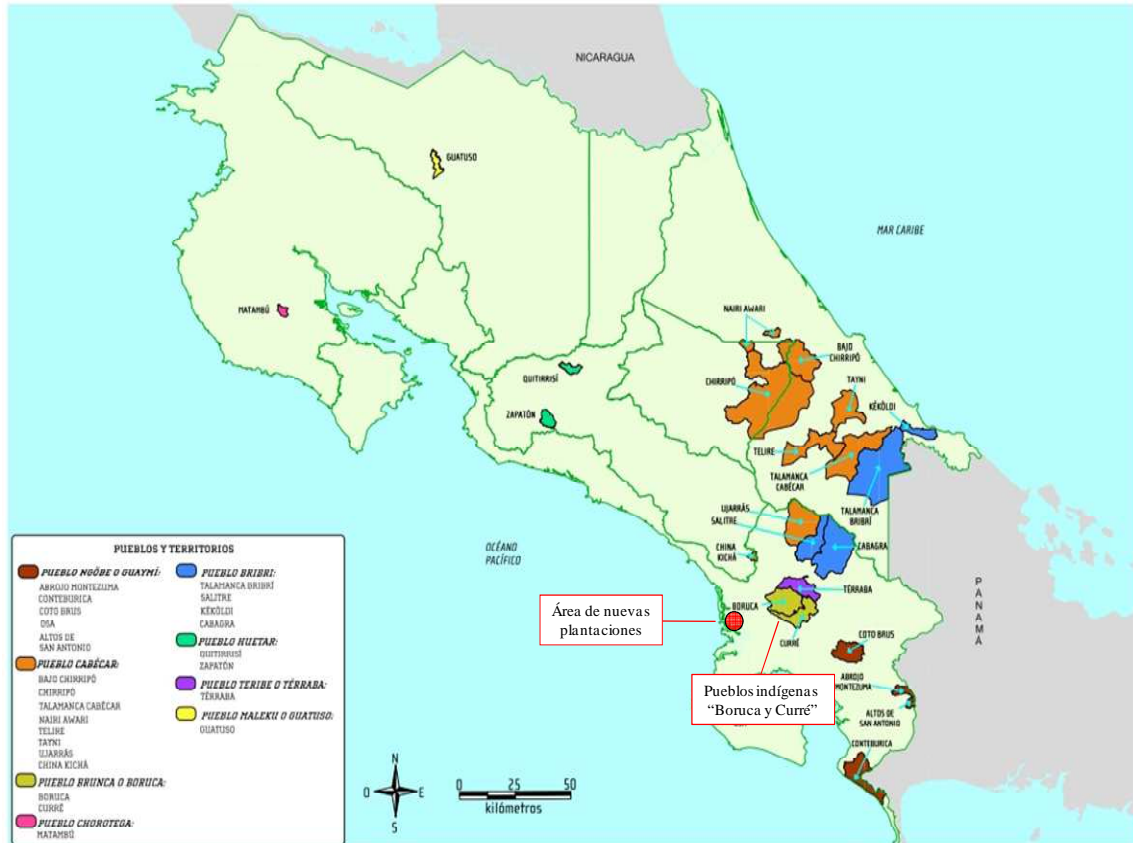
Land in the local communities (indigenous)

In this part is indicated that according to the latest statistic census analysis in the country (INEC, 2011), the district of Ciudad Cortés holds a percentage of 2.2% of indigenous population while the district of Palmar holds a percentage of 9.0% and a canton level the indigenous population represents a total percentage of 5.8%. The total percentage of the indigenous population in the Costa Rican territory is of 2.4%

As seen from the statistics, It is in the Palmar district where there is the presence of a larger conglomerate of indigenous population, although it should be noted that this population is far from the areas where the company pretends to implement

planting new oil palm plantations and focuses on indigenous territories "Boruca" and "Curre", in the mountainous district, along "Fila Grisera". This situation is more clearly seen in the following figure:

Costa Rican Indigenous territory Map



It is emphasized that the proposed farms as such, are not occupied by indigenous territories.

Actual use of the proposed farms to be planted

As mentioned before, the farms under study have been dedicated to agricultural practices for decades, so their current coverages are already intervened and thus degraded.

In these farms the predominant land uses are ricefields, grasslands, bushes, and a few forest patches, among others.

2. SEIA scope and HCVA assessment

2.1 Organizational information and contacts

Name of the Company	Compañía Palma Tica S.A
Corporate Identification Number	3-101-173999
Legal Representative	Erwin Martin Holmann Pastora
Identification Number	R-155808421015
Telephone	2284-1000
Fax	2221-6371 / 2221-7340
E-mail	info@numar.net
Company's Environmental Manager	Huascar Blanco Acevedo
Identification Number	155812139109
Telephone	2785-9174
Fax	2781-1214
E-mail	hblanco@numar.net

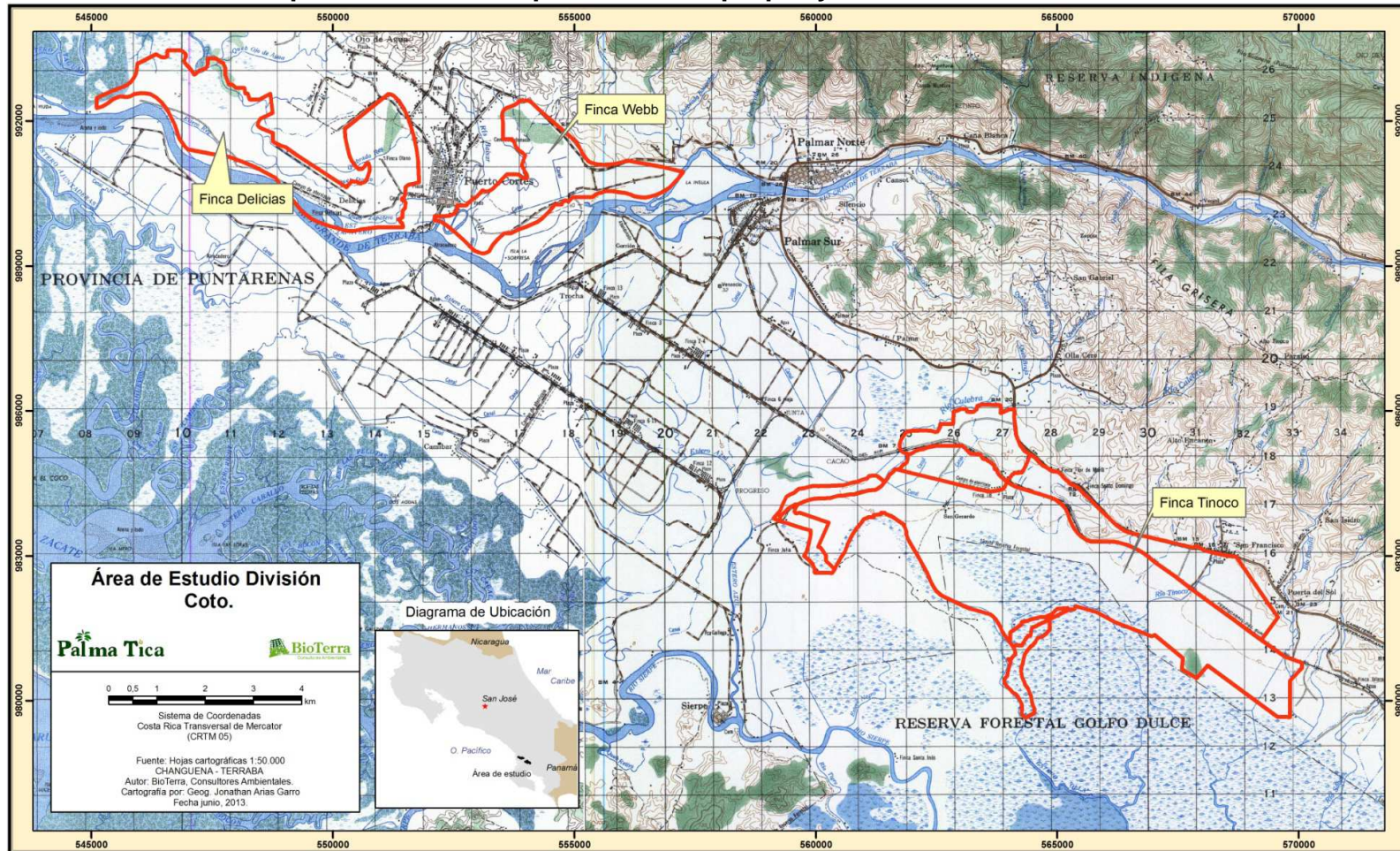
2.2 List of legal documents, mandatory permits and ownership deed related with the evaluated areas

At the present time, Environmental Viability is being processed in the National Environmental Technical Secretary (SETENA), for the new proposed plantation. The Project has been assigned by the cases D1 10845-13 and D1 10206-13.

Likewise, in a simultaneous form, the certification for the new proposed African Oil Palm plantations is being processed with the RSPO. For this reason, the present report is being issued.

Once Environmental Viability from SETENA is obtained, the Municipal permit for the development of the proposed activity will be processed.

2.1 Location Map – Both a landscape level and a property level



2.1 Area for the new plantations and timetable for the new plantations

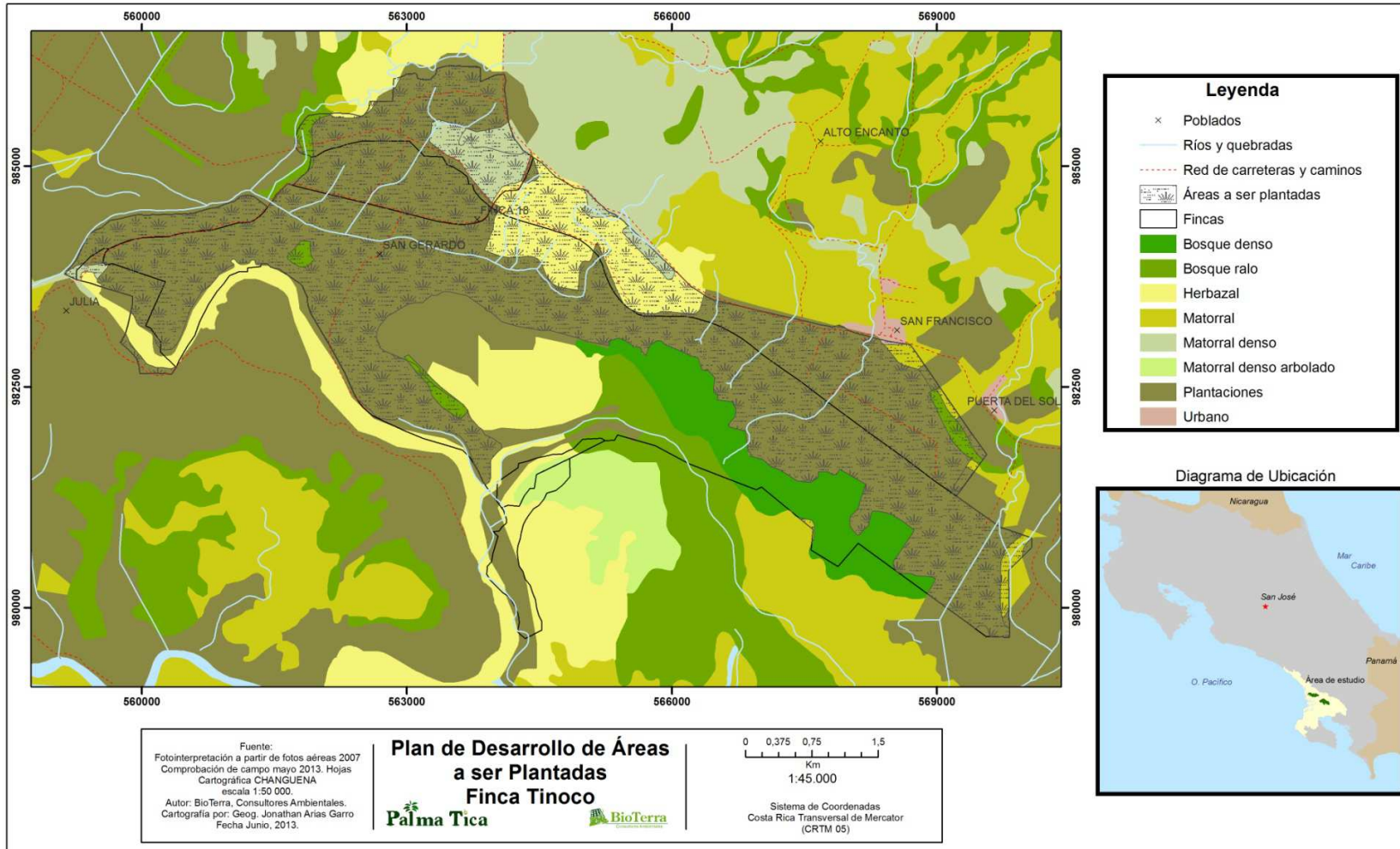
The following is a chart containing the details of the areas to be planted:

Farm	Farm's Area	Area to be planted
Tinoco	2469,81ha	1552,403ha
Webb	621,55ha	464,55ha
Las Delicias	855,99ha	514,89ha
Total	3947,35ha	2531,84ha

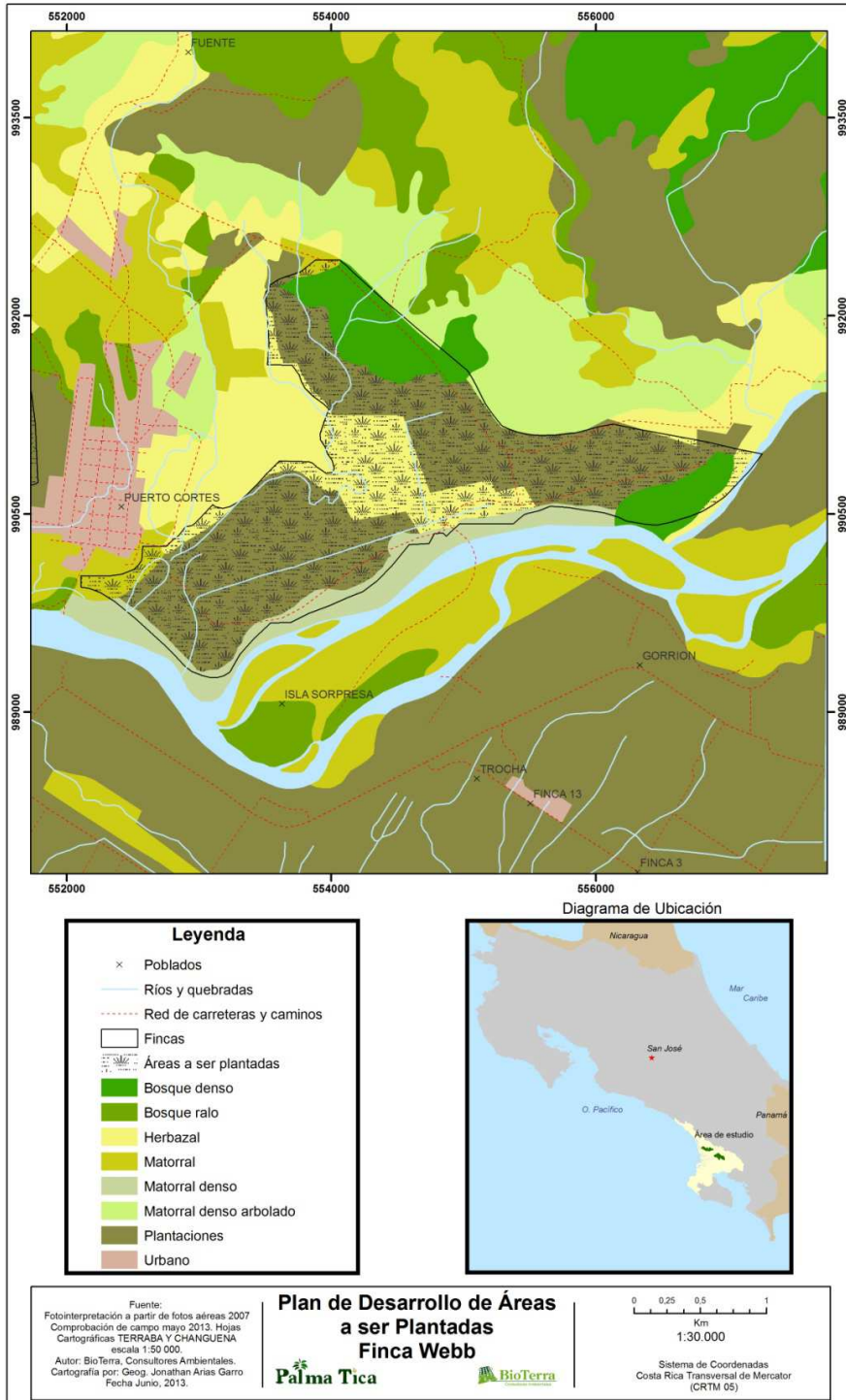
The areas to be planted are currently covered by rice fields and others, also pastures and bushes. **It is important to mention that fragile zones as bodies of water and their protected areas, forest patches and it's buffer zones will be dedicated to conservation and will remain intact.**

The following maps indicate clearly the areas to be planted:

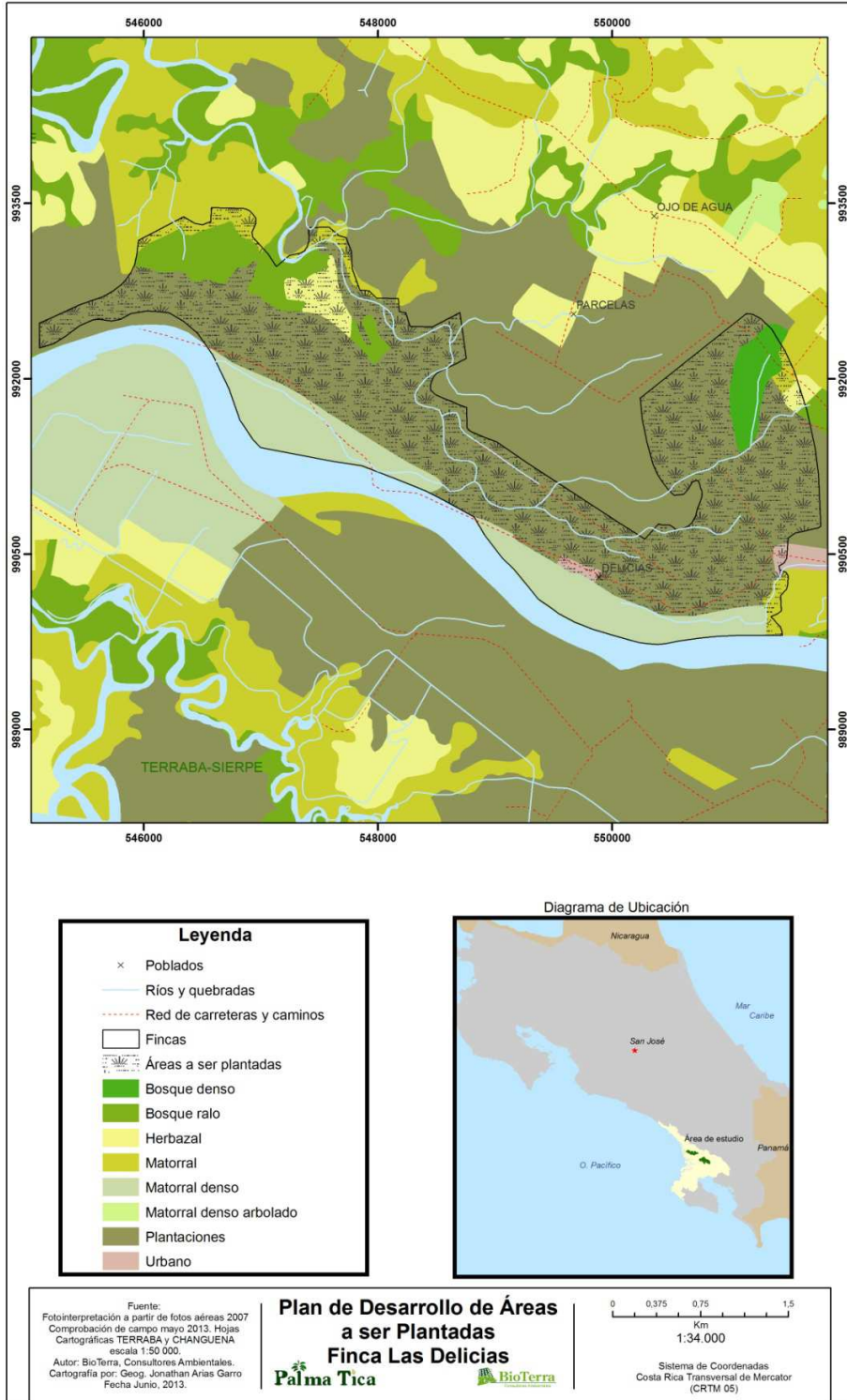
Map of the areas to be planted on Tinoco Farm



Map of the areas to be planted on Webb Farm



Map of the areas to be planted on Las Delicias Farm



The following chart shows the production timetable proposed:

Productivity	Calendar year	Metric tons of fruit/Ha
Year 0	2013	0
Year 1	2014	0
Year 2	2015	6.59
Year 3	2016	14.09
Year 4	2017	25
Year 5	2018	26.17
Year 6	2019	27.74
Year 7	2020	28.55
Year 8	2021	29.01
Year 9	2022	27.93
Year 10	2023	28.49
Year 11	2024	30.34
Year 12	2025	32.6
Year 13	2026	31.1
Year 14	2027	31.44
Year 15	2028	28.29
Year 16	2029	28.21
Year 17	2030	28.39
Year 18	2031	28.19
Year 19	2032	27.41
Year 20	2033	25.69
Year 21	2034	24.59
Year 22	2035	24.33
Year 23	2036	23.98
Year 24	2037	22.73
Year 25	2038	21.25

3. Process and procedures evaluation

3.1 Advisor Information and their credentials

The responsibility for the preparation of the studies that support these public notification reports belongs to the environmental consulting firm Soluciones Ambientales Bio Terra S.A., registration number in the National Environmental Technical Secretary (SETENA) EC-004-2008 (before) and EC-010-2012 (current), valid until June 8th, 2014.

Also, this company is an RSPO accredited company, as a Consulting firm for the preparation of these studies.

The professional team detailed below complies and transcends the RSPO requirements.

Professionals	Specialty	Identification Number
MSc. Marisol Zumbado Bustillos	Biologist, majoring in Ecology and Sustainable Development. RSPO accredited advisor, in charge of coordination and integration of this study. Team Leader	Ced: 1-1143-0899
MSc. Darién Zúñiga Leitón	Biologist, majoring in Ecology and Sustainable Development, specializing in Environmental Management. In charge of the Evaluation of the High Conservation Value Areas.	Ced: 1-1135-0269
MSc. Mario Piedra González	Sociologist specializing in Public Health, in charge of Characterization of Social Impacts.	Ced: 1-0714-0912
Ing. Alexander Rosales Ibarra	Soils specialist, responsible for conducting the Land Identification Study for proposed new plantings	Ced: 1-0739-0161
Jorge Arturo Vargas Leitón	Professional and specialist in forest and wildlife management. In charge of the most representative bird and wildlife surveys in the various ecosystems.	Ced: 1-1217-0510

Professionals	Specialty	Identification Number
Lic. Jonathan Arias Garro	Geographer land specialist, responsible for developing zoning maps Conservation Values, vegetation coverage and others.	Ced: 3-0380-0274
Dr. Rosa Bustillos Lemaire	Attorney specializing in environmental law, in charge of analyzing and compiling the legal regulations applicable to the Project.	Ced: 1-0513-0152

3.2 Evaluation methods (data sources, data collection, dates, programs, visited places)

Methodology used for the characterization of the social and economic impacts

Document review

It consisted in the second stage of the elaboration of the study and helped to obtain general information about the subject under study. Thus, various publications were consulted about the RSPO to understand its origin, objectives and implementation in different parts of the world where it is carried out the preparation of new plantations for oil palm cultivation.

Also, there were consulted reports, publications and websites of institutions and organizations nationwide to collect data on Brunca Region, which contains the districts of Ciudad Cortés and Palmar.

Visits to the communities nearby the Project area

Once the basic conceptual framework and the documental information for the project of the proposed area were defined, a visit was performed to the communities located in the nearby the areas of the new plantation sites.

Consultation process

The identification of possible social impacts as a result of the new African Oil Palm plantations arose from two consultation processes: i) local inhabitants of the communities located near the farms where the new plantations will be developed, and ii) representatives of the government institutions present in the proposed zone.

Methodology used for soil surveys in the proposed area

Methodology of field and office

The study corresponds to the level 4er order (general), in which was applied for an average density of 0.04 observations per km² and a microcalicata per each particular soil. The publication scale of the maps varies between 1:30000 and 1:60000.

The location of the simple observations as well as the modal profiles were geographically referenced using a mobile unit GPS (Global Positioning Systems). As basic cartographic material, it was used georeferenced sketches provided by Palma Tica Company.

Most of the soils under study were newly planted with rice and for the Contracting Company's request and to disturb as few as possible these soils, it was decided to work with microcalicatas for the description of the soil and taking soil samples for the respective laboratory analysis.

Types of observations:

By using the technique **simple Scuttle** and using an Edderman blast hole, holes were made with a depth of 120 cms. This type of observation is used to describe the morphological characteristics of the soil such as different genetic horizons, texture, color, drainage conditions, effective depth, presence of compacted layers and permeability. Based on the pattern of distribution of soils on the farm, and the level of predefined detail, it was found the soil modal profile, for that it was opened a pit, using the methodology for the description of soil profiles developed by the Agustín Codazzi Institute of Bogotá, Colombia.

From these pits are taken the respective samples for genetic horizons for physical and chemical laboratory analysis.

Taxonomic classification criteria

The soils were classified taxonomically based on the taxonomy of the USDA Keys to Soil Taxonomy, 2006 at the level of orders, suborders, big groups and subgroups.

Classification Criteria for Capacity of Land Use

The lands were classified based on the official methodology for determining the usability of land in Costa Rica. The interpretation of the parameters to a field-level was made through the Pocket Key for the Determination of the Capacity of Use

Laboratory analysis methods

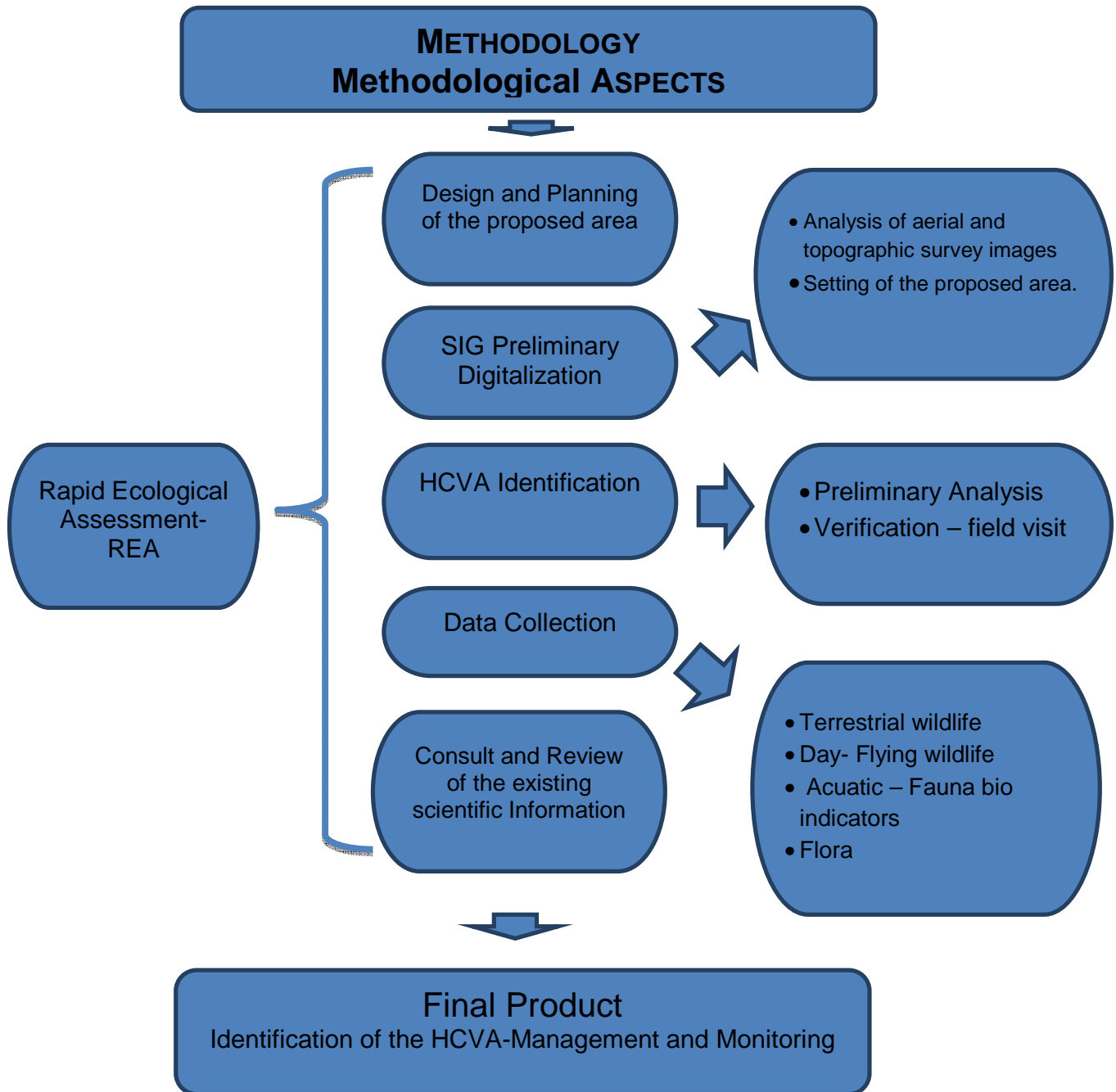
Laboratory analyzes were performed at the MAG Laboratory of Soil. Those methods are summarized below:

- Cation exchange capacity: ammonium acetate Extraction and distillation Kjeldahl.
- Cation exchange: Peech et al (1947). Ammonium acetate extraction and spectrophotometric determination by atomic absorption.
- Exchangeable acidity. Peech et al (1947).
- Organic material: Walkley and Black method (1938). Wet combustion with potassium dichromate.
- pH potentiometrically, in soil relation: water 1:2.5
- Current Fertility: P - K - Fe - Cu - Zn - Mn: extraction with modified Olsen solution (0.5 N - Na H Co₃ 0.01 N EDTA and a chemical flocculant product called "Superfloc" adjusted to pH 8.5 with Na OH. Ca - Mg - Al: extractor solution K Cl 1 N and relation soil-solution 1:10.
- Distribution of particles for size (Granulometría) Bouyoucos (1962) using as a dispersant a mixture of Calgon at 5% and ammonium hydroxide at 10% in a relation 1:1. Sand fractionation was performed by the method of the sieves. Analyses were dry.
- Humidity retention: Determination by Richards technique (1965) (method of the pot and pressure membrane).

The interpretation of soil fertility was performed according to the manual to interpret the soil fertility of Costa Rica Bertsch.

Methodology used for the Assessment of the High Conservation Value Areas

The following diagram summarizes this methodology:



Regarding to the identification of the HCVAs the following methodology was used:

High Conservation Values (HCV)	Methodological Process
<p>HCV1 Forest areas that globally, regionally, or nationally host significant concentrations of biodiversity value (for example, endemism, endangered species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HCV1.1 Protected areas ➤ HCV1.2 Threatened and endangered species ➤ HCV1.3 Endemic species ➤ HCV1.4 Critical temporary use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of satellite and aerial images. • Analysis of official government issued information regarding the condition of endemic, threatened and endangered species. • Review of the lists of species contained in national and international treaties. ❖ CITES ❖ UICN ❖ Wildlife Conservation Act # 7317 ❖ Others • Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) – Field Sampling ❖ Terrestrial wildlife ❖ Day-flying wildlife ❖ Aquatic fauna ❖ Flora • Consults with focal and interest groups led by a sociologist.
<p>HCV2: Forest areas that globally, regionally, or nationally host significant forests with a great landscape level contained therein or contained in the management unit in which most, if not all, of the viable population of species occur in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p>	
<p>HCV3: Forest areas that are located within rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or host such ecosystems.</p>	
<p>HCV4: Forest areas that provide basic services in critical situations (i.e., protection of river basins, erosion control).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HCV4.1 Forests critical for catchment ➤ HCV4.2 Forests critical 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of satellite and aerial images. • Analysis of government databases (SENARA-MINAET). • Consults with focal and interest groups led by a sociologist.

High Conservation Values (HCV)	Methodological Process
<p>for erosion control</p> <p>➤ HCV4.3 Firewall forests</p>	
<p>HCV5: Forest areas essential for satisfying the basic needs of the local communities (i.e., sustenance, health).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of satellite and aerial images. • Analysis of government databases (National Museum – archeological sites database). • Consults of Indigenous Reserves maps. • Consults with focal and interest groups led by a sociologist.
<p>HCV6: Forest areas that are critical for the traditional cultural identity of the local communities (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance, as identified with the cooperation of such local communities).</p>	

3.3 Consults with the interested parties (contacted representatives, consult registries and dates)

Given the rural social characteristics of the proposed area, we proceeded to deliver invitations to every house in the area to conduct a Free, Prior and Informed Consent Meeting (FPIC for its acronym in English) with communities and other Stakerholders such and as requested by the Standard RSPO.

Tinoco Farm vicinity:


It was delivered 167 invitations to attend the consultation process. In addition, workers were invited and others nearby actors that could be affected or benefited by the new oil palm plantation on Tinoco farm. The meeting was held in the Tinoco Community Hall on June 21st at 2:00 pm.

Webb and Delicias Farms vicinity:

It was delivered 184 invitations to attend the consultation process. In addition, workers were invited and others nearby actors that could be affected or benefited by the new oil palm plantation on Webb and Delicias farms. The meeting was held in the Hall of the Pensioner teacher House on June 22nd at 1:00 pm.

A total of 351 invitations were distributed, and 51 people attended the meeting.

Below is presented a sampling of the constancy of the process:

FORMULARIO DE REGISTRO	
	Modificación: 0 Código: CIA-FR-14-03 Página: 1 de 1 Rige a partir de: 20/06/2013
REGISTRO DE INFORMACION EXTERNA	
Actividad: Presentación del informe de impactos de procesamiento de nuevos sembrados	
Instructor: Marisol Zumbado/Huascar Blanco	Lugar: Palmar, Osa
Lugar: Salou Comunal de S F Tinoco	Hora de inicio: 2:00 pm
Fecha: 21 de junio del 2013	Hora de finalización: 5:00 pm
Temas tratados: Informe del consentimiento informado, previo y libre de las comunidades cercanas a la Finca Tinoco, Finca B, Finca los deillos y Finca Uru para el proyecto de Nuevos Sembrados de la Empresa Palma Tica.	
Nombre del participante	Firma del participante
1- Gladys Gomez Grigalba	[Firma]
2- Patricia Navarro Gomez	[Firma]
3- Roberto Guzman Mesa	[Firma]
4- Jose A Sepveda Quesada	[Firma]
5- Karen Zúñiga Calderon	[Firma]
6- Daniel Mora Alvarado	[Firma]
7- Samuel Hernandez Hernandez	[Firma]
8- Edgardo Lopez	[Firma]
9- Rene Barrios S	[Firma]
10- Isaias Quintana Aguirre	[Firma]
11- Fernando Guzman M	[Firma]
12- Oscar Salazar Alvarado	[Firma]
13- Miguel	[Firma]
14- Santiago Sardi Vilchez	[Firma]
15- Ana Acosta Cerda	[Firma]
16- Maria Aurora Alvarez	[Firma]
17- Juan Acevedo Gonzalez	[Firma]
18- Luis A Vargas Ocampo	[Firma]
19- Gerardo Lozano Barrantes	[Firma]
20- Nisidia Gomez Jara	[Firma]



3.4 List of reference documents (laws, studies, and others)

Study: Criteria 7.1. RSPO Standard

(Compañía Palma Tica S.A. – Coto Division)

Marisol Zumbado Bustillos

RSPO Accredited Team Leader

Biologist, majoring in ecology and sustainable development

Master in Environmental Audit and Management, specializing in management and conservation of natural resources

Biologists Association: 1416

SETENA Consultant: CI-091-2007 (before) / CI-144-2012 (current)

Evaluation of the High Conservation Value Areas (HCVA). Procedure for new plantations

(Compañía Palma Tica S.A. – Coto Division).

Darién Zúñiga Leitón

Biologist, majoring in ecology and sustainable development.

Master in Environmental Audit and Management, specializing in integral water management and recovery of contaminated soils.

Biologists Association: 1519

SETENA Consultant: CI-079-2007 (before) / CI-143-2012 (current)

Characterization of social impacts generated by the activity of new African Oil Palm plantations

(Compañía Palma Tica S.A. – Coto Division)

Mario Antonio Piedra González

Sociologist, M.Sc. Public Health

Sociologists Professional Association: 12-0235

SETENA Consultant: CI-021-1996

Soil Exploration Surveys

(Compañía Palma Tica S.A. – Coto Division)

Alexander Rosales Ibarra

Agricultural Engineer

Soils Specialists.

Agricultural Engineering Association: 5725

Evaluator for Proper Soil Use: No 38

The following table summarizes the associated legislation:

Ley	Resumen
Municipal Code (7794)	The Municipal Code regulates the regulates the sector, establishes responsibilities, scope of action in a defined territory, includes general relations, inter-municipal, municipal government and standards related to its components, Council meetings and agreements, audit, district councils, the municipal finance, municipal staff, appeals against the acts of the Council and others. Articles 3 (jurisdiction), 4 (autonomy), 9 (shared areas), 13, paragraph or power to regulate urban development, 27 paragraph b, (motions), 44 and 45 agreements procedure , municipal Finance (permits), 153, 154, 157 appeals against agreements, 161 appeals against other municipal acts, are related to the mining activities.
Forestry Law (7575)	Forestry Law No. 7575 establishes standards for the conservation, protection and management of natural forests. Thus, for example, prohibits the cutting of trees "... mangroves, protected zones ..." explicitly identifies the areas of protection (art. 33), among which are the areas around ... springs or streams, and establishes penalties and sanctions for those who invade a protected area (art. 58) or otherwise affect forest resources. The regulation includes a number of definitions, in particular some relating to forestry. Identifies SINAC's organization and establishes the different conservation areas. (Art. 3°).
Wildlife Conservation Law (7317)	This Law has the main purpose of establishing rules for wildlife protection. The first 9 chapters of the Law refers to the regulations regarding the protection and exploitation of wildlife (permits, export, import, penalties, etc.) Chapter X is of special interest, as it determines the standards for wildlife shelters, some of which show mixed ownership conditions, such Refugio detailed in the Regulation of the Law the remainder of the Act refers to sanctions against the offenses in relation to wildlife. This regulation clearly defines Shelters Mixed Property (Section 84, subsection b). Permitted uses are established, which determine land use and development opportunities. (Art. 85). The rest of the Regulation contains general guidelines.
Biodiversity Law (7788)	The purpose is the protection of biodiversity. Articles 1, 2 and 3 indicate the object, sovereignty and scope. The definitions of Article 7 include on ecosystems, habitats and natural resource. It establishes general principles, objectives, criteria. Chapter II deals with the administrative organization of particular importance for SINAC, III environmental safety, IV conservation and sustainable use of species. Article. 49 is related to land use. The possible and resulting in conservation of species (art. 56 and art. 57) and wildlife areas, among other (art. 58). Chapter V includes the rules

Ley	Resumen
	associated with genetic and biochemical components, permits, intellectual property, participation, education and environmental impact, as well as procedures, processes and penalties.
Water Law (276)	This Law deals with regulations for the use of public and private waters. (Art. 1). The Law declares as public domain reserves the land adjoining the water collection and regeneration drinking water sites (Art. 31, paragraph a, b). It establishes protection areas around springs, river and stream banks. (Art. 149 and 150). However, the extent of these protection areas was subsequently amended by the Forest Law and Environmental Law. The remaining articles contained in the Law refers to aspects relating to water use, penalties, taxes and state control mechanisms.
Urban Planning Law (4240)	The object of this law is to organize the planning process in the country, within the canton and/or local levels. Art. 1 defines the Regulatory Plan, use of land and zoning. It contains the main components for national planning, indicating the entities responsible entities, such as Urban Department; art. 10 states the powers to act accordingly. Regarding local planning matters (Second Section), Chapter I of the Regulatory Plan indicates that, pursuant to Art. 169, this role belongs to the municipalities (art. 15) and details the components in art. 16, as well as the right to a public hearings contained in art. 17 and art. 18 states the authority to approve proposals. Chapter II refers to the urban development bylaws, the main of which are contained in art. 21, including zoning for use of land and official mapping. Chapter III details the characteristics contained in the zoning bylaws; Chapter IV refers to fractioning; Chapter V includes the official map, Chapter VI refers to urban innovation; Chapter VII refers to construction matters. Section Three states the supplemental provisions regarding entities, expropriation procedures and contributions. The Fractioning and Urbanization bylaws state the details to be considered with regards to density, distance, front of property, etc.
Law for Use, Management, and Soil Conversation (7779)	The object of this law is defined in art. 1: protect, preserve and improve soils with integrated and sustainable management, along with other natural resources, through adequate environmental promotion and planning. Art. 2 defines the objectives; art. 3 refers to matters of public interest. Chapter II refers to institutional organization (MAG and other institutions). Chapter III indicates soil management and conservation associated with plans, conservation and recovery, as well as pollution. Chapter IV regulates the participation of individuals (Committees, hearings, individual obligations, etc), and Chapter V includes infractions and penalties.
General Public	This law classifies the types of roads (national highways and

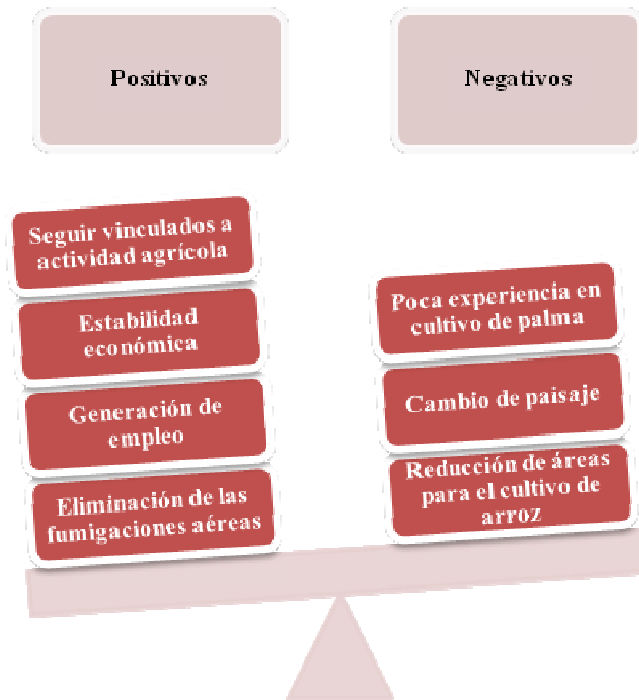
Ley	Resumen
Roads Law (5060)	canton roads). Art. 1 classifies them as primary, secondary, and tertiary (Puerto Carillo). Art. 2 states the ownership of roads belonging to the Government and the Municipalities. Articles 3 and 4 detail urban regimes and the width required for roads. Chapter II refers to taxes and contributions. Chapter III refers to general provisions.
General Health Law (5395)	The General Health Law is related to environmental matters, as state supervised public health and the tasks to be executed by the Ministry of Health (Art. 1 and 2). Book I details the rights and duties of individuals regarding their personal health and the restrictions for each individual regarding the health of others and the conservation and improvement of the environment, as well as the professional tasks to be executed and who shall be responsible for their execution. Chapter III refers to the duties of each individual regarding conservation and conditioning of the environment and the restrictions to their activities to benefit conservation. Chapter I refers to drinking water, Chapter II to the obligations and restrictions pertaining collection and disposal of waste; Chapter III refers to mandatory waste water treatment; Chapter IV refers to the duties and restrictions to individuals to avoid contamination to the environment; Chapter V refers to the duties and restrictions for industrial activities. It includes guidelines in occupation health matters and others.

4. Summary of the results for the social and economic impact evaluation

4.1 Summary of the main conclusions regarding social and economic impact for the country, regions and local communities

From tours of the communities located in the vicinity of the farms where the new African Oil Palm plantations would be developed in the districts of Ciudad Cortés and Palmar, the main social impacts identified as a result of the new plantation harvest can be grouped in the categories detailed in the following diagram:

Categories of the potential social impacts related with the process of new African Oil Palm plantations



As it is appreciated in the last figure, the potential social impacts shall be generated in the proposed areas as the result of the new African Oil Palm plantations are classified into two big groups: positive potential social impacts and negative potential social impacts. Inside these two big categories are group the types of social impacts that could be generated by the new African Oil Palm plantations. They were the result of the information got from the work tours and the conversations with the people from the proposed areas.

Among the potential positive social impacts, the following were identified: i) People feel the possibility to continue being linked to farming activities, ii) economic stability for the families that will participate in the activities developed in the new oil palm plantations, iii) generation of job opportunities for those living the area's communities and, iv) Elimination of aerial spraying, which are usually done on ricefields.

The following were assessed as eventual negative impacts: i) few experience on oil palm cultivation. ii) the change of the scenery in the zone due to the creation of the new plantations, and iii) reduction of the areas dedicated to the production of rice (rice fields).

4.2 Summary of the main conclusions regarding the social and economic impact for the emerging communities (workers, suppliers, etc.)

Economic stability	Generation of job opportunities
<p>The importance of the cultivation and production of African Oil Palm in other zones in the country is well known, for the families and those working directly with the companies in this field, such as Palma Tica or for producers that have production contracts with this company.</p>	<p>The development of new palm plantations will generate job opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct opportunities for those individuals hired to work in the different phases of cultivation for the new plantations (nurseries, land preparation, planting palm, maintenance and harvesting of the product). - Indirect opportunities for those individuals who will be able to develop various activities linked to the creation of the new plantations, particularly with the provision of services (transportation, food and lodging for the workers within this activity). <p>The creation of greenhouses for palm plants in the area has provided jobs to women and young adults in the neighboring communities.</p> <p>The development of new African Oil Palm plantations can boost employment in the studied area.</p>

4.3 Concerns and/or observations presented by the community leaders and comments from the advisor

During the public consultation activities that were conducted as part of the Prior, Free and Informed Consent Process, which took place on June 21st and June 22nd the following questions emerged from them:

- Does the company can donate a portion of the farm for some people in the community who need to build their home?
- Does the community can count on the company for some kind of help?
- What priority is given to workers who study at night and what benefits do they have?
- If an individual wants to build a greenhouse. Does Palma Tica Company is prepared to support and buy the plants?
- Is There a disease that produces an arrepollamiento of the oil palm plants?

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- Does Palma Tica can hire a forest guardian to protect the conservation area?

The questions presented by the community leaders are mostly focused on social matters, typical to this region, which shows high unemployment levels and it has also been a community mainly dedicated to agricultural activities. Hence, their concerns were more oriented towards to future social and economic benefit that could result from the palm plantations.

Participants were very interested that in the proposed farms the planting of oil palm plantations results in the generation of direct and indirect jobs for the associated communities. Also, there is a participants' expectation about the Company's support for Development Associations and Institutions which belong to the vicinity communities of the proposed farms.

It is noted that there was not any objection received about the development of new proposed plantations.

5. Summary of the HCVA assessment results

Below is a summary of the HCVA identified in the proposed areas:

Tinoco Farm

For this farm was identified HCVA due to the presence of HCV 1 (1,2 and 3).

The existence of HCV1.1, is mainly due to the few semi-natural ecosystems, that corresponding to a given area in the databases as "herbaceous swamp", which is adjacent to the ASP buffer zone Terraba-Sierpe Wetland (RAMSAR site) and with the Golfo Dulce Forest Reserve (GDFR).

Although ecosystems within the proposed area are degraded and under pressure, it was determined that the existence of wetlands (southern sector of the farm), complement this determination. However, due mainly to the ecosystems are impacted by historical agricultural activities, the HCV1.1 was determined under the precautionary principle.

With respect to the identification of HCV 1.2 and 1.3, they were also determined under the precautionary principle. During the samples taken in the proposed area in the databases as "herbaceous swamp" (**found only in the southern part of the farm**), there were several species of wild animals under the protection and

management categories, some of them in endangered and endemic category. However, it cannot be declared that they are found in significant concentrations, and in stable populations either associated forests are critical for their survival, that is why they were determined under the precautionary principle. On the other hand, this ecosystem despite being under protection category, do not presents regulations for their management. Even so, hopefully, that protected ecosystems in the area of Direct and Indirect Influence, promote stability.

Moreover, the presence of HCV 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 are absent

Webb and Las Delicias Farms

Corresponding to these proposed farms, sampling and field testing demonstrated the existence of dense forest patches. These are small in scope and are virtually isolated. Other ecosystems are very impacted and have low conservation potential. However, some species were identified under protection criteria (birds mainly), this feature was not assigned as a HCV, because it was considered that the presence of these species due to their habits of movement and adaptability, and not by the state of the ecosystem.

On the other hand, we determined the existence of HCV 4.1 and 4.2, both under the precautionary principle, since these two farms are separated from one another, by Ciudad Cortés community, which historically has been under constant threat of flood. The Térraba river overflow background, along with the catastrophic consequences that have led, together with the potential of more flooding occur, have led to considering the banks of this river as a HCVA. Prior was due to the protection zone of this river and the associated vegetation to it, act as a protective barrier, to mitigate flooding and erosion phenomena and can potentially prevent the loss of homes, lives, crops and basic grains plantations, as well as prevent sediment transportation into the Térraba-Sierpe wetland, and thus prevent a major deterioration in the water quality of that ecosystem and the aquatic life that this entails.

The precautionary principle has adopted in both cases, as this bank of the river is extremely damaged, so it is unknown exactly, the level of functionality of this bank as a protective barrier. However, the encouragement and promotion of their regeneration would contribute to increase its functionality.

It is important to emphasize, that the farms are immersed in very degraded environments, and the possibility to locate areas of high conservation potential and comply with HCVA guidelines are limited, that is why HCVs identified, have been under precautionary criteria.

The presence of HCV1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are absent in these two properties.

The following table details the identified HCVs per farm:

Chart 1. Identification of the High Conservation Values per Farm

IDENTIFICATION OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES													
HCV's		TINOCO FARM			WEBB FARM			LAS DELICIAS FARM			AID Y ALL (ASP)*		
		P¹	PP²	A³	P¹	PP²	A³	P¹	PP²	A³	P¹	PP²	A³
HCV1	HCV1.1		✓+				✓			✓	✓		
	HCV1.2		✓+				✓			✓		✓+	
	HCV1.3		✓+				✓			✓		✓+	
	HCV1.4			✓			✓			✓			✓
HCV2				✓			✓			✓			✓
HCV3				✓			✓			✓	✓		✓
HCV4	HCV4.1			✓		✓+			✓+				✓
	HCV4.2			✓		✓+			✓+				✓
	HCV4.3			✓			✓			✓			✓
HCV5				✓			✓			✓			✓
HCV6				✓			✓			✓			✓

P¹ = PRESENT / PP² = POTENTIALLY PRESENT / A³ = ABSENT

*** TÉRRABA-SIERPE WETLAND AND SURROUNDING LAGOONS**

+ PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

Fuente: Darién Zúñiga, 2013

In order to preserve these HCVs, the following table details the environmental measures to be observed:

Objective	Environmental Impact	Environmental Measure	Application Timeframe	Responsible Party
<p>Guarantee the respect and maintenance of all the bodies of water and forest coverage presented in the farms and their influence areas</p>	<p>Potential affectation over the biological environment (forest coverage and bodies of water)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to cutting down any forest species (in a requested case), Article 20 of the Forestry Law No. 7575 must be observed, as well as Articles 14 and 16 of the Forestry Law regulations, Executive Decree No. 25721-MINAE. • Notify MINAET of the presence of endangered flora or fauna species, if found during the project's development. • If possible burrows, shelters or nests of any species are identified, coordinate with specialists and MINAET for relocation. • Ensure no impact on the forest coverage or the water protection zones associated with each of the farms. 	<p>Periodical application. However, constant alert should be in place with regards to these measures. For water monitoring, periodicity shall be every semester.</p>	<p>The company</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep strict erosion and sedimentation control practices, mainly regarding surface runoff draining towards the bodies of water associated with the farms. • Promote vegetation recovery plans in the associated water protection zones, in full coordination with MINAET. • Monitor the physical and chemical conditions in the associated bodies of water, twice a year. • Take samples from the bodies of water for benthic macro-invertebrates (biological indicators), twice a year. • Respect a buffer zone of 15 meters regarding to forest coverage zones. • Promote a natural regeneration of every buffer zone. 		
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Documentation that evidences Free, Previous and Informed Consent (CLPI) from the indigenous communities affected by the development of the Project (RSPO requisite)

As mentioned in the executive summary contained in this document, the proposed area shows no presence of indigenous communities that could be affected by the development of the new plantations.

Nonetheless, the CLPI process was performed with the representatives of the local community. This process was detailed in section 3.3 of this document.

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- Vargas, L. (1994).** Sobre el concepto de percepción. Revista ALTERIDADES , Vol. 4, págs. 47-53

Tools used for the identification of HCVA

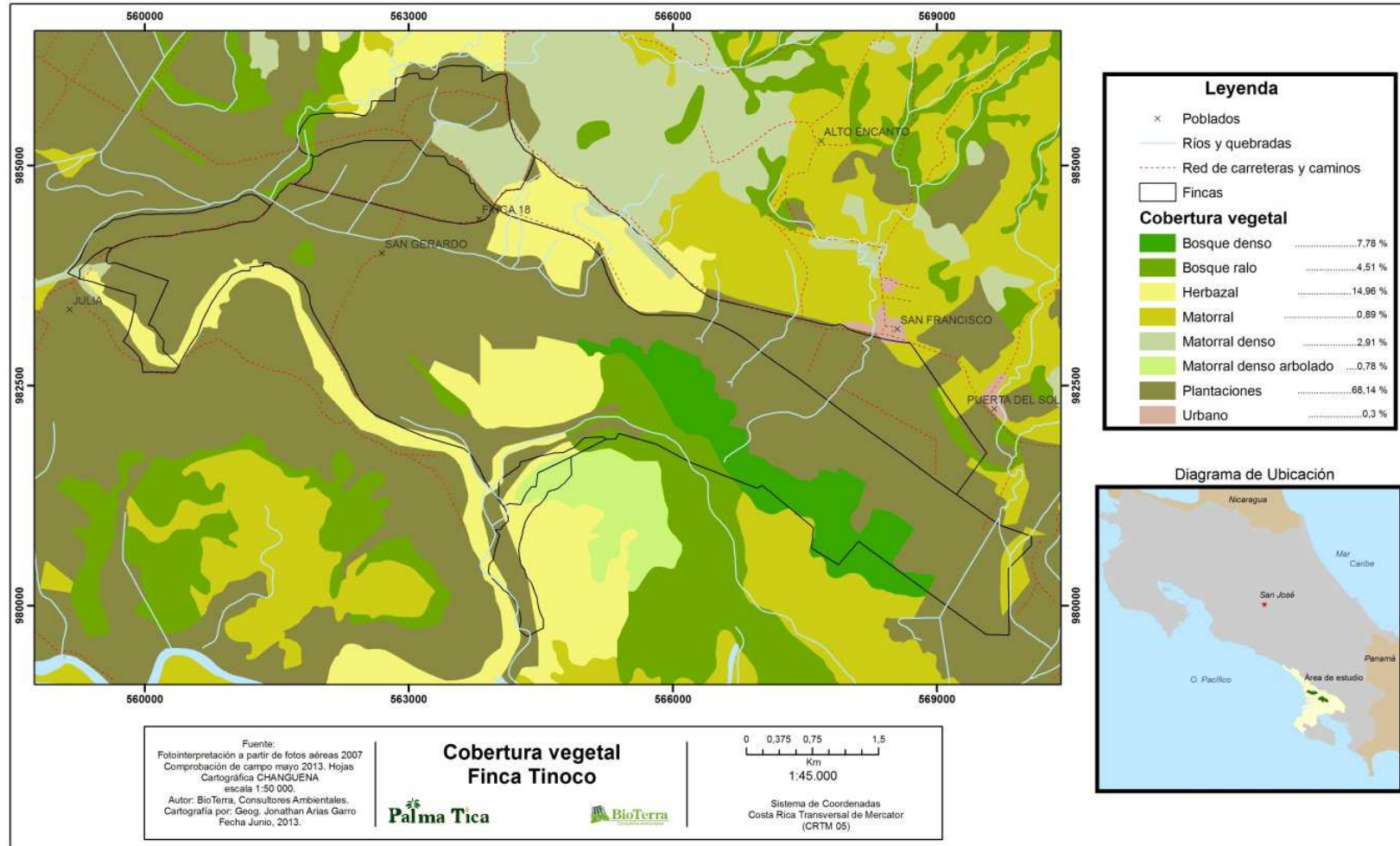
Jennings, Steve., R, Nussbaum.; N, Judd & T, Evans. 2003. PROFOREST. Herramientas prácticas para Bosque con Altos Valores de Conservación. First Edición.

Decisions regarding to the conditions of the HCVA and associated maps

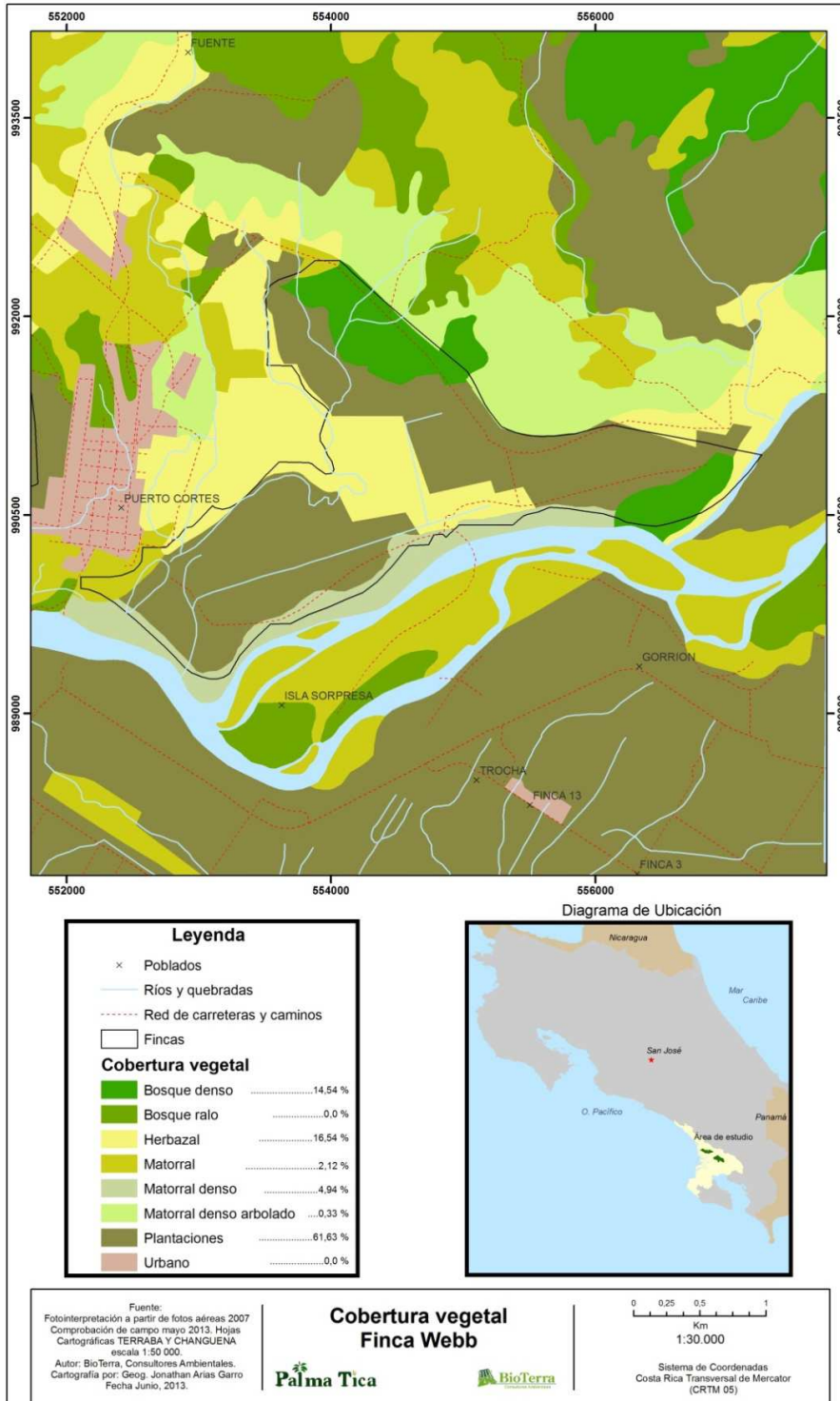
Every HCVA identified as explained in advanced were classified under the Precautionary Criteria, because the actual degraded conditions of the environment. However, the Company has no intention to intervene these areas, instead HCVA's identified will be used for conservation and will remain intact.

Below are vegetal coverage maps of each of the proposed farms, and HCVA maps.

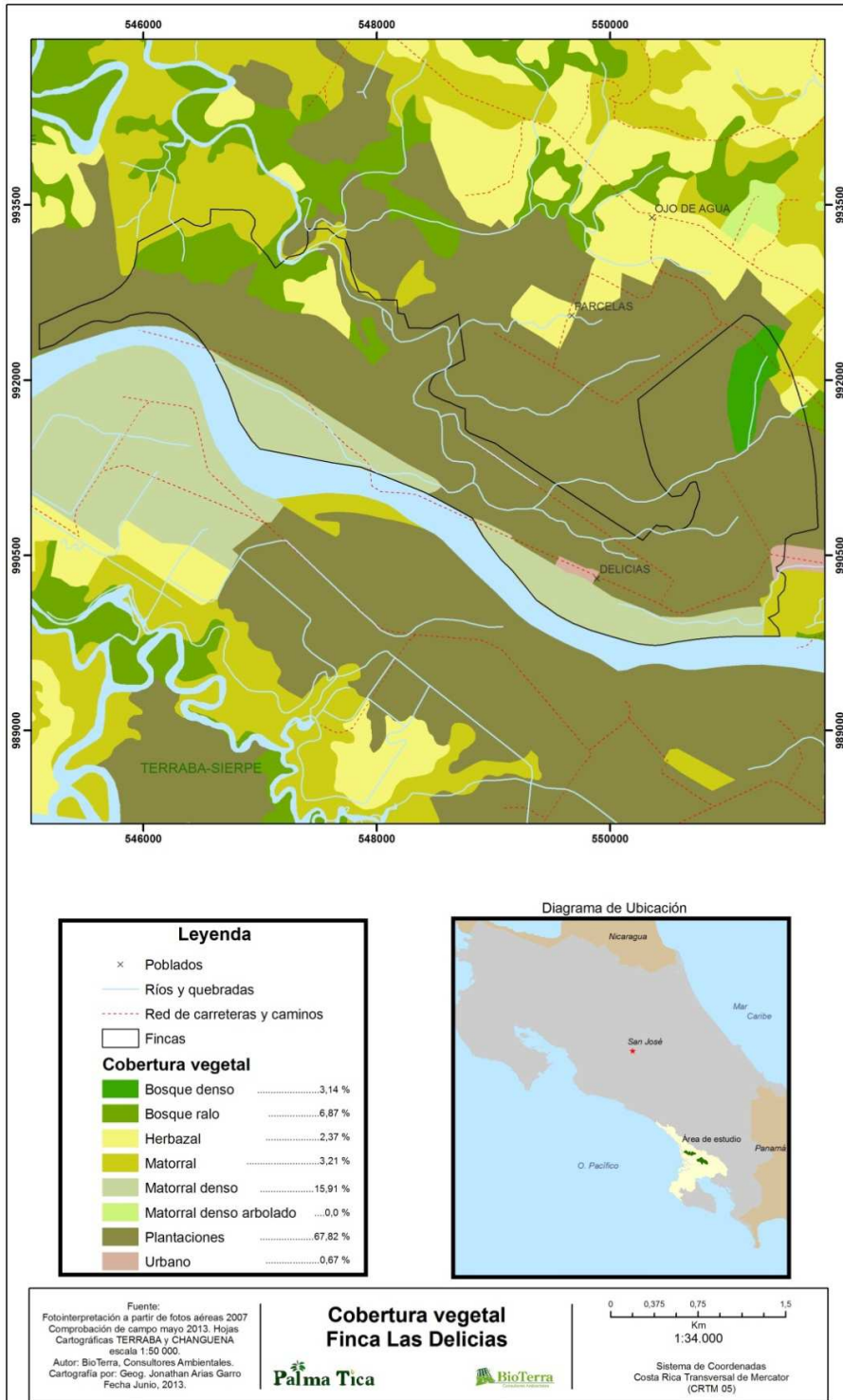
Vegetal Coverage Map of Tinoco Farm



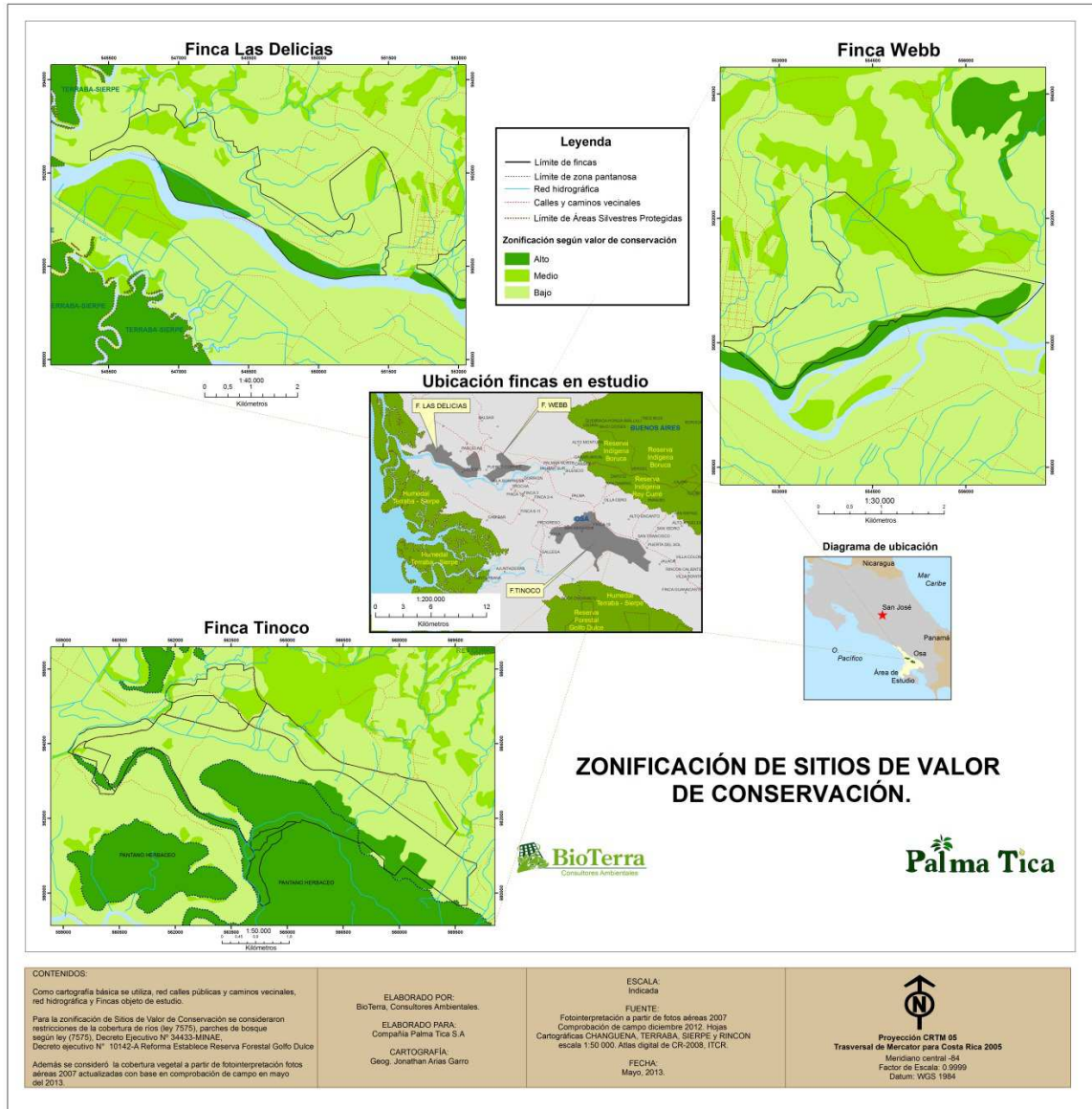
Vegetal Coverage Map of Webb Farm



Vegetal Coverage Map of Las Delicias Farm



High Conservation Value Area Zoning Maps



Note: Please note that all areas demarcated as HCVA (dark green), will remain intact, that is to say, they will go to conservation and will not be seeded. Also, areas of medium conservation value (medium green), even though they were not listed as HCVA, also go towards conservation. According to the above zoning map, the Company will use only the areas with low conservation value (light green).

6. Internal Responsibility

Bio Terra Consultores Ambientales, an RSPO accredited company specializing in the environmental field and RSPO fully assumes responsibility for the studies summarized on this public notification reports, with regards to the content of said reports.

Nothing further, receive my regards,



*Biol. Marisol Zumbado Bustillos, MSc
Team Leader
Bio Terra Consultores Ambientales*

Also, the Company accepts responsibility for the farm evaluations done in the proposed areas.