

## EC Partners

Trocaire

Instituto para la  
Cooperación y el  
Autodesarrollo

Federación indígena  
Tawahka

Asociación de  
comunidades  
conservacionistas de la  
biosfera Tawahka  
Asangni

Asociación de  
productores  
agropecuarios  
conservacionistas  
Catacamas limitada

## Facts and Figures

- EC contribution:  
€ 1 600 000 (80% of  
total budget)
- Duration: 2005- 2010



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

## Environment

### Sustainable management of the Tawahka Asangni and Southern Río Platano natural reserves in Honduras

*Before, water scarcity was not an issue. Our river had enough water and fishes. Because of deforestation we start now having problems. People start to understand that what we have done in the past is now harming us, and we need to reforest.*

Celso Ochoa, project stakeholder



## Context

The Tawahka Asangni and southern Río Platano reserves face the rapid destruction of their forests due to slash and burn subsistence agriculture by poor communities, extensive cattle farming and illegal logging. There is virtually no government presence and national forest legislation, and policies are not enforced to control land invasions and deforestation.

## Objective

- Contribute to the conservation and management of the natural resources of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor
- Strengthen community and government capacities, promote community participation and lobbying to implement forest management mechanisms.

## Impact

- Community organisation strengthened in 17 communities with increased participation in planning and implementation of natural resource management strategies. Beneficiaries: 1 536 Tawahka indians, 4 163 ladino farmers, 200 ranchers, 665 pupils.
- Implementation of a co-management agreement between the national and local governments, communities and the project, governing the application of the general management plan for the Tawahka Asangni and southern Río Platano reserves.
- Environmental education introduced into the academic curriculum in 17 communities.
- Advocacy strategies to improve national government application of forestry legislation designed and implemented by local organisations.
- Improved food security and economic stability through sustainable agricultural activities and the creation of small business processing and selling local produce.

# Environment

## Sustainable management of the Tawahka Asangni and Southern Río Platano natural reserves in Honduras

### **Liliam Sánchez, President of the Cattle Ranchers' Association (APACAL) Community of Villanueva, Catacamas.**

*"Large scale cattle ranchers in the reserves have changed from extensive to intensive forms of cattle ranching. It means that the same number of cattle can be farmed equally productively in a smaller area, and ranchers no longer cut down huge swathes of forest each year in search of new pastures for their cattle.*

*This process of converting from extensive to intensive farming was difficult at first, because ranchers were used to having a small number of cattle in large areas. But through the training, technical assistance and exchanges, the ranchers gradually learnt new techniques that enabled them to have the same number of cattle in a smaller area without damaging the environment. Farmers that used to cut down a hundred hectares of new forest each year no longer do so. 80% of ranchers are now changing to intensive cattle ranching systems."*



**Liliam Sanchez, President of the Cattle Ranchers' Association - APACAL, resident of Villanueva community (Catacamas, Olancho) speaks of the changes to cattle farming as a result of the project**