

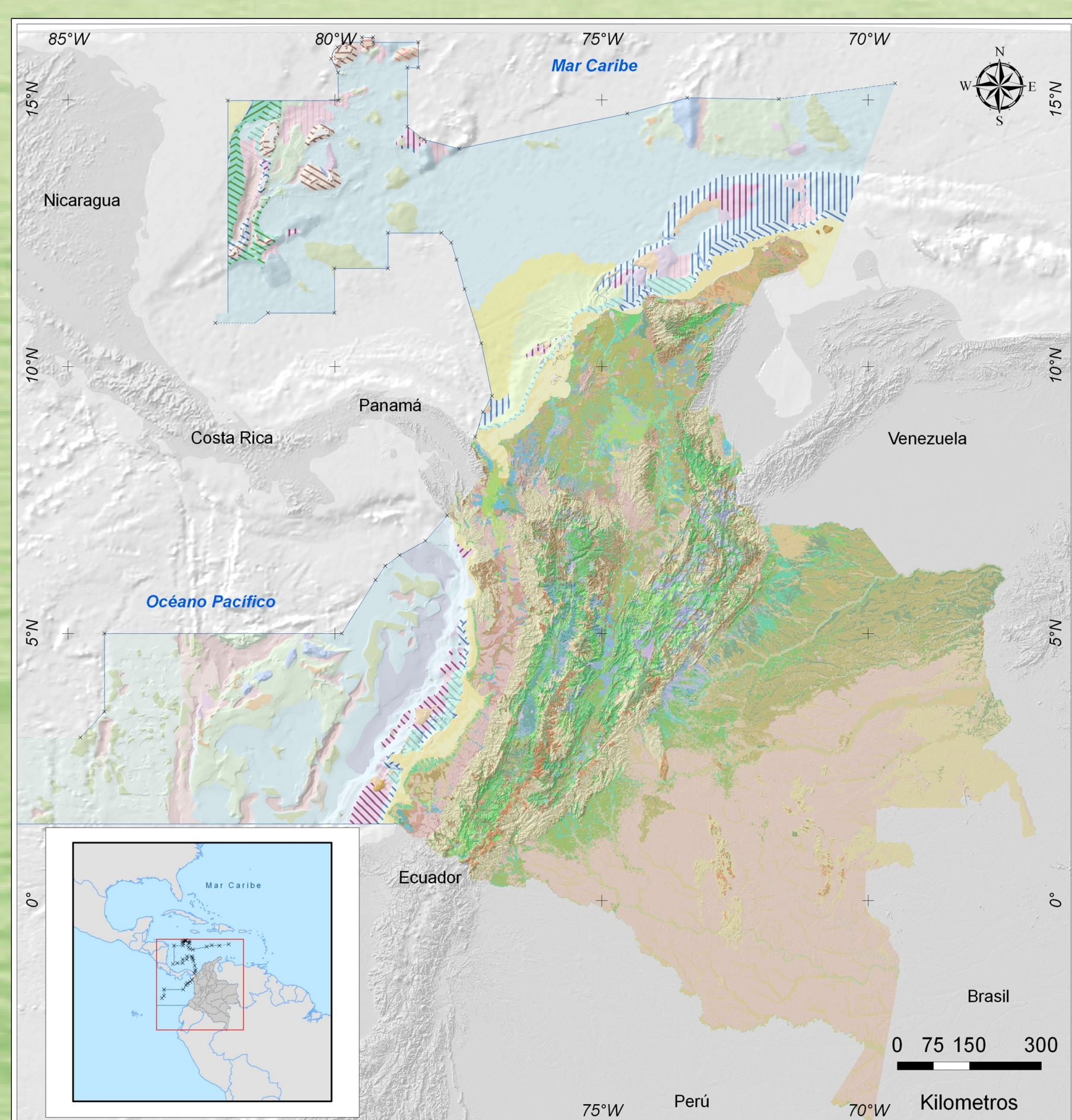
# Colombian Marine Areas: Understanding and managing 50% of the nation's territory

Since the Science and Technology Law was passed in 1993 the Ministry of Environment, Housing and Territorial Planning (MAVDT) and the National Environmental System were created. Five research institutes were placed under the control of the Ministry including INVEMAR, the only one devoted exclusively to marine research. The ratification of Colombia to CBD conducted a new sphere of action in marine science targeted at coastal zones and oceans environmental issues. In 2002, the Colombian National Oceanic, Insular and Coastal Zone Environmentally Sustainable Development Policy, PNAOCI was passed as a result of a coordination process headed by the MAVDT with multiple actors and sectors involved. The assemblage of the PNAOCI Programs is accompanied by strategic instruments for its effective development such as the 10 year Marine Water Quality Plan, the Bioprospection Plan and the 2001- 2010 Action Plan of the National Marine Biodiversity Programme, one of the strongest instrument.

## What did we achieve?



Official 1:500.000 scale map of Colombia where terrestrial, marine and coastal natural ecosystems are represented. A proposed zoning for Colombian underwater territory encompass a total of 155 seascapes. Ecosystem level information on reef areas and sea grasses are superimposed on seascapes.



One hundred priority conservation sites were selected within Colombian Caribbean representing the first national Priority Conservation Sites Portfolio. Moreover a MPA Network was generated for the Northern Colombian Caribbean including 63 proposed priority conservation sites.

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Weekly CARICOMP water quality measurements have continued for 13 years at 2 Caribbean localities, along with annual benthic cover community assessments and coral disease data at 7 Caribbean and 3 Pacific localities. Data is stored in the Marine National Information System (SIAM).

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INVEMAR's Fishing information System (SIPEIN) acts as decision support tool for local fishermen on the management and conservation strategies of natural resources from the RAMSAR and Biosphere Reserve Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, largest coastal lagoon of Colombia.

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The Colombia Marine Biodiversity System (SIBM) provides a set of reusable tools for the integration, visualization, analysis and dissemination of marine biodiversity. Database includes 30,000 biological records and holds sheets of nearly 1000 species.

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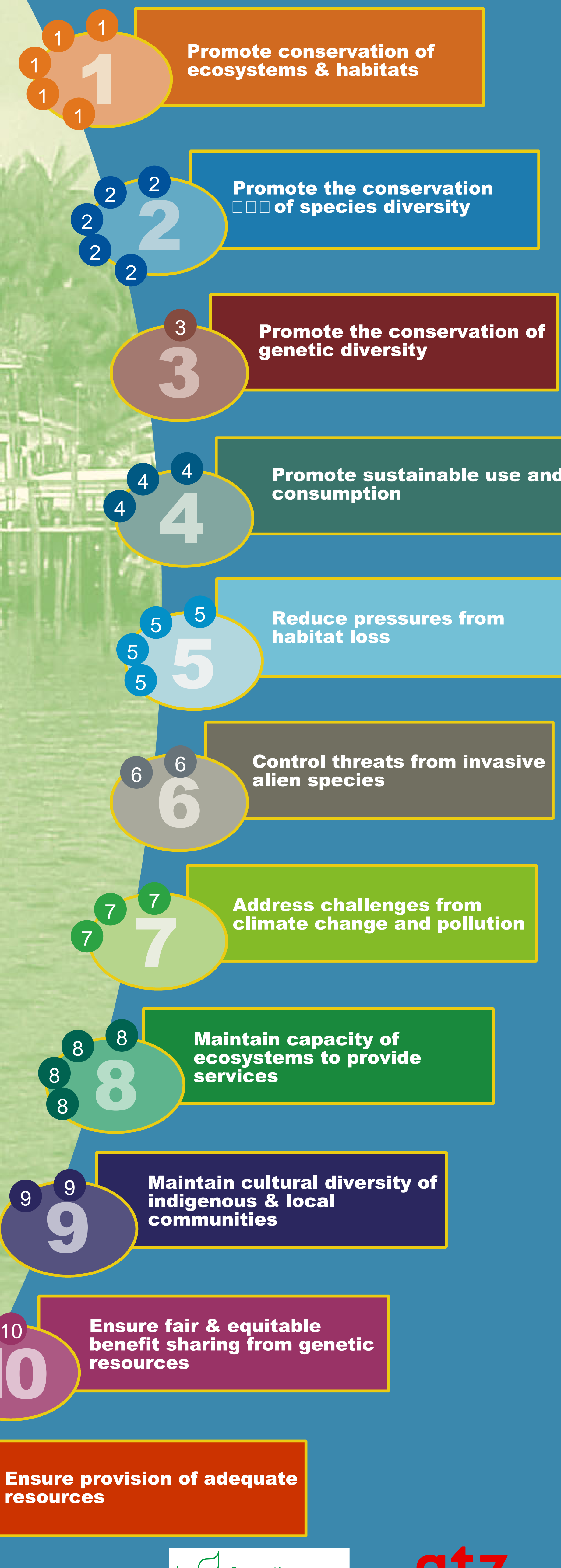
Seven successful projects have been initiated to formulate and implement "Integrated Coastal Management Plans" promoting ecosystems restoration and conservation. The Plans enhance community participation supported by scientific knowledge for a rational and alternative use of natural resources.

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Periodically reports on the sanitary conditions and quality of the coastal marine waters are produced based on the information collected and processed from a 16 satellite node Information System (REDCAM) on Colombia's main research and coastal management Institutions.

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## 2010 Biodiversity Target



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