

## 2003, TI Costa Rica

Costa Rica: **Project to Fight Forest Corruption** (A grant agreement for \$17,500 was signed with TI Costa Rica on April 23 2003; a Project Completion Report was submitted in October 2004. A Project Completion Assessment was issued in January 2006.)

PTF provided TI Costa Rica with a \$17,500 grant to support a project aimed at strengthening control mechanisms in the fight against forest corruption. The Minister of the Environment lent his support to the project. The project was completed in mid 2004. The specific objectives were to:

- a. Identify risks in forestry and use of soil control measures in three conservation areas (Osa, Tortuguero and Huetar Norte).
- b. Pilot a practical and duplicable risk management methodology, orientated towards transforming vulnerable conditions, which will allow identifying, grading, and measuring corruption risks in forestry and use of soil controls.
- c. Prepare a risk prevention and action plan for environmental controls for the identified areas at risk.
- d. Prepare and publish a generalized application manual to implement the tool.
- e. Use information technology to build citizen awareness and hence contribute to better environmental management.

In pursuit of these, TI Costa Rica undertook a pilot study in three vulnerable conservation areas. The information collected was subsequently presented at workshops with participants from government, business, and civil society, and analyzed and the identified risks graded. A prevention plan was prepared and discussed. A manual was also prepared to enable the approach to be replicated. An important benefit is the training of citizens groups and officials, introducing them to an effective instrument – risk mapping -- for fighting corruption.

The project's results have been published and diffused through the construction and operation of an interactive Website, which gives public access to all the information collected by the project, the methodology, and results. A training manual has also been published.

A final meeting with key stakeholders and the Environment Minister was held in September 2004. The main impact of this project has been to increase the awareness of possible means to implement citizen control that would significantly reduce corruption in the processing and execution of permits by all parties involved in the process. A Project Completion Assessment was issued in January 2006 and is posted on the PTF website.