

Report Card of the Guaviare River Basin, Colombia

Evaluation of Colombian tributaries of the Orinoco

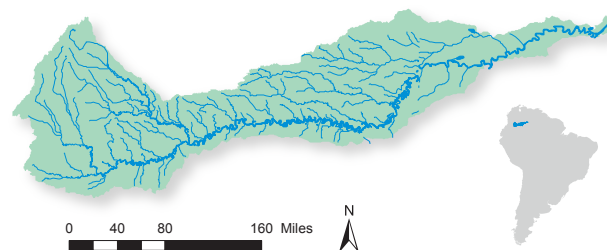
In San José del Guaviare, work continued on the report cards of the Orinoco basin with completion of the third workshop that included participation of the main stakeholders in the region.

More than 55 representatives in 27 organizations attended the meeting. The workshop identified environmental, economic, and social indicators that will form the basis of the Guaviare River report card. These indicators were chosen based on the identified values and are key to the future sustainability of the Guaviare River basin. We appreciate the continued active participation of the following organizations as well as environmental authorities that will enable the completion of the report: la Alcaldia de San José del Guaviare, Empoaguas, Alexander von Humboldt Institute, Sinchi Institute, Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the North and East Amazon - CDA, Ministry of Transport, National Authority for Aquaculture and Fisheries, National Parks of Colombia, Interior of Guainia, ICA, National Navy of Colombia, FAO, Corpolindosa, Corpoyari, Omacha Foundation, Asopropesca, Amapadig, Acatamu, ASCAL-G, JAC Barrancominas, JAC Nare, ASOPROCEGUA, ISAGEN, Indigenous Ramsar Bureau EFI, University of Maryland, and WWF. The three-day interactive workshop also attracted positive media attention.

Outcomes from the meeting included:

1. Identification, and ranking by importance, of environmental, social and economic **values** within the Guaviare River basin.
2. Identification, and ranking by importance, of **threats** to identified values within the Guaviare River basin.
3. Selection of the **indicators** for measuring/reporting the status of these values and threats.
4. Assignment of key personnel to work on developing each indicator and defining **benchmarks** for scoring against.
5. A **timeline** through to completion and public release in early 2016.

Reporting Regions



With 8,457,000 hectares, the Guaviare River rises in the eastern Cordillera and runs through a variety of ecosystems in the Orinoco-Amazon transition zone. From its birth in the Sumapaz to its confluence with the Orinoco River after the city of Inirida, the river is quite winding. Hence, it is anticipated that the river will be divided into two reporting regions, each being assessed and scored independently of each other.

Preliminary discussions were held on how best to define these regions and it was generally accepted to achieve this based on changes in fauna and flora. A technical group has been established to define and document these regions.



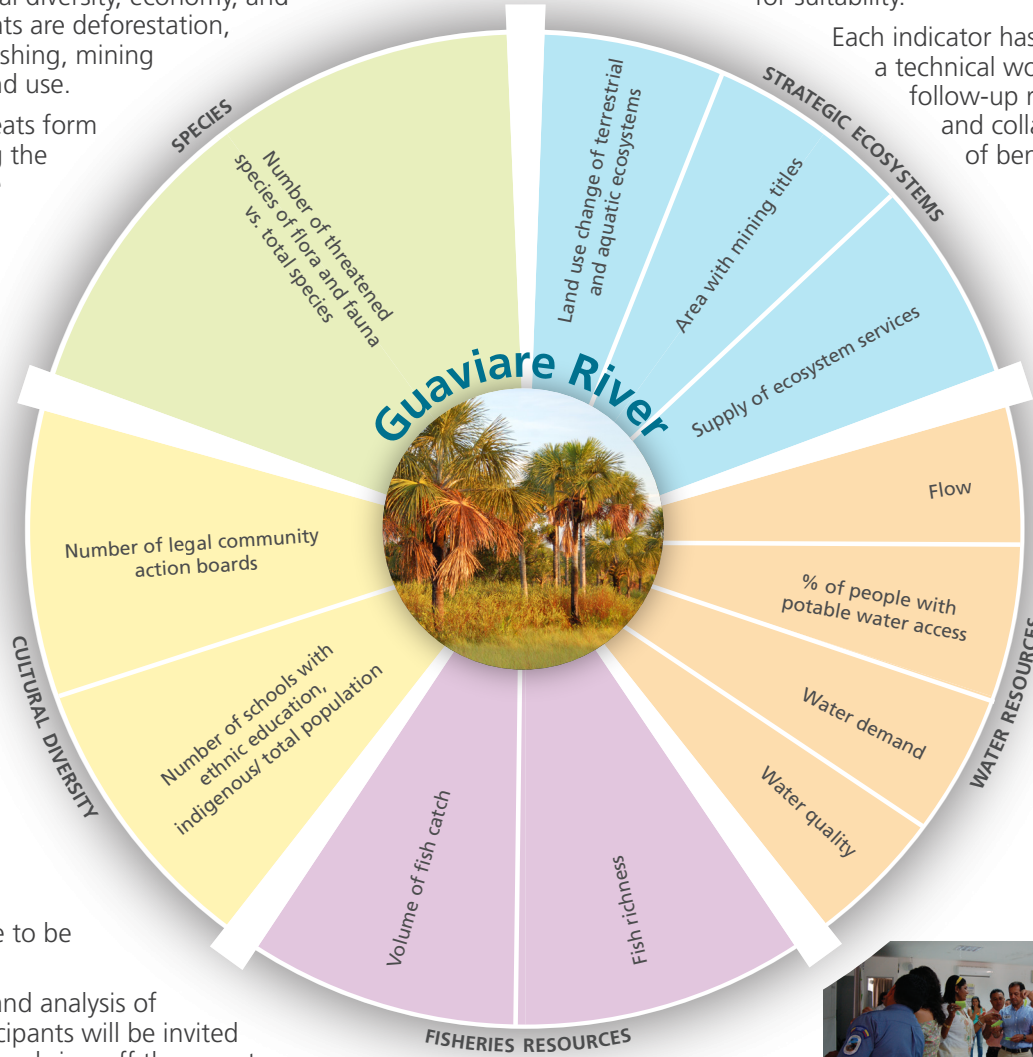
Participants at the workshop in San José del Guaviare.

Values and threats

Workshop participants had the task of identifying the environmental, social, and economic values of and threats to the Guaviare River and its watershed. A list of 11 values and 11 threats was collated, evidence of the importance of this watershed for the region. The list was narrowed down to 5 values and 5 threats that will be represented in the report card.

These values are shown in the following figure and include physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the river, as well as cultural diversity, economy, and production. The threats are deforestation, contamination, overfishing, mining (oil) and changing land use.

These values and threats form the basis for selecting the indicators that will be monitored over time in order to assess progress towards pre-defined criteria.



Indicators

Following the selection of key values to be protected in the Guaviare River basin, workshop participants identified over 27 potential indicators that could be used to assess the status of these values.

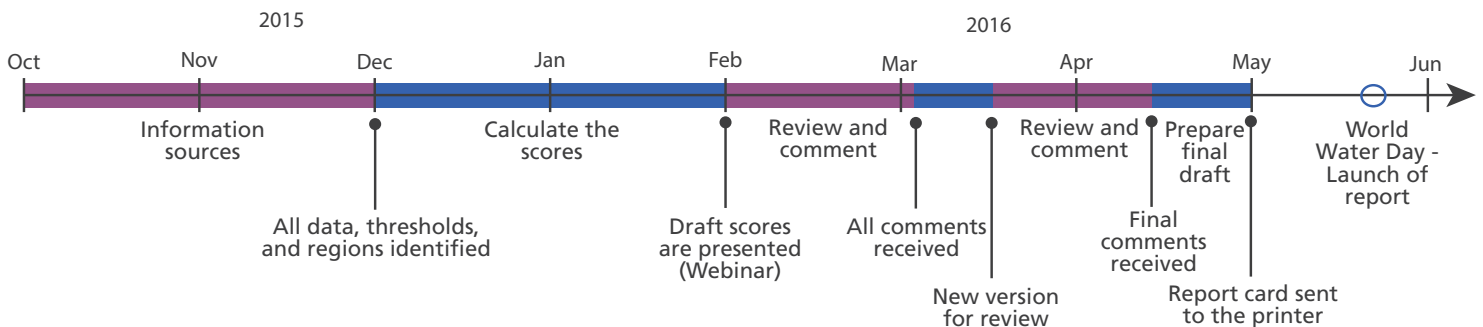
These indicators were refined by assessing their cost effectiveness for collection, future viability, sensitivity to change, relevance to management actions and data availability, resulting in 12 viable indicators that are now being investigated for suitability.

Each indicator has been assigned to a technical working group for follow-up review, data sourcing and collation, and assignment of benchmarks.

Timeline

The report card is due to be released in 2016.

Following collection and analysis of data, workshop participants will be invited to review, comment, and sign-off the report card prior to public release.



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