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## Report Card of the Meta River Basin, Colombia Evaluation of Colombian tributaries of the Orinoco

The Orinoco Basin Health Report Card was officially kicked-off in June 2015 with the first stakeholder engagement meeting in Puerto López, in the Orinoquía Region of Meta Department, Colombia.

More than 40 representatives from 19 organizations attended the workshop aimed at identifying the environmental, social and economic indicators that will form the basis of the Meta River Report Card. Indicators were chosen based on the top values identified as key to the future sustainability of the Meta River basin. Participating institutions included the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Humboldt Institute, Corporinoquia, Omacha Foundation, Fundacion Orinoco, WWF, among others. The three-day interactive workshop also attracted positive media attention.

Outcomes from the meeting included:

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



Jose Alfredo, Find. Only

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Map depicting the Meta River basin and example reporting regions.

## **Reporting regions**

The 804 km length of the Meta River traverses a variety of elevations and ecosystem types from its origins in the Andes to it's confluence with the Orinoco River, near Puerto Carreño in the east. Hence, it is anticipated that the river will be divided into three 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 elevation changes. A technical group has been established to define and document these regions.



## Values

**Indicators** Workshop participants were tasked with identifying important Following the selection of key values to be protected in the Meta environmental, social and economic values that the Meta River River basin, workshop participants identified over 60 potential and basin provides. An extensive list of values (> 15) was collated indicators that could be used to assess the status of these values. highlighting the importance of this river basin to the region. The These indicators were refined by assessing their cost effectiveness list was narrowed down to nine key values to be represented in for collection, future viability, sensitivity to change, relevance the report card. These values are outlined in the figure below to management actions and data availability, resulting and comprise physical, chemical and biological in 15 viable indicators that are now being NATURE TOURISM FOOD SECURITY characteristics of the river, as well as tourist. investigated for suitability. transport, food and cultural sectors. Each indicator has been assigned These values formed the Number of sites where to a "technical working group" Nutrition indicators nature tourism occurs foundation for choosing CORRUDOR AND TECHOLARIA CONNECTURITY CONNECTURITY for follow-up review, data indicators that can be sourcing and collation, FISHERIES RESOURCES monitored over time and assignment of to assess progress benchmarks. towards pre-defined Fesence of dems water benchmarks. Connectivity (levels) Fish composition and volume Terrestrial connectivity Meta Rive AGRICULTURE AND AQUACULTUR TRADITIONAL AND INNOVATIVE ECOSYSTEM DIVERISTY Change in coverage area Number of agricultual Ecosystem service Number of threatened species certifications Mater venno, total soliday Population density by 18routile of the office Flow Number of passengers Cuthural events HYDRODYNAMIC (QUANTITE) CUIFIRAL DIVERSITY Timeline The report card is due to be released in March 2016. Following collection and analysis of data, RIVER TRANSPORTATION workshop participants will be invited to review, comment, and sign-off the report card prior to public release. 2015 2016 Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Compile data for Thresholds and Calculation of Synthesize each indicator methodology definition each indicator results Revision

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Launch of the

report card