Dominican Republic

1. Common name: Hispaniolan Giant tree Frog
   Scientific name: Osteopilus vastus

2. Common name: Bay Cedar
   Scientific name: Suriana marítima

3. Common name: Red-legged Thrush
   Scientific name: Turdus plumbeus

4. Common name: Button mangrove
   Scientific name: Conocarpus erectus

5. Common name: Reddish Egret
   Scientific name: Egretta rufescens

The biodiversity of the Dominican Republic is one of the richest in the world. To date, approximately 2,830 species of endemic fauna and 2,050 species of endemic plants have been described. Much of the biodiversity is contained in the Higüamo River watershed and associated coastal zone, the geographical focus of IWEco.DR.

In the Higüamo River watershed and estuarine zone, five types of terrestrial and wetland ecosystems predominate:

- Semi-humid broadleaf forests,
- Humid broadleaf forests,
- Broadleaf shrubs,
- Mangroves and
- Marshes with brackish water dominated by herbaceous plants.

Two important protected areas are within the watershed’s estuarine zone: both established in 2009, the Laguna Mallen Wildlife Refuge, in the estuary, protects many species of egrets, migratory ducks and other native and endemic species, and the Higüamo River Wildlife Reserve, which is dominated by mangrove that is habitat for a large number of native, endemic and migratory species of birds, as well as other invertebrates, coastal and marine species. Of the 221 species of vascular plants identified in the Higüamo River Wildlife Refuge during a field study undertaken in April 2011, 196 are native species and 10 are endemic.

Location of the National sub-Project

Photos courtesy of:
1 - Dario Flores
2, 3, 4, 5 - Jonathan Delance