Preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents Related to Travel and Tourism in Costa Rica: Analysis of a Bilateral Project

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INTRODUCTION

The Montreal-based International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) and the Paniamor Foundation (Fundación Paniamor) headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica, partnered up to design an innovative bilateral project to fight the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents (CSEC) related to travel and tourism in Costa Rica, through a series of preventive and awareness-raising activities.

The project entitled *"Preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescentes Related to Travel and Tourism in Costa Rica"* was implemented between March 2012 and February 2014, with funding from the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) and World Vision Canada. The present report documents the proj-

Informal sector workers, Tamarindo beach, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. SOURCE : IBCR

ect methodology, its results and the lessons learned from this experience, in order to issue strategic recommendations for key stakeholders within government, civil society and the private sector in Costa Rica and Canada. The report also highlights good practices that could be replicated at the national level and in other Latin American countries with a context similar to Costa Rica's.

This project to prevent and combat the commercial sexual exploitation of minors in Costa Rica (hereinafter "the Project") proved complex and challenging as it sought to break down attitudes and social tolerance towards CSEC, to establish a culture of zero tolerance and to increase the reporting of this crime.

The Project has several interrelated components, all of which aimed at reducing the number of CSEC cases in Costa Rica. It includes measures to improve communication between Canadian and Costa Rican law enforcement authorities, awareness raising campaigns targeting the informal tourism sector, as well as awareness activities for families, youth, and communities living near touristic areas.

This report takes stock of the work conducted in Canada and Costa Rica (countries of origin and destination countries for sex tourism, respectively) during the two years of the Project. This documentation and analysis process is important because it requires "a critical reflection and interpretation of an experience based on the factors, objective and subjective, that have shaped it, in order to learn and share lessons learnt"[1]. The objective of the present analysis is thus to draw lessons learned in the prevention of CSEC in vulnerable communities and to share the learnings from a bilateral project to combat CSEC in sending and receiving countries. Our analysis covers the approach, strategies and actions put forward during the Project, with the purpose of improving future projects and replicating good practice models to better prevent CSEC related to travel and tourism.

This document is divided in seven chapters. The first presents the Project background with an overview of the work previously carried out by the IBCR and the Paniamor Foundation as well as the main reasons for undertaking the Project; the second introduces the Project donors, partners and objectives; the third covers the Project environment in Costa Rica and the provinces where the Project was implemented; the fourth summarises the different approaches and principles underlying the Project; the fifth presents the Project methodology at bilateral level and on the ground; the sixth discusses the lessons learned from the Project and the seventh presents final recommendations addressed to key stakeholders.

It is hoped that this analysis will inspire future bilateral and community-based projects to prevent and combat CSEC related to travel and tourism. The Project could be replicated in other parts of Costa Rica or in countries with similar contexts, where the proximity and interaction of local communities with tourist resorts could potentially harm vulnerable children and adolescents.

Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts

ECPAT International is an international network of organisations and individuals working together to end the use of children and adolescents in prostitution, child pornography and child trafficking for sexual purposes. ECPAT seeks to encourage the international community to ensure that children and adolescents from all over the world enjoy their fundamental rights free from all forms of commercial sexual exploitation. All terms referring to CSEC in this document were borrowed from ECPAT.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

According to the Declaration and Agenda for Action against CSEC, the aforementioned is comprised of "sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object. The commercial sexual exploitation of children constitutes a form of coercion and violence against children, and amounts to forced labour and a contemporary form of slavery[2]."

CSEC related to Travel and Tourism (or Child Sex Tourism – CST)

According to ECPAT International, child sex tourism is "the commercial sexual exploitation of children by people who travel from one location to another and once there engage in sexual acts with minors. Child sex exploiters resort frequently to the use of housing, transportation and other services related to tourism which facilitate contact with children and adolescents and allow the perpetrator to keep a discreet presence among other people and the surrounding environment.[3]"

Gender Stereotypes

These refer to "preconceived, culture-based ideas that have historically permeated societies and separated genders by imposing different roles to men and women. They have set gender boundaries, restricted opportunities and potential and generated gender-based inequalities that particularly affect women.[4]"

Gender Mandates

Gender mandates dictate that "men, to become such, must take responsibility, be good providers, conquerors and show authority. Sometimes these features are shown through acts of violence that men commit against women, other men and even against themselves.[5]" On their end, women are expected to be home makers, good mothers, loving and generous, among other characteristics attributed to the feminine gender. Those who disregard these mandates generally receive social sanctions.[6]

Main Stakeholders Involved in CSEC related to Travel and Tourism

Sex Offenders

According to the same international organisation, there is no single profile of sexual offenders who engage in CSEC related to travel and tourism. However, it is possible to divide sexual offenders into three distinct categories:

a. Situational Child Sex Tourist

"The situational child sex offender abuses children by way of experimentation or through the anonymity and impunity afforded by being a tourist. He or she does not have an exclusive sexual inclination for children. Often, the situational offender is an indiscriminate sex tourist who is presented with the opportunity to interact sexually with a person under 18 and takes it. The majority of child sex tourists are situational offenders."[7]

b. Preferential Child Sex Tourist

"The preferential child sex tourist displays an active sexual preference for children. He or she may still have the capacity to experience sexual attraction for adults but will actively seek out minors for sexual contact. The preferential child sex tourist will generally search for pubescent or adolescent children. It is important to distinguish the preferential child sex tourist from the pedophile (see below)."[8]

c. Pedophile

"The pedophile manifests an exclusive sexual inclination for pre-pubescent children. Usually considered as someone suffering from a clinical disorder, the pedophile may not show any preference for the gender of children and may not view sexual contact with children as harmful. Pedophiles, as well as the 'preferential' abusers described above, are a minority of child sex tourists."[9]

CSEC Victims

According to ECPAT, "victims of CST often come from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. However, many come from ethnic minorities, displaced communities and other marginalised social groups. Victims are both girls and boys, some of whom may also have been victims of domestic abuse and neglect. Working children, especially those involved in the tourism industry and who are dependent on seasonal income, can easily fall victim to child sex tourism. Sometimes, simply being born in a tourist destination characterised by major wealth discrepancies between incoming tourists and local inhabitants can be enough for a child to become exploited in CST.[10]"

Informal Tourism Sector Workers

These are individuals who are not formally employed in the tourism economy and include beach vendors, artisans, unofficial tour guides, surf instructors, masseurs/masseuses, unlicensed taxi drivers, etc.

Intermediaries/Facilitators

An intermediary/facilitator is anyone who induces, promotes, encourages or facilitates CSEC, and who makes a profit therefrom, whether directly or indirectly. Under this definition, intermediaries include informal tourism workers who may facilitate CSEC by providing transport, housing, information, or other services to sex offenders.

Gender-Based Violence

According to the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, gender-based violence or violence against women means "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.[11]"

Sexual Violence

A type of violence "exerted by physical or psychological pressures intended to impose, by means of coercion or intimidation, a sexual relation that is not desired. Sexual violence includes coerced sex of any kind including the use of physical force, attempts to obtain coerced sex, sexual harassment including sexual humiliation, forced marriage or cohabitation, forced prostitution and the commercialisation of women, forced abortion, the denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt measures to protect against diseases," and the acts of violence that affect the sexual integrity of women such as female genital mutilation and virginity tests.[12]" Sexual violence also includes all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, including CSEC.
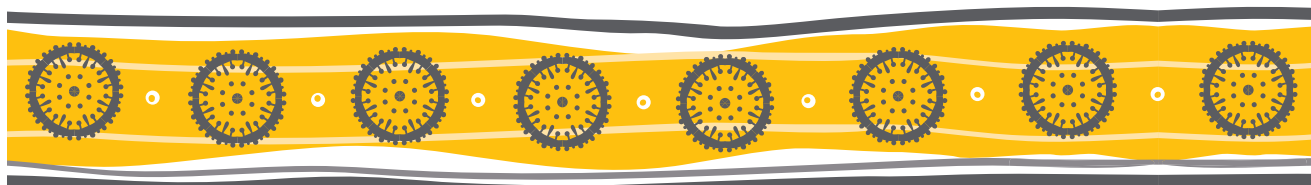
I. Project Background

To carry out this innovative project, IBCR and the Paniamor Foundation combined their knowledge and previous experience in the prevention and eradication of CSEC.

The next section summarises the work recently carried out by both organisations on these fronts, and explains how their work led to a binational Project between Canada and Costa Rica.

1.1 The International Bureau for Children's Rights-IBCR

The International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) is an international organisation based in Montreal, which has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Its main mission is to contribute to the promotion and respect of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols. Since its creation in 1994, the IBCR focuses on the protection of the most vulnerable children including children affected by armed conflicts, child victims and witnesses of crime and child victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

IBCR has implemented numerous projects against CSEC and child trafficking in Canada, Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. In Canada, projects have focused on raising the awareness of the local population about the legal consequences of CST, because Canada is considered a "country of origin" for sex tourism. These projects have taken different forms (e.g., evaluations, research, development of training materials, support to national plans of action, awareness raising campaigns, etc.) and have been supported by various donors (UNICEF, the U.S. Department of State, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Department of Foreign Affairs of Canada, the Department of Justice of Canada, etc.) with different target groups (children and adolescents, law enforcement officials, social workers, tour operators, etc.).

Over the past four years, IBCR has focused its efforts in two areas: a) the education of Canadian travellers about Canadian extraterritorial legislation enabling the prosecution of Canadian citizens or residents for sexual offences committed against children abroad, and about the social implications of such offences. In addition, IBCR has led campaigns directed at Canadian travellers to encourage the reporting of child sexual exploitation; (b) IBCR has organised awareness raising forums for Canadian travel agencies and tour operators to explain their role in the prevention and reporting of CSEC.

The next part summarises the work recently carried out by IBCR in Canada over the past four years, prior to its bilateral collaboration with Costa Rica.

1.1.1 Awareness Raising Forums for the Canadian Tourism Sector

IBCR organised three forums in the cities of Montreal (2009), Toronto (2010) and Vancouver (2011) to raise awareness among the private tourism sector about the legal and social implications of CST, including the above mentioned extraterritorial legislation. The forums were an opportunity to deliver useful and practical information about the specific measures and actions that tourism businesses can take to prevent CSEC, to disseminate awareness raising materials and to share international good practices such as the Code of conduct for the protection of children and adolescents from commercial sexual exploitation related to travel and tourism.

First Forum: December 2009 (Montreal)

- Ten representatives from the following travel and tourism agencies took part in this forum entitled "The Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Related to Travel and Tourism": Vacances Tour Mont Royal, Tour Chanteclerc, Skylink Voyages, Sunwing, Canandes Tours, Club Adventure, Thomas Cook, Jolivac Tours and Incursion Voyages.
- IBCR called for the immediate involvement of the tourism sector in the prevention and reporting of CSEC.
- At the end of the forum, the participating travel agencies and tour operators formed a small committee and designed an awareness raising campaign to be disseminated through their web pages, email signatures, etc. This took place over a period of three months, in early 2010.

Second Forum: "The Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation Related to Travel and Tourism", September 2010, (Toronto).

- The forum welcomed 15 tourism companies, (Imagine Holidays, Merit Travel Group Inc., UNIGLOBE, Sunsations Travel Inc, Flight Centre, Continental Tour, Hilton Inn Garden in Toronto, Peak Time- Travel & Tours, Planetterra, Gap Adventures & Planetterra, Thomas Cook- Canada, Payless Travel, VHS Travel, Taprobane and Skylight Travel & Tours), including representatives of tour operators, travel agencies and hotel chains. It was attended by representatives of the Department of Justice of Canada, as well as other major Canadian and international organisations working against CSEC.
  - IBCR presented the first large scale awareness raising campaign against CSEC related to travel and tourism.
  - The event was hosted by Air Canada in its Toronto offices.

Third Forum: "The Protection of Children and Adolescents Related to Travel and Tourism" (in Spanish, *La protección de los niños, niñas y adolescentes en contra de la Explotación Sexual Comercial asociada a Viajes y Turismo*), April 2011, (Vancouver)

- The third forum was hosted by Air Canada in its Vancouver offices.
  - 16 participants attended, including representatives of travel agencies and tour operators (Tourism Vancouver, Eton College, UNIGLOBE, Air Canada, The Travel Group, Pro Tours, Embassy Link), law enforcement agents and students from a travel and tourism institute.
  - IBCR presented its existing campaign against CSEC related to travel and tourism.

1.1.2 Awareness Raising Campaigns

IBCR conducted two major awareness raising and advocacy campaigns in Canada that were designed pro-bono by the advertising agency BCP.

1. First Campaign

It sought to raise awareness about Canadian extraterritorial legislation and the social consequences of CST.

The English and French campaign slogans were, respectively: "Sex with a child is a major crime wherever you are"/"Avoir des relations sexuelles avec des mineurs est un crime grave où que vous soyez."

The campaign disseminated posters and brochures in the cities of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. These materials were distributed to 55 tourism companies (including travel agencies, tour operators, travellers' clinics and tourism institutes) as follows:

Table 1: Number of Posters and Brochures Distributed

City	N° of Posters	N° of Brochures
Toronto	52	1 560
Montreal	26	6 164
Vancouver	30	607
Total	108	8 331

The campaign was also disseminated through the following channels:
■ Electronic versions of the aforementioned materials.
■ Distribution of campaign materials during the above mentioned Vancouver forum.
■ Four posters were displayed at the international exits of the Montreal and Quebec airports (2 in each airport), at the peak of tourism season (December 2010-March 2011)

Publication in Air Canada's EnRoute magazine
■ Air Canada published the IBCR campaign in three editions of its inflight magazine EnRoute (March, August and September 2011).
■ Each edition was printed into 1, 030,000 copies, spreading the message about the legal and social consequences of CSEC to over 3 million travellers.

Dissemination of the campaign at the Salon international tourisme voyages in Montreal, October 2011
■ During this event, approximately 35 000 persons saw the campaign posters.
■ 5 000 leaflets were distributed among the 153 participating companies.

2. Second Phase of the Campaign

In its second phase, the campaign encouraged Canadian travellers to report CSEC through different channels.

To this end, the Montreal-based advertising agency BCP designed a Facebook page to encourage the reporting of cases. The page was entitled "Eyes on Patrol/Stay vigilant". An animated banner was also designed, with a sequence of images redirecting visitors to the Facebook page. This banner was posted on the participating Canadian travel agencies and tour operators' web pages. The slogans of the campaign in English and French were, respectively: "Don't close your eyes to the sexual exploitation of children. Let them know you are watching. Join the cause"/ "Vos yeux ont le pouvoir de surveiller. Faites-leur savoir que les avez à l'œil. Rejoignez le mouvement." Towards the beginning of 2012, six major online travel agencies and two Montreal advertising companies had disseminated the campaign.

To date, the Facebook page has 1 800 followers (from the Canadian public) and it has been updated to include IBCR's main actions to prevent CSEC, including those related to the Costa Rica project.

First Canadian Campaign against CST, launched by the IBCR in 2010.

1.1.3 Coalition with Organisations Working on the Prevention and Eradication of CSEC

Towards the end of 2010, IBCR formed a coalition with the international organisations OneChild and Plan Canada with the support of UNICEF-Canada, to launch and disseminate the campaign, to develop advocacy activities with the Canadian government to prevent CST and to organise the forums, among others.

1.1.4 The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Related to Travel and Tourism ("the Code") and IBCR

The Code of conduct for the protection of children against sexual exploitation related to travel and tourism (the Code) is an initiative of the tourism industry which is co-funded by the Government of Sweden and ECPAT International. Its advisory partners are the United Nations Fund for Children (UNICEF) and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). In 2013, more than 1,200 companies from 42 countries had signed the Code[13].

IBCR was concerned by the absence of corporate social responsibility policies addressing CSEC among Canadian tourism companies. Indeed, until the beginning of 2014 only two companies had signed the Code in Canada. In order to promote adherence to the Code, IBCR became its representative in Canada in 2011. However, no new membership ensued. IBCR was faced with the reluctance of the tourism sector, due in part to the lack of resources to promote and implement the Code and the lack of perceived added value for the tourism industry. IBCR found that CSEC was not considered an issue by the tourism sector and that the implementation of the Code was often seen as a complex and costly process. Despite all the efforts made, the industry still perceives CSEC as a distant reality and lacks a clear, proactive role in its eradication.

It should be noted that the United Nations Committee of Rights of the Child, in its comments on Canada's 2012 periodic report, highlights "[i]nitiatives by the State party to combat child sex tourism, such as the passage of Bill C-15A, which allows the prosecution of citizens of the State party who engage in child sex tourism abroad even if the State where the crime was committed did not request prosecution. The Committee further notes as positive awareness-raising educational campaigns conducted by the State party on the legal consequences of child sex tourism. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned that child sex tourism remains a serious issue for the State party and that, despite legislation, prosecution [of sexual offenders] has been weak. [Consequently,] the Committee recommends that the State party take measures to strengthen the enforcement of its legislation on child sex tourism through improved detection, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all perpetrators. The Committee further urges the State party to conduct advocacy with the tourism industry on the harmful effects of child sex tourism, widely disseminate the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Global Code of Ethics for Tourism among travel agents and tourism agencies, and encourage these to become signatories to the Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation Related to Travel and Tourism."[14]

IBCR is currently working on advocacy measures to promote the signing and implementation of the Code in Canada.

1.2 The Paniamor Foundation

The Paniamor Foundation is a Costa Rican non-governmental, non-profit and non-denominational organisation founded in September 1987. Paniamor' mission is to bring about lasting changes in the quality of life and fulfilment of minors' rights in Costa Rica[15]. To this end, Paniamor has conducted extensive work in Costa Rica to prevent and fight sexual violence against children and adolescents, in particular commercial sexual exploitation.

Paniamor has successfully convinced tourism companies and associations (hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, car rental companies, taxi companies, cruise staff, etc.) to take a stance and to sign the Code.

1.2.1 The Code: A Commitment of the Tourism Industry in Costa Rica

In Costa Rica, the implementation of the Code began in 2003. As explained above, the objective of the Code is to garner the participation and commitment of the tourism industry to deter and punish CST[16].

When the Code was first implemented in Costa Rica, the Paniamor Foundation was in charge of its coordination and implementation with its partners, the Costa Rican Association of Tourism Operators (ACOT) and the Costa Rican Association of Tourism Professionals (ACOPROT). Since 2010, the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism (ICT) has been in charge of implementing the Code, with technical support from the Paniamor Foundation[17].

The Paniamor Foundation has been disseminating and promoting the Code by means of workshops and posters, pamphlets and other information materials. It has also actively supported processes to implement the Code. Some of the stakeholders that are part of the Code in Costa Rica include "hotels, travel agencies, tour operators, car rental agencies, taxi companies and cruise staff as well as other key stakeholders such as public bodies capable of addressing the underlying causes of sexual exploitation.[18]"

At the beginning, some companies hesitated to sign as they considered CST a remote issue without any bearing on their business. After seeing that the Code had a growing list of signatories, these same companies decided to join the project as well[19]. This is an example of the domino effect that the Code can have when companies begin to see the value that the Code can add to their reputation and prestige and to the promotion of sustainable and responsible tourism. According to a report of the Johns Hopkins University, the domino effect witnessed in Costa Rica is an indication that the Code is developing into an industry standard at national level[20]. In fact, up until 2013 over "378 business signatories to the Code [...] have committed to zero tolerance of commercial exploitation of children and adolescents" in Costa Rica.

The implementation of the Code in Costa Rica is considered a good practice because the tourism sector acknowledges the existence of CSEC and its negative implications for the industry, and because it is willing to play a role in the prevention of this crime. Paniamor played a key strategic role in the promotion and implementation of the Code and provided technical assistance in the training processes required by the Code.

The criteria that tourism companies agree to fulfil when they sign the Code are the following:
1. To establish a policy and procedures against sexual exploitation of children.
2. To train employees in children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation and how to report suspected cases.
3. To include a clause in contracts throughout the value chain stating a common repudiation and zero tolerance policy of sexual exploitation of children.
4. To provide information to travellers on children's rights, the prevention of sexual exploitation of children and how to report suspected cases.
5. To support, collaborate and engage stakeholders in the prevention of sexual exploitation of children.
6. To report annually on their implementation of Code related activities[21].

1.2.2 Towards a Joint Project Between Canada and Costa Rica

It is important to highlight that prior to the Project, the Paniamor Foundation had worked mainly with the private sector to implement the Code, an instrument designed mainly for them. The Paniamor Foundation was however keen to develop a more inclusive strategy, involving other actors in the informal tourism economy, to better prevent CSEC. One reason was that informal workers can sometimes play a key role as intermediaries in CSEC cases. This assumption was later confirmed by an analysis and mapping exercise carried out by the Paniamor Foundation, which found that informal workers sometimes acted as intermediaries in cases of CSEC because they were familiar with their communities and could easily connect tourists to underage victims[22].

This highlighted the need to create an awareness raising strategy targeting the informal tourism sector, to warn them about the legal consequences of facilitating crime and to discourage them from doing so. It was determined that such strategy would have to be innovative, non-traditional and flexible[23] and that it could not use the same methodology and tools used with the formal sector of tourism (such as the Code, certification systems and traditional training workshops) given the informal nature of activities.

Having worked with the formal sector of tourism to implement the Code, Paniamor was eager to include the informal sector in its activities to prevent CSEC. On its end, after conducting awareness raising activities for the Canadian private sector and public, IBCR was ready to internationalise its fight against CST. Both organisations thus joined hands to develop a bilateral project combining Paniamor's local experience and IBCR's international experience to create a strategy to combat and prevent CST.

The first planning meeting between IBCR, the Paniamor Foundation and World Vision Costa Rica was held in April, 2012, in order to define the strategic directions of the Project, to plan activities and divide responsibilities. Subsequently, both organisations maintained contact through monthly teleconferences, face-to-face evaluation meetings and joint missions on Project sites.

First planning meeting, San Jose, Costa Rica, April 2012. SOURCE : IBCR

1.3 The Johns Hopkins University Report

In 2007, the Johns Hopkins University published a report on CST focusing on countries, such as Costa Rica, where the problem was emerging or had become significant. Costa Rica has a tourism-oriented economy. It offers ample conveniences for the development of tourism and good hotel infrastructure and services, making it an excellent holiday destination. While the majority of tourists coming to the country are in search of a romantic getaway or direct contact with nature, there are others who come to Costa Rica seeking sex with children and adolescents[24]. Consequently, tourist destinations in Costa Rica have grown hand in hand with CSEC[25].

According to this report:

■ The majority of tourists involved in CSEC are men over the age of 40, who come from the United States, Italy, Canada and Germany.

■ The report suggests that the phenomenon of CST in Costa Rica may be attributed to the country's initially apparent absence of investment in a tourism development and marketing strategy which firmly establishes the types of tourism that the country would not tolerate.

■ The situation was exploited by individuals seeking to profit from illegal activities, who advertised Costa Rica online as a country tolerant of sex tourism and sexual activities with minors[26].

Indeed, Costa Rica has been marketed as a honeymoon and adventure destination as much as a sex tourism destination on the Internet[27]. For example, "searches for "Costa Rica escorts" via Google and Yahoo! revealed 271 000 sites and 673 000 sites respectively, while searches for "Costa Rica adult vacations" turned up 684 000 sites when searching using Google and 1 050 000 sites when searching using Yahoo! These sites, when examined more closely, were found to be connected to materials promoting sex tourism, often illustrated with photographic depictions of faces and bodies of very young women."[28] Studies such as these demonstrate the high tourist demand for sexual activities with minors and the existing "supply" in countries such as Costa Rica. For this reason, it is of paramount importance to coordinate efforts between perpetrators' countries of origin and their destination countries.

The study identifies taxi drivers as CSEC intermediaries because they can facilitate contact between tourists and children and the latter's transportation to private condominiums where tourists stay.

While the study is not the most recent and the complex dynamics of CSEC are constantly changing, it nevertheless provides a fairly comprehensive portrait of the situation in the country and the issues that need to be addressed for a better response.

1.4 The Need for a Bilateral Strategy

As described above, many efforts have been deployed both in Canada and Costa Rica to prevent CST. In countries of origin of sex offenders, such as the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France and others, these include: dissuasive awareness raising campaigns targeting potential offenders; the promotion of the Code and the wide adherence thereto; the development of training manuals and guides for tour operators, etc. At the same time, innumerable activities have been led in destination countries: awareness-raising and dissuasive campaigns warning about child protection laws; projects to address demand; training for the formal tourism sector, in particular the hospitality industry, etc. However, there have been few bilateral or multilateral initiatives to prevent CSEC through coordination between countries of origin and destination. This kind of collaboration has yielded good results in the fight against human trafficking and can benefit the fight against CST in many ways, for example;

■ It provides an opportunity to reach market niches from where sexual offenders originate and to tackle demand in the "source country."

■ It can enhance communication between police forces of both countries and encourage joint efforts in the investigation and prosecution of sex offenders at destination, with the support (when necessary and legally relevant) of the country of origin. This would strengthen policing and reduce the risk of impunity.

■ It provides an opportunity to share experiences and good practices implemented in different countries and to enhance the understanding of CST and the strategies to address it.

■ It provides an opportunity to develop a bilateral collaboration model that could be replicated at multilateral level between countries of origin and destination.

According to the official figures of the Costa Rican Institute of Tourism (ICT) for 2012, Canadians are among the main travellers who visit Costa Rica, only exceeded in number by visitors from the United States and Nicaragua[29]. Furthermore, the study carried out by the Johns Hopkins University indicates that Canada is one of the "source countries" from which sex offenders depart[30]. Field visits and interviews conducted by the project team in the intervention areas also revealed that in recent years there was a substantial increase of Canadian tourism in Costa Rica.

When the Project was designed, it was decided that IBCR's awareness raising experience in Canada and Paniamor's local accomplishments could reinforce each other in a bilateral cooperation framework that would include some activities in the country of origin and the destination country. A bilateral collaboration model was designed and tested, in order to assess its potential, opportunities, achievements and learnings. Please see the table on the next page for the details of this model.

Table 2: Bilateral Collaboration Model

BILATERAL COLLABORATION MODEL: A HOLISTIC APPROACH	
Strengthening of collaboration between law enforcement in countries of origin and destination. ↓ ↓	
Bilateral campaign that follows the "tourist itinerary," from their departure in the country of origin to their arrival in the destination country and during their stay ↓ ↓	
Activities at Destination	**Activities at Origin**
Situational analysis of CSEC in the main tourist areas.	Establish contact between local and community networks working against CSEC at destination and law enforcement authorities in the country of origin.
Mapping exercise to identify places with a high occurrence of CSEC, including its frequency and the profile of sex offenders and victims.	Awareness raising activities against CSEC with tourism companies selling trips to the destination country: travel agencies, tour operators, online magazines. Promote the Code of conduct for the protection of children against CSEC
Strengthening of local inter-institutional networks against CSEC.	
Activities to raise awareness about the legal and social consequences of CSEC among the informal sector of tourism in high risk areas (beaches and tourist areas).	
Change the behaviour, attitude and social tolerance of families, communities and young people in communities surrounding tourist areas.	
↕ Monitoring, follow-up and systematisation of the process with clear indicator. ↕ Possible replication in other countries with similar contexts.	

The two activities, that were considered essentially bilateral in nature, were the improvement of coordination and communication between law enforcement in Canada and Costa Rica and the implementation of a bilateral awareness raising campaign using the same visuals in both countries and a similar slogan.

The Project is based on the idea that CST starts when a tourist choses a destination and a reason for their trip; then is facilitated by conditions and situations that enable perpetrators to engage in sexual activities with children; and it spreads because of impunity. For this reason, the Project puts forward an intervention strategy that establishes dissuasive "barriers" along the "tourist itinerary" in each country, to address the myths surrounding Costa Rica as a CST destination and to help prevent CSEC in that country.

These dissuasive barriers consist of the dissemination of awareness raising materials featuring the same slogan and visuals about the legal consequences of CSEC in both countries. It was decided that the first dissuasive "barrier" would be placed in Canada as it is a country of origin for sex offenders. Materials were disseminated where tourists depart (in airports) and where they buy travel packages (travel agencies). After educating informal tourism workers in Costa Rica about the legal implication of CSEC, they were recruited to create the next barrier, which was the dissemination of awareness raising materials in tourist destinations. In Costa Rica, the work conducted with young people, adolescents and families to reduce social tolerance proved fundamental to break the cycle of supply and demand. The objective was to involve all key stakeholders in the prevention of CSEC, both in Canada and Costa Rica.
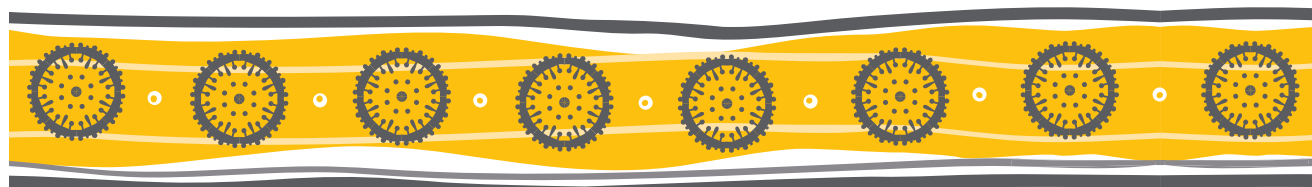
II. About the Project

2.1 Financial Contributors

The project *"Preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescentes Related to Travel and Tourism in Costa Rica"* was funded by the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) which made a $248,688 contribution as part of the programme called "Partnerships with Canadians Branch." The Project also received contributions from World Vision Canada ($60,000) and Canadian religious congregations.

2.2 Project Partners in Costa Rica

The Project counted on different partners to carry out field activities in Costa Rica. These have included government entities, NGOs and private companies that offered their valuable collaboration at different points in the Project.

Table 3: Project Partners in Costa Rica

Name of Partner Organisation	Role in the Project
National Children's Boaard (Patronato Nacional de la Infancia)	Helped invite key actors and young people to develop Project activities.
Regional Directorate of the Ministry of Education (Regional de Educación del Ministerio de Educación)	Facilitated space in schools and helped select youth and adolescent to participate in peer-to-peer trainings on self-defence and CSEC prevention. For more information, see page 75.
Attorney General's office and Judicial Investigation Agency (Organismo de Investigación Judicial (OIJ))	Supported the training of local institutional network against CSEC in Santa Cruz on reporting mechanisms. For more information, see page 73.
Institutional Networks Against CSEC in Santa Cruz and Quepos	Supported the different Project processes. Included the Project activities and strategies in their work plans.
Department of Migration and Immigration (Dirección de Migración y Extranjería)	Supported the development of the geo-social mapping exercise. For more information, see page 51.
Youth Action Foundation (Fundación Acción Joven)	Supported the preparation of invitations and established contact with community leaders.
CEPIA Foundation	Supported the preparation of invitations and established contact with community leaders.
Hotel Westin, Langosta, Tamarindo Diría	Provided rooms and refreshments for training activities, helped invite the informal tourism sector to Project activities. For more information, see page 57.
Quepos Bodyboard	Took contact with the informal tourism sector, supported the campaign in Costa Rica.

2.3 Project Objectives

Main Objectives

The ultimate aim of the partnership between IBCR and the Paniamor Foundation was to decrease the number of CST cases. To this end, the Project established several mid and short term objectives, both at bilateral and country level, in Costa Rica and Canada. These objectives are listed below:

Mid-term Objectives

1. To strengthen the capacity to detect, monitor and report CST cases.
2. To improve the child protection system for CST victims.

Short Term Objectives

1. In Canada, one of the main objectives was to develop a bilateral awareness raising campaign to **educate Canadian travellers** about the legal implications of CSEC in Canada and Costa Rica, emphasising the existence of Canadian extraterritorial legislation which enables the prosecution of Canadian residents or citizens who commit sexual offences against children and adolescents abroad.
2. In Costa Rica, the Project aimed at breaking down stereotypes and gender mandates, myths, practices and beliefs that perpetuate CSEC and to **reduce the social tolerance** of this crime. To this end, awareness raising activities were developed for families and young people living around tourist areas in the provinces of Guanacaste and Puntarenas. In this context it was also important to provide young people with self-defence mechanisms and to equip them with means to counter CSEC and all forms of sexual violence.
3. Because awareness raising and advocacy work had already been conducted with the formal sector (hotel staff, taxi drivers, etc.) through the implementation of the Code, the Project focused on **developing strategies to inform, train and mobilise informal workers** who are in direct contact with tourists. The priority was to inform them about the legal consequences of promoting or facilitating CSEC. The Project also promoted the role of the informal tourism sector in the reporting and prevention of CSEC.
4. There was also a need to **strengthen the skills and knowledge of local inter-agency networks** with regards to the prevention, reporting, monitoring and follow-up of CSEC cases. To this end, flowcharts were developed indicating the type of care, monitoring and reporting that each CSEC case requires.
5. This Project is intended to serve as an innovative good practice model that can be replicated in other countries with similar contexts.
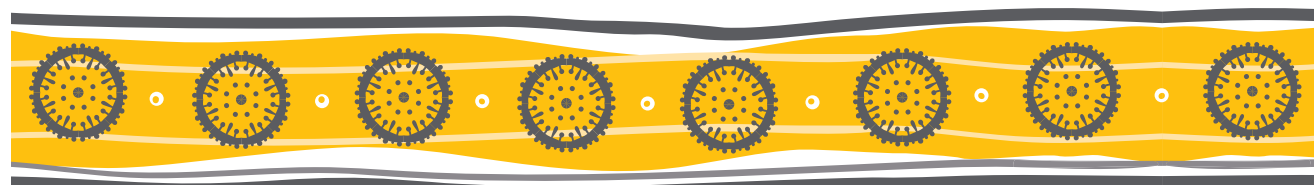
III. Socio-Geographical Context

3.1 Country Background

Costa Rica: A Growing Tourism Market

Tourism activity has played a significant role in Costa Rica's economic growth in recent decades. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), the direct contribution of the travel and tourism industry accounted for 12.3% of Costa Rica's GDP in 2012 and it is estimated that this figure will keep increasing in coming years[31]. Similarly, in 2013, Costa Rica ranked 44th worldwide in terms of competitiveness in travel and tourism, according to the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI). The same year, Costa Rica was awarded the second place among Latin American countries, using the same index[32].

Eco-tourists, surfers, and families from around the world repeatedly choose Costa Rica over other destinations because it meets their demands for ecotourism, cruise ship tourism and "sun and beach" tourism. Costa Rica offers a well-developed tourism infrastructure and facilities that make the country an excellent choice as a holiday destination, especially for travellers from the United States and Canada. Some of the benefits that Costa Rica offers to the North American market include: a) its proximity to the United States and Canada with direct flights; b) low cost airfare; c) acceptance of the US dollar in most commercial establishments; and (d) English is spoken in tourist areas[33].

Sunset at Tamarindo beach, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. SOURCE: IBCR

While the country has one of the highest human development index in the region and provides an extensive social security network[34], poverty remains one of its main problems, as evidenced by its important economic and social inequalities. Indeed, according to the Millennium Development Goals database, in 2011, 24% of the population was living under the poverty line.[35] As far as the effects of tourism on the Costa Rican economy, it can be said that while tourism has generated significant economic growth for the country, the environment has not been conducive to sustainable development. Indeed, job opportunities created by the tourism industry in the provinces of Gunacaste and Puntarenas, have generally been unstable and temporary, resulting in unreliable income for the inhabitants of these provinces[36]. In consequence, when families live in poverty and lack basic necessities such as housing, food and education, they are more vulnerable to CSEC.

Among the factors contributing to the vulnerability of children and adolescents to CSEC in Costa Rica, it is worth noting the following:

Poverty and CSEC

Poverty has consistently been linked to CSEC because its socio-economic roots provide fertile ground for this problem. According to the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), most CST victims come from poor families and have been victims of domestic violence.[37]

In Costa Rica, even families who have overcome the poverty line are still struggling to meet their basic needs and could regress if they were to face adverse situations. This reality has a negative impact on the education of boys, girls and adolescents, as some parents are reluctant to enrol their sons and daughters in school or to invest in their education[38]. Consequently, the low rate of school enrolment in some areas means that boys, girls and adolescents are especially vulnerable to CSEC.

It should also be noted that some aspects of poverty can be attributed to patriarchal concepts of masculinity and femininity and family disintegration.[39] The feminisation of poverty is a concept that recognises that "poverty suffered by women is much more severe than that suffered by men and is increasing disproportionately." Worldwide, women who are heads of households are the poorest of the poor and their offspring only perpetuate the cycle of poverty.[40] Also, according to studies on gender gaps conducted in Costa Rica, women earn 66% of what men earn for the same task[41]. In Costa Rica, gender-based vulnerability pushes adolescent girls into situations of commercial sexual exploitation. Likewise, the objectification of women in parallel to the development of tourism and economic needs have turned women into just one more commodity for tourists.[42] The feminisation of poverty is thus a manifestation of gender inequality in Costa Rica which leaves underage women particularly vulnerable.

Poverty is also a determining factor in the disintegration of families because of the stress and financial pressure that it generates in the family sphere[43]. Such situations can potentially place children and adolescents in situations of vulnerability. Similarly, female and male children and adolescents who come from dysfunctional families, characterised by abandonment, prolonged parental abuse and/or sexual abuse, are exposed to drugs, trafficking in persons and CSEC[44].

Economic Inequality and CSEC

Poverty is intrinsically linked to inequality. While poverty "refers to the incapacity of an individual or population to cover their basic needs [...] inequality is the inability [of people] to access certain resources, rights, obligations [and] benefits [based on their] social, economic, gender, racial, cultural, geographical or natural status.[45]" Inequality is often rooted in poor wealth distribution in a given country or region and has deep socio-economic implications on the population. Such is the case of Costa Rica. For example, even though the country experienced significant economic growth in 2012, inequality remained: according to a World Bank report, Costa Rica was among the three Latin American economies where inequality had increased the most between 2000 and 2010[46].

Accordingly, many consider that in order to combat poverty and inequality and to achieve equitable and sustainable human development, economic development policies must go hand in hand with an equitable distribution of wealth and social investment.

Inequalities contribute to violence because individuals with limited chances of social mobility and economic progress may have a sense of injustice and frustration that can lead them to commit criminal acts. At the same time, social inequality and the struggle to secure opportunities, benefits, and advantages can also lead (along with other factors) some children and adolescents into CSEC.

Migration and CSEC

As Costa Rica is a relatively well developed country where prostitution is legal, it has become a destination country for migrants and human trafficking, especially for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Migrant communities are looking for better living conditions and often face economic hardship. As a result, migrant children and adolescent are vulnerable to CSEC. Victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation originate mainly from Nicaragua, Colombia, Panama and Dominican Republic, although cases of women from Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, the Philippines and Ecuador are mentioned on the "World Sex Guide" website[47].

Consumerism and CSEC

The pressure exerted by a consumer society pushes some adolescents to engage in CSEC in order to improve their social status and gain acceptance from their peers and society. These adolescents are not necessarily in a situation of extreme poverty, but society strongly pressures them to acquire consumer goods. This situation is no stranger to Costa Rica where the pressures imposed by social media and by society itself in a context of social inequality have an impact on the lives of children, and adolescents, making them vulnerable to CSEC.

Social Tolerance and CSEC

Social tolerance (the acceptance, indifference or passivity of the general population) for CSEC is a factor that perpetuates this crime in Costa Rica. This social tolerance often results from a misconception that adolescents are responsible for the situation of sexual exploitation in which they live, as they are the ones who "provoke and seduce" adults. Social tolerance also comes from a lack of understanding or acknowledgment that CSEC is a crime, as well as from gender constructions that legitimise the dominance of some people over others.

Gender Constructs that Perpetuate Violence

In Costa Rica, gender constructs still prevail (stereotypes and gender mandates) and translate into dominant behaviours and the denigration of women, all of which legitimise gender-based and sexual violence (including CSEC) in the collective imagination.

Costa Rica has signed most of the international conventions that protect children and adolescents against all forms of sexual violence, including CSEC, and the country has adopted extraterritorial legislation (2005) that can be used to punish crimes committed against children and adolescents by Costa Ricans abroad.

Although the Costa Rican government has made significant efforts to combat CSEC, the problem continues to affect the country and many of the policies implemented remain ineffective. For this reason it is essential to put forward innovative and holistic initiatives at the local, national and international level to combat and prevent the problem of CSEC in general and CST in particular

Although the problem of child sex tourism affects a large part of the Costa Rican territory, the project *"Preventing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescentes Related to Travel and Tourism in Costa Rica"* focuses on the provinces of Guanacaste and Puntarenas because of the high flow of foreign tourists - particularly Americans and Canadians - to these two provinces. In fact, since the early 1990s, 56% of the Costa Rican tourism sector investment has benefited Guanacaste and Puntarenas, resulting in the creation of employment opportunities for their inhabitants. However, as mentioned above, these opportunities have generally been seasonal and temporary and have not generated sustainable income[48]. Although CSEC victims can be male and female, they are predominantly female[49] due to the aforementioned factors including misogynistic and sexist attitudes toward women, the increase in teenage pregnancies and the feminisation of poverty.[50] There are also several specific socio-economic factors that contribute to the incidence of CSEC in Guanacaste and Puntarenas. These factors include: the increase in migration and trafficking in persons in the Pacific areas, unemployment, family disintegration and the low level of schooling.

Below is a brief summary of the socio-economic situation in Guanacaste and Puntarenas as well as perceptions of CSEC in each province:

3.2 Province of Guanacaste (Canton of Santa Cruz and Communities)

Most Project activities took place in this province, where more resources were invested given the vital importance of tourism in this area and its high flow of Canadian tourists.

Guanacaste is one of the largest and least populated provinces of Costa Rica. It is distinguished by its vast plains (savannahs) that are favourable to cattle breeding and grain cultivation. It is famous for its greenery and its spectacular white sand beaches bordering the Pacific Ocean. It has an area of 10 140 square kilometres and approximately 280 232 inhabitants, 91 274 of whom are younger than 15 years old. Guanacaste is located 281 kilometres from San Jose at an altitude of 25 meters above sea level. The fifth province of the country, it has 11 counties and 47 districts[51]. In the second half of the 20th century and increasingly since 1990, Guanacaste has changed from a predominantly pri-

Map of the region of Guanacaste, Costa Rica.
SOURCE : WWW.COSTARICABUREAU.COM

mary economy (agricultural and livestock activity) to an economy in which services, especially those related to tourism, are growing. Indeed, Guanacaste has a high level airport in the city of Liberia, the Daniel Oduber airport. This airport receives international flights from Canada and the United States

Although the global economic crisis of 2008 significantly affected real estate in Guanacaste, in 2012 tourist arrivals to Costa Rica through this airport had increased by 26.9%[52]. This tourist "boom" created new work activities, a new use of time and space, new labour relations and national and international migratory movements.

Despite the growth of tourism, the Chorotega region[53] which covers the greater part of the province of Guanacaste has 31.6% of its population living in poverty and 11.5% in extreme poverty. Likewise, according to a study from the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), in 2011 its unemployment rate was 8.97%.

During the first year of the Project, work focused on the canton of Santa Cruz because of the high tourism flows and the presence of social and economic factors conducive to CSEC. According to the Department of crimes against life, sexual abuse, smuggling and trafficking in persons of the Judiciary Investigation Bureau (hereinafter, OIJ) of Costa Rica, the canton of Santa Cruz has become one of the main centres for the recruitment of minors for the purposes of sexual exploitation[54]. This Department has identified the main at-risk communities in the canton as Cartagena, Brasilito, Huacas and Villarreal, due to their proximity to Tamarindo and Flamingo, two beaches that are under close surveillance by the authorities because of suspicions of a high incidence of trafficking in minors.[55]

The reasons for choosing the above-mentioned communities for Project intervention include the following:

- The extensive development of tourism which has generated an increase in construction, transportation and direct employment opportunities with hotels in coastal areas.
- An interesting mix of three ingredients that favour CSEC in the area: poverty due to the high levels of unemployment; the influx and influence of tourism; and a deeply rooted cultural trend to value "the male" to the detriment of women.
- The existence of a local network that works against CSEC: one element that supports the implementation of the Project in the canton of Santa Cruz is the presence of institutions interested in carrying out actions to protect children and prevent CSEC, coordinated by the National Children's Board (PANI) through the Institutional Network against CSEC. On the other hand at community level, there are community organisations that are part of the national protection system: these are the Child Protection Committees, whose primary purpose is to protect children in their communities and who have become valuable Project partners.

Flamingo beach in Guanacaste. SOURCE: IBCR
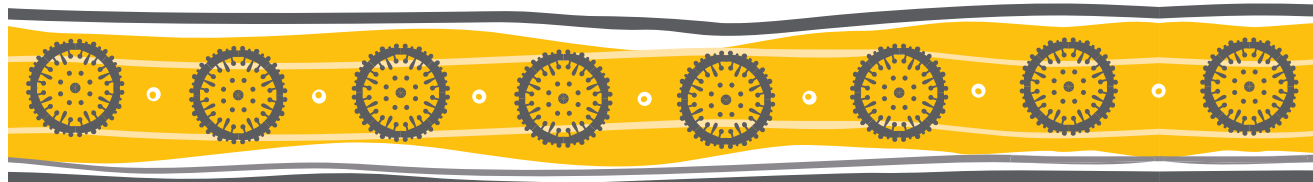
3.3 Province of Puntarenas (City of Quepos and Manuel Antonio National Park Tourist Area)

In the Central Pacific Region[56], where the province of Puntarenas is located, 23.6% of the population lives in poverty, while 9.8% of the population lives in extreme poverty[57]. Puntarenas has a total population of 368 423 people, 127 667 of whom are younger than 15 years old[58]. During its second year, the Project focused on the city of Quepos (canton of Aguirre), including the tourist area of the Manuel Antonio National Park. In socio-demographic terms, Quepos has a population of 19,889 inhabitants, with many individuals under 25. Inhabitants under 25 account for about 44% of the population (young people aged 12 to 17: 10.9% and 10.8%; 18-24: 13.5% and 13.3%; children up to 11 years old: 20% and 20.1%)[59]. As is the case in Guanacaste, many of the families who live in Quepos work in the tourism industry, either in the formal or informal sector.

Quepos is an area of intense interaction between tourists and local people because of its proximity to the Manuel Antonio National Park. Many foreign tourists stay in Quepos, where locals live around hotels and tourist establishments. Tourists and locals share the same public spaces such as shopping malls, restaurants and facilities. As a result of this interaction, local communities are strongly influenced by tourism. This differentiates the Quepos area from the Guanacaste communities. In the latter, inhabitants live on the outskirts of tourist areas, in conditions that are more basic and not very urbanised. They normally go to the tourist areas to find work. Boys, girls and adolescents study and live in their own respective communities, although they also meet for fun and entertainment at the beach in tourist areas. In Quepos, children and adolescents live and study at the same place where tourists carry out their recreational and entertainment activities (bars, nightclubs, restaurants, etc.) This puts the Quepos area in a situation of particular vulnerability to CSEC.

Map of Manuel Antonio and Quepos location.
SOURCE: WWW.MANUELANTONIOESTATES.COM

The reasons for choosing this second area of intervention were the following:
■ Quepos is a city characterised by its rapid development of tourism and heavy hotel investment.
   – It is a very popular area among tourists, especially Americans and Canadians.
   – Unlike Guanacaste, it is an area where the local population directly interacts with tourists and does not live far from the tourist centre.
   – There is an inter-institutional network against CSEC with a solid and well-structured work plan that was most helpful for the Project.

IV. Guiding Approaches and Principles

4.1 Systematic Protection of Children and Adolescents

The Project uses a systematic approach to the protection of children and adolescents, recognising them as subjects of rights and acknowledging the interdependence and interconnectivity of their rights. This approach seeks to mobilise all the key actors who interact with children and adolescents and who are responsible, directly or indirectly, for the protection of their rights, through a coordinated, robust and adaptable strategy. The protection system should support the development and implementation of laws, regulations, policies and mechanisms that facilitate cooperation between different stakeholders. For this reason, the Project promotes coordination and communication between inter-agency networks working against CSEC, civil society, governmental actors, families, and the informal sector of tourism, community associations, as well as

Workshops with adolescents and youth in Guanacaste.
SOURCE: IBCR

children and adolescents. All these actors played an active role at the different stages of the Project, and validated all strategies and methodologies that were put forward to prevent CSEC in Costa Rica

4.2 Rights-Based Approach

A rights-based approach is an ideological stance which involves the execution, whether simultaneous or successive, of individual and collective processes that enable: a) an adaptation of institutional practices towards the fulfilment of children's and adolescents' rights to provision, protection and participation; (b) the private, omnipotent and broadly discretionary nature of traditional family or custodial relations; and (c) children and adolescents' own ways of interacting among themselves, with the adult world and the institutional framework.

It considers minors as entitled to human rights because they are persons; to specific rights because of their developmental process; and to special protections in situations that threaten their development.

This approach requires: a) to be in contact with children and adolescents at all times, from the recognition of their citizenship status; b) to consider any preventable condition which threatens their optimal development as a violation of their rights, and; c) to demand that institutions with a guardianship or foster role (mainly the family and the State) fulfil their obligations as guarantors of these rights.

All Project activities used this approach, so that the protection of children and adolescents' rights was considered the ultimate and fundamental purpose. When presenting the Project to the various stakeholders in the community, the private sector, NGOs, government actors, etc., the Project team made it clear that it was guided by a rights/responsibilities approach and that all stakeholders had a shared responsibility to uphold the fundamental rights of children and adolescents. It was also particularly important to highlight the role of families, communities and government actors as guarantors of these rights during meetings with them (Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child).[60]

4.3 Gender-Based Approach

"This approach acknowledges and seeks to transform social factors that assign different ways of being, thinking and doing to men and women and which have historically enabled and perpetuated relations of domination and control. It recognises that children and adolescents are socialised into accepting gender representations that legitimise discrimination and inequality between people of different sexes and which makes them vulnerable to structural and temporary violence and exclusion. This approach makes it possible to detach sexual differentiation from its biological root and to situate it in its proper political dimension, both as a producer and reproducer of inequality and violence.[61]"

During project interventions and activities, the team used an inclusive, non-discriminatory language encompassing children and adolescents of both sexes as subjects of rights. It also sought to address any gender related myths and beliefs that would arise during face-to-face encounters, discussions with community members and awareness raising activities, in particular those myths and beliefs that perpetuate situations of exploitation and sexual abuse of minors. This was also the case during the search for partners within the formal sector of tourism and other local businesses.

Furthermore, the different project activities aimed to achieve a gender balance.

4.4 Youth Participation

One of the recommendations that was made to States in the Rio de Janeiro Declaration issued during the World Congress III against CSEC (2008), was to promote and fund an active participation of children and young people at all levels in the design, monitoring and evaluation of programmes and policies, in campaigns and through peer-to-peer youth programmes to prevent and raise awareness about CSEC.[62]

In this connection, the participation of young people in activities to prevent CSEC was a fundamental component of the Project, which sought to integrate their experiences, views and contributions into the process of raising awareness about CSEC.

Children and young people have the right to express themselves, to defend their own rights, to support their peers and to express their views in all decision making processes affecting them. In this way, they can contribute to their own protection and to the development of their communities.[63] This is consistent with the principle established under article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which establishes the right of children and adolescents to express their views on matters concerning them. During the Project, this principle was broadly interpreted to include young people over the age of 18, given their capacity to produce social mobilisation, their leadership abilities and their empathy skills.

Young people were consulted during the elaboration of the local participatory assessment and shared their views on the issue of gender constructs. They also took part in the "information-training-action" activities led with the informal tourism sector and played an active role in the face-to-face encounters with taxi drivers and other community members, explaining the Project and raising awareness about CSEC. Young people received prior training during which they had the opportunity to share their opinions and views. In addition, the self-protection activities for young people included a "training of trainers," enabling young people to transfer their knowledge and skills to their peers.

4.5 Social Mobilisation

"This concept refers to the informed, planned and strategic collective actions that are led by a social group to change cultural or structural conditions that affect them or their reference or advocacy groups.

The [Paniamor] Foundation believes that children and adolescents, fathers and mothers, economic, social and religious actors, professionals with strategic positions in key sectors, researchers, policymakers and legislators, all play an irreplaceable role in social mobilisation.[64]"

The Project has sought to mobilise different stakeholders in the prevention and reporting of CSEC cases. It mobilised the informal tourism sector, young people, families and communities, first by getting to know them, their environment, perceptions and needs and subsequently by sensitising them and involving them in concrete actions where they could be a part of social change. These actors understood the benefits of becoming CSEC prevention agents for themselves, their families and their communities and how this would lead to a positive social change in which their peers would get involved. In this sense, these processes are expected to generate a ripple effect through the involvement of other actors (who did not directly benefit from the awareness raising and training activities) in the prevention and reporting of CSEC. This means that as a results of the project, the informal tourism sector should be able to inform their peers about the legal consequences of enabling or promoting activities related to CSEC.

4.6 State Responsibility

"The State and its institutions have the obligation to fill the gaps in the realisation of children and adolescents' rights. All in accordance with their jurisdiction and specific mandates and whenever families or responsible parties, as primary duty bearers, are only partially capable of doing so, unable to do it all, or unwilling to do so.

This paradigm leads to a redefinition of the exercise of power and authority in the relations between institutions and minors who require protection and services. It also sets limits on the exercise of such power and authority, which must be balanced with the obligation to protect minors as rights holders."[65]

The Project won the support of key government actors such as municipalities, the OIJ, the Attorney General as well as local networks against CSEC (which are mixed networks comprising both governmental and non-governmental actors). The ultimate goal was to strengthen the role of state institutions as guarantors of rights and to promote the implementation of public policies in the long term.

4.7 Corporate Social Responsibility

According to the Ethos Institute of Business and Social Responsibility in Brazil: "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is defined by the ethical and transparent relationship between a business and any public that it is in contact with, as well as the establishment of business goals compatible with sustainable social development and the reduction of social inequalities.[66]

The [Paniamor] Foundation agrees and defines this paradigm as the voluntary integration by companies, in their business operations and in their relations with stakeholders and partners, of social concerns about the rights and overall welfare of children who live in their area of operation or influence.[67]"

When approaching the private sector (hotels, foundations, etc.) to seek their support, it was emphasised that the Project sought to promote corporate social responsibility in such a way that companies could commit or contribute to actions that would generate positive change in host communities. The possibility of adding the logos of hotels or other companies on different materials or invitations as an acknowledgment of their support was left open.

As noted above, the Paniamor Foundation has been promoting the adherence to the Code of Conduct to prevent CSEC associated with travel and tourism and supports its implementation as part of Corporate Social Responsibility strategies. The Code of Conduct seeks to obtain the commitment of the formal sector of tourism and it has been challenging to adapt it to the informal tourism sector. It remains that any corporate social responsibility that the formal sector may have goes way beyond the implementation of the Code and should also include actions to prevent the negative impacts of tourism at community level.

4.8 Public/Private Coordination

This model suggests an inter-sectoral relationship linking the capacity and interests of the State to those of businesses and civil society organisations, with a view to enhancing the impact of strategies that contribute to Sustainable Human Development. According to the report of the United Nations Development Programme (1994), Sustainable Human Development is "a continuous and integrated process which includes components and dimensions of social and individual development, where the generation of capacities and opportunities by and for people is central to increase equity for current and future generations.[68]"

On several occasions throughout the Project, it was necessary to coordinate efforts and reach agreements between civil society, the State and the private sector. For this purpose, the local networks working against CSEC in both Santa Cruz and Quepos provided a much needed platform for the coordination of activities between civil society and the State.

The Project tried to fit in and complement the work plans of these networks in an effort to create better synergies. The private sector was also consulted to help develop strategies such as the one used with the providers of goods and services in the informal tourism sector. This strategy was validated by the work done with local inter-institutional networks against CSEC. Also, throughout the Project, the private sector collaborated by providing space for trainings, workshops and talks as well as pro -bono support for the design of the visual concept of the bilateral campaign.

4.9 Responsible and Sustainable Tourism

Responsible and sustainable tourism refer to tourism activity which promotes social equity, the protection of the environment, economic growth and human development. Accordingly, responsible tourism and sustainable tourism include social responsibility in addition to ecological responsibility.[69] Both types of tourism have an identical goal, which is to achieve sustainable development for host communities.

Sustainable tourism is defined as tourism that takes into account the current and future economic, social and environmental impact of tourism.[70] It obeys a sector model meant to be followed in the long term. Responsible tourism is defined as tourism that minimises the negative impacts of tourism, be they economic, environmental or social, and therefore aims to create better places to live and visit.[71] It is primarily based on attitudes that are reflected in actions on the part of all actors involved in tourism.

The concepts of sustainable and responsible tourism are generally used interchangeably or as part of the same idea. The main difference between responsible tourism and sustainable tourism is that the former places greater emphasis on self-responsibility. It considers that individuals, organisations, businesses and government actors involved in the tourism sector should take responsibility for the impact of their actions on future generations. The shift in emphasis from sustainable tourism to responsible tourism is a call to all stakeholders in the tourism sector to take responsibility for their actions towards host communities instead of expecting others to behave a sustainable manner.[72]

Throughout the entire Project, responsible and sustainable tourism was promoted. Thus, during the activities conducted with the informal tourism sector, families, adolescents and communities, it was explained that the Project sought to protect children and adolescents against CST in an effort to promote responsible and sustainable tourism by upholding the rights and values of local communities. Likewise, the Project promoted the self-responsibility of its team members in order to ensure the sustainability and preservation of the tourism destination. The Project team also developed a Sustainability Plan with concrete measures to promote sustainable tourism and minimise the environmental impact of the different activities carried out at community level.

4.10 Generational-Contextual Approach

Under this approach there are two essential dimensions that must be taken into account when planning interventions with minors. The generational aspect takes account of the social, political, cultural and economic context proper to person's lifetime, in order to adapt strategies, expectations and priorities. Issues such as social class, gender, race, geographical location, among others, may weigh significantly in the identity formation and life experience of young people[73]. Moreover, this approach supports compliance with the legal framework that protects the rights and guarantees that young people are entitled to by reason of their age.[74]

This approach seeks to move from an adult-centric approach to one which promotes the participation and empowerment of young people. In other words, the generational approach to working with children and adolescents aims to "construct young people's identities based on their potential [and experiences].[75]"

The contextual aspect takes into account environmental conditions that are particular to a target population and may affect project interventions. Any institutional intervention should thus begin with the recognition that the characteristics of children and adolescents as well as their potential, vulnerabilities and specific protection needs, (including from the State) vary depending on historical conditions and on the family, community, institutional, economic, political and socio-cultural context. Thus, the assessment of the age, specificities and constraints of target group may contribute to a successful project intervention.

During the Project, all interventions conducted with children and adolescents used that approach. Accordingly, the age of participating children and adolescents was used to determine their level of participation in given activities. For instance, most of the volunteers chosen to raise awareness among the informal tourism sector as part of the "information-training-action" strategy were older than 18 and capable of a critical reflection about CSEC.

This approach also helped define the awareness raising strategy used with young people: the young participants who were initially trained by the Project team (to later give that training themselves) were aged between 15 and 18 years old, while some of the young people who subsequently received the training were aged between 12 and 15 years old. The awareness raising method that was used with the 12-15 years old group included recreational and artistic activities that facilitated the understanding of key concepts related to the highly complex issue of CSEC and highlighted the key self-protection concepts that adolescents should be aware of.

V. WHAT WAS ACHIEVED AND HOW?

5.1 BILATERAL ACTIONS

5.1.1 BILATERAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES

5.1.1.1 What was done and how?

One of the main objectives of the bilateral project was to improve communication and collaboration channels between Canadian police authorities, in particular the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), law enforcement authorities in Costa Rica (such as the OIJ, the Attorney General of Costa Rica and the administrative police/security forces); and the communities and members of the informal sector of tourism in Costa Rica.

Bilateral work thus focused on strengthening the capacities of police authorities in both countries, to better respond to cases of CSEC. To achieve this, communication and coordination between law enforcement authorities hadsto improve in order to intensify the investigation and prosecution of cases involving Canadian citizens and residents who commit sexual offences against children and adolescents in Costa Rica.

**Collaboration Between IBCR and the Canadian Police Centre
for Missing and Exploited Children (CPCMEC)**

During the year 2012, IBCR held three meetings in Ottawa with the Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CPCMEC) of the RCMP, a governmental entity responsible, among other things, for the follow-up and coordination of investigations of cases of sexual assault against minors perpetrated by Canadians abroad, in application of Canada's extraterritorial legislation. The CPCMEC conducts specialised investigations services, including the coordination of CSEC investigations at the international level. It also plays a key role in the development and support of technologies to investigate CSEC cases facilitated by Internet as well as training on this subject.

The preparatory meetings between IBCR and the RCMP-CPCMEC in Ottawa defined the objectives, methodology and scope of cooperation with the Costa Rican authorities.

Collaboration Between the CPCMEC and Law Enforcement Authorities in Costa Rica

The CPCMEC contacted the Liaison Officer for Costa Rica who is based in Bogota, Colombia. The Liason Officer served as an intermediary between law enforcement authorities in Costa Rica, in particular the OIJ, and the RCMP, to facilitate the scheduling of a bilateral meeting. The objective of this meeting was to achieve a better understanding and to exchange information about the legal framework, challenges, gaps and strategies used by the OIJ and the RCMP in the investigation of Canadians involved in sexual assaults against children and adolescents. Ideally, it was intended to generate a communication protocol for law enforcement in both countries.

The meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, on 5-6 February 2013 with the participation of the OIJ, the Attorney General of Costa Rica (sex crimes and domestic violence unit), the RCMP, the Paniamor Foundation and IBCR. This meeting clarified the roles of police entities from each country during the exchange of information, the gathering of evidence in cases of CSEC and when identifying effective mechanisms for improved communication between the OIJ and the RCMP:

5.1.1.2 What Was Achieved?

The exchanges that took place and the meeting in San José helped to clarify and define the following points:

Understanding the Role of the RCMP Liaison Officer

The Liaison Officer for Costa Rica is physically located Bogotá Colombia, and is responsible for five other countries in Latin America where he pursues the same objectives.

According to the information provided by the RCMP, the role of the Liaison Officer is to facilitate contact between Canadian law enforcement and foreign law enforcement (in this case Costa Rica). The role of the Officer is to prevent and detect crimes under Canadian federal law in order to ensure the necessary intervention or coordination. The Officer is also involved if a Canadian citizen is under investigation in a foreign country and the investigative authorities of that country solicit the assistance of Canadian law enforcement. In fact, the contact in Canada for CSEC investigations is the CPCMEC, which is thoroughly familiar with the functions and mandate of the RCMP foreign liaison officers, and is aware of the Protocol for soliciting assistance from any of them.

The bilateral meeting clarified the mandate of the RCMP Liaison Officer, such as the procedure for redirecting relevant information about CSEC cases involving Canadian citizens or residents in Costa Rica to the CPCMEC. The OIJ committed to ensuring that all relevant personnel would be well informed and familiar with the role of the RCMP Liaison Officer as it relates to Canadian sexual offenders in Costa Rica. According to current protocols in place the Liaison Officer and Canadian authorities will only intervene if the case can be linked to a Canadian, either by investigating the case themselves - assuming the offender has returned to Canada – or by supporting the Costa Rican authorities when dealing with a Canadian offender who is still in Costa Rica, following a request for assistance.

After the meeting, Costa Rican law enforcement authorities had a clearer idea of the roles and functions of the Liaison Officer, as well as the level of collaboration that could be expected from him.

Comparison of Evidence Gathering Forms

During the bilateral meeting, the authorities of both countries compared their respective evidence gathering forms for CST cases. Although both authorities confirmed that the protocol used for the collection of information and evidence was similar in both countries, they also noted that the nationality of the alleged offender should be included in the protocol used in Costa Rica. This would ensure that this fundamental element of the investigation is the same for both countries.

Criteria to Identify Key Informants

A number of criteria were established to identify "key informants" at the community level in Costa Rica.

The Criteria
- Local community members
- Persons closely connected to the areas with a high inflow of tourists

The Role of Informants
- Have access to privileged information
- Support the investigation process of cases of CSEC
- These informants may also be key community stakeholders involved in the denunciation of incidents of CSEC.

At the meeting the law enforcement authorities stressed the need for an appropriate "filtering system" to identify potential key informants, particularly those from the informal tourism sector, communities or families.

In practice, the different beneficiaries of the Project, such as the informal tourism workers and members of local communities could potentially serve as key informants, especially after the awareness raising activities carried out. However, even though they could begin to play a more active role in the reporting of CSEC and provide relevant information for the investigation of this crime, it is the OIJ that has the responsibility of determining who key informants are.

The OIJ also suggested that the Project encourage local communities to familiarise themselves with and use the Confidential Information Centre (CICO), which is a system that protects the identity of informants and the confidential treatment of the information they provide. This Centre consists of an anonymous phone line through which the population can provide information on criminal activities.

Improving the Flow of Communication and Information Between Communities and the OIJ and RCMP

The bilateral meeting highlighted the need to improve the flow of information and communication between the touristic/community level, the OIJ and the RCMP Liaison Officer, as the case may be.

In practical terms, this meant that local inter-agency networks working against CSEC in the Project areas should actively and constantly engage with an OIJ representative in their respective jurisdictions. As a result, the representative would be in a better position to forward relevant information, data or queries to the headquarters in San Jose for immediate treatment.

The Paniamor Foundation held individual meetings with the relevant OIJ representatives to inform them about the Project objectives and to ask for their active involvement. It is worth noting that these exchanges between the Paniamor Foundation and the OIJ in San Jose resulted in a more active and steady participation on the part of their local representatives and in local networks against CSEC, both in Santa Cruz and Quepos.

A table detailing all the names, titles and contact details of relevant police authorities, both in Canada and in Costa Rica, was distributed to the participants after the meeting in order to facilitate future communication.

At the end of the bilateral meeting, minutes were distributed in Spanish and English, summarising the agreements and conclusions reached, which facilitated a follow up.

5.1.1.3 Difficulties and Challenges

Even though the meetings between the RCMP and the OIJ yielded good results, they did not prompt any new investigations or further arrests of Canadians in high-risk Project areas. However, such processes are gradual and depend on a number of variables external to the Project. Also, it must be kept in mind that many of the investigations led at international level are kept strictly confidential, following pre-existing institutional protocols which restrict NGO access to information.

Also, while the initial hope was to develop an inter-institutional communication protocol for the RCMP and the OIJ, in practice the bilateral meeting prioritised other aspects such as: a better understanding of institutional mandates; a better knowledge of the criteria for a Liaison Officer intervention; the standardisation of reporting forms; selection criteria for key informants, and; mechanisms to enhance communication between communities and the OIJ. Due to the limited duration of the Project, it was not possible to develop a comprehensive, written communication protocol.

As a result of the exchanges that took place during the Project, it is hoped that training activities can be coordinated between the RCMP and the OIJ with a focus on strengthening the investigation of CST cases, including Internet-facilitated crimes. This would require additional time and financial resources after the completion of this project, in order to develop appropriate training for the police forces of Canada and Costa Rica respectively.

5.1.2 BILATERAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST CST

5.1.2.1 What Was Done and How?

One of the main goals of the Project was to disseminate a bilateral campaign in both the country of origin (in this case Canada) and the country of destination of sex offenders (in this case Costa Rica), using the same visuals and slogan. The campaign would therefore have a "bilateral identity" and would follow the "tourist itinerary," to make travellers understand that CSEC is a crime in both countries.

In Canada, the campaign had two targets: Canadian tourists travelling to Costa Rica and travel agencies that sell travel to this destination. For both cases, awareness raising materials about the legal consequences of CST linked to travel and tourism were distributed.

During the first year of the Project in Canada, the campaign used the platform developed by IBCR, namely the "Eyes on Patrol/Restez Vigilant" Facebook page, which featured articles, briefing notes and videos providing information about Canadian and Costa Rican legislation against CSEC, the application of extraterritorial legislation as well as the Project's main objectives and activities. The Project also used other means to disseminate information about the legal consequences of CST, including webinars, interviews with online magazines, press releases, etc. It was essential for IBCR to disseminate information through the Internet from the beginning in order to reach as many people as possible.

At the beginning of the second year of the Project, the logo and visuals that would be used by both country in their bilateral campaign were designed. The chosen logo was the result of the creative, pro-bono work of the advertising agency Leo Burnett in Costa Rica, which held several meetings with representatives of IBCR and Paniamor in order to define the visual elements as well as the slogan of the campaign in Costa Rica.

The campaign designed by Leo Burnett consisted of the image of a watchful eye with a yellow background, a colour symbolising prevention or vigilance. The slogans were placed next to this image.

The slogan of the campaign in Costa Rica was: "- 18 protected by law." The main idea was to highlight the legal age of protection according to the international Convention on the Rights of the Child, and at the same time to emphasise the role of society and the State to protect children and adolescents against all forms of violence.

IBCR held meetings with its team in order to decide on a slogan for the campaign (in English and in French) in Canada, using the same visual concept as Costa Rica. The slogans that were used in English and French were, respectively:

"– 18 years old are protected here and everywhere. Sex with a minor is a major crime"

"– 18 ans protégés ici et partout ailleurs. Avoir des relations sexuelles avec des mineurs est un crime grave où que vous soyez"

Luggage tag. SOURCE: IBCR

The main message behind the slogan in Canada was that CSEC is a serious offence both in Canada and worldwide (including Costa Rica) and that every child or adolescent under the age of 18 is subject to legal protections against all forms of sexual violence.

After defining the visual concept, logo, and slogan of the bilateral campaign, materials were distributed to raise the awareness of informal workers who tend to be in direct contact with tourists. This entailed the distribution of stickers, reporting cards (featuring the number of the OIJ anonymous reporting phone line) and t-shirts. These materials were given to taxi drivers, surf instructors, artisans, massage therapists, and others who live in communities surrounding tourist areas in the two provinces where the Project took place. The distribution took place in the following strategic locations:

Table 4: Strategic Locations for the Distribution of Information Materials

Guanacaste	Puntarenas
Tamarindo Beach	City of Quepos
Communities of Huacas, Brasilito, Villareal and Cartagena	Manuel Antonio National Park
City of Santa Cruz	Parrita

The objective was to raise awareness among communities and the informal tourism sector, and imprint a message on the collective imagination. A further step was to disseminate the campaign in airports in both Costa Rica and Canada, with a synchronised distribution of materials in both countries to reflect the bilateralism of the process.

In Costa Rica, airports were asked to display campaign materials in strategic locations to ensure that tourists would see its logo and message. In Montreal, Canada, the Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport supported the campaign by providing a space for the distribution of luggage tags to tourists travelling to Costa Rica, in French and English.

On January 27, 2014, a synchronised pilot activity was conducted in the Montreal and Liberia airports. Campaign materials were distributed to Canadian tourists before going through the security checkpoint at the Montreal airport and upon their arrival at Liberia, at the time of picking up their luggage. This reinforced the bilateral character of the campaign.

The coordinated dissemination of campaign materials was an opportunity for the Costa Rica Project team to perform a rapid assessment of the impact of the campaign.

5.1.2.2 What Was Achieved?

AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES IN CANADA

Use of Facebook Pages

IBCR posted information on its Facebook page "Eyes on Patrol" about the Project in Costa Rica and existing legislation against CSEC in Canada and Costa Rica, along with a brief video about CST and its implications. Similarly, an article was posted to mark the World Responsible Tourism Day, linking the event to the fight against CSEC. This last article was visited 92 times on IBCR's Facebook page and 356 times on its campaign page "Eyes on Patrol."

In September 2012, IBCR took part in World Vision Canada's campaign on the occasion of the International Tourism Day. As part of its campaign material, World Vision Canada published a summary of the Project on its website and included a link redirecting visitors to the Facebook page "Eyes on Patrol."

The online magazine "Travel Culture" interviewed the IBCR Project manager and published an article about CST in Costa Rica. The article informed the public about the existence of laws against CSEC in Canada and Costa Rica, and encouraged the tourism industry to take active responsibility to prevent it by signing the Code of conduct. The article also mentioned the awareness-raising activities carried out with the residents of Guanacaste and Puntarenas (families, adolescents and informal sector of tourism) to break down attitudes and perceptions that perpetuate CSEC. IBCR posted links to this article on its Facebook page "Eyes on Patrol" and on its main Facebook page and received 412 and 89 visits respectively.

Webinar for Travel Agencies and Private Tourism Sector in Canada

On 17 October 2012, the IBCR Project manager presented a webinar coordinated by Baxter Travel Media[76], which was attended by more than 30 participants. The webinar was designed for travel agencies and the private tourism sector in Canada to provide them with information about CSEC and their role in its prevention and eradication. The Project in Costa Rica and its objectives were explained. The webinar also featured a presentation by a representative of the Canadian Department of Justice about Canadian extraterritorial legislation. Subsequently, several travel agencies contacted IBCR, expressing their desire to learn more and asking how they could contribute to the fight against CST.

Distribution of Awareness Raising Materials to Canadian Travel Agencies

IBCR distributed the above mentioned luggage tags among the main travel agencies that sell travel packages and trips to Costa Rica in the cities of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Most of this distribution was done during the month of November 2013, prior to the start of the high tourist season in Costa Rica.

Table 5: Distribution per City

City	N° of Travel Agencies
Montreal	10
Toronto	7
Vancouver	3
Total:	20

It was explained to travel agencies that they should hand the materials to travellers who buy package tours or airfare to Costa Rica, together with the information and documentation pertaining to the trip. See table 5 for more information on luggage tags distribution by city. It should be noted that of the 60 Canadian travel agencies contacted, only 20 agreed to distribute campaign materials.

In November 2013, 2 000 luggage tags had been printed for this purpose.

In addition to its online campaign, IBCR also distributed luggage tags at the Montreal airport in Canada. Leaflets about Canadian extraterritorial law and the social consequences of CSEC were also distributed.

During the synchronised distribution activity carried out on January 27, 2014, 72 luggage tags were distributed to Canadian tourists travelling to the Liberia airport using Air Canada and Sunwing airlines. The IBCR team also disseminated information leaflets on CSEC to passengers travelling to various tourist destinations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Communications and Social Responsibility department of the Montreal Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport was very open to collaborating in the dissemination of the campaign and provided strategic locations for approaching tourists. For this reason, it is hoped that new activities to disseminate campaign materials will be organised during the months of February and March 2014 during the high season for sun and beach destinations.

AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES IN COSTA RICA

Dissemination of Campaign Information and Visuals

The Paniamor Foundation was responsible for the distribution of campaign materials in the provinces of Guanacaste and Puntarenas, particularly among the informal tourism sector.

The Project volunteers and team approached informal workers in Guanacaste and Puntarenas wearing a yellow shirt featuring the official campaign logo. No other logo was added, in order to ensure neutrality and to avoid pressure to join the formal tourism sector. This approach strengthened the visual identity of the campaign and generated interest among the local population to learn more about the Project and its activities.

In addition to the distribution of stickers with the slogan "- 18, protected by law." The Project team also distributed cards with the campaign logo and the anonymous OIJ reporting hotline.

Also, during social mobilisation activities and tournaments organised with the informal tourism sector, t-shirts with the campaign logo were distributed and enthusiastically received by participants.

Dissemination of campaign materials in Quepos. SOURCE: IBCR

Campaign Impact Assessment

To complement the distribution of luggage tags in Canada and other activities, the Liberia, Tamarindo and Quepos airport authorities were asked to place banners in key locations of each airport. As a result, Canadian tourists were able to see the slogan of the campaign before leaving for Costa Rica and upon their arrival to the above mentioned airports.

On the same day that campaign materials were distributed in both Canada and Costa Rica (January 27, 2014), the Project team in Costa Rica conducted an overall assessment of the impact of the bilateral campaign. The results of this evaluation are as follows:

- **45 Tourists** confirmed that they had received information at the airport in Canada and that they were aware that the materials were about the fight against CSEC. They indicated that this was an excellent initiative and agreed that such activities should be conducted to protect children and adolescents. Contact made with these individuals was informal and friendly, and some showed the materials they had received in Canada.
- **25 Tourists** reported having seen the campaign logo at the airport in Canada, but did not understand its meaning. The Project team in Costa Rica team explained the goal of the campaign and these tourists then said they agreed with these activities and highlighted the importance of making them continuous.
- **10 Tourists** were not aware of the campaign and therefore did not understand its message. It is possible that these individuals were not approached by the Project team in Canada.

The graph below illustrates the results of the assessment. It should be noted that the majority of tourists who saw the campaign or received materials in Canada had a clear understanding of the message against CSEC and supported these awareness raising actions. It is possible that the tourists who did not understand the message of the campaign or could not see it were in a hurry. Because of circumstances specific to their trip, some tourists may have discarded materials without reading them.

Dissemination of the Bilateral Campaign

- Pourcentage of people who saw the campaign message and understood it.
- Pourcentage of people who saw the campaign logo but did non understand the message
- Pourcentage of people who dit not see the campaign
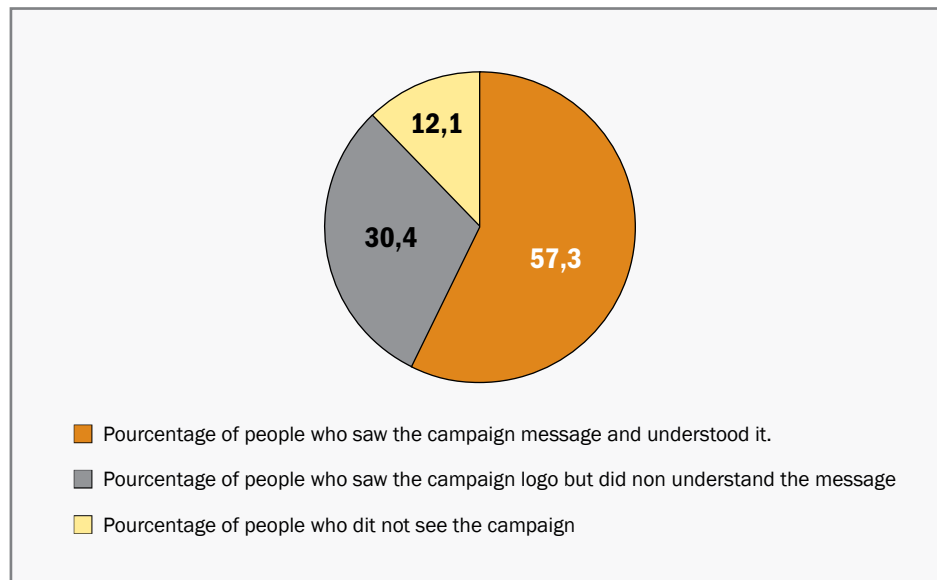
In parallel to this evaluation, the Project team in Costa Rica approached 155 tourists to give them stickers with the campaign logo and anti-CSEC message.

5.1.2.3 Difficulties and Challenges

The bilateral campaign faced the following difficulties and challenges:

- In Canada, the only international airport that was receptive to a campaign against CST was the Montreal Airport. In prior campaigns led by IBCR, the Quebec City Airport had accepted to display posters against CST. Despite multiple attempts, the collaboration of the international airports of Toronto and Vancouver could not be secured. Not obtaining an arrangement with the Toronto Pearson International Airport posed a major challenge, as it is the largest airport in the country and the departure point for most direct flights to Costa Rica.
- For distributing the campaign materials in Canada, the chosen location (right before security, prior to international departures) did not permit the maximum number of passengers travelling to Costa Rica to be reached. In that space, there was not enough time to explain the campaign to travellers and interactions could not last more than 1 or 2 minutes.
- For the synchronised distribution of materials in Canada and Costa Rica, the Project team in Costa Rica had difficulties finding bilingual volunteers (Spanish/English) or even trilingual (Spanish/English/French) to ensure easier communication with Canadian travellers. This difficulty was partially overcome, since Paniamor Foundation received the support of the Free University of Costa Rica (Universidad Libre de Costa Rica) whose English students helped approach travellers.
- While the placement of banners in the three above mentioned Costa Rican airports is an achievement, it is important to follow-up with airport authorities to ensure that materials are placed in high traffic areas and that they are visible, even after the completion of the Project.
- Another important challenge is to get individuals who work in airports to become familiar with CSEC and to transfer information to tourists. Airports employees do have some information about CSEC, however they do not necessarily know about the Project and the campaign logo. For this reason, it is challenging to get airport staff to identify with the campaign, to make it their own and to get them to explain its message to tourists who are asking about it.

5.2 FIELD ACTIVITIES

5.2.1 GEO-SOCIAL MAPPING (GSM)

5.2.1.1 What Was Done and How?

IBCR and Paniamor conducted a **Participatory Assessment** in the canton of Santa Cruz, Guanacaste, as a preparatory step for a Geo-Social Mapping (hereinafter GSM). The idea of this participatory assessment arose from the need to "collect quantitative and qualitative information about each community and its residents, specifically in communities considered at-risk.[77]"

This assessment included demographic information about the area of intervention, as well as general perceptions and knowledge about CSEC at the community level through the examination of:

- The socio-economic and cultural context of select at-risk communities
- Attitudes and understanding of CSEC
- Analysis of gender patterns in relevant communities
- Mapping of local institutions
- Dynamics of the informal sector of tourism

Analyzing the problem of CSEC in workshops in Santa Cruz, Guanacaste. SOURCE: IBCR

The local participatory assessment conducted in Guanacaste, helped to determine the following perceptions of CSEC among local communities:

PERCEPTIONS OF CSEC IN GUANACASTE

An important aspect that stands out in this province is the role of social tolerance in the perpetuation of CSEC. Social tolerance, including myths and stereotypes related to CSEC, legitimises the occurrence of this crime. These myths and stereotypes include patriarchal conceptions of masculinity and femininity, the blaming of underage victims for the situation they are in, and a misconception of CSEC as a business or an exchange of services.

According to the participatory local assessment conducted by the Paniamor Foundation in the canton of Santa Cruz, social tolerance of CSEC is common among community members in Guanacaste, including the informal sector of tourism – and particularly taxi drivers.[78] In fact, according to the non-governmental organisation CEPIA, a significant number are not familiar with Costa Rican law and are therefore unaware that sexual acts with minors constitute a crime.[79]

Meeting with community leaders and local network against CSEC in Santa Cruz, Guanacaste. SOURCE: FUNDACION PANIAMOR

Similarly, it is generally recognised by community members that CSEC may be linked to the sale of drugs and organised crime.[80] Criminal networks responsible for the trafficking of drugs tend to be the same ones promoting CST.

Other perceptions about CSEC that were identified during the participatory assessment conducted in the four Project communities in Santa Cruz include the following:

- Although the inhabitants of participating communities are aware that their community is vulnerable to CSEC, they are unaware of its real magnitude and how it affects them.
- In terms of gender perceptions, social constructs accentuating inequality and devaluing women were found to be common among locals.
- It was found that minors lack family or communal spaces where they can be heard.
- In spite of the existence of a local inter-institutional network working against CSEC that is well established and does outreach work, locals are not aware of it.
- In all host communities, the use of drugs has become an important vulnerability factor among adolescents. Specifically, parents become drug addicts because of the consumption and trafficking of drugs in communities, leaving children and adolescents without adult supervision and therefore most vulnerable to CSEC.
- The high influx of tourism in the area is perceived by some community leaders as creating employment opportunities, but also as an element that contributes to the consumption and trafficking of drugs and prostitution.
- Young people in surveyed communities believe that the Internet facilitates the recruitment and procurement of minors for sexual exploitation by sexual offender networks.
- Many of the respondents claim that while there are international norms that prohibit minors from consuming alcohol and frequenting night-time entertainment venues, there is no surveillance within communities to ensure compliance with these norms.

In the case of Puntarenas, neither a local participatory assessment nor a geo-social mapping were conducted. However, during its field visits the Project team made the following observations regarding CSEC in that province:

PERCEPTIONS OF CSEC IN PUNTARENAS

The work conducted on the field revealed the strong presence of Canadian tourists in the area. The team also found that the issue of CSEC was very present in the collective imagination in the area of Quepos-Manuel Antonio because the mayor of Aguirre (to which belongs the town of Quepos), Bolaños Gomez, had been arrested in Quepos in late 2011[81] for sex trafficking, which put the issue of CSEC on the local agenda. Indeed, Lutgardo Bolaños Gomez, was arrested along with his driver after being placed under investigation, surveillance and monitoring by OIJ officers for human trafficking and embezzlement. The investigations revealed that the detainees had used State vehicles (embezzlement) to transport children recruited into sexual servitude for their own benefit and to make pornographic videos.

When residents were asked what they thought about that case, they expressed their indignation towards the acts perpetrated by the mayor, and some interviewees pointed out that some families in Quepos were "selling" their sons and daughters as sexual commodities to tourists in the Manuel Antonio Park, especially during the high season. Young people in Quepos acknowledged the existence of CSEC in their neighbourhood and also mentioned that the area was characterised by its liberal attitude towards sex.

Conducting the Geo-Social Mapping

As mentioned above, the information obtained through the local participatory assessment was the basis for the GSM exercise. The purpose of this mapping was "to come up with a geo-referenced tool to convert information scattered among key institutional and social actors into useful knowledge to support the implementation of prevention and protection programmes and the creation of mechanisms to tackle CSEC.[82]" The GSM's objective was to collect and analyse information about the dynamic of CSEC in the region of Santa Cruz, as well as the profiles of sexual aggressors and the victims. Additionally, the aim was to identify specific locations where the crime took place.

The GSM followed the steps below:

1. Design and Planning Phase

The main objective of this phase was to define the theoretical and conceptual framework that would guide the mapping process and establish the necessary collaboration at national and local level.

As a result, the following was achieved:
- Support from the institutional network against CSEC in Santa Cruz, led by the National Children's Board (hereinafter PANI) and comprising 14 institutions at canton level;
- Support from the OIJ (sex crimes and trafficking unit), migration and immigration authorities and the civilian and tourist police who declared the results of the GSM of interest for the fight against CSEC.
- The following criteria were established for the selection of informants:
  - Individuals with a high degree of interest in combating CSEC or who by the nature of their work are confronted to it.
  - Community leaders with a clear vision of the social dynamics in their community
  - Individuals who are sensitive to gender and children's rights.

2. Information Gathering Phase

This comprised different steps:

Meeting with community leaders in Santa Cruz, Guanacaste.
SOURCE : FUNDACION PANIAMOR

First Step: GSM Workshop with Institutional Leaders

This activity served to identify how, when, where and who is involved in CSEC cases, as well as the factors that contribute to the prevalence of this problem and the local networks available to help prevent it. Below is a brief summary of the workshops:
- The workshops took place during the month of September 2012, with the participation of 71 local community leaders in Huacas, Cartagena, Brasilito and Villarreal and authorities of the Guanacaste province (civil police, tourist police, coastal guard, OIJ (sex crimes and human trafficking unit) and the Department of Migration and Immigration).
- The participants identified and geo-referenced 31 meeting points and 3 points of destination for victims.
- The profile of exploiters (local and foreign), victims and intermediaries were drawn up.
- The typical transactions taking place within communities were described.
- The exercise used the innovative tool "Google Earth," (http://www.google.com/earth/index.html), which allowed each community to clearly situate the locations associated with CSEC on the map.

Second Step: On-Site Validation of Information

After completing the GSM exercise, each community selected four representatives to verify the information gathered and to confirm the existence of the identified locations.

Third Step: Geo-Database and Design of Final Maps

The last step consisted of encoding the locations, creating a geo-database and designing the final maps showing the locations identified by the communities as places of CSEC occurrence. At the end of the process, two reports were drafted: a) a report for the general public on the overall CSEC situation in the area, with the main findings about the dynamics of the problem and the main actors involved; and b) a confidential report for the competent authorities in Costa Rica with precise and specific data to help the processing of sexual offenders in identified high-risk areas.

5.2.1.2 What Was Achieved?

The GSM was a valuable contribution for the authorities in charge of monitoring and investigating CST cases in Guanacaste. It can serve as a basis to develop strategies and policies for the research, prevention and monitoring of CSEC cases. It also identified ways to strengthen policing in high-risk areas. As part of the more salient findings of the GSM, the following are worth mentioning:

Regarding the Socio-Economic Situation in Guanacaste and CSEC

As a result of the service economy generated by tourism and because of economic necessity, many fathers and mothers are forced to work long hours away from their communities and cannot monitor their daughters/sons. This situation has contributed to the vulnerability of children and adolescents to drug addiction, alcoholism and commercial sexual exploitation.

In this situation of economic "abandonment," fathers and mothers whose children make a financial contribution to the household tend not to inquire about the latter's source of income. In this sense, "a high percentage of respondents considered relatives as accomplices, conscious or not, in the exploitation of children and adolescents.[83]"

A significant number of respondents considered the tourist influx as a vulnerability factor and identified tourist service providers as potential CSEC intermediaries. For example, respondents indicated that while tourists themselves do not visit communities in search of sexual "services," it is common to see expensive cars prowling the streets and picking up minors to be sexually exploited outside the community. These cars are not driven by tourists but by locals.

Regarding Social Tolerance and its Effect on CSEC

The GSM highlighted disturbing levels of social tolerance and passivity towards CSEC in Costa Rica. For example, many families and communities have been identified as accomplices or facilitators of such crime or do not fulfil their duty to protect and care for their underage children. This passivity towards CSEC is due in part to widespread gender stereotypes within communities.

Adolescents are considered authors of their own misfortune because they are seen as the ones "seeking and arranging encounters with tourists to take advantage of them.[84]"

Regarding Gender and its Relation to CSEC

The workshops held as part of the MGS made it possible to identify the existence of a high local demand for CSEC, which is tolerated because of gender constructs (masculinity and femininity) that give men power to pick any woman regardless of age. Although residents acknowledge that boys may become victims of commercial sexual exploitation, respondents associated such exploitation with homosexuality. These prejudices can make the general population reluctant to intervene in CSEC cases involving boys and this makes them especially vulnerable.

Regarding Factors that Contribute to CSEC: Insecurity

According to a significant number of respondents, insecurity and the lack of police officers in communities are among the main causes of CSEC. They also pointed to the lack of community safety criteria or initiatives that would make residents responsible for the security of minors.

Main Locations Where CSEC Occurs: Tamarindo and Potrero

In relation to sex tourism, respondents reported that children and adolescents are taken to the beaches (mainly Tamarindo and Potrero), and that sexual exploitation occurs mainly in condos or luxury short-term rental houses. It was also reported that it is common to see young people around hotels waiting for tourists to exit in order to initiate a transaction.

Regarding the Involvement of Informal Tourism Workers in the Facilitation of CSEC

Taxi drivers and other workers in the informal tourism industry were identified by local communities as intermediaries of CSEC, because by providing information, contacts and transport to sexual offenders, they facilitated the perpetration of this crime.

Anonymous Testimonies Obtained During the GSM

"There was an underage girl from a village by the sea who would go around the cabins to have sex with tourists and became pregnant. The father of the child is a gringo[85] and they made an agreement for the maintenance of the child."

"I was sitting in the park talking with a friend, a little boy told me that he saw some kids being taken away in a car, I saw the car move, it was blue, I asked him where they were going, but he would not say, I know that the little boy knew what was happening but he kept silent."

"I knew of a lady who sent her 13 year old daughter to have sex for money, when the girl had enough she told her mom that she didn't want anymore and the woman replied: 'then you can stop eating!' I am sure that the younger daughter will have to do the same."

"Once I was in a bar, a man arrived in a Hilux car, approached another man, the man gave him a number and he called and after a while three youngsters arrived, got in the Hilux and left."

"I suspect that my granddaughter is involved in that, she goes out with older men, runs away from school and always wears nice clothes and changes cell phones. Where do you get the money from when you are poor and you struggle to put food on your plate? Whenever I try to talk to her she shouts and shuts me out, and the worst thing is that she doesn't care."

5.2.1.3 Difficulties and Challenges

A major challenge during the mapping process was to develop an adequate set of criteria for the recruitment of informants at community level who could provide valuable information for the purposes of this exercise. To this end and with Paniamor's experience in the development of similar mapping exercises, criteria were developed to guide the selection of informants.

As previously mentioned, the mapping is an important tool that allowed the Project to understand the profile of the exploiters and victims, the dynamics of CSEC as well as the main locations where it occurs. This mapping was handed over to the competent authorities. While this is an achievement, the Project team also perceives it as a challenge because the next step would have been to ensure that the mapping is effectively used by the Costa Rican police and legal system and that it contributes to CSEC investigations. Once again, the limited time and resources did not allow for an assessment of the actual use of the mapping findings in the design of concrete prevention or investigation strategies.

5.2.2 INFORMATION-TRAINING-ACTION ACTIVITIES WITH THE INFORMAL TOURISM SECTOR

5.2.2.1 What Was Done and How?

The awareness raising activities that were led with the informal tourism sector were at the core of the Project, because of the latter's role in the facilitation and promotion of CSEC. According to the study conducted by the University of Johns Hopkins in 2007, taxi drivers play a key role as facilitators of the sex trade and are often used to pick up or transport victims of sexual exploitation to private condominiums.[86] Furthermore, at the beginning of the Project, the local networks working against CSEC had indicated that informal tourism workers played an important role in the facilitation of CSEC. This information was also validated by the geo-social mapping and the local participatory assessment, which confirmed the involvement of informal tourism workers in the promotion and facilitation of CSEC.

It should be noted that informal employment is the result of poverty, unemployment, migration, and the lack of opportunities - factors that have previously been mentioned in this document. At the same time, the facilitation of CSEC by the informal tourism sector is due to several factors such as the ignorance of the law, the need for "extra" revenue through commissions from clients, stereotypes about gender and sexuality and the blaming of adolescents for their situation of sexual exploitation.[87]

As a first step in the work with this sector, the team identified individuals who would most benefit from the awareness raising and training activities conducted in Guanacaste and Puntarenas. These were: masseurs, tour guides, vendors of crafts and surfboards, surf instructors and taxi drivers. Because of the nature of the informal economy, the project team determined that it could not apply the same methodologies or tools that were currently used with the formal sector of tourism: the Code of conduct, traditional training workshops, etc. It was decided to use a strategy and resources that would be innovative, non-traditional and flexible.

After performing an exhaustive literature review, conducting several field missions and identifying a target audience, a strategy was drafted to raise awareness among informal tourism workers and to turn them into CSEC prevention agents. This document was named "Information-Training-Action: A Strategy for the Mobilisation of Informal Providers of Tourist Goods and Services in the Prevention of CSEC Related to Travel and Tourism."

This document describes an approach and methodology for engaging the informal tourism sector, describing activities to inform, train and mobilise them. This participatory strategy was validated by 92 key actors including informal tourism workers, members of local communities and stakeholders in the formal tourism economy.

The strategy defines an informal tourism worker as anyone who supplies goods and services to tourists, whether legally or illegally, and who is not affiliated to the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (Instituto Costarricense de Turismo -ICT) through its local tourism chambers.

Legal commercial activity is typically subject to local legal requirements such as the payment of municipal fees and tax filing. On the other hand, activities are considered clandestine when people offer their services directly to tourists without an authorisation, in order to evade the payment of fees and taxes.[88] According to "legal" workers, clandestine workers are people who "grab" tourists to offer them cheap prices, but not necessarily better quality.[89] The Project team focused on these clandestine workers as well as taxi drivers, given their pivotal role in the prevention of CSEC.

One of the main considerations in the development of a strategy to involve informal workers was that they could not neglect their businesses, and that every hour spent in a training meant an hour of lost wages. It was important to find a way to reconcile their schedules and the nature of their work with the planned awareness raising activities. It was also key to find activities that would add value to their business, in order to incite them to cooperate.

Based on this strategy, a "Resources and Activities Manual for the Prevention of CSEC by Informal Tourism Workers" was developed. This manual suggests a number of concrete activities with the aim of:
- Raising awareness among informal workers in order to reduce social tolerance for CSEC
- Explaining that CSEC and its facilitation are crimes
- Convincing them to report crimes and to become social change agents.

The strategy implemented with informal tourism workers had three components: information, training and action. The main activities conducted under each category are the following:

1. INFORMATION

Training Workshops for Youth to Raise Awareness of Informal Tourism Workers

As part of the awareness raising activities outlined in the strategy, young people between the ages of 18 and 25 with leadership capacities were recruited in both provinces. In Guanacaste, the chosen youth supported the work of the NGO "Asociación sin fines de lucro pro Cultura, Educación y Psicología de la infancia y la adolescencia" (CEPIA), which is part of the institutional network against CSEC in Santa Cruz. An agreement was also signed with the Free University of Costa Rica (Universidad Libre de Costa Rica) to allow advanced social work students to contribute to the Project in exchange for credits. Two training workshops were organised for these young volunteers. The first took place in Guanacaste (Tamarindo beach) in February 2013 and trained 15 volunteers. The young trainees then travelled to Puntarenas (Quepos) in May 2013 to support a second training workshop, where 5 additional volunteers were trained. There were fewer volunteers in Puntarenas because the work conducted with communities in that province had not been as thorough as in Guanacaste and was not allocated the same amount of resources. In effect, while the work in Guanacaste began with a local assessment and geo-social mapping (which involved local authorities and subsequently garnered support at canton and community level), this was not the case in Puntarenas, because of budgetary constraints which made the process less participatory.

The Project team developed a tool for the recording of activities by volunteers: "field activity report cards" were used to document their daily activities, the number of taxi drivers they had approached, the quantity of materials delivered and the challenges encountered during the activities.

Training of volunteers in Guanacaste. SOURCE: IBCR

They were also asked to read and sign a document called "Commitment to community work," outlining personal safety guidelines and requiring the confidentiality of all interventions. These guidelines included, among others, the following points:

- The information collected is strictly confidential and reserved for Project use only. It shall not be divulged in personal, social or university settings, for any reason whatsoever.
- Any information concerning incidents of commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents or the reporting thereof should be adequately recorded and brought to the attention of the Project team.
- If necessary, volunteers will make themselves available to provide additional information obtained through the Project, as may be required by the relevant authorities.

The purpose of these commitments was to ensure that any privileged information obtained during the Project (including testimonies) would be forwarded to and assessed by the competent bodies and that the authorities could count on the volunteers' cooperation if needed.

Key Meetings

Key partnerships were developed between the project team, other local NGO's and local networks working against CSEC and meetings were organised to solicit their support for the implementation of strategies with workers from the informal tourism industry.

Pre-Forum

A pre-forum was held with informal tourism workers on-site in the beach areas, in order to suggest some training and awareness raising activities for them and to determine their preferences and needs.

2. TRAINING

During the training activities, face-to-face encounters were held and informative talks were carried out:

Face-to-Face Approach

The face-to-face approach was used mainly with taxi drivers. Given the nature of their business, these are not in position to abandon their working hours to attend workshops or talks. Neither was it viable to give them talks on new techniques to improve their business, because their everyday routine consists of driving a vehicle. The main objective of the face-to-face approach was to seek casual/spontaneous encounters where trust could be established before discussing CSEC.

As mentioned above, the young volunteers were the ones approaching drivers under the supervision of team members who provided support in case of difficulty. The following table shows the total number of face-to-face encounters that took place in both provinces:

Table 6: Face-to-Face Encounters

Guanacaste (Santa Cruz)	Puntarenas (Quepos)
Number of Participants	Number of Participants
140 taxi drivers	75 taxi drivers
40 surf instructors	30 surfers
60 artisans	15 artisans
10 masseurs/masseuses	
Total = 250	Total = 120

Whenever taxi drivers appeared receptive, young people would give them stickers with the slogan of the campaign to stick on their vehicles, along with some information cards with the anonymous and confidential OIJ hotline number.

Because face-to-face encounters had to be fast and dynamic, conversation time was short and only allowed to transmit limited information. It was nonetheless decided that every taxi driver should be familiar with the following key points:

- What is CSEC? How does CSEC affect communities and families? How does it affect them and their local reputation?
- You can be an "educator" about CSEC and inform your customers that CSEC is a crime and that there are laws that sanction it. You can act not only as a barrier to the problem but also as an agent of social change.
- CSEC is a crime and so is its facilitation. The legal sanctions applicable to sex offenders and their accomplices were briefly explained.
- CSEC can be reported anonymously.

Confidential and Anonymous Reporting

Because informal tourism workers can sometimes act as CSEC intermediaries, they may also have access to insider information useful to the monitoring and investigation of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. At the same time, they are reluctant to report cases because of the insecurity within communities and the potential retaliation of organised criminal networks. For this reason, the Project team decided to emphasise that complaints can be made anonymously and confidentially through the OIJ hotline. This proved very effective as it allowed for more receptivity and openness on the part of informal workers. The Project team tested the phone line to confirm that it was indeed anonymous and confidential, which it was. As a next step, information cards were distributed with the OIJ hotline number and a reminder that reporting is anonymous and confidential. In conclusion, given the role that informal tourism workers can play as CSEC intermediaries, it was key to involve them in the Project and to inform them about existing reporting channels.

Informative Talks

The strategy relied on talks held with informal tourism workers on the following topics: a) better ways to offer their products in a context of responsible tourism, b) presentations on new, innovative business techniques; and c) talks about personal success stories.

The aim of these talks was to suggest ways to add value to these workers' business by sharing knowledge and skills that could enhance the positioning of their products and services on the local market. The idea was to turn these discussions into opportunities to improve their image, to avoid being associated with criminal activities, and to become agents of social change in a community that should be preserved.

These training/information activities also introduced the topic of CSEC prevention as a strategy to attract "responsible tourists." See Table 7 for an overview of these discussions.

Table 7: Informative Talks

Guanacaste (Santa Cruz)		Puntarenas (Quepos)	
Number of Activities	Number of Participants	Number of Activities	Number of Participants
Talks with masseurs/ masseuses "Innovative massage techniques"	10 participants	*No talks were held	
Talks with artisans "Marketing and sales strategy"	12 participants		
	Total = 22		Total = n/a

It is important to highlight that the Project team decided against holding informative talks in Puntarenas since this type of intervention failed to attract a sufficient number of informal workers in Guanacaste. On the other hand, face-to-face approaches yielded better results.

3. ACTION

This consisted of recreational activities in which informal workers could play a central role without abandoning their business. These activities were expected to raise enough awareness to involve them in the protection of children and adolescents.

In June of 2013, these activities culminated in surf tournaments in both Guanacaste and Puntarenas, where artisans were mobilised for an opportunity to sell their products. The following table presents a brief summary of these activities:

Table 8: Activities

Guanacaste (Santa Cruz)		Puntarenas (Quepos)	
Activities	Number of Participants	Activities	Number of Participants
Indoor soccer tournament (futsal)[90] in the city of Santa Cruz.	50 taxi drivers	Surf tournament "Riding the waves against CSEC" in the city of Quepos.	35 surf instructors
Taxi motorcade against CSEC in the city of Santa Cruz.	20 taxi drivers		
Surf tournament with surf instructors: "We are against CSEC," Tamarindo beach.	40 surf instructors		
	Total number of participants in Guanacaste = 110		Total number of participants in Puntarenas = 35

5.2.2.2 What Was Achieved?

Mobilisation and Training of Young People Against CSEC in Communities.

The participation of students as volunteers to develop training and awareness raising activities for the informal tourism sector gave a new dynamism to the Project and made an otherwise reluctant audience more receptive to discussing the delicate issue of CSEC. This is because young people use a language that is more casual and friendly with informal tourism workers, which makes them more receptive to discussing the issue. This language aroused empathy and facilitated understanding and communication. The fact that several volunteers expressed their wish

Surf tournament in Quepos. SOURCE: FUNDACION PANIAMOR

to continue collaborating in subsequent phases of the Project can be considered a form of social mobilisation, because these young people were motivated to see through to the positive results of their interventions. Furthermore, the young participants were left with a greater sense of awareness and understanding of CSEC and became agents of prevention and social change in their communities.

Commitment to Protect the Children and Adolescents of Costa Rica

Upon the completion of the informative talks and activities, informal tourism workers were invited to sign a commitment document to protect minors against CSEC, whereby they "committed to support the prevention of the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents, through zero tolerance, no facilitation and the reporting of this crime." The signing of this document was a voluntary act that did not require signatories to leave a name or contact information unless they wished to. It was a symbolic but very meaningful act because it marked the end of a process of internalising knowledge, values and ethical principles against CSEC and the understanding of its criminal nature. In total, 60 informal tourism workers signed the commitment in Puntarenas and 168 in Guanacaste.

Social Mobilisation and Commitment of the Informal Sector of Tourism Against CSEC

As noted above, the informal tourism workers of Santa Cruz, Guanacaste and Quepos, Puntarenas, played a leading role in activities that represented a social movement and public commitment against CSEC. These activities were the surfing and indoor soccer tournaments and the taxi drivers' motorcade.

Many taxi drivers stuck the campaign materials on their cars and even accepted to have their photos taken while affixing the material as a sign of their public commitment. It is worth highlighting that it is the same informal workers who pointed out what activities interested and motivated them. Activities were chosen on the basis of the general criteria set out in the "strategy" document, with some adjustments following newly expressed interests and emerging possibilities.
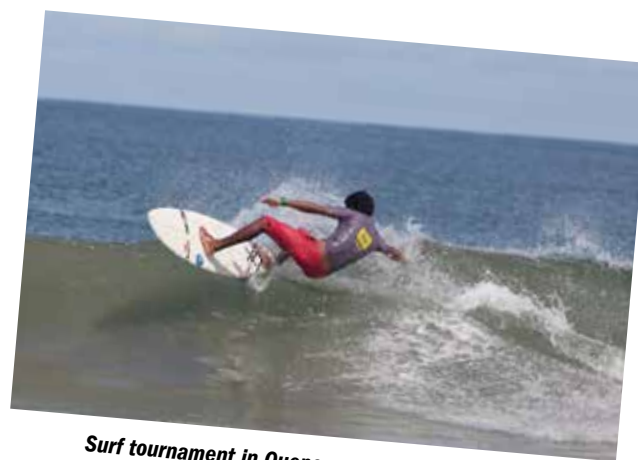
Surf tournament in Quepos. SOURCE: FUNDACION PANIAMOR

An indoor soccer tournament replaced the suggestion of the "Resources and Activities Manual for the Prevention of CSEC by Informal Tourism Workers", which was volleyball tournaments, mainly because it was of greater interest to the taxi drivers.

The active participation of informal tourism workers in the design and formulation of activities was essential to them playing a leading role and feeling empowered to prevent CSEC. They are the ones who suggested the slogans used in the tournaments, with support from the Project team. Indeed, it is the taxi drivers who suggested that the motorcade take place before the indoor soccer tournament, in order to make their commitment to fight CSEC more visible to the community. For this event, the

Surf tournament in Quepos. SOURCE: FUNDACION PANIAMOR

taxi drivers drew up a statement that was announced via speaker, stating that they participated in this activity to fight CSEC and to support its prevention. The motorcade received the support of the police and took the form of a taxi parade that started in the central park of Santa Cruz and continued for five blocks.

These activities convinced the Project team that informal tourism workers could potentially become agents of social change. To this end, they needed motivational activities where they could be the leaders, that would meet their personal interests and that would take place in or around their usual work locations. These "action" activities proved a public commitment against CSEC and concluded the process that had begun with the information and action activities.

These activities achieved two important results:
- They led to a positive change in community perceptions of informal tourism workers who were now seen as proactive in the prevention of CSEC and the protection of children and adolescents.
- They encouraged the social mobilisation of communities empowered to carry out the same public activities as those led by informal tourism workers.

Change in the Perception of CSEC Among the Workers in the Informal Tourism Sector After the Implementation of Strategies

The Project team asked a series of questions to a number of informal tourism workers before and after their participation in the "information-training-action" activities outlined in the strategy against CSEC, in order to assess any changes in their perceptions of CSEC and the effectiveness of the strategy.

Dissemination of campaign materials among taxi drivers in Guanacaste. SOURCE: IBCR

Table 9: Changes in Perception of CSEC Among Surveyed Informal Tourism Workers

	Quepos (Puntarenas)		Santa Cruz (Guanacaste)		Total
	Men	Women	Men	Women	
Taxi drivers	8	—	10	—	18
Surfers	7	2	8	—	17
Artisans	3	5	5	6	19
Masseurs/euses	—	—	—	4	4
Total	18	7	23	10	58

An analysis of the above responses were made with the following conclusions:

Informal Tourism Workers' Perceptions of CSEC Before the Awareness Raising Activities

1. Even though the majority of participants knew about the existence of CSEC in their communities, they did not know about its social and psychological impact and therefore were not sufficiently aware of the issue.
2. On one hand, the Quepos participants showed a better understanding of CSEC and therefore were more aware of its occurrence and its social and economic consequences. However, they also claimed to never have served as intermediaries in such crimes. On the other hand, the Santa Cruz participants said that although they knew of suspicious incidents in their communities, they did not associate them directly to CSEC (probably due to a lack of knowledge of what this crime entails).
3. The majority of participants adopted the view that CSEC victims who are minors are responsible for the situation they are in because of their behaviour.
4. It was concluded that the vast majority of participants opposed CSEC on moral grounds only, because they were not aware of its legal implications. They were also unaware of the legal sanctions applicable to CSEC intermediaries or facilitators.

Anonymous Testimonies

"I saw kids going around naked and hitting on tourists, since they're from San José I always thought they were messed up…" Craftsman from Manuel Antonio Quepos.

"Those bums who come here for sex disgust me, Tamarindo (beach) is a brothel and I thought if the chicks are making passes then let them pick them up." Taxi driver from Santa Cruz.

Informal Tourism Workers' Perception after the "Information-Training-Action" Activities

1. There was a significant change in their perception of CSEC victims. In fact, participants who previously thought that CSEC victims were responsible for themselves and that they should be blamed now considered them crime victims in need of protection.

> *"I used to think differently, before I would say: here come the messed up girls but it's not true, you taught me that they're not to blame"* Craftsman from Manuel Antonio, Quepos.
>
> *"I didn't understand before, but the truth is that we shouldn't let those perverts harm the little ones, they should mess with someone their size"* Taxi driver from Tamarindo, Santa Cruz.
>
> *"I learned that girls don't deserve to live this way, only a pervert could think of getting with a girl, and if we don't allow it we can help them a lot, we don't know when one of our daughters could go through this and we'd want someone to help her..."* Craftsman from Tamarindo, Santa Cruz

2. Participants said that before the awareness raising activities, they did not understand the social and economic impact that CSEC can have on a tourist destination. They realised that CSEC is a crime that can disgrace the area and lead to a decrease in tourism and consequently of their income.

> *"I'm sure that the majority of tourists come here with good intentions, to enjoy the nature and relax, the truth is that if they come to find girls they better go elsewhere..."* Surfer from Tamarindo, Santa Cruz.
>
> *"We can kick out the ones who come here only for booze or girls, it's true what you are saying, this environment will repel the ones who really give us money."* Taxi driver from Quepos.

3. Participants know about the legal implications of CSEC and are now aware of the importance of reporting cases and their duty to do so. Indeed, participants expressed that they would not give information that could facilitate an encounter between a potential sex offender and a minor. Also, while they believe that the law is not enforced as it should be, they do accept that it is their duty to report instances of CSEC.

> *"If one of them asks me, I won't tell him anything, I'll just do my job, hahaha I will also show him the eye and tell him man, you better mind the law because the yellow shirts are watching over our kids..."* Taxi driver from Santa Cruz.
>
> *"I have the card you gave me in my car, the bastard better get out of my car and I'll call to report him."* Taxi driver from Quepos.
>
> *"What a difficult situation, I think I'll tell him that he can go to the cemetery if he gets with a girl..."* Surfer from Tamarindo, Santa Cruz.
>
> *"The one who searches is as much of a pervert as the one who tells him where to go..."* Masseur from Tamarindo, Santa Cruz.

5.2.2.3 Difficulties and Challenges

During the implementation of the strategy, the Project team had to cope with a number of unforeseen situations.

Informal workers have variable work schedules, locations, etc. It is for this reason that they sometimes committed to activities and later had to retract themselves. On several occasions, the Project team had to resort to alternative plans to meet the expected results and indicators.

For example:
- Informal workers initially showed an interest in the informative talks mentioned in the strategy and resources manual. However, in practice few of them attended the talks, because the nature of informal work is such that it is difficult to plan activities in advance. It is for this reason that in Puntarenas, informative talks were replaced with face-to-face encounters. For example, even though the idea of a success story narrated by Andrea Diaz, national surf champion, was received with much enthusiasm by the Guanacaste surf instructors during the pre-forum, the event had to be cancelled for lack of attendance. To remedy this situation, the Project team improvised and decided to take advantage of Ms. Diaz' commitment and awareness by involving her in face-to-face encounters with surf instructors and in the distribution of campaign material. The presence of this famous surfer, who is a role model for others, aroused their interest. At the same time, while the talks with masseurs and artisans attracted less participants than expected, these talks did take place.
- A number of commitments that were made by informal tourism workers during the validation phase did not materialise. For instance, surf instructors initially offered to give free classes to adolescents with limited resources as a way to promote sports and a healthy lifestyle and hence to prevent CSEC. Similarly, some participants offered to complement the awareness raising activities with campaigns to clean up the beaches and promote the protection of the environment. At the time of writing this report, these actions have not taken place.
- Following the face-to-face approaches and the informative talks, the Project team had to organise meetings with participants to re-define the "action" activities, in order to ensure that these would attract enough interest. During these meetings, the name and details surrounding the surf tournaments ("We are against CSEC" and "Riding the waves against CSEC") were chosen and the idea of an indoor soccer tournament with taxi drivers was suggested. While the activities were suggested in the strategy document and resource manuals, they could only materialise after securing a stronger participation of the informal tourism sector.

The difficulties encountered during the implementation of these activities led the Project team to conclude that working with the informal sector is a learning process and only practice makes perfect. Being able to innovate and willing to combine, replace and improvise activities was a crucial part of a strategy with otherwise defined objectives, principles and results. According to the Paniamor Foundation,

> "Even if the processes and activities are planned ahead of time with a clear strategy in mind, it is always possible that things change as the Project unfolds. For this reason, even if the main goal is to comply as much as possible with the strategy and its guiding principles, the Project team must be prepared for eventual problems or situations that call for an alternative plan or a short-term, innovative solution that requires a certain level of improvisation. As long as the team works towards meeting the objectives and expected results and that the basis and principles are solid, innovation and creativity can help cope with unforeseen situations. Again, internal communication should flow easily to enable quick decision making.[91]"

5.2.3 STRENGTHENING LOCAL NETWORKS IN SANTA CRUZ AND QUEPOS

5.2.3.1 What Was Done and How?

At the beginning of the Project, the existing inter-institutional networks working against CSEC in both provinces were identified. In both the canton of Santa Cruz and the city of Quepos, there already were multi-sectoral networks working to protect children and adolescents against CSEC, under the coordination of the National Children's Board (PANI) and as part of the national child protection system. These networks comprise rep resentatives of both governmental entities and civil society. At the beginning of the Project, these networks already had work plans identifying priority actions against CSEC in their respective jurisdictions.

The Santa Cruz network had already approached and made attempts to work with the informal tourism sector, but it lacked a clearly structured strategy such as the one developed by the IBCR-Paniamor Project.

The Project team held initial meetings with the National Commission against Commercial Sexual Exploitation (hereinafter CONACOES) to present the Project and establish high-level national partnerships to support the work at the local level. It then approached each of the local networks in Santa Cruz and Quepos in order to introduce the Project and to request their cooperation in the implementation of activities. The team sought to harmonise the Project with pre-existing work plans, in order to add value and complement the activities of the networks.

The main objective of the Project was to strengthen the capacity and knowledge of existing networks to better respond to CST. To this end, a training workshop was organised in February 2013 in Tamarindo (Guanacaste), targeting both the local network of Santa Cruz and the representatives of the Child Protection Committees in that town[92]. The objective of this training was to present the problem of CSEC associated with travel and tourism from a global perspective, to analyse international laws and new trends; and to highlight the particularities of the bilateral project. This activity was attended by 20 participants.

The work conducted together with the Santa Cruz network and the openness of its members led to the identification of training needs in the field of legislation, on the detection and reporting of CST cases. Three additional trainings were developed around these topics.

The process of mobilising and raising awareness among the informal tourism sector was led in coordination with the above mentioned networks. The Santa Cruz network made valuable contributions to the design of a strategy for working with this sector. In Quepos, the network helped identify young volunteers to take part in face-to-face encounters. The Quepos network also expressed interest in expanding Project activities to the nearby district of Parrita, because of its high levels of poverty and because of previous requests for interventions on the ground of CSEC suspicions. With the support of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, training workshops were developed with families who showed their openness and interest towards the issue.

Paniamor participated in a total of 15 meetings in Santa Cruz and 4 in Quepos.

5.2.3.2 What Was Achieved?

A Better Knowledge of CST

The training activity led by IBCR in conjunction with the Paniamor Foundation in Tamarindo enabled the representatives of the Santa Cruz local network to strengthen and expand their knowledge of CST from a more international perspective. The workshop explained the dynamics of the problem at a global level, highlighted good practices implemented in other countries, explained the relevant international agreements and commitments and analysed new trends in depth.

The Paniamor Foundation also participated actively in meetings with networks in both provinces and provided technical input and expertise to ensure an efficient coordination among network members.

Advocacy to Ensure the Participation of the OIJ and the Public Ministry in Local Networks Against CSEC

As previously mentioned, the Paniamor Foundation strongly advocated in favour of a more active participation of the OIJ and the Public Ministry in the meetings of the Santa Cruz local network, in order to strengthen the synergy between actions to prevent CSEC and investigations.

Elaboration of Referral Routes for CSEC Interventions and Reporting

The Project team supported local protection networks in the development of training activities on CSEC legislation and reporting mechanisms. Coordination meetings were held with other key local institutions working to prevent, address and report CSEC such as the OIJ (at local and regional level), the Attorney General and local institutions in order to discuss reporting channels and the role of each institution. These meetings clarified and explained the legal framework around the reporting of CSEC. The following two "referral routes" for intervention and reporting were discussed:

■ **Referral Routes for Interventions in Cases Involving Children and Adolescents Who are Victims of Sexual Abuse.** The initial discussions focused on this topic and the Project team successfully led the discussion to the next topic.

■ **Referral Routes for the Reporting of CSEC Cases.** It was agreed that this topic would be treated in 4 sessions, in which the OIJ had a leading role since the discussions were focused on CSEC investigations. These discussions revolved mostly around the type of support that the OIJ needs from other institutions to ensure successful investigations. To this end, a flowchart illustrating the reporting process was developed to clarify the role of institutions and communities.

It is important to mention that in Quepos, institutional support to develop project activities was not received from within the local network against CSEC, but rather from public institutions committed to social mobilisation, including the Ministry of Labour and the National Directorate for Community Development (DINADECO) which provided facilities that gave the Project team the opportunity to work with families. Both institutions are part of the local network, but did not provide support in that framework. Support was also received from the Local Youth Committee, a municipal body composed of young people aged 12 to 35.

Project Activities that Were Complementary to the Action and Work Plans of Local Networks

The Project made some contributions to local networks that significantly enhanced the development of their work plans and strategies and will continue to do so. These include: the local participatory assessment, the mapping exercise, the strategy for working with the informal tourism sector, the strategies and methodologies for working with young people and families.

Many of the Project activities fall within the work plans of these networks. In this way, the Project made an indirect financial contribution to the networks because these activities were developed with Project funds and their outputs and strategies will benefit them in the future.

The Expansion of Project Activities in the Canton of Parrita.

The local network against CSEC in Quepos advocated for the implementation of project activities in the canton of Parrita, an area close to Quepos with very high levels of poverty. The local network in Quepos had received several requests for intervention in suspected cases of CSEC in Parrita. For this reason, with the support of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, awareness raising workshops were developed with the families of Parrita, who showed a lot of initiative and interest to fight the problem.

5.2.3.3 Challenges and Difficulties

One of the main challenges that remained at the closing of this Project was to ensure the sustainability of capacity building processes that were initiated with local networks. While the Project laid important foundations for working with the informal tourism sector, families and young people, these practices must be sustained and constantly updated to reflect changing socio-economic conditions in host communities and throughout Costa Rica. Furthermore, it is fundamental that governments allocate resources towards such sustainability and continuity.

Having closely worked with government agencies such as PANI, the OIJ, the Attorney General and local governments, the Project sparked interest in the formulation of public policies that would ensure the sustainability of the processes initiated. However, to do so would require the planning of follow-up actions and a post-project evaluation.

5.2.4 SELF-PROTECTION MECHANISMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN COSTA RICA

5.2.4.1 What Was Done and How?

One of the core activities planned for the second year of the Project was the development of self-protection mechanisms against CSEC with young people. These activities aimed at developing skills for the prevention and reporting of CSEC and to address gender stereotypes and mandates that perpetuate sexual violence. The planned activities included a training of trainers, in this case young community leaders. Young people who received the initial training from the Project team would in turn teach what they had learned to a larger number of young people, following a peer support approach.

The Paniamor Foundation worked with regional divisions of the Ministry of Education to develop the above-mentioned activities in schools located in Guanacaste and Puntarenas.

After establishing the necessary collaborations, the process of identifying young leaders to receive training from the Project team began. A total of 120 young people were trained in Guanacaste and 40 in Puntarenas, aged 15 to 18, who then transmitted their knowledge to young people aged 12 to 15 years.

The training workshop for young leaders had three parts:
1. The first part covered key concepts, myths and facts related to CSEC, the key elements of Costa Rican legislation and existing reporting mechanisms. It also included an analysis of gender constructs and the role of stereotypes and gender mandates in perpetuating sexual violence
2. The second part of the workshop discussed self-protection mechanisms through an analysis of vulnerability factors present in the local environment, how these affect young people and the available resources for self-protection against such forms of violence (in family, school and society). This part of the workshop was conducted through group work and case studies.
3. The third part analysed issues that young people felt needed to be transmitted to their peers and their development of exercises that could be replicated as well as a method for doing so.

This training workshop spanned over two days with 6 hours of work per day. The workshops were placed on the academic calendar with the approval of participating schools.

The workshops were designed using a number of internal and external tools and resources. The most important resources used to develop the theoretical and methodological training of trainers' workshop for young people are the following:

A. RESOURCES DESIGNED FOR THE PROJECT

Conceptual and Methodological Guide on Gender-Based Approaches and Gender Constructs (the Guide)

The Guide provides a set of skills and resources to address stereotypes and gender mandates that perpetuate CSEC and its social tolerance. The Guide is based on the "information-training-action" strategy used with the informal sector of tourism and includes the following aspects: a) perceptions of gender, masculinity, femininity and sexual violence globally and in Costa Rica; b) key concepts and methodological guidelines regarding gender, masculinity, femininity, gender-based violence and sexual violence; c) training activities for families and young peoples to dispel gender mandates and stereotypes that perpetuate CSEC and reduce social tolerance, including parenting patterns; and d) activities that put concepts and discussions into practice.

Selection of Audio-Visual Materials to Support the Development of Activities with Young People

A number of audio-visual materials were selected and analysed to support the activities with young people suggested in the Guide, held in beach areas in Guanacaste and Puntarenas. Different types of materials from different countries were chosen to highlight the extent of this issue. These materials included: a medley of songs and soap operas, short stories, short documentaries, drama, commercials and more.

B. EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- Peer support manual on HIV developed by the Paniamor Foundation.
- Manual on the care of CSEC victims developed for public health officials by the Social Security Fund of Costa Rica.
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation, techniques to address it, online document (Explotación Sexual Comercial, técnicas para abordarla) http://beltranorientacion.blogspot.com/2008/11/explotacin-sexual-comercial-tcnicas.html
- Education about and for the protection of the rights of at-risk children and adolescents (Educación en y para la protección de los derechos de niñas, niños y adolescentes en riesgo), by Silvia LarumbeCanalejo

The young people who participated in capacity-building activities gained a gender-sensitive understanding of CSEC as well as tools enabling them to facilitate workshops and talks with their peers. Therefore, the next step was for these young trainees to transmit their knowledge to their peers. To this end the following two kinds of activities were developed:

- Group A: Short workshops organised and led by trained young people (between the ages of 15 and 18) for other young people (between the ages of 13 and 15). This activity reached a total of 400 young people in both provinces (300 in Guanacaste and 100 in Puntarenas).
- Group B: After participating in the training process, a group of 25 young people chose a different approach for training their peers: they used artistic elements such as a theatre piece and the adaptation of a song which incorporated a CSEC prevention message and self-protection mechanisms. During the Festival of Colour organised in Santa Cruz on December 1 2013, 25 young people from that group performed a thematic song to another 150 young people. The Festival of Colour was an important social mobilisation event with parades and cultural activities in the centre of the city. It received the participation of around 250 persons of different ages.

The total number of young people of both sexes who were sensitised through peer training activities was 550, exceeding the initial goal of the Project which was to reach 480 youths. The table below shows the number of participants in both provinces:

Table 10: Number of Participants in Peer Training Activities

Activities	Guanacaste (Santa Cruz)	Puntarenas (Quepos)	
Peer-to-Peer Workshops	300	100	400
Performance at the Festival of Colour	150		150
Total			**550**

This result was achieved thanks to the support of local organisations and businesses who provided accommodation, food, transportation and multimedia equipment, as did the Hotel Casitas Eclipse in Quepos, the Youth Action Foundation, Technical Colleges and the Local Youth Committee in both Quepos and Santa Cruz.

As previously mentioned, young participants formed a theatre group that staged a play for communities. The details of this play are shown below:

Table 11: Details of the Play

Title	The Puppets of Istanbul
Duration	Approximately 30 minutes
Description	A group of puppets, male and female, dream of breaking free from their strings and narrate painful situations in which they find themselves. Many of these situations reveal their fears and anxieties about wanting to change their lives.
Connection to CSEC	The young people who created the play reflected on the reality of CSEC victims through the use of puppets. In this case, the puppeteer represents the pimp and the strings symbolise the repression and denial of freedom afflicting CSEC victims. The play takes place in the city of Istanbul. Communities typically perceive CSEC as affecting remote locations only. Hence the name of Istanbul was chosen to symbolise this remoteness and to show that whatever happens in distant locations may also happen in Santa Cruz (Guanacaste).

5.2.4.2 What Was Achieved?

A Better Knowledge of CSEC and Response Capacity Among Young People

The training workshops, the active participation of young people in the design of activities for their peers and the transfer of their knowledge, helped young people build their capacity to respond to CSEC in their communities and schools. The Project made it possible for young people to develop their skills and expand their knowledge of CSEC. This process involved a review of gender-based myths and stereotypes in order to identify the vulnerabilities of young people to CSEC and to propose solutions.

Training of Young Community Leaders to Keep a Close Watch on CSEC and Report it

Trained young people have become role models in their communities because they are recognised as specialists in the field and are convinced of the need to care and take care of children and adolescents.

The use of innovative ways to transmit information such as art, theatre and the adaptation of a song facilitated the dissemination of information in communities and schools and prompted critical reflection on CSEC.

In addition to raising awareness among the target audience, the above activities also empowered young people to keep an eye on CSEC in their communities and to eventually report it.

5.2.4.3 Difficulties and Challenges

CSEC and its prevention is a topic that interests young people and one that they consider current. However, the following difficulties and challenges have been identified with the objective of improving interventions with young people:
- Local networks against CSEC will need to follow-up and continue the awareness raising and training activities conducted with young people in host communities.
- The social mobilisation process initiated by young people at community level needs to be sustainable. To this end, leading community organisations helped combine activities for families with some of the activities for young people. This allowed the joint planning of community surveillance activities to ensure the sustainability of the processes initiated by young people.

5.2.5 WORKING WITH FAMILIES TO REDUCE SOCIAL TOLERANCE FOR CSEC

5.2.5.1 What Was Done and How?

The work conducted with families took the form of workshops on three thematic areas:

a) The first thematic area presented the objectives of the Project and explained its rights-based approach, highlighting the importance of protection mechanisms for children and adolescents in the community. This analysis also included the main vulnerability factors for children and adolescent in host communities and identified the causes and consequences of CSEC.

b) The second thematic area analysed gender constructs and mandates that perpetuate CSEC and the social tolerance for it.

c) The third set out the existing protection mechanisms for children and adolescents against CSEC at normative and community level and the importance of reporting this crime.

The workshops with families lasted 6 hours. The table below shows the number of workshops completed and the number of participants in each province:

Table 12: Workshops Conducted with Families

Province	Number of Workshops	Number of Participants per Workshop	Total Number of Participants
Guanacaste (Santa Cruz)	8	20	160
Puntarenas (Quepos)	4	20	80
Total			240

An important teaching resource for the development of these activities was the above mentioned **Conceptual and Methodological Guide on Gender-Based Approaches and Gender Constructs,** which provides theoretical and methodological tools for the development of workshops. This was most useful to address the strong patriarchal mandates that belittle women and myths that promote social tolerance of CSEC. Among these myths, there is a misconception that only girls can become victims of CSEC, and that males are not vulnerable to this crime. The work developed, based on the guide, allowed families to change their perception of CSEC and their actions to prevent it, breaking the tradition of blaming girls and adolescents for "provoking" men.

5.2.5.2 What Was Achieved?

Families Gained Knowledge About CSEC and its Reporting Mechanisms

Through the workshops, families became familiar with the dynamics of CSEC and the risks it poses to children and adolescents in their communities. They also learned about the existing reporting mechanisms and where to turn to for victim support and protection.

Families Participated in Project ctivities

As a way to seal the engagement of the community to prevent and report CSEC, an activity called the "Festival of Colour…a Covenant against CSEC" was organised in Santa Cruz, where locals participated in activities including parades, drawings and a photo exhibition about the prevention of CSEC. The commitment of families against CSEC took the form of a mural in the centre of the city, where they placed their handprints around the campaign logo.

5.2.5.3 Difficulties and Challenges

To secure the participation of families in planned activities, the Project team faced the challenging task of establishing partnerships with community leaders, development associations, protection committees and churches, who together decided on the days and time that would be more convenient for community residents and subsequently helped send the invitations.

Parade Against CSEC in Santa Cruz.
SOURCE : FUNDACION PANIAMOR

Handprints of Santa Cruz Citizens on Anti-CSEC Mural Against CSEC.
SOURCE OF BOTH : FUNDACION PANIAMOR

VI. Lessons Learned

Rethinking Strategies for the Awareness Raising Campaign in Canada

For the purpose of launching the bilateral campaign in Canada, the Project had initially envisioned a large-scale mass distribution of awareness raising materials (brochures, stickers, videos, etc.) targeting not only Canadians travellers bound for Costa Rica, but also travel agencies selling trips to that destination. This approach had to be redesigned mainly due to the widespread reluctance of the private tourism sector in Canada to actively and proactively support the prevention of CSEC; the lack of cooperation from the Toronto and Vancouver airports and the absence of companies interested in signing and implementing the Code of Conduct.

As a result, during the first year of the Project, IBCR resorted to other means for the sensitisation of the Canadian public and private sector of tourism in Canada. These include interviews and social media and have already been mentioned above. To develop these activities and reach the Project objectives, partnerships had to be established with other organisations who granted access to their electronic platforms (websites, Facebook pages, etc.) In addition, the acknowledgment that CST is a real problem always posed a major challenge in Canada and this required a certain level of improvisation and flexibility when presenting the issue to the general population and the private sector.

Sustainability of Awareness Raising Efforts at Community Level

The Project has taken important steps towards dismantling gender constructs that perpetuate CSEC. Such a social transformation process requires long-term work at the community level with informal workers, families and youth. In effect, the blaming of adolescents for the situation in which they find themselves is deeply rooted in the collective imagination, especially when it comes to adolescents aged 15 or 16 years who may physically look like adults. This is why it is hoped that local inter-institutional networks working against CSEC, Child Protection Committees, associations and local NGOs will continue their work to ensure the sustainability of the Project and that they will continue to provide information and periodic training to address social tolerance, myths, stereotypes and gender mandates that underlie CSEC. The involvement of local networks against CSEC can warrant the sustainability and continuity of the Project. One lesson learned is that projects such as these cannot be implemented in isolation from networks working in the community and must complement them.

Working with the Informal Tourism Sector

a) Relations with the Formal Sector of Tourism

Working alongside the informal sector of tourism has, in some instances, led to the disapproval of the formal sector, which considers the former as a threat and disloyal competition because their activities fall outside the scope of the law.

When the Project team sought the logistical support of hotels in its areas of intervention, it always stressed that this initiative involved different actors: families, communities, the informal sector, young people, etc. This holistic presentation of the Project avoided resistance and gained the support of the formal tourism sector as partners under their corporate social responsibility policies.

b) Avoiding Pressure to Join Formal Tourism Sector

When formulating activities for working with the informal tourism sector, it is important to avoid any pressure that might make workers feel obliged to become part of the formal sector and compromise the expected results. Some practical measures were taken in this regard: the shirts worn by the young volunteers bore no identifying logo that could be intimidating to the informal sector or lead them to believe that this was a government initiative; value judgments on informal work were withheld; the establishment of a relationship of empathy and trust was prioritised; and whenever possible, activities would take place in the same beach areas whenever possible, etc.

It is also important to note that inter-agency networks working against CSEC in the two provinces have included the informal sector of tourism in their work plan, and tried to coordinate their activities with the Project under a single agenda. They did not attempt to impose any pressure on informal workers to become part of the formal sector, and were well aware that while the informal sector may be sensitive, it is also a key partner.

c) Importance of Flexibility, Adaptation and Willingness to Improvise

As became clear from the work conducted with the informal sector, flexibility and adaptation were an important part of the Project strategy. As noted in section 5.2.2 above, informal workers were more receptive to face-to-face encounters and action activities (tournaments and motorcades) than they were to official talks. The Project team found that this was because informal workers live day-to-day, without planning their work in the long or medium term, responding instead to their immediate environment. For example the indoor soccer and surf tournaments were organised in places where they work. Some participants did not remember the dates for which they had been invited to these activities, but when coming across the set up, they immediately recalled its purpose and felt motivated and engaged. This leads us to conclude that the planning of activities with this group should follow the principles below:

- Try to be as informal and untraditional as possible, avoid organised talks, workshops or training events that are in conflict with their habitual work routine or that forces them away from their everyday workplaces.
- Avoid organising activities well in advance or at different moments to ensure greater participation.
- Remember that it may be necessary to improvise to a certain extent, when it comes time to readjust activities that do not unfold as planned. For example: the activities planned with surfers did not attract enough participants and it was necessary to improvise and replace said activities with face-to-face encounters.
- "Action" activities should allow for a high level of visibility and should take place in their habitual work places (the beach, the street, etc.)
- Ideally, activities should have an attractive visual component. To this end, the use and/or dissemination of external symbols to identify activities, while at the same time drawing the attention of informal workers proved particularly important.
- The participation of a famous person who can be associated with an activity can have an important motivating effect. During the Project, the participation of the national surf champion in the activities with surfers generated a better response and a stronger mobilisation on their part.

d) Participation of Young People as Value Added to the Work with the Informal Sector

As mentioned above, the Project team received the support of young volunteers for its activities with the informal sector, in particular the face-to-face encounters.

The participation of young people in these activities made the process particularly lively. The charisma of youth, coupled with their casual and simple language facilitated contact with informal workers and helped mobilise them. The campaign t-shirts they wore and the distribution of campaign materials also added a strong visual component to their interventions and tied them to a specific cause: the prevention of CSEC.

It can be said that the participation of young people was a successful strategy to approach an unpredictable group of stakeholders.

The Importance of Strategic Partners

As is true of any social project, partner organisations, networks and individuals played a key role in the Project success and the achievement of its objectives.

The inter-institutional networks working against CSEC have played a key role as strategic partners, as have some local NGOs working with young people at community level. The collaboration of the Youth Action Foundation and CEPIA in Guanacaste and the support of a number of hoteliers and the surfers' organisation QueposBody-board in Quepos were particularly fruitful because these partners enjoy a good reputation and visibility in the areas of intervention, perhaps more so than the Paniamor Foundation.

As mentioned above, the Project needed the collaboration of the private sector of tourism in Costa Rica, including the hotel industry, to provide adequate space for the training of trainers, capacity building workshops for local networks, etc. For many hotels, this support was part of a commitment to implement the Code of Conduct or corporate social responsibility policies and plans.

The identification of key people to support the Project also proved crucial. In this regard, individuals such as the Vice-Mayor of Santa Cruz and the national surf champion became strategic partners who helped achieve Project objectives, open doors, promote social mobilisation, etc.

Gradual Strengthening of Bilateral Collaboration Between Law Enforcement Authorities

At the beginning of the Project, one objective was to develop a written communication protocol that would cover all communication mechanisms and requests between Canadian and Costa Rican law enforcement authorities. After the meeting held with the RCMP in Ottawa and the bilateral meeting in San Jose, it was decided that a priority was to clarify and strengthen the role of the RCMP Liaison Officer and the criteria for their intervention when Canadians are involved in sex crimes against children and adolescents in Costa Rica. The importance of conveying information easily from the community level to those responsible for international coordination in Costa Rica was also highlighted. As a result, the Liaison Officer could be contacted in a timely manner.

This is why the idea of a written protocol was replaced by a clear explanation of the criteria for the intervention of the Liaison Officer and the roles and responsibilities of the different bodies responsible for the investigation and follow-up of CSEC cases in both countries. This was discussed at the bilateral meeting, during which law enforcement representatives of the two countries also met in private to discuss more strategic aspects of cooperation around organised crime.

Notwithstanding, at the time of drafting this report important actions had yet to be carried out, such as training activities for Costa Rican law enforcement, the provision of technical support in the investigation of sex crimes and a clarification of the type of cooperation expected from civil society in international investigations. Despite this, the Project team is aware that communication has improved between both countries and that having clearly defined their powers and mandates, it is now up to them to establish their future priorities based on their human, logistical and budgetary resources.

NGOs are not in a position to impose procedures that depend not only on external resources, but also on security and confidentiality protocols proper to law enforcement agencies. For this reason, the Project team played a facilitation role to encourage and facilitate better collaboration and connections between the two countries, but not able to ensure specific commitments from either.

The Project also sought to enhance the exchange of internal information in Costa Rica by promoting the representation of competent authorities in local inter-agency collaboration networks and their participation in the design of strategies, operational plans and other activities. The Project team was not in a position to commit to or enable the detection of new CSEC cases involving Canadians in Costa Rica, as this depends on a set of variables external to the Project. Even though the Project achieved greater awareness among key community actors and provided information on relevant reporting channels, the detection of specific cases and the securing of arrests demand a commitment that goes beyond preventive actions. This requires new police investigation strategies at the community level with the involvement of key stakeholders who have previously been sensitised by this and previous projects.

In short, it can be said that the process for achieving greater effectiveness in the investigation, detection and arrest of a greater number of Canadians or foreigners involved in CSEC is a gradual one. The Project has however established the pillars of this process: a) better and clearer understanding of the roles and mandates of law enforcement authorities of both countries and b) a better representation of law enforcement authorities within local child and adolescent protection networks working against CSEC in tourist destinations in Costa Rica.

Need to Complement the Work Conducted with Families and Young People with Concrete Options for Educational and Economic Development

The Project activities that were conducted with families and communities are essential to a comprehensive approach to preventing CSEC at the community level. The Project has focused on trying to break the social tolerance that is perpetuated by myths about CSEC, gender stereotypes and mandates, as well as cultural patriarchal norms that legitimise machismo and the domination of some people over others. These actions have been complemented by the development of self-defence mechanisms for young people who are at risk, which in turn strengthened the preventive strategy.

Notwithstanding, these preventive actions need to be reinforced with concrete options for the economic development of the poorest and opportunities for educational and career development for young people in high-risk areas. This should have translated into complementary activities to ensure a holistic approach to the prevention of CSEC which takes into account the socio-economic situation in the community.

The fact that high-risk communities live around tourist areas means that the above mentioned options and opportunities would need to be linked to tourism development in the area, so that families and youth can benefit from sustainable and significant income generated by tourism in the areas of intervention.

It should be noted, however, that these goals depend on the development of a more ambitious, longer term strategy involving the private sector of tourism in the area, the communities already sensitised to CSEC and the relevant government authorities. In spite of the social investment made by some hotel chains in the area, it remains necessary to link corporate social investment to concrete actions to prevent CSEC, as part of a holistic approach to the problem.

VII. Recommendations

1. To the Government of Canada

- In compliance with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, encourage and promote the signing and implementation of the Code of Conduct. In this regard, federal or government authorities could use different means to carry out the promotion of this international tool, such as: a) providing incentives to signatory companies; b) integrating the Code among the criteria for sustainable tourism certification or creating certification systems with the implementation the Code as a requirement; c) organising national events for the Canadian private tourism sector showcasing the benefits of the Code and international good practices, as well as its impact as a strategy to prevent organised crime; d) disseminating information about the economic benefits for businesses resulting from the signing and implementation of the Code, and e) establishing partnerships with specialised NGOs to develop the above mentioned actions to promote the Code.
- Support the development of bilateral or multilateral projects involving Canada and the main tourist destinations where CSEC is a major problem. Adapting the tools and findings of the Project to other similar contexts. It is worth repeating that the intervention model used in the Project is designed for sun and beach destinations, located nearby or adjacent to local communities.
- Develop or strengthen training programmes to improve systems for the monitoring and investigation of CST cases. Involve law enforcement in sex offenders' preferred destinations and civil society organisations in order to ensure a holistic approach to the protection of children and adolescents' rights.
- Create a virtual platform to consolidate the following information: a) mandates and responsibilities of federal and provincial authorities in charge of international CST investigations and their follow-up; b) information and contact details concerning the Code signatory businesses in Canada and in destinations that are the most popular among Canadians; c) a virtual training module for tourism companies on the prevention of CSEC, and; d) useful information for Canadian travellers who may witness CSEC, including relevant reporting channels (for example the website: www.cybertip.ca). Such platform should ideally be trilingual (English, French and Spanish) and user-friendly and should be widely disseminated among the population to promote its active use.

2. To the Private Sector of Tourism in Canada: Airlines and Airports

- In Canada, tourism associations and chambers can play a key role in the dissemination and promotion of best practices related to the protection of children and adolescents from CSEC, including the adoption of the Code of Conduct. For this reason, it is recommended that associations and chambers sign and implement the Code so as to influence the policies of their members through a ripple effect.
- As part of their corporate social responsibility programmes and through their foundations as the case may be, support projects to protect children and adolescents from CST in destinations that are most popular among the Canadian public and where CST is an issue.
- Promote a better understanding of CST through seminars, congresses, forums or other sustainable and responsible tourism events. These could provide opportunities to discuss the negative consequences of CST and its impact on Canadian businesses while outlining the benefits of signing the Code. In this connection, it is recommended to organise events allowing businesses to exchange with signatories in other countries, so they can learn about the positive impact that the Code can have. Costa Rican tourism companies are a good reference when it comes to best practices in the implementation of the Code of Conduct, particularly regarding policies that promote sustainable and responsible tourism and ecotourism.
- Support the advocacy efforts of civil society to create positive changes in legislation and public policies against

CST, in particular to strengthen the monitoring and processing of Canadian sex offenders abroad.

- It is recommended that Canadian airlines disseminate prevention materials against CST through their counters in the main airports of Canada, on an ongoing basis.
- It is recommended that the main airports provide the necessary space to disseminate and support campaigns to prevent CST as part of their corporate social responsibility policies. It is worth highlighting that the Montreal airport offered an iconic collaboration in the protection of children and adolescents from CSEC and made a public commitment in this regard.
- It is recommended that airports in Canada provide the necessary space to disseminate campaigns to prevent CST in strategic locations where passengers can easily be approached, such as boarding gates, information booths, etc. Adequate spaces should be provides and enough time should be devoted to informing tourists about ongoing campaigns.

3. To the Government of Costa Rica

- Intensify CST investigations in high-risk tourist areas, using the findings of the geo-social mapping conducted in Santa Cruz, identifying key informants in communities and coordinating actions and interventions with the private tourism sector where appropriate.
- Initiate a consultation process with the private tourism sector and particularly with the signatories to the Code of Conduct in order to identify which mechanisms are considered essential to ensure a more active and efficient collaboration with law enforcement agencies in the identification and investigation of sex offenders. If interactions with law enforcement have already taken place, the consultation should address the identified challenges and difficulties. This consultation process should be conducted in collaboration with the OIJ and the Attorney General.
- Ensure the constant representation of the OIJ and the Attorney General in the inter-institutional networks working to protect children and adolescents from CSEC, so that they can be updated and contribute to preventive actions and plans while collecting valuable data to inform investigations in high-risk tourist areas.
- Carry out, jointly with civil society, a qualitative mapping of legal, psychological and social assistance services available to CSEC victims nationwide. The results of this mapping should be analysed and shared with the OIJ, the Attorney General and local networks working against CSEC, so that victims can be referred in an appropriate and timely manner. Similarly, the mapping results should serve to strengthen care systems for victims in the provinces or areas where gaps have been identified.
- Encourage proactive communication between the OIJ, the Attorney General and law enforcement in sex offender sending countries, in order to obtain input, resources or technical/logistical support in investigations involving foreigners involved in CSEC case.
- In addition to the participation of the OIJ and the Attorney General, involve the General Directorate for Migration and Immigration in meetings and bilateral collaboration processes with foreign authorities.
- In coordination with the private sector of tourism, local networks against CSEC and the Liberia, Tamarindo and Quepos airports, promote the continuous dissemination of the campaign to prevent CSEC related to travel and tourism, particularly during the high tourism season.
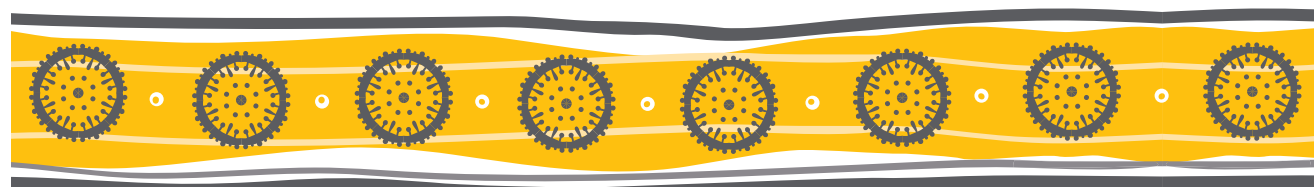
4. To National Child and Adolescent Protection Systems in Costa Rica

- Encourage the conduct of geo-social mapping exercises in other tourism destinations affected by CSEC, sharing resource requirements with the relevant authorities. Based on the findings, develop a general report describing the current CST situation in Costa Rica, the new trends, the key actors and their responsibilities, legal aspects that should be addressed or updated, etc. This report could be used to facilitate the realisation of comparative exercises with other countries with which bilateral/multilateral cooperation against CSEC could be established.

- Strengthen networking, allocating institutional resources to joint activities and capitalising on the profile and experience of all participating institutions.
- Include follow-up actions in work plans to ensure the sustainability and continuity of this project to prevent CSEC, including the following: a) periodic awareness raising among the informal sector of tourism; b) activities with families and communities to reduce social tolerance; c) dissemination of reporting channels; and d) development of self-protection and prevention tools with children and adolescents.
- Assess training and technical support needs on a regular basis, in order to strengthen actions to prevent and combat CSEC. Share these needs with relevant government entities, including the National Commission against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (CONACOES) as a specialised committee of the National Council for Children and Adolescents.
- Promote the issuance by the National Council for Children and Adolescents of a national guideline for institutions who are members of local networks against CSEC, which clearly establishes the principles of networking and the importance of technical and financial collaboration.

5. To the Private Tourism Sector and Corporate Foundations in Costa Rica

- To plan activities involving the informal tourism sector as well as communities and families living nearby tourist centres, as part of their corporate social responsibility strategies and their promotion of sustainable tourism.
- To collaborate with law enforcement, local networks working against CSEC and NGOs in a proactive manner, as part of strategies to implement the Code of Conduct.
- To provide capacity building, training and employment access programmes to families with limited resources who live in communities affected by CST. Include special training programmes for youth in high-risk areas to provide them with employment, professional and personal development opportunities within the tourism industry. Coordinate the implementation of these actions with NGOs and local networks working to protect children and adolescents against CSEC, so that these training programmes also include special days to raise awareness about sexual violence and self-protection.

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About Fundación PANIAMOR

Fundación Paniamor (Paniamor Foundation) is a Costa Rican, not-for-profit, non-partisan, private organisation, of a preventive and technical nature. It was created in 1987, and declared a public interest group by the Costa Rican Government, in 1989. Paniamor was established by a talented team of professionals and volunteers, with the core mission to "prompt lasting changes in the quality of life and the compliance to children's rights in Costa Rica". To this end the Foundation focuses its work on developing and institutionalising cost effective social approaches that can confront the challenges that are identified as priorities in Costa Rica. These strategies are rigorously documented as good practices to be used in similar contexts, in strategic alliances with third party actors in the private or public sectors, who are interested and have the capacity to make them sustainable and/or adapt them accordingly. Paniamor's actions are based on a human rights and responsibilities approach for the protection of minors, concurrently with gender and generational-contextual approaches (life cycle approach and particular situation).

I. Reference Framework

i. Mission

Prompt lasting changes in the quality of life and the compliance to children's rights in Costa Rica.

ii. Values

Commitment: The organisation asks that any collaborators, join of their own free will, with reason and proactively, following the approaches and principles that characterise it.

Excellence: High level of quality that the organisation sets for all its relationships, resources, actions and results.

Respect: Recognising that all people are unique and worthy, and as such deserve to be listened to and their opinions considered in the structure of daily operations.

Responsibility: Being aware that everything the organisation does has a consequence in itself and in its sphere of influence.

Autonomy: Personal and collective self-management within the framework of the strategic guidelines of the organisation.

Consistency: Coherence between what is stated about the organisation and what is put into practice.

Innovation: Creating social methodologies based on the distinct use of elements that are in existence or to generate new ones.

Flexibility: Essential characteristic of all interventions that will be implemented in the foreseeable future, so they can be adapted to the particularities of the environment and achieve the best results.

iii. Guiding Approaches

All of the work of Fundación Paniamor is governed by a children´s rights and responsibility approach, the Generational-contextual approach (life cycle approach and particular situations) and gender perspective. These approaches are defined below:

Children´s Rights and Responsibility Approach: "The rights based approach is an ideological perspective that implies the execution, sometimes simultaneous and other times successive, of individual and collective processes that allow for: a) the adaptation of institutional practices aimed at the fulfilment of children and adolescents' rights to provision, protection and participation; b) the private, omnipotent and largely discretionary nature of traditional family relationships and/or guardianships; and c) the appropriate interaction of children and adolescents' amongst themselves, with the adult world and with institutions." Paniamor, 1998.

This approach leads the foundation to: i) relate to children and adolescents at all times, from the moment their citizenship status is known. ii) consider all preventable conditions which threatens their optimal development as a violation of their rights, and iii) demand that institutions with guardianship or foster roles (mainly the family and the State) fulfil their obligations as guarantors of these rights.

Generational-Contextual Approach: Under this approach there are two essential dimensions that must be taken into account when planning interventions with minors.

The generational aspect takes into account the developmental stage of the person in their life cycle in order to use strategies well suited to their possibilities, expectations and priorities. Therefore, the methods and achievements must: a) be adapted to the person who is subject to the intervention in all aspects, and b) supports compliance with the legal framework that protects the rights and guarantees that young people are entitled to by reason of their age.

The contextual aspect takes account of environmental conditions that are particular to a target population and may affect project interventions. Any institutional intervention should thus begin with the recognition that the characteristics of children and adolescents as well as their potential, vulnerabilities and specific protection needs, (including from the State) vary depending on historical conditions and on the family, community, institutional, economic, political and socio-cultural context. Thus, the assessment of the age, specificities and constraints of target group may contribute to a successful project intervention. (Paniamor, 2000).

Gender Based Approach: This approach acknowledges and seeks to transform social factors that assign different ways of being, thinking and doing to men and women and which have historically enabled and perpetuated relations of domination and control. It recognises that children and adolescents are socialised into accepting gender representations that legitimise discrimination and inequality between people of different sexes and which makes them vulnerable to structural and temporary violence and exclusion.

II. OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

i. Vision

PANIAMOR is an organisation that is recognised nationally and internationally for its cutting edge innovation of policies and programmes that impact the effective implementation of children's rights.

1. PRINCIPLES OF PANIAMOR'S WORK
- Social Mobilisation.
- State Responsibility.
- Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Public/Private Coordination

III. STRATEGIC PLANNING 2013-2017

The strategic planning for 2013-2017 seeks to achieve four objectives of social change to "prompt lasting changes in the quality of life and the adherence to children's rights in Costa Rica", as stated by Paniamor's mission.

These strategic objectives of social change are as follows:

Objective I: Strengthen institutional capacities, social and personal services for the prevention of violence against, among and from children and adolescents.

Objective II: Influence key actors in the political, economic and social sectors to create sustainable conditions for compliance with the rights of children and adolescents.

Objective III: Strengthen capabilities of strategic groups to exercise their rights, fulfil their responsibilities, and improve their quality of life and their contributions to national development.

Objective IV: To contribute to the social construction of knowledge as it relates to the fulfilment of the rights of children and adolescents with a focus on human development and gender perspectives.

The support and cooperation of our partners and allies will make it possible to carry out projects and activities that will help us meet these objectives. These projects will incorporate the approaches and principles of intervention discussed above and will also be integrate the following perspectives:

- Generational: Determines strategic intervention groups as groups that have the potential to impact and transform their environment by strengthening their competencies. These strategic groups include: Children, Adolescents and Families (mothers, fathers and caregivers)
- From power: Uses two criteria to determine intervention populations 1) strategic groups whose purpose is empowerment, and 2) actors with decision-making power and influence at the macro, mesa and micro levels.

- Geo-social: Determines the geographical areas and territories of intervention marked by inequality and/or contexts with high levels of violence

In order to achieve the above objectives, PANIAMOR has divided their action plan into three management programmes that respond to the Strategic Planning for 2013-2017.

I. PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This programme responds to Objective III and aims for social change to 'strengthen the capacity of strategic groups to exercise their rights, fulfil their responsibilities, improving their quality of life and contribute to national development of the country."

II. SOCIAL MOBILISATION PROGRAMME

This programme responds to the Objective II and its main goal is "to influence key actors in the political, economic and social sectors to create sustainable conditions for compliance with the rights of children and adolescents".

III. RIGHTS PROTECTION PROGRAMME

This programme responds to Objective I and aims to "strengthen institutional capacities, social and personal services for the prevention of violence against, among and from children and adolescents."

The last programme includes the "Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Related to Travel and Tourism" that was developed in conjunction with the International Bureau for Children's Rights, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development - DFATD and World Vision Canada.

About the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR)

Created in 1994 and based in Montreal, Canada, the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR or the Bureau) is an international non-governmental organisation (INGO) with special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IBCR's mission is to contribute to the protection and promotion of children's rights in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional protocols. The expertise of the IBCR resides in the sharing of knowledge and good practices and in the development of tools and models to inspire implementation of children's rights. The IBCR's expertise also lies in raising awareness about children's rights to persuade decision makers and stakeholders to adopt laws and programmes that more effectively respect the rights of the child.

In recent years, one of IBCR's main successes include its exceptional contribution to the elaboration of the Guidelines on justice in Matters Involving Child victims and Witnesses of Crime as well as their adoption by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC Res. 2005/20). For more information, please visit our website at www.ibcr.org.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Over the past 15 years, the Bureau has developed a solid expertise on the fight against the sexual exploitation of children, including child trafficking, sex tourism involving children as well as sexual violence involving military personnel, armed groups and law enforcement. The IBCR team conducts rapid assessments and develops tools, training programmes, training of trainer courses and training workshops for social workers, medical staff, NGOs, parents, teachers, children, police officers, legal staff, etc., with emphasis on relevant international standards, technical and interpersonal skills needed to work alongside children at risk and victims of violence and sexual exploitation. The Bureau has the appropriate

expertise to facilitate dialogue between different actors and to support and motivate government actions. Among other things, the Bureau can oversee the development of multisectoral agreements for referral systems and strengthen preventive and curative actions among relevant stakeholders. Finally, the Bureau drafted the alternative report on the implementation of the Optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography involving children on behalf of civil society in Canada. In recent years, the IBCR has also been engaged in training the following groups: border agents and the Ministry of Justice's staff on issues associated with child trafficking in Peru; civil society organisations and the informal sector of tourism against child sex tourism in Costa Rica; social workers and police forces dealing with child trafficking in the Republic of Congo; legal staff and officials who are advocating for a judicial system more adapted to children in Jordan; and, coalitions of NGO and military personnel concerning children and armed conflict in Yemen.

Children and Justice

The International Bureau for Children's Rights has been working on protecting child victims and witnesses of crime for the past fifteen years. The Programme for Children and Justice – Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime, was developed to protect child victims and witnesses and to reinforce their rights during the legal process, both in Canada and abroad. The programme was also created in response to a need expressed by governments, children and professionals working in the field. As of the late 1990's, the Bureau has initiated research on the then existing norms and standards, among which the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) aimed at the effective recognition of children's rights and the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of power. The Bureau's research also focused on the best practices developed in this area, across different legal systems and traditions. Since, the Bureau elaborated the Guidelines on justice in Matters

Involving Child victims and Witnesses of Crime, which were adopted by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2005. Thus, it possesses all the necessary expertise and knowledge to work with judicial personnel in order to ensure that international standards are translated into practice at all levels of the justice system- from prevention efforts to arrests, through the court system and in providing assistance to children. In the Republic of Congo and Costa Rica, the Bureau works with relevant stakeholders to develop their capacities at all levels, including legal reform, investigations, rules of procedure, interviews with children, alternatives to incarceration, reinsertion of children convicted of crimes, the promotion of the rights of child victims and witnesses, the production of educational tools, training of trainers and situational analyses.

Finally, concerned by a lack of assessment of the Guidelines implementation, the Bureau undertakes in 2010 a study on the implementation of the Guidelines. In 2013, the Bureau, out of concern for article 12 of the CRC, has decided to turn to child victims and witnesses of crime in Quebec/Canada; with one goal in mind that is, to document these children's experiences through the justice system and collect their testimonies to impulse changes through their recommendations.

Following a series of consultations and meetings with over 60 security force training schools, the Bureau and its partners adopted a set of six core competences that all members of the national police force or gendarmerie, regardless of their position, must have in order to integrate children's rights into their work. Through this consensus, and its respectful and participatory approach, the Bureau is currently working in twelve countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo and Yemen) to integrate this competence-based approach to the teaching of children's rights into the heart of the training curricula of security forces, security forces and justice personnel. To achieve this, the Bureau:

1. Conducts a need assessment in the training schools as well as a mapping of children's rights issues affecting the work of security forces;
2. Supports schools in the development of complete training programmes;
3. Offers extensive training for instructors on the pedagogy and content of the material;
4. Supports all participating schools in delivering the first courses

As a Canadian lawyer specialising in human and children's rights, I know of the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR) since its inception. However, it is only recently that I had the opportunity to work with them. Through the UNICEF Regional Office for West and Central Africa, I got to know them better as a partner for the promotion of children's rights within security forces. Last year, the UNICEF Office and the Ministry of Justice of Cameroon signed a partnership agreement with the IBCR so that the rights of the child, including those of children in conflict with the law and victims, are better protected by the actors of the judicial system. This collaboration will continue in 2013 and beyond with a view to incorporate children's rights into the curricula of all police, gendarmerie and judicial training schools in Cameroon. This note is intended to thank them for their spirit of initiative, their flexibility and their sustained commitment to ensure that all vulnerable children in the region, including those of Cameroon, can enjoy their rights including the protection against all forms of abuse, violence and discrimination."

Julie Bergeron, UNICEF, Cameroon

To be able to argue for children's rights, there is a need for facts and statistics. IBCR has through its careful and qualitative work developed a methodology for NGOs to collect data and thereby be able to show best practice to assure countries compliance with the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Build on these evidences, partners of Manara have built strong advocacy campaigns cross the region and are ready to push the work even further. Save the Children Sweden is thanking IBCR for all its efforts, for the companionship and commitment and we hope for continuous good cooperation in the future."

Sanna Johnson
Regional Director Middle East and North Africa,
Save the Children Sweden

Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Cameroon Children and Armed Conflicts

In 2010, the Bureau published a guide on international humanitarian law and international human rights law in relation to children in armed conflicts. This reference tool was designed especially for those who work alongside children affected by armed conflict (the guide is available free of charge in French and English on the official IBCR website). In this connection, the Bureau offers training and support to civil society organisation, coalitions and government representatives (military forces, police, civil servants, etc.) on the monitoring and reporting system established under the United Nations Security Council's Resolution 1612.This work focuses first and foremost on building capacity and systems useful to local NGOs. The Bureau recently supported this approach in Colombia, Yemen, Iraq, occupied Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. The Bureau recently developed training material for military personnel in Mali to build their capacities to deal with child protection issues in a context of armed conflict.

In collaboration with the United Nations Department of peacekeeping Operations, the Bureau also reviewed children's rights trainings offered by peacekeeping training centres around the world. It is currently partnering with Save the Children in East and West Africa in a three-year programme to build capacities of stand-by forces of the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States to gain expertise and capacities in the area of child protection before, during and after deployment in peacekeeping environments.

Country Profiles to Promote "Commendable Practices" in the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In 2000, eager to monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Bureau developed a research methodology to document the progress made in this regard. It produced reports which focus less on the extent and manifestations of child right violations and more on the actions taken to stop these violations.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (RCMP CPCMEC) is mandated by the Government of Canada to act as the national law enforcement coordination centre relating to the crime of child sexual exploitation, whether it originates in Canada or abroad. The RCMP CPCMEC is cognizant of the fact that this global problem cannot be addressed solely by law enforcement and therefore partnerships with all sectors of police, government, community and private sector are vital to the success of our efforts and provide a unique and powerful force in identifying and locating victims and offenders. Over the past year, the RCMP CPCMEC was pleased to join in partnership with the International Bureau for Children's Rights (IBCR), in an outreach initiative in Costa Rica aimed at addressing the issue of Canadian travelling child sex offenders in the said country. The IBCR played a crucial and leading role in bringing together members of nongovernmental organisations involved in child protection, the tourism industry and key members of communities within Costa Rica, to work together with the RCMP CPCMEC law enforcement counterparts and the Costa Rican General Prosecutor's Office in addressing this growing and global problem."

Sergio Pasin
Inspector OIC International Operations RCMP – Canadian Police Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (CPCMEC)

These reports are particularly relevant to the process of periodic reporting to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. During the second phase of the project, the Bureau undertook to transfer its knowledge to national NGOs, in order to encourage them to take stock of the progress achieved in their countries and to build their capacity to present alternative reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. Indeed, one of the objectives of this programme is to strengthen the capacity of national NGOs by improving their research skills and their overall knowledge of children's rights, regardless of their areas of expertise.

"The collaboration with the IBCR enriched this process since the IBCR is conducting similar reviews of training materials for national police and gendarmerie in West and Central Africa. IBCR also has important networks and a deep reach with both national actors and UN agencies and programmes that we hope to continue to build upon in our collaboration. We are glad to continue this collaboration in 2012-2013."

Ann Makome
Child Protection Focal Point, Policy, Evaluation and Training Division, Department of Peacekeeping Operations/Department of Field Support, United Nations

"In 2012, the NGO Sabou Guinée worked with the IBCR on the regional training programme on children's rights for defence and security forces in francophone Africa. As a result, the Guinean authorities agreed to include children's rights in the training programmes of police and gendarmerie officers. To this end, a Steering Committee and a Reference Group were created. A consultation group for defense and security forces was also set up. The implementation of this project has enhanced the reputation and credibility of Sabou Guinée with respect to the training of security and defense forces in children's rights. On a personal level, our collaboration with the IBCR has enabled me to better identify themes and to develop targeted training strategies. Sabou Guinée has been very pleased with this collaboration, which allowed two organisations of different sizes to get to know and respect each other and to join resources to uphold the best interests of children in Guinea."

Alpha Ousmane Diallo
Project Coordinator, Sabou Guinée

The current step consists of mapping the actions undertaken by various stakeholders (government, NGOs, international organisations, private sector, media, children's clubs, etc.) in order to implement children's rights. Since 2008, the Bureau has been working in nine countries of the Middle East and North Africa in collaboration with Save the Children Sweden, and has produced regional reports covering Southeast Asia and the Great Lakes (available for free on the official IBCR website). The support that the Bureau provides to national coalitions of child rights NGOs and the situational analyses that it develops could easily be combined to the development of global country profiles or thematic reports. In the same vein, the Bureau recently collaborated with the GIZ in Burkina Faso to conduct a study on how child-friendly budgeting could be integrated in the national public and private strategies and culture.

Our Main Partners

World Bank • Bayti (Morocco) • International Labour Organisation CHS (Peru) • United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations • The Code • Francopol • Fundación Paniamor (Costa Rica) • GIZ • Government of Canada (Canadian International Development Agency, Status of Women Canada, Depatment of justice, Foreign Affairs and International Trade) • Government of Quebec (Department of Justice) • Government of Quebec • Government of Sweden (International Development Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) • ICRN (Iraq) • OneChild (Canada) • International Organisation of the Francophonie • International Organisation for Migration • Plan • Sabou Guinée (Guinea) • Save the Children • SOUL (Yemen) • Terre des Hommes • UNICEF • Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, US Department of State • World Vision • WAO- Afrique (Togo) • War Child

Recent IBCR Publications

- Assessment of Knowledge, Attitude and Behavioural Change among Security and Defense Forces – Experiences and Lessons from East, West and Central Africa (English and French, 2014)
- Child Protection in African Union Peace Support Operations – Contextual analysis (English and French, 014)
- Regional Initiative to Support the Justice for Children in the Middle East and North Africa, especially the Family and Child Protection Units, Amman, Jordan, from 16 to 19 September 2013 (French and English – 2013)
- Mapping report on training of security forces on children's rights in Irak (English and Kurdish – 2013), Jordan (English and Arabic – 2013) and Yemen (English and Arabic – 2013)
- Cartographie du système de protection de l'enfant et de la formation sur les droits de L'Enfant dans les secteurs de la sécurité et de la justice au Burundi (French – 2013) et au Tchad (French – 2013)
- État des lieux de la formation des forces de sécurité et de défense aux droits de l'enfant au Niger (French – 2012)
- État des lieux de la formation des forces de sécurité aux droits de l'enfant au Sénégal (French – 2012) et en Côte d'Ivoire (French – 2012)
- Fourth Workshop on the Integration of the Six Core Competencies on Child-Friendly Policing into the Training and Practices of Police Officers and Gendarmes in Africa, the Middle-East and Haiti, Lomé,
- Togo, from 5 to 7 November 2012 (French and English – 2012)
- Reference Guide to International and Regional Laws and Standards Relevant to Policing Practice – Child protection training for security forces in Africa (French and English – 2012)
- Country profiles – Child's Rights Best practices (English and Arabic – 2012) in: Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Tunisia, Yemen
- Quick Assessment of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys and Girls in Burundi (French – 2012)
- Combatting Child Sex Tourism by Involving the Canadian Private Sector of Travel and Tourism and the Canadian public (2009-2012), (French and English – 2012)

- Regional validation Workshop for those Responsible for the Training of Security Forces, Niamey, Niger, from 31 October to 4 November 2011 (French – 2011)
- Expert Group Report on Child protection Training for Security Forces in French-speaking Africa, Dakar, Senegal, from the 19 to 23 September 2011 (French – 2011)
- Justice in Matters Involving Child victims and Witnesses of Crime – A Study on the Implementation of the Guidelines on justice for Child victims and Witnesses of Crime in Quebec (French – 2011)
- Violence against Children in Schools: A Regional Analysis of Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen (English – 2011)
- Country profiles in the Middle East and North Africa (English 2011): Country profiles of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, of Yemen, of Jordan, of Morocco, of Iraq, of Lebanon, of Tunisia, of Algeria and of Egypt
- Children and Armed Conflict: A New Guide to International humanitarian and human Rights Law (French and English – 2010)
- Working Group proceedings on West African Training Forces for the Application of International Standards in juvenile justice, Cotonou, Benin – December 13, 14 and 15, 2010 (French - 2010)
- Proceedings from the Symposium Organised by the Ouagadougou National police Academy on Training and police practices Related to Child Rights, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso – 10 and 11 November 2009 (French – 2010)
- Country profiles in the African Great Lakes Region: Making Children's Rights Work: Country profiles on Burundi, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda (French – 2009)
- Toolkit for the protection of Child Trafficking victims or those at Risk of Being victims (French – 2008)
- Country profiles in North Africa: Making Children's Rights Work in North Africa; Country profiles on Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia (English and Arabic – 2007)
- Country profiles in South East Asia: Making Children's Rights Work: Country profiles on Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste and Viet Nam (English – 2006)

Endnotes

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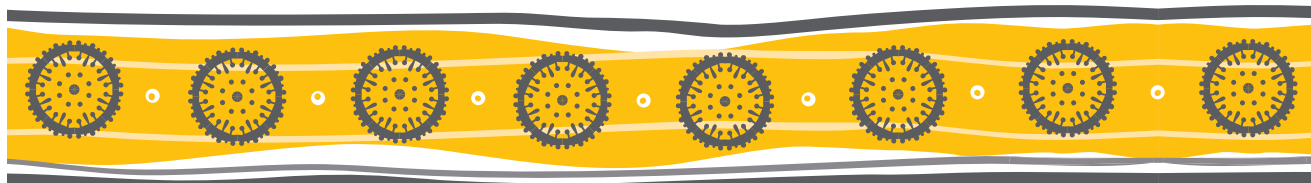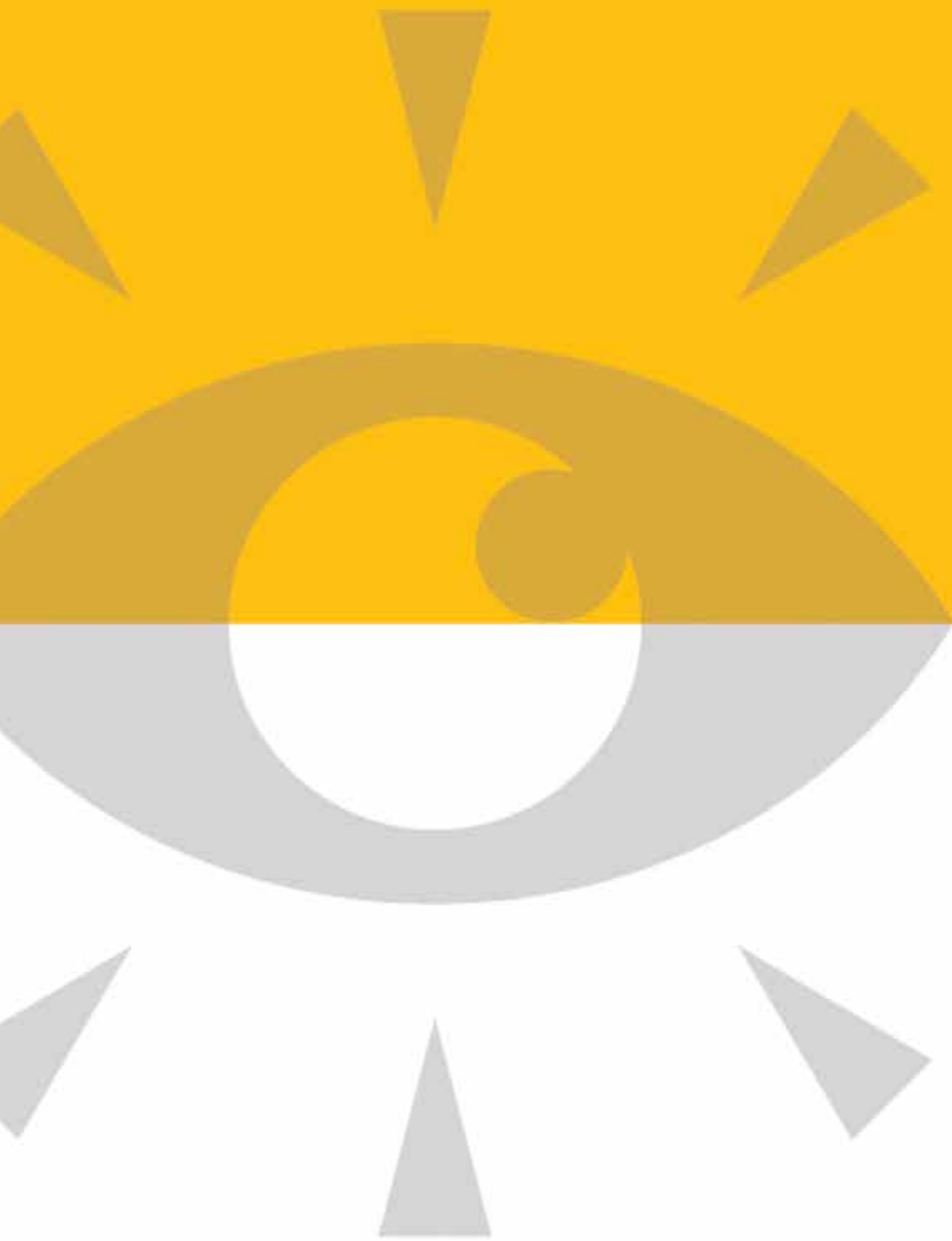
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