



***Mapping Project
Geographic and Social Trafficking of
Children and Adolescents for the Purpose of
Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Costa
Rica***

***REPORT OF RESULTS OF
THE BI-NATIONAL
WORKSHOP COSTA RICA
NICARAGUA***

***Rivas, Nicaragua
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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of the Binational Workshop on *Geographic and Social Mapping of Trafficking of Children and Adolescents for Commercial Sexual Exploitation Costa Rica-Nicaragua*, held on January 28 and 29, 2009, in Rivas, Nicaragua, with the technical and financial support of Save the Children Spain. The activity was carried out by the Paniamor Foundation of Costa Rica, within the framework of the Project **"*Trafficking and Smuggling of Children and Adolescents: Geographic and Social Mapping in Central America and Mexico*"**, implemented annually in Costa Rica since 2005, with advice and funding from Save the Children Sweden.

In this context, it should be noted that the contents of this document are part of a larger document, in the process of final editing for delivery to Save the Children Sweden, which includes information derived from similar activities carried out by Paniamor in the second half of 2008, on the South Pacific Coast of Costa Rica and on its border with Panama.

We intend this document to be concise, direct and easy to understand for the political authorities of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and of the utmost usefulness for the orientation and definition of their actions regarding the prosecution of trafficking of children and adolescents for sexual exploitation in both countries.

The data analysis is divided into two main sections: Social Mapping and Geographic Mapping.

The first describes all those specific situations identified by key informants as Local Demand, Sex Tourism and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents for Sexual Exploitation. It also includes information on intermediaries, victims and perpetrators, obtained from the experience, knowledge and perceptions of key informants.

The second describes the routes used to commit the crime of trafficking, which were subdivided into Internal Routes, External Routes and Non-Enabled Passes (Blind Spots), identified in the workshops. For further illustration, 10 digital maps were created using ARC VIEW 3.³².

¹ Consultant Jorge Fallas was responsible for preparing these maps.

²Clarification: This year we did not follow the symbology agreed upon in Roatan, because we used a numbering for each route with a different color that allows its individualization. This allows for a better reading and visual comprehension of each map, and implied a departure from the formal agreements previously made in the region.

Finally, a series of actions are recommended to improve national and binational coordination on the problems addressed.

Among the annexes of the document is the list of public institution officials who participated in this research as key informants in the workshop, in order to facilitate follow-up and contact with those who have participated in these processes at both the national and binational levels, since continuity, validation and updating are central elements in future mappings to achieve greater accuracy of the information.

We hope that the use of the information contained herein by the authorities with related mandates in Costa Rica and Nicaragua will contribute to vindicate the right of children and adolescents to be protected against trafficking and to grow and develop free from violence and sexual exploitation.

I. METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

a) Characterization

Geographic and Social Mapping (hereinafter referred to as GSM) is an analysis tool based on action-research, applied to the study of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents (hereinafter referred to as CSEC) and the phenomenon of trafficking of minors for sexual exploitation.

It allows identifying and filling information gaps and, at the same time, articulating the relevant information available on the studied phenomenon.

The purpose of this research is "to find a synergistic result or conclusions that can be generalized to improve the cognitive and investigative process and decision making in the face of informational uncertainty in the institutional and/or organizational environment" (PANIAMOR, Save the Children Sweden, Integrated Report 2005-2007, San José, Costa Rica, 2008).

In this sense, the mapping presents the distribution in geographic areas of a country or region and its link with the social, economic, cultural and gender factors that facilitate CSEC.

b) Geospatial delimitation

The methodology and objectives of each mapping vary, depending on the geographic area where the research is conducted and the thematic emphasis (problem core) to be investigated.

The mappings in land border areas are achieved through **binational workshops** with the participation of border police and migration officials from the countries involved, as appropriate, and the support of the public authorities of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in the case of the workshop that is the subject of this report.

c) General objectives

With the methodological and geographic delimitations indicated above, the MGS - Nicaragua aims to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) *To characterize the dynamics of intermediation in the trafficking of children and adolescents for sexual exploitation in the study areas;*
- 2) *Update routes identified in previous mappings; and*

- 3) *Establish coordination actions between the countries and the various institutions to guarantee the protection of the rights of children and adolescents who are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.*

e) Description of the methodology

The delimitation of the object of study is due to geographical and social elements that allow for the occurrence of CSEC and trafficking in specific areas. The 2005-2007 MGS Report identifies vulnerability on the northern border of Costa Rica, with "little or no control mechanisms" on the border with Nicaragua, "without adequate and agreed-upon procedures for identification, reference and assistance, as well as controls in transportation companies (...) and between borders" ³.

In view of the above, in January 2009, a workshop focused on the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border territory was held with the following specific objectives Nicaragua border, with the following specific objectives:

1. *Update the information gathered in previous mappings on trafficking routes of children and adolescents for sexual exploitation (hereinafter ES) identified in these areas.*
2. *Characterizing the modus operandi of the perpetrators of these crimes -with special emphasis on intermediation - and the factors favoring impunity in each region.*
3. *Establish coordination actions between the countries and the various institutions to guarantee the protection of the rights of children and adolescents who are victims of trafficking for HE purposes.*

The workshop was attended by "key informants" on the phenomenon under study. To guide the convening of these workshops, Paniamor developed a "key informant" profile⁴ to ensure a high level of compliance with the study's objectives.

³ PANIAMOR and SAVE THE CHILDREN SWEDEN, **Mapeo Geográfico y Social de la Trata de Personas Menores de Edad con fines de Explotación Sexual Comercial en Costa Rica, Informe Final**, 2005-2007, San José, Costa Rica, p. 22.

⁴ Profile of the "Key Informant" prepared for the Binational Workshop with Panama, by Ivannia Monge, Fundación Paniamor, 2008.

Profile of key informants⁵

- In charge of police functions (non-administrative)
- Previous time working in the border area (so that he/she knows the region and the population).
- No sanctions from administrative disciplinary or other bodies involving him/her in acts contrary to the rights of CSEC and trafficking victims.
- No administrative sanctions in this matter, nor with other related matters (smuggling of migrants, drug trafficking, bribery, sexual harassment, sexual abuse).
- With relevant information on the border area related to CSEC and trafficking of children and adolescents.
- It is preferable that the official has participated as a key informant in previous mappings and is familiar with the mapping methodology.
- Preferably gender and child sensitive.

For the binational mappings, **law enforcement** and **migration** personnel from both countries, mainly stationed in the border areas under study, were selected.

The methodology used in the workshop is similar to that used in previous mappings, with some modifications and variations.

The workshop was designed to take place over two days, with a total duration of 16 hours. The methodology was divided into four moments:

1. Momentum

General information on CSEC and trafficking of children and adolescents for SE purposes. Although the call for key informants was based on the assumption that there was already knowledge about the problem of trafficking in children for SE purposes, it was considered advisable to reserve a first moment to achieve an approach that would allow sensitizing participants, unifying concepts and making the work approaches explicit.

To this end, the documentary "**Ojalá fuera ficción**" (**I wish it were fiction**), produced by IPEC-ILO, was shown, which gathers true testimonies of victims of the crime of trafficking in the region.

⁵ The definition of the profile of the "key informants" depends on the objectives of the MGS. Careful selection is a methodological aspect that contributes to a high percentage of the study's success.

Afterwards, a space was opened to socialize reactions and feelings generated by the documentary, a propitious space to also share among the participants their concepts and perceptions of the problem.

Then, a general presentation was made on the general concepts that explain the occurrence of CSEC and its relationship with the trafficking of children for these purposes.

Finally, the crime of trafficking and its legal-penal specificity were defined, with special emphasis on the differences between trafficking and smuggling of migrants. The reference document used was the OCAM/ILO/IOM brochure entitled *"Difference between smuggling of migrants and trafficking in minors"*.

2nd Moment

At this stage, and through group work, the Social Mapping of Child Trafficking began. The key informants are the ones who gather information on known situations that can be classified as Local Demand, Sex Tourism and Trafficking of Children and Adolescents for Sexual Exploitation. The information requested for this year emphasizes the description of the perpetrators of this crime (who, how and where?) and the characterization of the intermediation. To obtain the information, the instrument designed for the 2007 mapping called **Intermediary Profile⁶** is used:

Hitch (Recruitment)	Transfer	Welcome	Sexual exploitation
Who performs it?	Who performs it?	Where do they sleep (perpetrators and/or victims)?	What does it consist of?
Where does the contact take place?	What media do you use?	What are the supply points?	Who is the clientele-exploiting?
How is the contact made?	Where are they headed?	How long do they stay on site?	How much do clients-operators pay (form of payment: dollars)? colones, in kind, other).
How often (frequency)	Who receives them?	What time of the year?	Are family members and/or public officials involved (*)?

(*) This question applies to all trafficking processes.

⁶ Taken and adapted from Grillo, Milena, Paniamor, 2007.

At the end of this segment, the groups present in plenary the cases identified and their characteristics, and a written record is kept of their interventions (using flip charts). The presentations are recorded and transcribed to document more precisely what was presented.

3rd Moment

Geographic mapping was carried out, describing in detail the routes used by the perpetrators in the cases described in the social mapping. Several maps were used in this exercise, which varied according to the area in which each of the workshops took place. The key informants traced the routes on the maps and presented their work in a plenary session. The emphasis of the routes responded to cases of trafficking of children and adolescents. Information was also included on unauthorized points on the borders, used to enter and leave the country without migratory control. The plenary presentations were also recorded and transcribed to facilitate the systematization of the information.

4º. Moment

To conclude, a space was reserved for key informants to identify the local, national and binational actions that should be promoted to improve intervention and coordination between and among the different social actors to prevent, address and eradicate this serious problem.

II. RESULTS OBTAINED

2.1 SOCIAL MAPPING

In the description of specific cases or situations that each country reports on local demand, it was observed that there is still confusion among key informants in identifying situations of "*local demand*" and "*trafficking of children for the purpose of sexual exploitation*". On some occasions, key informants report as local demand situations that involve the transfer of victims from one place to another, instead of identifying them as trafficking.

For the purposes of this report, the data obtained were "reclassified" so that the situations reported were placed according to their characteristics in one of the three manifestations of CSEC: local demand, sex tourism and trafficking.

Information on these three manifestations is systematized below.

A) Local Demand

In the case of **Nicaragua**, key informants agreed that there are many cases of local demand, especially in coastal areas and on the beaches of certain places. There, client-exploiters are described as:

"Very old men: *gentlemen of the third age*. They are also foreigners who live (or reside) in the area, who go around with young girls much younger than them, between 16 and 17 years of age. Sometimes, one does not know if they are minors or older, but in any case, they are very young girls".

Specifically, in the city of **Managua**, Nicaragua, the local demand is in the vicinity of the National Assembly and the highway to **Masaya**:

"...in this area (road to Masaya) there are approximately ten young minors who arrive at twenty-two hours until the early morning. The victims are humble girls of low educational level, low economic level due to the type of clothing they wear. The intermediary perpetrators are **cab drivers** who transport the exploitative clients who leave bars in the area".

In **Rivas**, local demand is located around the traffic circle:

"The hours that the victims (teenagers and adults) are there are from twenty-two hours to the early morning. In total there are about 12 of them, most of them are teenagers. The perpetrators (clients-exploiters) are the truck drivers and local people."

- **Border Zone**

In the border zone, key informants referred to paid sexual acts with minors and described situations where the victims move to the place where the client-exploiters are located.

"It could be that these events occur more in heavy transport vehicles that are on the Costa Rican side, not so much on the Nicaraguan side. So the women and children that used to be on the Nicaraguan side, used to cross to the other side (the Costa Rican side) (...) , because here (in Nicaragua) now they are not allowed to stay: whoever comes can leave but whoever stays is a *mule*, while on the Costa Rican side they are not, that is why they go around, in fact, they are easily robbed there because it is very dark there (...)"

In the previous description, there is no reference to how and by whom the children are "passed" to the Costa Rican side, as is the case in the following description:

"The children and adolescents cross to the other side (the Costa Rican side), at night you go to look and there is a shortage of trucks on the Nicaraguan side but on the other side there are a lot of trucks at night. We found children here, coming from Chinandega, children that were here in the area of Peñas Blancas and we picked them up and took them to the MiFamilia shelter, so **we have managed to clean** (sic) the place, **but the same truck drivers bring them either from here to there, or they take them to Rivas and leave them there, but they are on the roads like that.** They are not noticed there in the place and if there are visible, they are few."

Mention was also made of a victimized child, who is currently an adolescent and is still in the area in a situation of commercial sexual exploitation.

"They have a little boy there that they call "La Selena". That kid - the one who put channel 10 in the video - at first he was selling gum and then **he prostituted himself** (sic), he's about 14 years old, and he's well-known.

on both sides because that's where he manages. Now he no longer sells chewing gum. He drives on the other (Costa Rican) side, mostly at night. He only comes to sleep on the Nicaraguan side".

Finally, specific mention was made of a place that camouflages itself as a lodging facility but where pimping activities take place:

"(...) In the case of Paso de Aduanas or Peñas Blancas, it is said that there is **a lodge** that a man called **"El Gato"** that in the end did not work and that has 4 or 5 rooms where he *keeps* (sic) girls at night..."

- **San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua**

According to the description of a key informant residing in this area, commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents is practiced in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua. According to his account, the victims are not locals, but are brought from Managua and placed in houses where they are sexually exploited.

"I live in San Juan del Sur and I can say from what I have seen that compared to some beaches in Costa Rica it is not comparable because it is not at that level, it is a less visible issue and to a much lesser degree, I feel, but what is known is that since San Juan is such a small town (...).) minors who may be involved in sexual exploitation, it is known or it is said that they come from very poor areas of Managua and they are taken from an area that is behind the estuary, where there are not only the houses where the minors are, but also where the prostitutes and the drug *bunkers* are located, So in that area is where they are and you see very old men sitting with young girls in the bars, and one says that "this one is not even 18 years old to be sitting in a bar" (sic) and it is evident by the behavior of both that it is not a normal relationship and they are very old men, The girls don't even talk to them, they are there *looking at the ceiling* because they can't communicate in any language and this happens but at a lower level, it is known and the whole town knows who was born there and who was not born there, it is known that the people who are in exploitation or prostitution are not from there, teenagers, I have seen maybe five or six and the rest are girls a little older, older than 18 years old".

From the aforementioned narrative, it can be concluded that the local demand that takes place in San Juan del Sur is closely related to the crime of trafficking of minors for commercial sexual exploitation, given that reference is made to the transfer of victims from Managua to the area. However, it is not indicated who are the organizations, groups or persons that make this transfer.

The following are the situations of violation identified⁷ by key informants at the Costa Rica-Nicaragua binational workshop.

LOCAL DEMAND	
CASE #1⁸	<p>Managua, Nicaragua</p> <p>An owner of the "Cruz" Bar transports teenage girls from Managua to Blufields to place them in his premises and then they are used sexually by his clients. In this way he attracts more clients and obtains higher profits. He constantly replaces them with others.</p>
CASE #2	<p>Rivas, Nicaragua</p> <p>Place: Rotonda. Starting at 8 p.m., teen and adult victims are available. Perpetrators/clients: Truck drivers, local people.</p>
CASE #3	<p>Downtown Managua. Surroundings of the National Assembly.</p> <p>From 10 p.m. onwards, victims of low educational level, humble, poorly dressed.</p> <p>Perpetrators: cab drivers, persons who out of the bars</p>
CASE #4	<p>Road to Masaya. Surroundings of the Casino "Faraone".</p> <p>From 10 p.m. onwards, victims of low educational level, humble, poorly dressed. Perpetrators: cab drivers, people coming out of the bars</p>

⁷ This table only includes cases where there is relevant information that can guide the public authorities of both countries in defining their investigation strategies.

⁸ This case was classified as a local lawsuit, but it is actually a trafficking case. The group noted that only administrative measures have been applied.

CASE #5	Liberia, Guanacaste, CR Around Parque Central, after 9:00 pm, victims between 14 and 17 years of age. The perpetrators are all types of people.
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B) Sex Tourism

Regarding **Costa Rica**, the key informants do not provide new elements to those already collected in previous reports on the tourist-exploiters known as "Michigan Boys".

"And as for Sex Tourism, we have knowledge of the so-called "Michigan Boys" who are people who arrive during the fishing seasons, they wait for them at the airports, there in buses with girls they bring from other areas of the country or from abroad to provide them with sexual favors."

They did refer in very general terms, without providing further details, to the use of the Internet to facilitate the commission of this crime:

"There are **Internet pages** that offer them as escort ladies, there are even hotels in Puntarenas and other areas of Guanacaste, where there are catalogs of the girls they offer in exploitation, and there are also retirees who are residents in the country (Costa Rica), who come for the exclusive purpose of sleeping with underage young girls."

Key informants reported that in **San Carlos, San Juan, Los Chiles and Upala**, a foreigner (French) with resident status who owns a hotel facilitates sex tourism:

"A subject of French nationality, already having his residence, owner of the property of a hotel, he sold the *service* to foreign people (...) These foreigners requested underage people to be with them and go fishing, sometimes they drank liquor, used drugs and then demanded for a certain price to have sexual relations. **We followed up with the police but nothing could be proved against this man** (...) this man was in charge of coordinating where and when they met with the young women who provided this service".

They also referred to "*escort ladies*" as a "recruitment" strategy for the commission of the crime of pimping by the owner of a hotel identified as "Hotel Esquina del Lago":

"Later there was a case of a young girl, whose father was worried because he could not find her and believed that she was with the foreigner (...) but it seems that Mr. **Lugo** was alerted and realized that he was being investigated for Sexual Exploitation of Minors. The intermediary was the owner of the **Hotel Esquina del Lago**, located in San Carlos de Nicaragua. He deceived the young girls by offering them good things, first he told them that they were escort ladies but then at a certain time they demanded that they had to have sexual relations.

Reference was also made to "*paid sexual services*"^{through} nightclubs and hotels, with cab drivers and porters participating in the criminal activity:

"In San José, Costa Rica, there are centers that offer paid sexual services to tourists and send them to night clubs and hotels in the center of the capital. In Liberia, specifically in Playas del Coco, the victims are between 14 and 17 years old, of low income and low or no school education. The perpetrators are Canadian and American tourists. The intermediaries are pirate cab drivers or porters, who wait for them on the street and from there take them to a hotel or a cabin".

- **Sex Tourism in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua**

On the Nicaraguan side, the arrival of cruise ships exacerbates the presence of exploitative sex tourists in the San Juan del Sur area:

"In San Juan del Sur, on the coast it happens eventually when cruise ships arrive. The perpetrators are the crew members and passengers of the cruise ship that arrive there."

⁹ Erroneous term when the victims are minors.

- **Situations Identified**

SEX TOURISM	
CASE #1	<p>San Carlos, Nicaragua</p> <p>Foreigner residing in Nicaragua sells packages of from fishing packages and lodging at Hotel Esquina del Lago, San Carlos, San Juan River, Nicaragua</p>
CASE #2	<p>South San Juan Coast, Rivas, Nicaragua</p> <p>Occurs "eventually". Perpetrators are crew members and passengers. of cruises</p>
CASE #3	<p>Playas del Coco, Guanacaste, Costa Rica.</p> <p>Victims between 14 and 17 years of age, low income and little or no education. The perpetrators are Canadian or U.S. tourists.</p> <p>Intermediaries: Pirate cab drivers. Victims wait on the street for the perpetrator and go to a cab or a taxi. hotel.</p>

C) Trafficking in Children and Adolescents for the purpose of Sexual Exploitation

With respect to the trafficking of minors for the purpose of SE, the information gathered indicates that it may take place in bars, lodgings and night clubs. Victims are recruited to work and come from different areas of the country.

a) "the bars and restaurants that recruit them to work as waitresses; in lodgings or in *night clubs* or *girls* who are in the parks but in reality it is not known if they are engaged in other types of sexual activities, they are usually brought from other areas of the country".

b) "In the case of **Costa Rica**, they bring them from abroad, they bring them from Nicaragua or elsewhere, and the screen is that they work as waitresses in those places".

c) "We also have knowledge that there are clandestine prostitution premises, where there are minors who are brought from poor towns, in the case we were discussing for example now in the afternoon, or from some areas of San Carlos or even from some renowned areas and they put them to work in unrecognized brothels. The people of the town know that there are brothels but in the light of the authorities they enter and cannot determine anything."

Specific reference was made to a recruiter, but no elements were provided to identify the case:

"In the city of **San José, Costa Rica**, there are reports of a Nicaraguan woman who recruits underage women from Nicaragua and takes them to the Juan Santamaría airport in Alajuela and from there (takes them) to San José. This transfer of minors is for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation.

With respect to **Nicaragua**, mention was made of a parking lot called "El Chihuiste" in **Rivas**. In this place, trailers arrive, transporting minors en route to Costa Rica:

"Regarding trafficking for sexual exploitation, we were able to determine that there is a lot of participation of **truck drivers**, they transport the girls, they camouflage them among the boxes of vegetables, among the boxes they bring, and they bring them to them in order to take them to Costa Rica. This is used here in Rivas and it is publicly recognized and widespread. The Chihuiste parking lot that is there by the traffic circle to expose the minors and there to show the trailers to their services as well or they also put them to rest to continue with the route to Costa Rica and these are minors who also come from the area of **Masaya** and **Granada**".

- **Situations Identified**

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION	
CASE #1	<p>Piedra Santa case, Peñas Blancas It is known that in the Peñas Blancas border post Blancas there is a group of Guatemalan and Guatemalan and Salvadoran dedicated a recruiting under 20 years of age to prostitute them, taking them to different places in the country. prostitution centers, with the prevalence of</p>

	recruitment through intermediaries (tramitadores). This gang operates in Central America and mobilizes the victims. with their passports.
CASE #2	<p>Nicaragua to Costa Rica</p> <p>Recruitment: Adult female neighbor of Los Chiles de las Azucenas in Nicaragua intercepts two minors from the community and offers to take them to CR to find work. The mobilization is done through pirate cabs and coyotes from CR.</p> <p>The situation was identified by the Public Force in Costa Rica at the Tablillas post, placing them at the order of Migration. No investigation was carried out adequate.</p>
CASE #3	<p>From Nandaime, Granada and Masaya to Rivas</p> <p>Trailers transport underage persons in the load of their trucks. They use a parking lot in Rivas (Chahuite). They transport them from Nandaime, Granada and Masaya</p>

- **Intermediation**

Brokering in situations of trafficking of children and adolescents for purposes of SE is done by informal cab drivers (known in Costa Rica as "pirate cabs"), truck drivers, godmothers (recruiters) and criminal organizations that carry out other illicit activities:

"On the **Costa Rican side**, the pirate cab drivers, Los Catanos (which is a mafia-like organization). The Catanos are in charge of taking them to their clients and once the client pays them, they take them to the different beaches where foreigners come to enjoy the sexual services of these minors.

About formal cab drivers:

"It has also been determined that **airport cab drivers** offer services, when they ride a foreigner and the foreigner pays them for services somewhere, they offer them that they have a girl and she has a good body."

Regarding recruiters ("godmothers"):

"There are **godmothers**, who are ladies who are dedicated to recruiting girls from some areas and also offer them prostitution, well excuse me, sexual exploitation."

From the information provided by the key informants regarding the profile of the intermediary, it is relevant, due to the level of detail, to mention two cases that were raised:

Case # 1 Hotel Esquina del Lago, San Carlos, Nicaragua

Hitch	Transfer	Welcome	Sexual exploitation
Where does o you do it?	Where does o you do it?	Where do they sleep?	In h consists of?
Felipe (foreign)	Overseas managers (pangas, motorcyclists)	Hotel Esquina del Lago	"Satisfying the tourist in artisanal fishing."
Where does the contact take place?	Which media do you use? media do you use?	What are the supply points? pply points?	Who is is the exploitative cliente?
San Carlos, Hotel Esquina del Lago. And in Costa Rica	Pangas owned by the hotel owner	Costa Rica Los Chiles Hotel Esquina del Lago	Tourists Domestic workers(*)
How is the contact made	Where are they headed?	How long do they stay on site?	How much and how do they pay the customers- exploiters?

Through cab drivers, motorcyclists and watercraft drivers	On the San Juan - Castillo - Solentiname River	Three days	In kind and liquor consumption
How often?	Who receives receive them?	What time of the year?	Are family members and/or public officials involved? and/or public officials?
Season fishing season Vacations	The same owner of Hotel with administrators	End of the year Week Seman a Grande (Holy Week)	Relatives of workers and owners

Case # 2 Internal trafficking from San José to Playas del Coco, Guanacaste, Costa Rica

Hitch	Recruitment	Welcome	Sexual exploitation
Who performs it?	Who performs it?	Where do they sleep?	In which consists of?
Maria	Cab driver pirate (porter)	At cabins or hotels	"the minors offer their sexual services to tourists".
Where does the contact take place?	Which media do you use? media do you use?	What are the points supply points?	Who is the exploitative clientele?

Behind of the School School, 125 meters north (Costa Rica/Canada Project), Barrio Corazón de Jesús, Barrio Corazón de Jesús. Costa Rica/Canada), Barrio Corazón de Jesús, house house of Maria (recruiter), corner house.	Automobiles	Coco Beaches	Tourists of all ages (U.S. and Canadian)
How is the contact made	Where are they headed?	How long do they stay on site?	How much and how do they pay the customers-exploiters?
Staff	Coco Beaches	All a weekend weekend	US\$100
How often?	Who receives re ceive them?	What time of the year?	Are family members and/or public officials involved? an d/or public officials?
Every weekend	Operate at the streets	High season	_____

- **Victims**

Reference was made to the victims who are known as "Las Chicleras":

"In the customs yard, it is an area in the plant where the trailers park, it is known that the "chicleras" girls who come from very poor areas of Rivas, even further north or from some precarious areas (...) wait for the trailers (...)

during the day they sell gum and at night or at some point they use it to do sexual favors for the trailers".

- **On-site inter-agency coordination**

The presentations highlighted the importance of coordination between institutions and the effective protection of the rights of victims not to be sexually exploited. It is necessary to establish clear procedures and improve the capacities of law enforcement officials for the proper identification of CSEC and human trafficking crimes.

"And the other thing is that the work we have done with Migration and Customs, we are collecting all the children and taking them to a home and from there they are sent to **Rivas** or **Managua** to a shelter, but we have even fought very hard with the civil guard to remove all these minors and put an end to the delinquency in those places".

"But the police do not have the power to give him a preventive measure or a precautionary measure, because we do not have anything, only an undocumented person that when we take him to the Prosecutor's Office or to the Judicial Investigation Agency they say "we do not have any case, what are we going to do with the undocumented person? And who is the competent body in our country, Costa Rica? Well, it is the National Directorate of Immigration and Foreigners. We put him/her to the order of that institution and the only thing that Migration is in charge of is repatriating him/her.

For the informants, since the structural causes of CSEC and trafficking of children and adolescents for SE are not addressed, the problem becomes a kind of never-ending cycle:

"We do not have a contact; there is no protocol at this time or nationally to be able to follow up with Nicaragua to see what are the circumstances that led this person to come to our country and what are the conditions that are occurring now. Besides, this person arrives ten or twenty times to Costa Rica and has the same conditions. I imagine that a *coyote*¹⁰ comes here from Costa Rica ten or twenty times and also continues in the same conditions because there is no protocol that allows us to limit this type of actions (...).

They cite as an example the partial and insufficient response of the migration authorities, which makes it difficult to eradicate the problem. This is how they refer to Costa Rica:

"I am part of the police and I observe that in the case of Los Chiles, the undocumented person is intercepted and immediately placed under the orders of Immigration, but that person is not subjected to a prior investigation.

Where does it come from? What is the situation in which it comes? We know that there are cases that arrive in Nicaragua and there is a body there that investigates them and then identifies them, so the lack of knowledge at the legal level, I feel that the Public Prosecutor's Office does not give us the tools to be able to prosecute these people, sometimes due to lack of knowledge of what the crime of human trafficking is, because some of them can be prosecuted and others cannot, so there have been many cases in the area where we as public officials irresponsibly throw the ball to each other. The police throw it to Migration. Migration throws it to them.

¹⁰ *Coyote*: is the pejorative expression used in the region to refer to "traffickers" of people.

to whom it is up to the Prosecutor's Office or whoever and so on and so forth and since no competent authority was found to whom to pass the case, then the easiest answer is "let's put them on a walk!" Or that they be deported and so there are many cases like that. So I believe that it is time that as countries we establish that this is a problem and that we are living this problem and just as there is domestic violence in Costa Rica and there are prevention programs, so we realize that we must prevent the crime of human trafficking and begin to see it as part of the operational plan of each country and each institution, so that we can give it a correct approach. Because sometimes what happens is that we *turn a blind eye*; we see the situation but we don't know who to refer it to and who is responsible for it and then we just report it as a person who is going to be deported in a normal way".

On the other hand, key informants referred to the persistence of myths and prejudices that have a negative effect on police intervention. *Malpractice revictimizes and* violates the human rights of minors.

They identified a case of trafficking in minors (and even the crime of smuggling) in Los Chiles and near San Carlos de Nicaragua, which reflects the negative, rights-violating results of inadequate police intervention.

"a woman neighbor of the rural area of Los Chiles, near San Carlos de Nicaragua, intercepts two minors and offers them the typical case that is common in this sector, which is that *"we take you to work in Costa Rica"*, they enter the country in an illegal way, in the case of this woman, she was intercepted by the police in the post of Las Tablillas and **was put to the orders of Migration along with the two minors**, without a proper investigation, which is what I want to refer to. In this case the officer intercepts her and coordinates with the officers of Los Chiles and they are placed under the orders of Migration, then Migration **deports them** and they start the procedures to send them to their country of origin but the officers of Migration in Nicaragua say that since they are minors, they need the permission of the parents, because they were with a person who had no family ties between them and they used an interesting strategy which was that the companions arrived and asked the girls how long they had been living with the other lady, and one of them was surprised and asked them how long they had been living with her, Then one of them was surprised and told the other girl to say that "she was her mother-in-law" and so they began to notice that there was a strange case there. From there they put themselves under the orders of the pertinent authorities, but there was no response from the Public Prosecutor's Office of the country.

So, the link and the operation was lost and then the case had to be left as apparently **the girls were from the happy life** and that's how the investigation was left (...) **sometimes public officials fall into the error of identifying them as women from the happy life, so they are no longer victims but someone who is enjoying themselves, and this is part of the ignorance...**".

This distortion in the perception of CSEC, which classifies a girl or adolescent as "living a happy life", is a factor that contributes to the impunity of the perpetrators. As recognized by the key informants who made this reference, this qualification removes any connotation of victimhood from the children and permeates the way in which the situation is addressed.

In addition, it is interesting to note how key informants themselves can identify perceptions of the problem that make it difficult for them to conceptualize it as a crime.

"Recently a documentary was made, which by the way I did not agree with the presentation made in the channel because things are not like that, because they presented a woman getting into a van asking for \$50, something that no driver pays \$50 to a woman, there everything is spoken and is paid in colones and maybe about \$20, but it is not the big amount, because seeing that video there and I say and as if there are other women who are paid \$50, that what it does rather is publicity."

This intervention allows us to appreciate how sexual exploitation is seen as just another monetary transaction, omitting a deep reflection of the problem.

2.2 GEOGRAPHIC MAPPING

- Internal Routes Nicaragua

**TABLE #1
INTERNAL ROUTES NICARAGUA 2008**

Route Number	Description
1	Ochomogo, San Rafael, Lake Nicaragua, Grenada
	Ochomogo, Escalante, San Ignacio, La Salina to Astillero
	Panamericana, Amparo, Pica Pica (TCI Parking Lot), Pueblo Nuevo, Belén (La Fuente Parking Lot), San Pablo, Jiñote, El Rosario Calle El Amor, Rivas (El Chagüite Parking Lot), Puente Las Lajas, La Virgen, Amayo Santa Martha, Sapoás, Peñas Blancas (Customs, Migration and Alien Affairs)
	Somotillo - Chinandega - León - Managua - Juigalpa - Acoyapa - San Carlos
5	Somotillo - Chinandega - León - Managua - Granada - San Carlos
	El Rama - Muelle de los Bueyes - Santo Tomás - Empalme de Lóvago - Acoyapa - San Carlos
	Nueva Guinea - El Triunfo - El Almendro - San Carlos
	<p>* PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chinandega - León - Managua (Ciudad Sandino) - Nandaime to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rivas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ (Hotel El Coco; Bar Flamingo; Hotel La Primavera; Rivas Market; Chahuite Parking Lot) ➤ Tola (Migration from Managua, Masaya, Carazo, Granada) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Shipyard ○ Las Salinas (Arenas Bay) b) Ometepe Island - Rivas (mainly traffickers for the purpose of labor exploitation)
	La Virgen - San Juan del Sur
	- Coco
	Ostional Beach - Puerto Soley
	Cardenas - Colon
	Cardenas a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ San Cecilia (Costa Rica) ➤ Las Mercedes (Nicaragua) ➤ - La Libertad (CR-Nicaragua)
	Rivas - La Virgen - La Pimienta
	Rivas - Sapoá - Cárdenas
	Rivas - La Virgen - San Juan del Sur - Ostional - El Naranjo

MAP #1

INTERNAL ROUTES NICARAGUA 2008



TABLE #2
NICARAGUA-CR 2008 SEA ROUTES

Description
Ostional to Conventillo, to Puerto Soley, to Isla Bolaños, to Coyotera, to El Coquito, to El Jobo Viejo, to La Rajada, to Manzanillo, to Jobo, to Junquillal

Key informants indicated that: "It concludes the arm of the sea in front of Cantón de la Cruz, Base del Murciélago or part of Santa Rosa Park", on the Costa Rican side.

MAP #2
NICARAGUA-CR 2008 SEA ROUTES

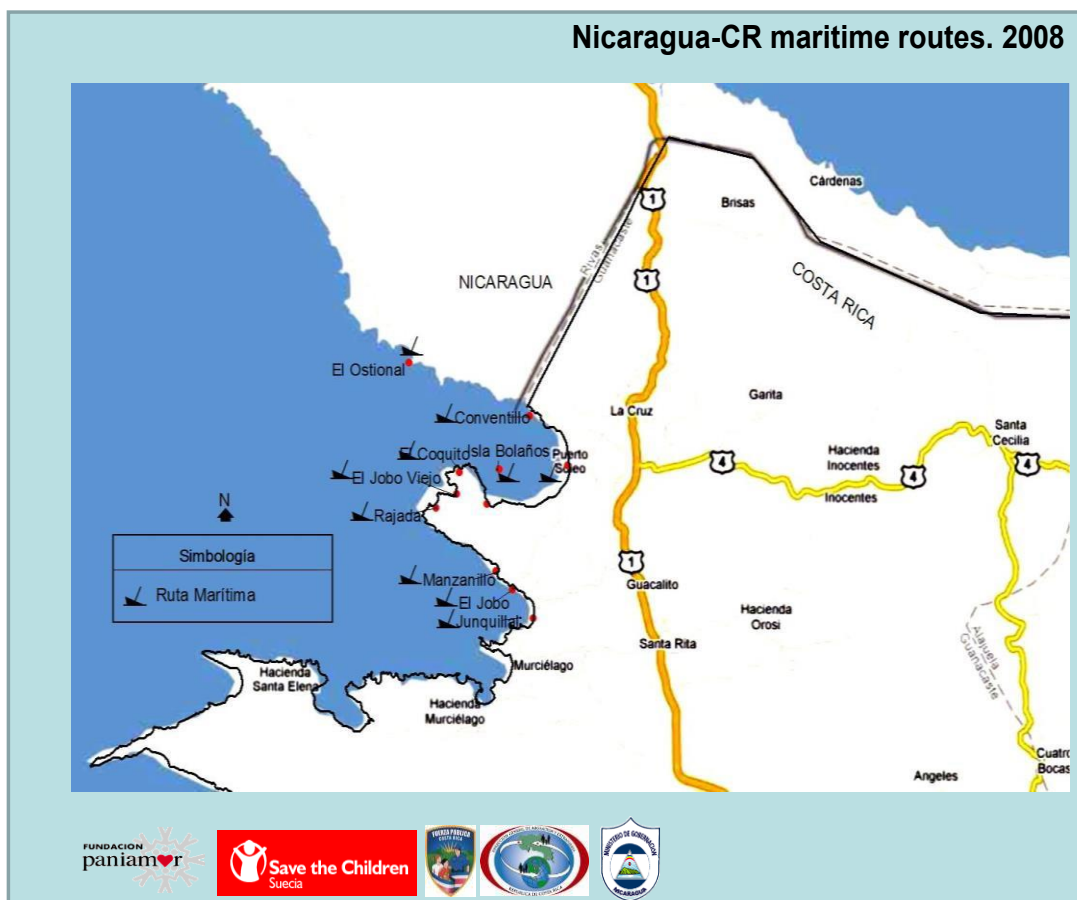


TABLE #3
LAND ROUTES NICARAGUA-LACUSTRE 2008

Route number	Description
1	Cardenas to Colon (and vice versa)
	Colón to Ometepe Island, to Puerto Díaz
	Columbus to Solentiname, to Grenada
	Ometepe Island to Menco Zapatera, to Grenada
5	San Jorge to Ometepe Island and viceversa
	Grenada to San Carlos, to Rio San Juan

Key informants indicated a route from Muelle Km 139 to Isla Ometepe, to Granada, but it could not be mapped because the Km 139 dock was not located on the Google Map digital maps.

MAP #3 NICARAGUA-LACUSTRE LAND ROUTES 2008



- Internal Routes Costa Rica

TABLE #4
DOMESTIC ROUTES (NATIONAL) COSTA RICA 2008

Route Number	Description
1	Peñas Blancas - La Cruz - Liberia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coco Beaches
	Peñas Blancas - La Cruz - Liberia - San José *even Los Catanos will take you directly to San José from Peñas Blancas.
	Peñas Blancas - La Cruz - Santa Cruz <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tamarindo ▪ Flamingo ▪ Conchal ▪ Brasilito
	Peñas Blancas - La Cruz - Nicoya <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Samara ▪ Nosara
5	Peñas Blancas - La Virgen - Santa Cecilia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ La Cruz ▪ Liberia ▪ Upala
	Upala-San José de Upala, Birmania-Brasolia-Sta. Cecilia-Interamericana
	Cruz de Piedra - Liberia - Guardia - Santa Cruz - El Coco - Panama Beach
	Peñas Blancas - Liberia - San José

MAP #4 DOMESTIC ROUTES (NATIONAL) COSTA RICA 2008



- **Nicaragua-Costa Rica External Routes**

TABLE #5
EXTERNAL ROUTES NICARAGUA-COSTA RICA 2008

Route Number	Description
1	Chinandega - Managua - Juigalpa - Acoyapa - San Carlos - Los Chiles (CR) - Santa Rosa - Ciudad Quesada - Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí (Bananeras)
	Granada - San Carlos - Upala - Santa Clara - San José de Upala - El Progreso de Birmania (Oranges)
	El Rama - Acoyapa - San Carlos - El Castillo - Sarapiquí (San Juan River) - Puerto Viejo - Guapiles
	San Carlos - El Castillo - Boca de San Carlos - Sarapiquí - La Tigra
5	Bluesfield - San Juan de Nicaragua - Barra del Colorado - Tortuguero - Puerto Limón
	Rivas - La Cruz - Liberia - San José
	San Juan Sur - Los Chiles - Ciudad Quesada - San José

The key informants indicated a route that goes from "Nueva Ginea - San Carlos - El Castillo - Boca de San Carlos - Pital - Muelle - to La Fortuna de San Carlos", which they classified as a sex tourism route. However, this route could not be registered on the map because it was not possible to locate all the points mentioned in the digital database.

MAP #5 **EXTERNAL ROUTES NICARAGUA-COSTA RICA 2008**



- **Non-Enabled Passages ("Blind Spots")**

Nicaraguan police representatives provided interesting elements regarding the unauthorized crossings (also known as "blind spots") already widely identified by Nicaraguan authorities, which are generally used for the commission of various crimes. Along the border, there are reportedly sectors that lack police surveillance at all:

"The border of Peñas Blancas comprises 75 linear kilometers of border that extends from the Naranjo to the Punta de Pizote River, bordering the San Juan River. In general terms, it is an immense blind spot due to the lack of police surveillance."

The police have identified six passages, which are the most used not only for human trafficking situations, but "each of these blind spots provides the necessary conditions for any illicit act".¹¹

These six steps are:

- 1. The Guasimada**

La Guasimada is located "in the western sector of the Peñas Blancas border. The route starts at the Peñas Blancas bus terminal to Manuel Cerda's land and continues to the Santa Isabel farm owned by Mauro Vega, where two routes can be identified: a) eastbound, until reaching a wire fence that leads to the Pan-American Highway in Costa Rican territory, and b) southbound until reaching the Icabalzeta River, crossing it to the teak sector until reaching a gas station that borders the Pan-American Highway in Costa Rican territory".

¹¹ Even if they are not specifically identified for the commission of the crime of trafficking in children and adolescents, these unauthorized passages are relevant as a general context for the authorities to consider when defining their intervention plans. For this reason, they are included in this report.

2. El Almendro (Cárdenas)

This pass presents a broken and semi-mountainous road. The border is approximately four kilometers away and can only be crossed on foot or by beast.

"This blind spot is in the lands of Mr. Domingo Guerrero Cerdas (...), this area is also known by the name of El Carmen, for being near the Hacienda of the same name, and also as Las Champas, for having been in previous years a National Army Control Post (...). The geographic location of this pass is: To the east with the community of Sota Caballo; to the west with the district of Pueblo Nuevo Sur; to the south with the border with Costa Rica; to the north with the property of the Adolfo Salgado sector. This property has an extension of 50 manzanas as for the police sector, it corresponds to sector No. 1004302."

3. La Pimienta (Cárdenas)¹²

"To enter this blind spot, we have to enter the Hacienda La Pimienta, which is owned by MADENICA". It is a broken terrain with some plains and hills, the border can only be accessed on foot or by beasts, this point is located in the police sector No. 1004302.

"The geographical location is: to the south with the Costa Rican border; to the north with the farm La Pimienta No.2, property of MADENICA; to the west with the property of Mr. Guadalupe Osorio and the Mareen Sevilla brothers; to the east with the blind spot El Almendro."

4. Las Torres Grandes

According to the information provided, "this blind spot is named after three power line towers that pass close to it. These are part of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan power system. This point is properly located in the border line guard with Costa Rica in the MADENICA property and properties of Mr. Justo Vega".

¹² This unauthorized crossing has been identified as an area where a variety of crimes are committed, such as smuggling, "trafficking of undocumented persons", arms trafficking, drug trafficking, and animal theft, as determined by the Nicaraguan police.

"The geographical location is: to the south with the Costa Rican border; to the north with the road that goes to Peñas Blancas; to the west with the lands of Hacienda La Pimienta; to the east with the property of Mr. José Cerda, known as El Arrozal."

5. La Malla (La Tapia), Peñas Blancas¹³

"This blind spot receives this name for being limited with the dividing mesh between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, it occupies the land where the customs complex is located". It is a flat terrain, accessible only on foot or by beast, is located in the police sector No. 1004302.

"Its geographical location is: to the south with the territory of Costa Rica; to the north with the customs complex; to the west with the Pan-American Highway; to the east with the Sapo River, which when crossing into Costa Rican territory receives the name of Icabalceta."

6. Cerco Nuevo or Ciego Cerco (Peñas Blancas)¹⁴

It bears this name due to the poor condition of the fence. It is located on the border with Costa Rica, on the property that belonged to José Cerda (now deceased). It is a flat piece of land, "sonsocuitoso", accessible only on foot, police sector No. 1004302.

The geographical location is: to the south with Costa Rica; to the north with the road to Peñas Blancas, which leaves the border control point; to the west with the property of Mr. Justo Germán López Reyes; and to the east with municipal lands of Cárdenas.

• Other crossing points not authorized (Nicaragua, border zone)

Cardenas	San Juan del Sur
1. The White Cross	New World
2. Boca de Sapo	2. Pueblo Nuevo
3. Los Mangos	3. The Dumbbell
4. El Roble	4. La Florcita
5. El Molino	5. El Naranjo

¹³ It is noted that because of its location, the following crimes may take place: smuggling, "trafficking of undocumented persons", arms trafficking and drug trafficking.

¹⁴ The following crimes may occur here: smuggling, trafficking of undocumented migrants, arms trafficking, drug trafficking, and vehicle trafficking.

6. Witch's Rock	
7. Kalula	
8. Las Mercedes (La Libertad)	
9. Santa Rosa	
10. Aguas Calientes	
11. Cañita	
12. Mena River	
13. Los Angeles	
14. The Board	
15. Orosi	
16. Sardine	
17. Colón	
18. Toro River	
19. Niño River	
Jícaro River	
21. Old-New Columbus	

As for international air routes, three were identified departing from Panama (presumably Panama City) to San José, Golfito and Liberia (nationally). Then, the route from David to San José and the route from San José to Nicaragua are noted.

TABLE #6
INTERNATIONAL AREA ROUTES 2008

Route Number	Description
1	Panama to San Jose
	Panama to Golfito
	Panama to Liberia
	San José to Nicaragua
5	David to St. Joseph

MAP #6
INTERNATIONAL AREA ROUTES 2008



III. COORDINATION PROPOSALS

The following joint actions between Costa Rica and Nicaragua were proposed by the participants as a basis for planning crime control and repression actions:

- ❖ Creation of a Binational Protocol for agile communication and information, which includes the procedures to be followed by public officials, in order to confirm the relationship between an adult and a minor.

"when it comes to minors traveling in the company of persons of dubious reputation or origin, or if the kinship cannot be confirmed, conduct a broader investigation involving PANI or the Ministry of the Family, to clarify the situation".

- ❖ Strengthen border surveillance with police from both countries.
- ❖ Specialize officials from different entities in the issue of human trafficking, strengthening the training of entities with related competencies: police, army, migration and customs agents, institutions specialized in children, prosecutors and judges.
- ❖ Training and activities with all Central American countries.
- ❖ Creation of criminal prosecution policies with common minimums.
- ❖ Strengthening of the Judiciary for the intervention of this crime, through the creation of Specialized Units in the judicial and administrative police and to encourage the prosecution of cases.
- ❖ Establish the critical routes of human trafficking, among all those identified.
- ❖ Include -in the case of Nicaragua- the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office in the mapping process.

- ❖ Include other state and civilian agencies that can contribute to the care of victims (in the case of Nicaragua, include the Ministry of the Family, municipalities, Ministry of Public Education, Pastoral de Movilidad Humana).
- ❖ Follow up this work (mapping) and repeat the experience regularly.
- ❖ In the area of information dissemination, develop publicity campaigns on trafficking and prevention in the media.
- ❖ Seek coordination of actions between high-level authorities of both countries.

ANNEX

ANNEX I

GEOGRAPHIC AND SOCIAL MAPPING OF TRAFFICKING ROUTES FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS COSTA RICA, 2008

- GENERAL INFORMATION -

The Paniamor Foundation, with the technical and financial support of Save the Children Sweden, has carried out from 2004 to the present the Geographic and Social Mapping of the Trafficking of Minors for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Costa Rica, all developed within the framework of the Project "*Trafficking and Smuggling of Children and Adolescents: Geographic and Social Mapping in Central America and Mexico*".

Geographic and Social Mapping (GSM) is not a training, but rather a research conducted with key informants.

What is Geographic and Social Mapping?

It is an analysis tool based on action research.

It is applied to the study of commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC) and trafficking of minors for sexual exploitation, in order to find a synergistic result - relevant knowledge - or conclusions that can be generalized, to improve the cognitive and investigative process and decision making, in the face of informational uncertainty in any institutional or organizational environment.

The mappings have made it possible to systematize information that is not presented in the formal instances and that is relevant for guiding the prevention and repression policies promoted by the different public institutions.

How useful is the MGS?

The mappings are used to capture the findings obtained through the implementation of the Geographic and Social Mapping methodology, which allows the collection of relevant data and information provided by key informants, which is recorded on digital maps prepared using ARC VIEW 3.0 and ARC VIEW.

9.0, which are specialized software that allow the geographic location of the collected information.

This exercise has been carried out at the regional level, including countries such as Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Panama, consolidating a regional map of trafficking routes in June 2005.

Organizations such as the Central American Organization for Migration (OCAM) have valued it as a key instrument in the fight against the trafficking of minors in Central America.

Between 2004 and 2007, Paniamor has been able to obtain relevant information for Costa Rica and the Central American region on the following topics:

- internal trafficking routes
- CSEC and trafficking vulnerability zones by province
- "cooling" zones
- "blind spots"
- sexual tourism
- the "profile" of the exploiters
- victims (risk factors; mechanisms for the protection of their rights)
- CSF and trafficking brokers
- an estimate of cases representing an exploration of the magnitude of the problem in the country
- an analysis of the general trends observed

The methodology consists of a spatial representation of trafficking and CSEC routes through their distribution in geographic areas of a country or region and their linkage to the social, economic, cultural and gender factors that facilitate them.

It allows the identification of information gaps, which are clarified and at the same time, key information on the phenomenon studied is obtained.

Through this methodology, the key informants place the information on the maps in such a way that it is interconnected, thus allowing for an integrated analysis of the information contained in them and deriving conclusions and recommendations on these issues from the maps.

Who are the key informants?

Key informants are selected according to the thematic emphasis and mapping objectives set for each year and for each region. The definition of the key informants' profile and a careful selection are assumptions that guarantee a high percentage of the success of this study.

They may be **public officials** from **different sectors and institutions** who - by the nature of their functions - have precise knowledge and information in the area where they work on the dynamics and incidence of sexual exploitation and trafficking of children and adolescents.

Persons in the **private sector** who have knowledge of this problem and/or direct contact with the victims through their work may also be key informants.

Considering that there is relevant information available to date on the crime of human trafficking and that this is a complex problem that involves internal and cross-border networks, in 2008 the Paniamor Foundation will carry out the Mapping focusing on three geographic areas identified as "highly vulnerable" to CSEC and trafficking of children and adolescents for CSEC purposes:

(i) Northern Border/Peñas Blancas; (ii) Southern Border/Paso Canoas and (iii) Central Pacific Coast (Puntarenas).

The mappings in the land border zones will be carried out through **binational workshops** with border police and migration officials from the two countries involved in each zone. This exercise will be carried out with the support of the public authorities of Nicaragua and Panama.

On the other hand, the **National Mapping** (Central Pacific Coast) was prepared with Costa Rican key informants from the health and education sectors, with the support of the public health and education authorities.

The purpose of these actions is to update the information gathered in previous mappings on the trafficking routes of children and adolescents for HE purposes identified in these areas; to characterize the *modus operandi* of the perpetrators of these crimes -including intermediaries- and to establish coordination actions between the countries and the various institutions to guarantee the protection of the rights of children and adolescents who are victims of trafficking for HE purposes.

The binational mappings took place in November 2008 and January 2009 and approximately 40 key informants will participate in each workshop, according to the profile defined for each of the exercises.

Additional information can be requested
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