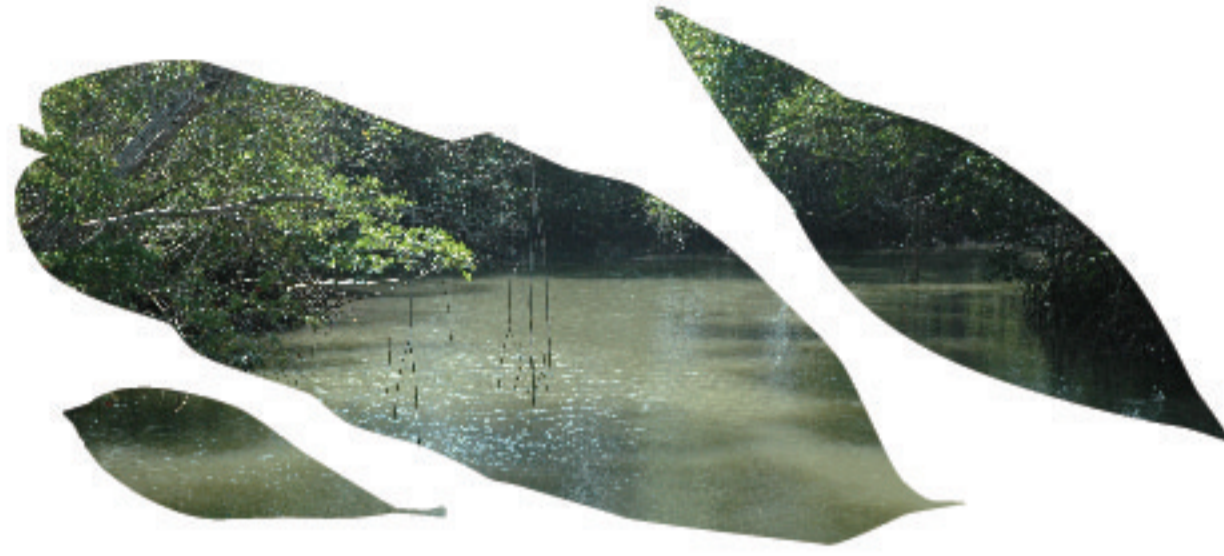


# Reforest Riparian Zones

To increase the integrity of these areas, reforest riparian zones using trees that grow well around bodies of water.



# Conserving Riparian Zones in Cattle Farms

Having cattle access a riparian zone has a negative effect on its soil and vegetation. Stepping, defecating, and urinating in the water, limits the natural regeneration of plants resulting in leaving a bare area. To protect the soil, water, and vegetation, bring the water to the cattle.

Guidelines for how to protect riparian zones when cattle are present:

1. Fence both sides of a riparian zone to limit cattle from entering.
2. Once it has been fenced, build water troughs. Bring water to the trough by using a hose that comes from the creek or river. These troughs can be made from old tires, containers, buoys or other recycled items. Consider whether or not these containers will be permanent or mobile. If you would like them to be mobile so that the trough can follow the rotation of the cattle, use light materials.



# RIPARIAN ZONE CONSERVATION

A guide to understand & protect riparian zones

This eco-guide is a living document. If there are any errors, comments or clarifications to this info please contact Pro Eco Azuero in person, by email, or phone.

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# What are riparian zones



Riparian zones are areas bordering bodies of water such as lakes, ponds, rivers or streams.

In the Azuero peninsula, these zones have been deforested, but sites with still existing forests represent some of the last patches of tree cover.

They provide very important services because:

1. The vegetation cover protects water and soil quality by preventing erosion and agrochemicals from entering the river.
2. Trees along riparian zones foster biodiversity and provide seeds and fruits for consumption or sale.
3. Trees are important habitats for animals, including the endangered subspecies of the Azuero Spider Monkey.
4. Riparian zones absorb water and release it slowly in comparison with deforested or bare zones. They provide steady supplies of drinking water. These contributions are "achieved through the minimization of soil erosion on site, the reduction of sediments in bodies of water, and by trapping or filtering other water pollutants in the forest ground" (FAO).

# LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR RIPARIAN ZONES

National Laws protect riparian zones due to the importance of these areas -- It is illegal to deforest them. According to articles 23 and 24 from the 1st law of February 3rd, 1994 it is prohibited to destroy or log trees in the following areas:

## Article 23

protects **natural vegetation** bordering bodies of water:

- 1 Areas that border streams originating from the forest.**  
A 200m radius of tree cover must be maintained  
A 100m radius if the area is flat
- 2 Around rivers and streams**  
Both sides must be forested at a level equal to the width of the river or stream or wider, but min. 10m
- 3 Around natural lakes and reservoirs**  
100m from the shore
- 4 Forests on the banks of aquifer areas used for human consumption cannot be cut under no circumstances and are considered special forests in national protected areas**

## Article 24

protects **areas of planted forest** bordering bodies of water:

- 1 Areas that border streams originating from the forest.**  
A 100m radius of tree cover must be maintained  
A 50m radius if the area is flat
- 2 Around rivers and streams**  
Both sides must be forested at a level equal to the width of the river or stream or wider, but min. 10m
- 3 Around streams used for human consumption**  
A radius of 50m
- 4 Areas in natural or artificial reservoirs**  
10m from the maximum water level

### Contacts for Riparian Zones

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