

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE AYUQUILA-ARMERIA RIVER.

by: Luis Manuel Martínez R y Eduardo Santana C.

Several federal and state protected land falls within the watershed. 53.4% of the Biosphere Reserve Sierra de Manantlán is located within this watershed and 70 km of the river represent the northern limit of the reserve. Ayuquila watershed also include another important protected areas, like National Park Nevado de Colima, Quila Area for Protection of Flora and Wildlife, Flora and Wildlife Protection at Jabalí and Crocodile Production in Boca de Pascuales. However, this watershed presents mayor impact in the management and conservation of riparian aquatic resources in the Biosphere Reserve Sierra de Manantlan. In general, Ayuquila-Armeria watershed has 10% of its surface as protected land (Graf et.al.,2001).

In terms of biodiversity, the Ayuquila River falls within the Pacific Region relative to aquatic resources and contains 8 families and 29 species of fish. Two species are endemic to the watershed, *Poeciliposis baenschi* and *Allondontichthys zonistius* (Santana et. al., 1993). Nine species of crustaceans exist in 4 families and 4 genera and include *Macrobrachium* (river lobster), *Atya* and *Cambarellus* (river shrimp) and the genus *Pseodothelphusa* (crab). (Navarro et. a1,, 1990)

The River is a haven for aquatic birds that include herons (*Area herodias*), kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*), cormorant (*Phalacrocorax olivaceus*) and dabchicks (*Tachybaptus dominicusj*). Raptors exist along the riparian corridors throughout the canyons (Navarro et. al., 1990). One of the largest mammals within the biosphere reserve, the otter (*Lontra Iongicaudis*), survives within the Ayuquila watershed but is a threatened species. Other important terrestrial animals rely on the River as a water source, e.g., raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), fox (*Urocyon cinnerargenteus*), and iguana (*Ctenosaura pectinata*) (Santana et. al., 1993).

In terms of vegetation types, this watershed has a complex mosaic of vegetation , like dry shrub, tropical deciduos forest, oak and pine forest, rain forest, tropical subdeciduos forest, fire forest, and riparian forest. This complex vegetation, in addition to edafic and climatic factors give large richness and diversity of flora and wildlife.

Bibliography:

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