

Sustainable Sabana



Universidad de
La Sabana



Sustainable Sabana

“Sustainable Sabana” it´s the Universidad de La Sabana’s biggest bet towards sustainability on its influence area. This program started in 2012 as a regional planning exercise, defining an action plan for the region where the institution is located, by identifying the main projects that should be executed regarding infrastructure, public services, environment, and partnerships. This action plan aimed at guaranteeing the province’s responsible growth and also, strengthening its local and nationwide competitiveness.

From this first prospective exercise, the University started a regional observatory that

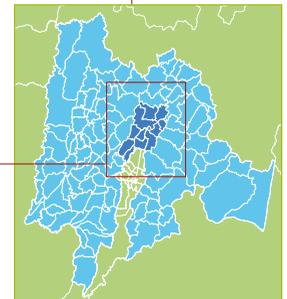
aimed to monitoring the indicators that affect Sabana Centro´s population quality of life and the competitiveness of its municipalities. That is how Universidad de La Sabana had the chance to carry out a more assertive, efficient and responsible intervention on its influence area; and as a result, the University has had a lot of research projects, social intervention and academic events, that allowed the institution to keep an ongoing dialogue with local third parties as well as with the different realities from the province.

The province Sabana Centro

Sabana Centro is one of the provinces that comprises the region Bogotá-Cundinamarca; it includes the following municipalities: Chía, Cota, Cajicá, Cogua, Gachancipá, Nemocón, Sopó, Tabio, Tenjo, Tocancipá y Zipaquirá. This territory gathers 22% of the population from Cundinamarca department as well as 30% of the department's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is also part of the Andes Mountain Range and it has got strategic ecological systems like Bogotá River and two of the Colombia's moorland complexes. Li-

kewise, Sabana Centro has got a strategic geographical location: It is very close to Bogotá and at the same time it connects this capital city to the northern Caribbean region; and it also has a rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage for the country. These conditions have allowed the development of diverse economic activities such as industry, tourism, construction of residential units and a growing offer of higher and tertiary education.

Colombia



Sabana Centro

11 municipalities

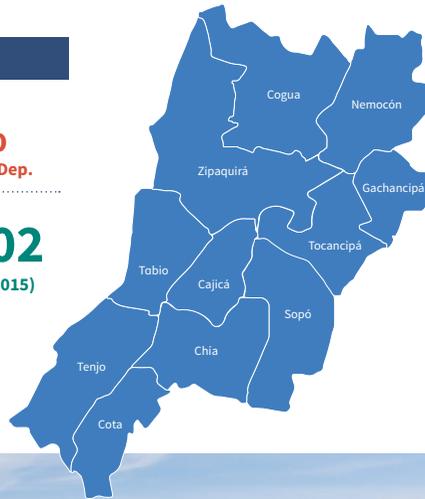
1.024 km²

1,4%
(2012) - GDP NaL.

Source: Sabana Centro Cómo Vamos. Sabana Centro. Una provincia sostenible

30%
(2014) - GDP Dep.

486.702
Population (2015)



Cundinamarca

116 municipalities

15 Provinces

24.210 km²

29%
(2012) - GDP NaL.



The University in the region Sabana Centro

Some statistics regarding the impact of the University on Sabana Centro:

More than 500.000 medical services
attended by the University Clinic every year.

Over 2.000 people
attended to by the University's legal, psychological,
family and entrepreneurship consulting services.

More than 1.700 internships
per semester in Sabana Centro.

Over 500 grant holders
live in Sabana Centro.

729 employees
live in surrounding municipalities.

745 local providers
with products and services from Sabana Centro.

Over 60 consulting projects
developed from 2012 to 2015.

60 research projects
in Sabana Centro.

* Statistics provided by the University
Planning Office up to December 2016.

Betting for a joint planning of the territory

“Sabana Centro, a sustainable territory” project rises up when the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) bring to Colombia the Emerging and Sustainable Cities Initiative (ESCI) through a financial institution called Findeter, that implemented it as the Sustainable and Competitive Cities (SCC) program, to contribute to the orderly growth of medium-sized cities; guaranteeing a sustainable development with job opportunities, education access, safety for their citizens, and the efficient use of natural resources.

This project established the beginning of a joint venture among municipalities, private and social third parties, and became a pioneering initiative for the region. The traditional ESCI methodology for medium-sized cities takes into account four dimensions for the effective intervention of the territory: The environmental sustainability and climate change; the urban dimension; the economic and social dimension; and the financial sustainability and governance. The application of this adapted model on 11 small towns implied creating a new dimension called “Regional Sustainability” to measure and understand more appropriately the interrelated dynamics among the municipalities, generating a new model which is applicable to other regions in Colombia or worldwide.

“Sabana Centro, a sustainable territory” project discover this region’s environmental and economic potential to support Bogotá’s productive system; and evidence the region’s need to establish regional strategic alliances, to improve tax collection, as well as the implementation of financial instruments that increase resources to consolidate an infrastructure for competitiveness, multidimensional territorial management, and the access and management of information for decision takers. The project concluded by identifying 48 projects (worth approximately COP\$1,4 billion) to guarantee the competitiveness and sustainability of Sabana Centro in the long term.



Quality of life



Poverty and inequality

MONITORING THEMES

Objective



Assets of people



Habitat



Culture and civic responsibility

Subjective



Good government



Economic development and competitiveness

Source: Red de Ciudades Cómo Vamos

Regional Observatory

“Sabana Centro, a sustainable territory” project recognized the difficulty faced by the 11 municipalities regarding access and management of trustable and systematized information that allows them to analyze their territories’ issues as well as their decision-making processes. With this scenario and with local third parties’ help, a regional observatory was implemented to monitor the territory, using a developed methodology called “Cómo Vamos”, that measures the quality of life in many cities in Colombia. That’s how, in 2015, the regional observatory Sabana Centro Cómo Vamos gets started, with the main goal of carry out a systematic follow-up to the indicators in the province.

Sabana Centro Cómo Vamos methodology consists on the evaluation of many aspects of quality of life from an objective and subjective dimensions. From the objective dimension, it measure indicators related to the public management are followed up using statistics provided by them; from the subjective one, the inhabitants’ opinions are also pursued closely.

This observatory has identified Sabana Centro’s main challenges and therefore, has allowed Universidad de La Sabana to co-work its influence area in a very assertive way; using research projects, technical assistance to municipalities, volunteering and solidarity activities and different kinds of academic events for the benefit of the community. All of these actions not only keep an ongoing communication between the academic community and local third parties, but contributes to the construction of a more just, peaceful and solidarity society.

Social Responsibility of the University in the territory



Technical assistance

Consulting to public and private parties from the region

- Development of projects and social intervention in municipalities.
- University's legal, psychological, family and company consulting services.



Training

Development of training programs for civil servants in the municipalities

- Peacebuilding management skills
- Urban planning and statistics management
- Community health leaders.



Events

Development of activities that put Universidad de La Sabana on the map as a leading center of thought.

- Bogotá region growth
- Territorial integration
- Territorial water management
- Regional mobility



Joint technical work

Interinstitutional working sessions with local authorities, third parties from the social and private sector to reflect about regional issues related to:

- Health
- Education.
- Peacebuilding
- Environment



Research projects

Research projects focused on the region's challenges:

- Early childhood and adolescence care
- Mobility and infrastructure
- Improvement of educational quality
- Environmental sustainability
- Peacebuilding



Interaction

Sabana Centro-Bogotá

Development of activities that promote the articulation of the capital city and Sabana Centro.

- Creation of the Mobility unit analysis for Sabana Centro-Bogotá
- Participation in the Territorial Integration Committee
- Events development: working sessions and interinstitutional projects



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Social Responsibility

juan.camelo@unisabana.edu.co

Tel. (57-1) 8615555 Ext. 54001/54102

University Campus, Puente del Común.

Km 7. North Freeway, Chía, Cundinamarca, Colombia.

www.unisabana.edu.co