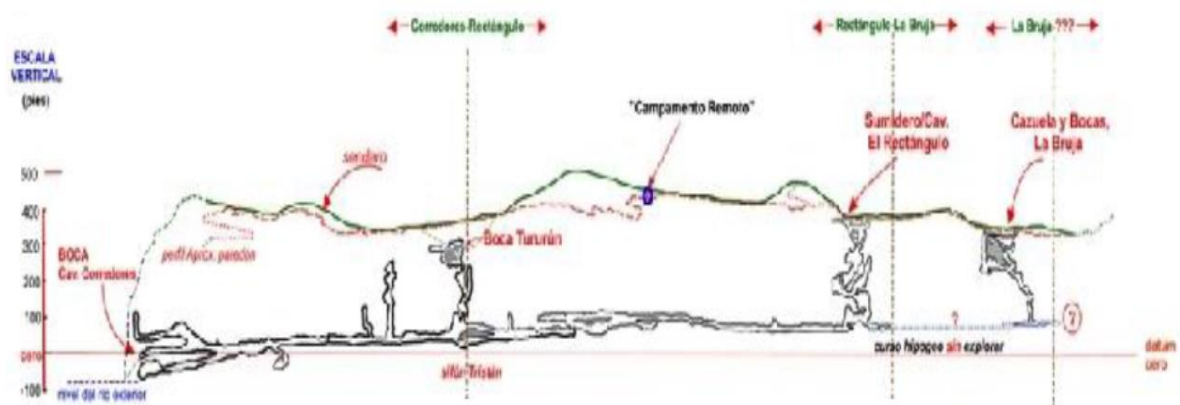




Country	MIKAS springs	Coordinates / Nearby City	Spring discharge (Q in l/s,min/av/max) / tapped or not	Criteria* in order / Main justification */ H-historic, A-aesthetic, S-scientific, E-Economic, Ec-ecologic	Data collected by
Costa Rica 	1. La Bruja System - Corredores Rio Guaimí	N 8°39'21.3" W82°54'42.2" Z=132 m asl Ciudad Neily	100/600/>2000 Not tapped	H, A, Ec, S <i>The important and unique karst features in the Corredores catchment are centered around the La Bruja-Rectangle System, a premier example of tropical fluviokarst located within the Brito Formation limestone. This stratigraphic unit, dating from the Middle Eocene to the Early Oligocene, consists of bioclastic limestone, calcarenites, and marls that have been tectonically uplifted as part of the Fila Costeña thrust belt. This system functions as a high-capacity, perennial subterranean river that represents one of the longest mapped cave networks in Costa Rica, extending nearly 3.9 kilometers. The system holds deep cultural significance linked to the Ngäbe-Buglé (Guaymí) heritage and local folklore. The name "La Bruja" (The Witch) refers to the traditional oral stories explaining the "magical" disappearance of the Rio Guaimi into subterranean sinkholes. The resurgence is a geomorphological landmark of high visual impact where a subterranean river emerges from massive limestone portals. While currently untapped, its high discharge capacity is the primary future solution for potable water security for the approximately 20,000 residents of Ciudad Neily. The system serves as a critical biological corridor and habitat for specialized aquatic species such as Rhamdia guatemalensis. The presence of these fish within the subterranean conduits indicates a high degree of surface-subsurface connectivity and confirms the permanent nature of the water resource, which is essential for maintaining the regional stygofauna biodiversity</i>	Ferdinando Didonna - Adolfo Quesada, with support of Andres Ulloa UCR - Gustavo Quesada GEA

MIKAS – La Bruja System - Corredores Rio Guaimí



Cross section of the Bruja system and outflow of the underground river Bruja. Completed by the NSS in 1990 (Editado por CGC). Source: Goicoechea, C., Didonna, F., & Quesada, G. (2011). Cavernas de Costa Rica. Ediciones Anthros, Grupo Espeleológico Anthros (GEA).



Underground river Guaimi, in the cavern Corredores (GEA, 2009). Source: Goicoechea, C., Didonna, F., & Quesada, G. (2011). Cavernas de Costa Rica. Ediciones Anthros, Grupo Espeleológico Anthros (GEA).