



Forest Values

Innovative Partnerships for Forest Restoration

The objective of the project is to achieve the restoration and conservation of at least 180,000 hectares of forest in communities and core zones of three protected areas in Guatemala, under ecologically and socially sustainable criteria.

Project Data

Country:	Guatemala
Implementing Organizations:	OroVerde - Tropical Forest Foundation Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN) Heifer International Guatemala
Internet:	www.ooverde.de, www.defensores.org.gt, www.heifer.org;
Guatemalan Partner Institutions:	Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock Farming and Alimentation (MAGA) National Forest Institute (INAB) National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP)
Project Duration:	2015 -2020
Budget:	up to 4,000,000 Euros
Financiamiento:	Supported by:  Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety based on a decision of the German Bundestag
Contact:	<i>OroVerde:</i> Dr. Elke Mannigel emannigel@ooverde.de <i>FDN:</i> Ing. Rudy Virgilio Bautista Miranda rbautista@defensores.org.gt <i>Heifer International Guatemala:</i> Larry Paul larry.paul@heifer.org

Initial Situation

The loss of forest and its biological diversity is one of Guatemala's main environmental problems, mainly due to the change of land use. Government programs that promote the conservation and restoration of forests do exist, the available funds for forest regeneration on a large scale however are still not sufficient. There is a lack of business and financing models, strategies and concrete criteria that on one hand facilitate the access to new financial resources and on the other hand guarantee the conservation of biodiversity and the participation of the local communities.

Location of the Project

The Project is implemented in three protected areas in Guatemala:

- Sierra del Lacandón National Park (PNSL)
- Wildlife Refuge Bocas del Polochic (RVSBP)
- Biosphere Reserve Sierra de las Minas (RBSM)



Target Group

The project's direct beneficiaries are around **2,000 families** from communities settled in rural areas with a high rate of poverty and residents from the protected areas. Therefore, activities are planned that **diversify their means of livelihood**, promote local development, **conserve the natural resources** and contribute to its **adaption to climate change**.

Project Activities

In cooperation with companies, private investors and other actors, **business and financing models as well as innovative marketing strategies** are developed in order to involve the private sector in the restoration of forests in accordance with national and international regulations for the management and conservation of biological diversity. For this, a **project committee** is formed in Germany and project staff participates in national and international round tables with experts.



Together with the private sector financing and business models are developed for the restoration of forests in Guatemala.

In addition, studies are conducted for the **identification of potential forest and agricultural products** and best practices of forest restoration with involvement of the private sector are analyzed.

With the objective to improve the living conditions of the local communities and reduce the pressure on the forest resources, **forests are restored and an ecological, diversified and sustainable agriculture is established**. In order to add value to the products obtained from the restored areas of the project, **value chains** (cocoa, honey, breadnut/Ramón, among others) **are developed and promoted** together with the communities and in cooperation with the private sector.



Value chains are established for the products from the restored forest areas, for instance for cocoa and honey from agroforestry systems.

Through a **monitoring system**, the conservation of the forests and their biodiversity in the three protected areas is improved and possible impacts of the project on the biodiversity and communities are determined. Based on that, **criteria** for the implementation of national and international strategies, policies and initiatives are developed that **create a favorable environment for cooperation with the private sector** in the implementation of mechanisms for the conservation of natural resources and sustainable development.



Influence in Guatemala and internationally

The National Forest Restoration Strategy of Guatemala (ENRPF) is aligned with the Bonn Challenge (2011). Within this framework Guatemala committed itself in September 2014 towards the United Nations to contribute 1.2 million hectares being restored over the next 30 years. At the same time, the experience of this project can be used by other organizations in Guatemala that can serve as multipliers of innovative criteria and methodologies, contributing to the implementation and adaptation of Guatemala's national initiative.



The outcomes and experiences from the project can be integrated in national strategies in Guatemala and international initiatives like the Bonn Challenge.

The outcomes of this project will enable the country to become a model of public private cooperation related to development issues, creating a favorable environment for future collaborations and financing for forest restoration. Finally, the results of the project will serve as an input to international initiatives related to forest restoration (e.g. Bonn Challenge).