

FCA Fondo para la Conservación de Bosques Tropicales



2006-2016

10 years Debt for Nature
Swap in Guatemala

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Introduction

10 years after the subscription of the agreements that materialized the debt swap for nature between Guatemala and the United States of America, with the subsequent establishment of the Tropical Forests Conservation Fund, our task is to reflect on the path we have travelled, and to share the contribution of this mechanism in order to conserve and sustainably manage our valuable natural richness.

National statistics show that, in contradiction with the Nahuatl meaning of the word Guatemala, “place of many trees”; on an annual basis, we lose 30,000 hectares of forest due to different causes, which directly affects the loss and limited availability of water and other goods and services associated with the present and the future society. Currently, our forests cover only 28 percent of the territory and the population and their pressures are progressively increasing.

Therefore, even the figures shown in this report give us great satisfaction because of the plural and multi-sectorial involvement, and the progresses achieved in the field, we are committed to continue working to multiply the efforts that place more and new financial resources to keep supporting and consolidating the nature conservation processes and in some way, to reduce the trends of deterioration.

We acknowledge the good will and trust of the US Government to readjust some amount of debt towards investment in protecting and improving our forests; as well to The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International for their participation, by providing strategic guidelines and counterpart financial resources to make this negotiation a reality, which today is historical. We recognize the responsibility of the Guatemalan governmental institutions for transferring the funds in the agreed manner; and the civil society organizations that have temporarily accompanied us with their talent and commitment in the Oversight Committee.

It is essential to remark the role of the non-governmental organizations supported by the Fund, for the implementation of their priority initiatives under the framework of the Regular Grants Program, the relevant involvement of the entities which manage the Small Grants Program in the four regions of the Fund and,



FCG

mainly, emphasize the lessons learned from the experiences of local community based organizations that have benefited from this program.

The work of the FCA is a gear that meets all these links, and it is also formed out by outstanding professionals who have contributed with their knowledge and experience in external monitoring of the results in the field, and those involved in the priceless pro bono contribution participating in the Projects Evaluation Committee.

In this decade we have achieved a solid working structure that the country can proudly show as a trustworthy, transparent, and effective model. Either the honorable representatives in the Oversight Committee and the collaborators of our Administrator, Fundación para la Conservación en Guatemala, FCG, can be satisfied for it. Thank you all for this time of hard work. I urge you to move forward in building the Guatemala we want and deserve: green, worthy, and sustainable.

Juan Carlos Godoy Herrera

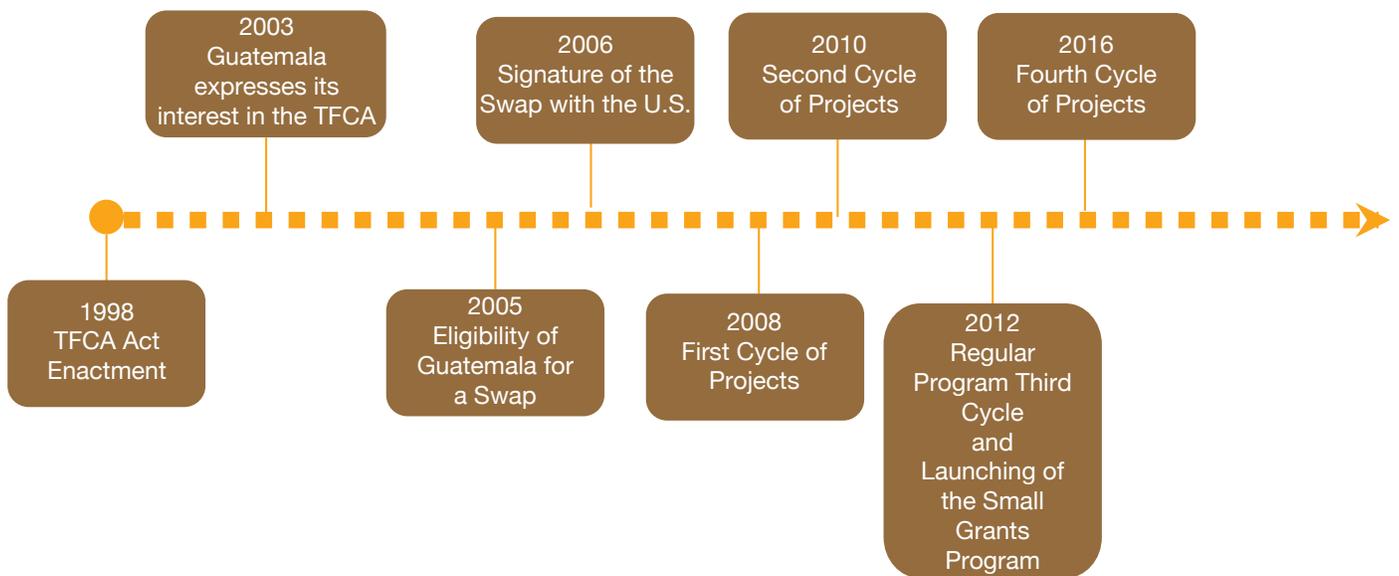
President

FCA Oversight Committee

I. The first 10 years

Strategic framework

Our timeline



Vision

To contribute to the long lasting conservation of natural resources in the priority regions of Guatemala to improve the welfare of the community.

Mission

The FCA is an innovative financial mechanism that, in partnership with cooperation partners, entities, and communities, strengthens the conservation and sustainable development agendas through high-impact projects.

Strategic objectives

- To ensure that the specific regions and areas are under a functional management to contribute to the critical species and vulnerable ecosystems long-term protection, through the active and relevant involvement of local stakeholders.
- To prevent and reduce threats and stress on biodiversity, natural resources, and its surroundings, within the priority regions.
- Strengthen and promote partnerships, the leveraging of resources, the involvement and contribution of the key stakeholders (donors, academics, private sector, public sector, communities, and NGOs) for the completion of the sustainable conservation and development purposes authorized by the FCA.
- To manage the FCA Fund under an effective, transparent, and innovative structure, with high accounting and financial standards and investment priorities to sustainably implement the portfolio.

Authorized purposes

1. Establishment, restoration, protection, and maintenance of parks, reserves, and other protected areas.
2. Development and implementation of scientifically healthy systems of management of natural resources, including soil and ecosystems management practices.
3. Training programs to increase the scientific, technical, administrative capacities of individuals and organizations involved in conservation efforts.
4. Restoration, protection, and sustainable use of various animal and plant species.
5. Research and identification of medicinal uses of tropical forest plants for the treatment of human diseases, illnesses, and conditions on issues related to health.
6. Development and support for the survival of the individuals who live in or near tropical forests in a consistent way with their protection.

Relevance of the Geographic Regions

The following regions have been chosen to be benefited from the funds resulting from the debt for nature swap under the TFCA framework, due to:

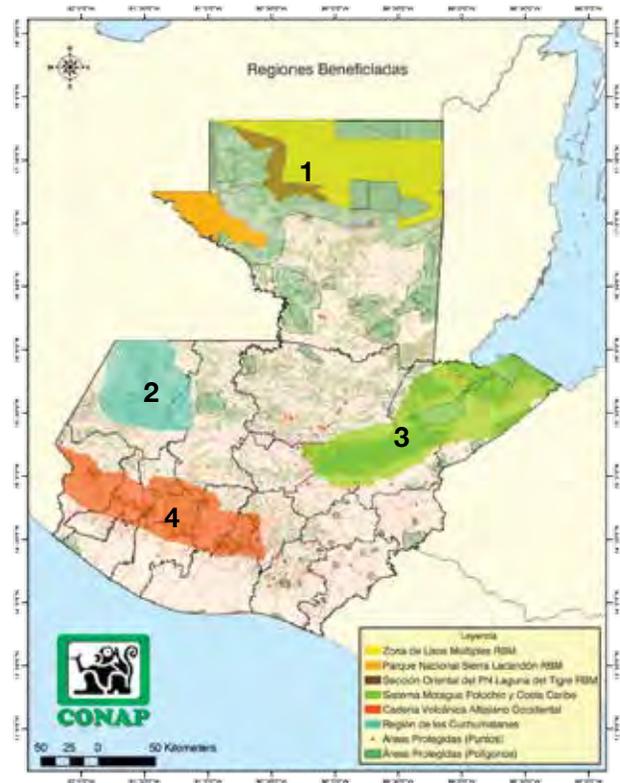
- The ecological relevance at the regional and national level of tropical forests and related biodiversity;
- The work in these critical areas adheres to the national and institutional policies and strategies, according to what is established by the Government of Guatemala, within the Guatemalan Protected Areas System (SIGAP, for its acronym in Spanish); and
- The social and economic relevance for Guatemala and Mesoamerica.

1. Mayan Biosphere Reserve: Emphasizing on the Lacandón National Park; the Multiple Uses Area, which includes the concessions and biological corridors, and conservation efforts in the eastern section of Laguna del Tigre National Park, which includes the special protection area.

2. Cuchumatanes: The conservation activities are focused mainly on the following priority species and their habitat: *Hyla perkinsi*, *Bradytriton silus*, *Bolitiglossa jacksoni*, *Ptychohyla macrotympanum*, *Hyla dendrophasma*, as what was determined by the Alliance Zero Extinction (AZE). These species are located in the region of Todos Santos Cuchumatán, Cruz Maltín, Magdalena Pepajau, and other areas.

3. Motagua-Polochic and the Caribbean Coast: Emphasizing the Bocas del Polochic Wildlife Refuge, the thorny bushes ecosystem of the Motagua and the area within and around the Gulf of Honduras, including the protected areas of the basins that flow into the Caribbean.

4. Volcanic Chain of the Western Highlands of Guatemala: Emphasizing on the region located within the volcanic groups from the Pacaya Volcano National Park and the Alux Forest



Reserve to the Tacaná Volcano, from the hills to the lowlands, and in the Multiple Use Reserve of the Basin of Lake Atitlan.

In general, the four regions are exceptional due to their tropical forests, their biodiversity and the benefits that their natural resources provide regarding goods and services to the communities that live in the areas and the region.

These geographic areas are of strategic importance to safeguard the biodiversity of the country, are the home of hundreds of species of birds, as well as many unique species in the world and threatened with extinction, among which the Quetzal, the scorpio lizard, the jaguar, and the scarlet macaw may be mentioned. These priority investment regions have a particular relevance, due to the role forests perform in protecting the basin headers and the water recharge areas of multiple rivers, lakes, and lagoons of the country.

Instances: Governance and Structure

Oversight Committee

It is the maximum decision making instance and is formed out by four permanent members and one term member. The Committee ensures the compliance of the terms of the FCA Agreements in all the actions of the Fund.

Members of the FCA Oversight Committee 2006-2016

	Instance	Titular Representative	Alternate Representative
Permanent Member	Government of the United States of America (USAID-Guatemala) 	Wayne Nilsestuen Kevin Kelly Nancy Hoffman William Brands Thomas Delaney	Jill Kelley Alejandro Pontaza
	Government of Guatemala (CONAP) 	Sergio Véliz Claudia Santizo Jorge Luis Galindo Claudia Mariela López Erick Cabrera Eduardo Aguirre Benedicto Lucas Enma Díaz Elder Figueroa	Roy Bennett Fernando García Gerardo Paiz Eliseo Gálvez Yuri Zenteno Omar Molina Marco Tulio Díaz Otto Leonel García Manuel Henry Eduardo Aguirre Fernando Palomo
	The Nature Conservancy (TNC) 	John Beavers Juan Carlos Godoy	Juan Carlos Godoy Jorge Cardona
	Conservation International (CI) 	Carlos Rodríguez Miriam Castillo Margarita Mora	Ingrid Arias Miriam Castillo Eileen Salguero Luis Pablo Barquín
Term Member	Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala (ARNPG) 	Federico Fahsen	Martin Keller
	IARNA Universidad Rafael Landívar 	Juventino Gálvez	Pedro Pineda
	Fundación Patrimonio Cultural y Natural Maya (PACUNAM) 	Claudia Rosales Marianne Hernández	Luis Mejía Claudia Cruz
	Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES) 	Jorge Cabrera	Juan Carlos Carrera Carlos Vega

* In bold letters, names of the members of the current Oversight Committee.

Administrator

Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala (FCG).

Guatemala-TFCA Trust

In compliance with the Forest Conservation Agreement, the FCA runs its actions through a Trust, constituted with Banco G&T Continental as Trustee and FCG as Grantor.

Evaluation Committee

In accordance with the Agreement, the Oversight Committee has the support of an Evaluation Committee, integrated by up to five members, highly qualified professionals in different fields related to natural resources and protected areas. This committee is in charge of analyzing and evaluating the proposals received by FCG and of submitting an opinion on the selection process that, in each cycle, corresponds to the Oversight Committee. The involvement of the Evaluation Committee is counselling and its nature is entirely independent, although it bases its opinion on the criteria approved by the Oversight Committee, in accordance with the role vested on it.

For the calls for proposals launched during the ten years of the FCA, the cooperation of a group of outstanding professionals has been available, who provided their voluntary work in this Committee.

During the last three cycles of the Regular Program and the first of the Small Grants Program, the following experts have being part of this instance:

- Andreas Lehnhoff
- Carmen María López
- Hilda Rivera
- Claudio Cabrera
- Carlos Morales
- Doris Martínez
- Oscar Medinilla
- Juan Carlos Méndez
- Pedro Pineda
- Silvel Elías
- Oscar Murga
- Vivian Lanuza
- Rodolfo Cardona
- Alejandro Santos

Projects Monitoring and Evaluation System

FCG has established a monitoring and evaluation system of the funded projects and the mechanism of disbursements based on their progress. The system starts with the definition of the logical framework of the project, which is the basis for the verification of compliance of the performance and impact indicators.

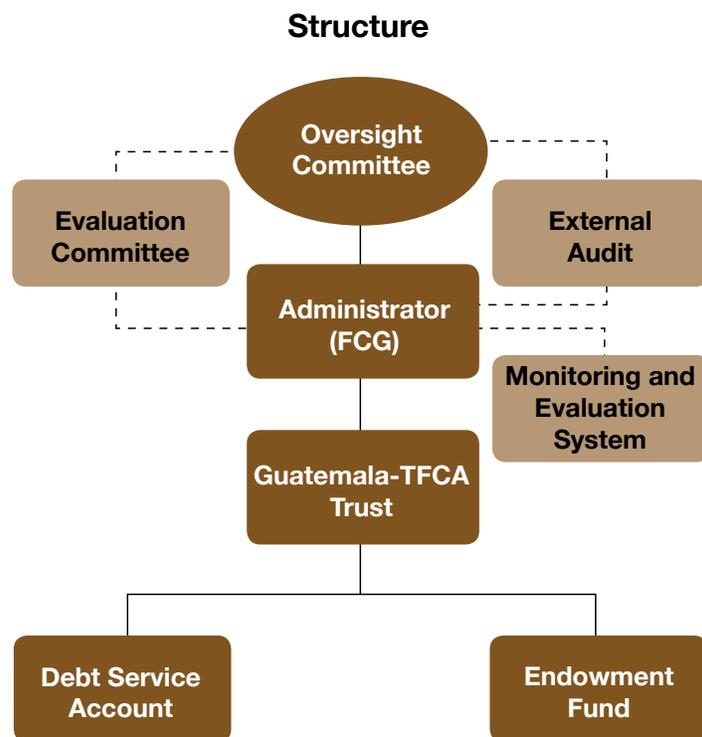
According to the nature of the approved project, its duration, what the grant agreement states, logical framework, and the disbursements chart; a monitoring and evaluation process is started, which consists in partial assessments on a regular basis, based on the submission of technical and financial reports by the grantees and external field supervision (partial and final).

To carry out this task, it has a series of instruments such as: technical and financial reports formats, external supervision formats, specific comments that must be considered at the time of the

supervision and other instruments through which the information of each project is documented and verified at the bureau and in the field to ensure its right implementation.

The main objective of this process is to guaranty the successful development of the project, assessing the scope of its objectives in the planned time and verifying the fulfillment of the proposed activities, indicators and verification means established.

From a list of highly qualified and recognized background and experience professionals, FCG invites those with the high expertise to support trough external supervision (in field). This supervision provides the system with impartiality and specialization. Additionally, the system is looking for a methodology that will allow it to measure the overall impact of the investments in each of the geographic regions.



Grants Approval Process

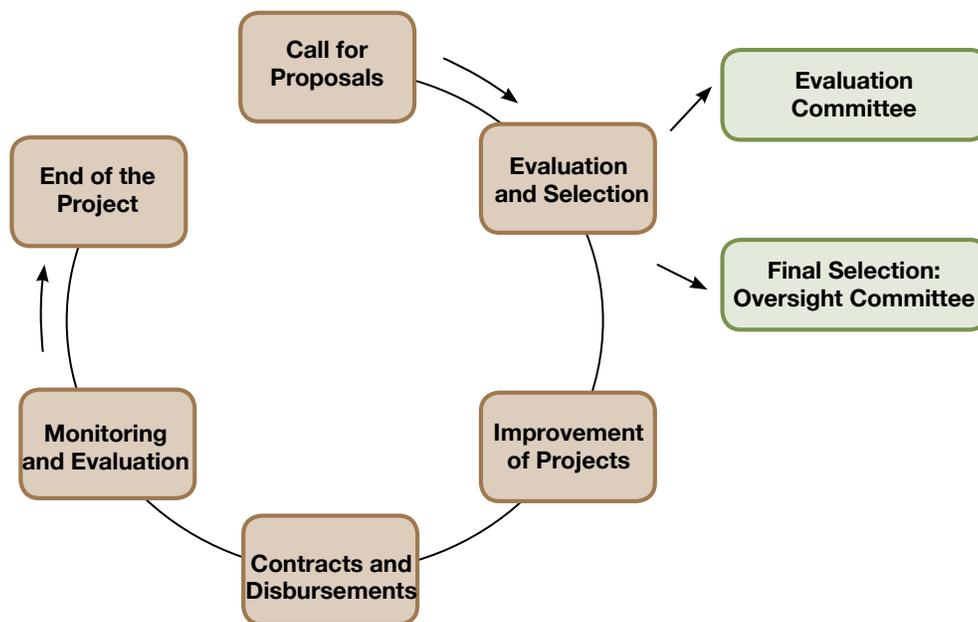
In response to each call, interested organizations submit their project proposal to the Administrator of the Fund. FCG is responsible to inform the list of the received proposals to the Oversight Committee.

In addition, FCG carries out a first revision that verifies the compliance with the requirements of the project proposal format and submits its report to the Oversight Committee, with which the proposals that meet all the requirements move to the second phase. This report is reviewed and approved by the Oversight Committee.

On the second phase the Oversight Committee requests the opinion of the Evaluation Committee,

based on the revision and evaluation, to conclude with a prioritized list of the received proposals. This opinion is submitted to the Oversight Committee to define a list of feasible proposals. In a third phase, the Oversight Committee may request corrections to the shortlisted. After receiving the modified proposals, the Oversight Committee solves in favor of the grant or rejects it.

To formalize the grant to those entities with approved proposals by the Oversight Committee, FCG signs agreements with such organizations. The agreements detail the terms of the grants and the commitments of the parties.

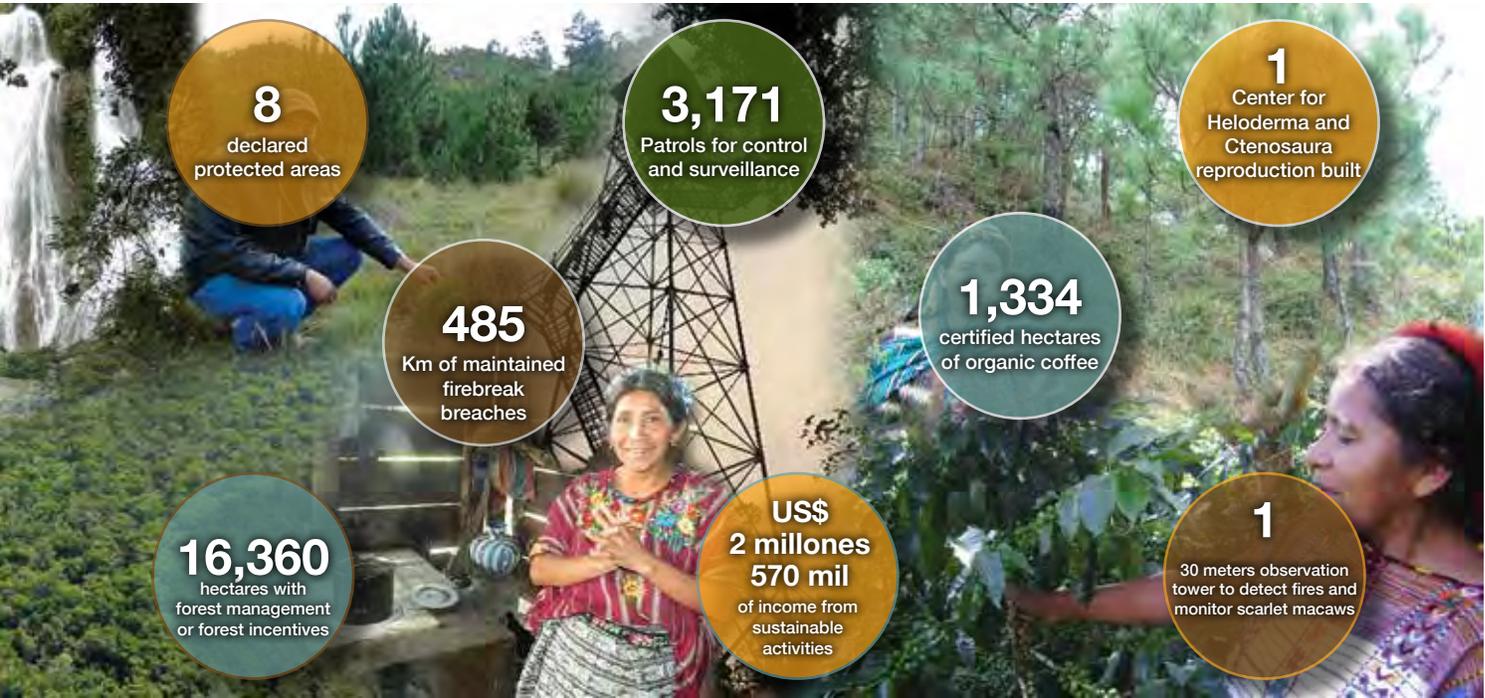


FCA in numbers

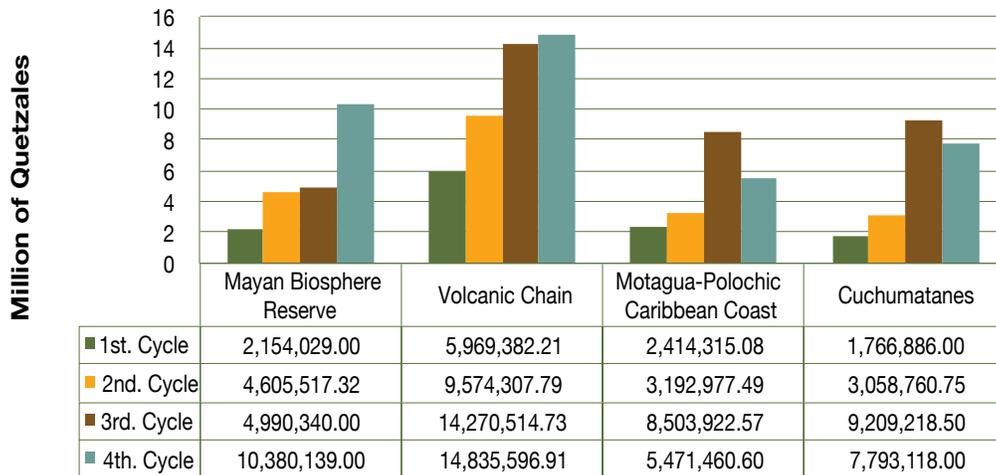


Protection of endemic and threatened species

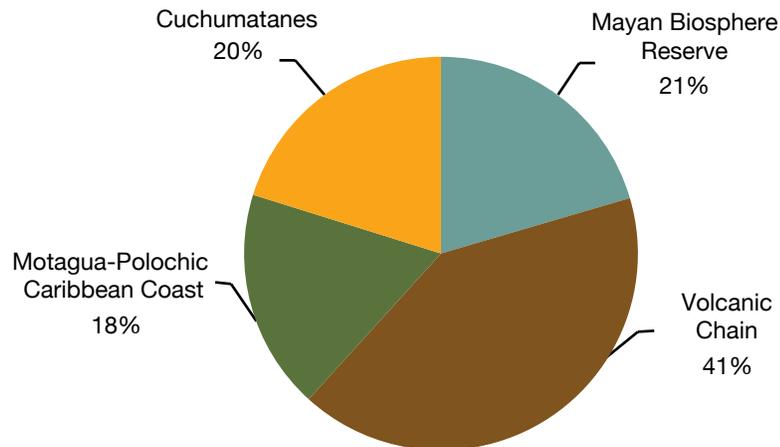




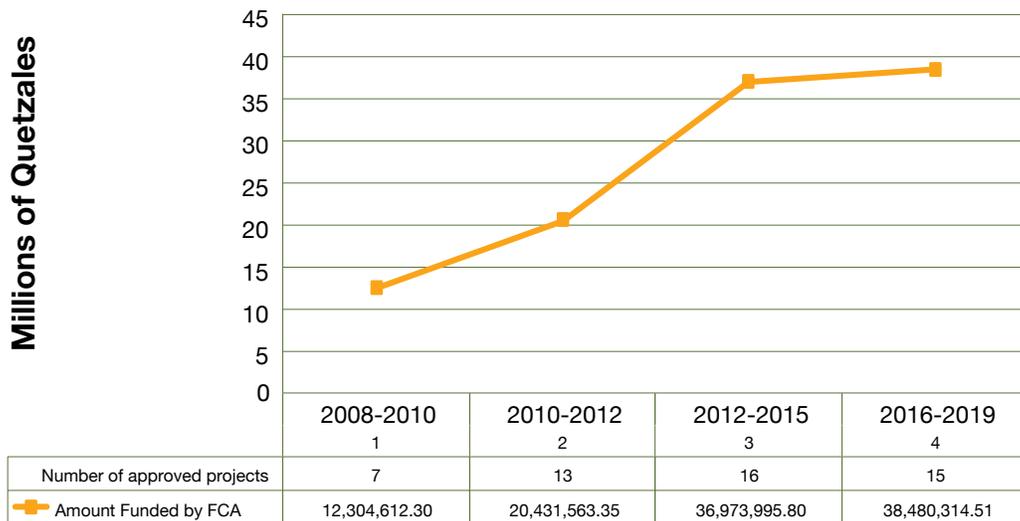
Approved projects by geographic region
(Amounts in Million of Quetzales)



Percentage of resources awarded by region Four cycles of projects

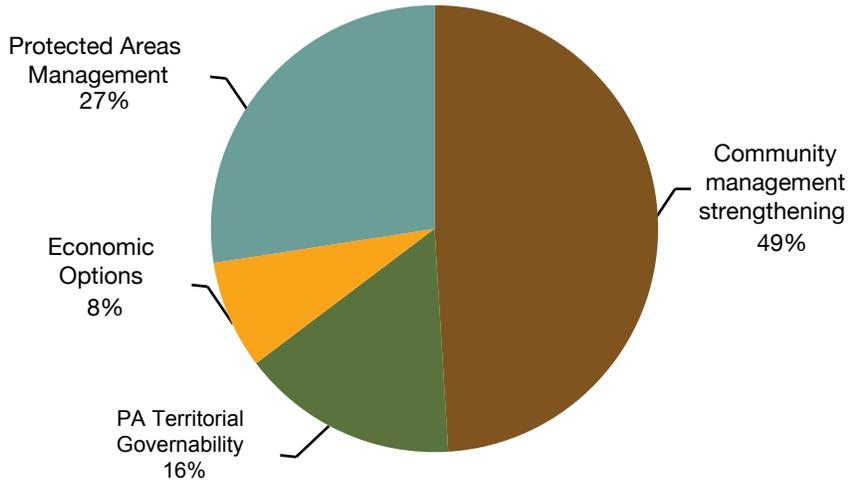


Amounts awarded per cycle 2006-2016 (Amounts in Millions of Quetzales)



Topics addressed by the approved projects

2006-2016



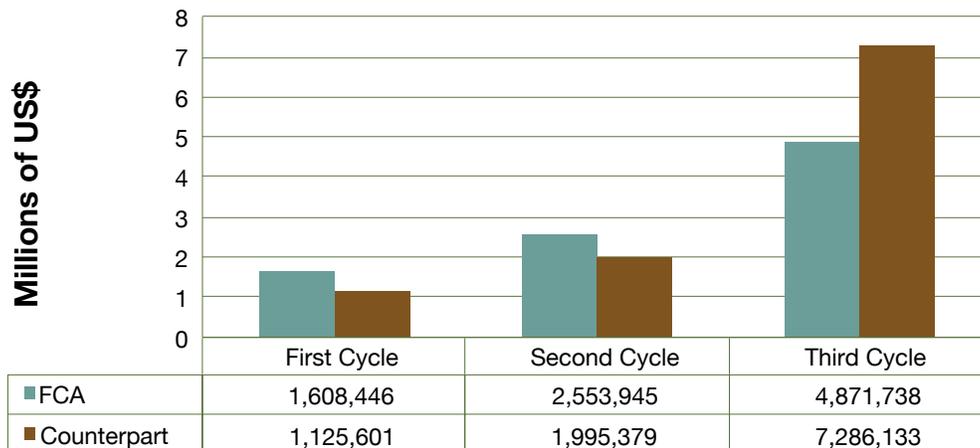
Other Participating Stakeholders

Four cycles of projects



Comparison of the FCA Funding with the counterpart funds reported

(Amounts in Millions of US\$)



Accountability

Independent Evaluation to the FCA Program

In October 2010, the Secretariat of the TFCA Funds in Washington recruited an independent evaluation mission to give their opinion on the performance of the FCA-Guatemala, since its inception in 2006. The evaluation team, formed out by the international consultant, Paquita Bath, and her national counterpart, Oscar Hernández Vela, met and interviewed key members of the institutions that implement the program, revised documents and reports provided by FCG and USAID, conducted field visits to priority conservation areas of some implemented projects and met with officers of the grantees, local authorities and community organizations involved in conservation activities.

From this process, the evaluators found that all the parties have satisfactorily met their respective grant agreements and the FCA program in Guatemala has had a good administration, both by the Oversight Committee and FCG. In addition, they got to the conclusion that the FCA funds have been granted in a transparent way, through an inclusive and widely published process.

Likewise, one of their recommendations was to diversify the granting types, reason for which in 2012 the Small Grants Program of the FCA and the special grant line for the Reserva Protectora de Manantiales Cordillera Alux, were launched.

Summary Chart of the reports to the Treasury of the United States of America 2006-2015 (Amounts in US\$)

Data of the Fund	2006-2011	2012	2013-2014	2015	Total
Number of submitted proposals	159	51		3	213
Number of approved proposals	20	16		1	37
Funding approved for grants	4,162,388	4,621,750		249,989	9,034,127
Disbursed funding for grants	3,024,843	1,686,934	3,564,102	575,929	8,851,808
Total counterpart	2,647,474	3,428,479	2,812,860	1,518,300	10,407,113
Total counterpart as % of grants	64%	74%	n/a	n/a	115%*
Amount spent on administrative costs	1,016,162	206,901	413,802	206,901	1,843,766
Income from Investments	1,467,149	545,216	1,203,995	534,304	3,750,664
Fund balance at the end of the year	n/a	9,111,925	10,237,033	11,975,521 ¹	n/a

*Note: The exchange rate used for this report was of US\$1.00 = Q.8.00. The rate as of August 31, 2016 is US\$1.00 = Q.7.55
The **reported** counterpart Funds corresponding to the first, second and third cycles of projects. The counterpart funds corresponding to the third cycle are not completely reported because some projects were still in the process of completion late 2015.

¹ The Patrimonial Fund of FCA is included.

SGS Certification

In March 2014, the Administrator, FCG, was voluntarily and successfully submitted to a certification process, through the services provided by Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS), good recognized international and independent entity. The Foundation achieved the Best Practices certificate (NGO Benchmarking) which ensures the accountability and performance of non-profit organizations; standard that brings together 25

codes and practices established by donors, state sectors, funding organizations and others. The certificate demonstrates to any stakeholder that the policies, procedures and work schemes are performed in accordance with the best international practices.

In June 2016, FCG achieved the re-certification, getting this time a higher score.



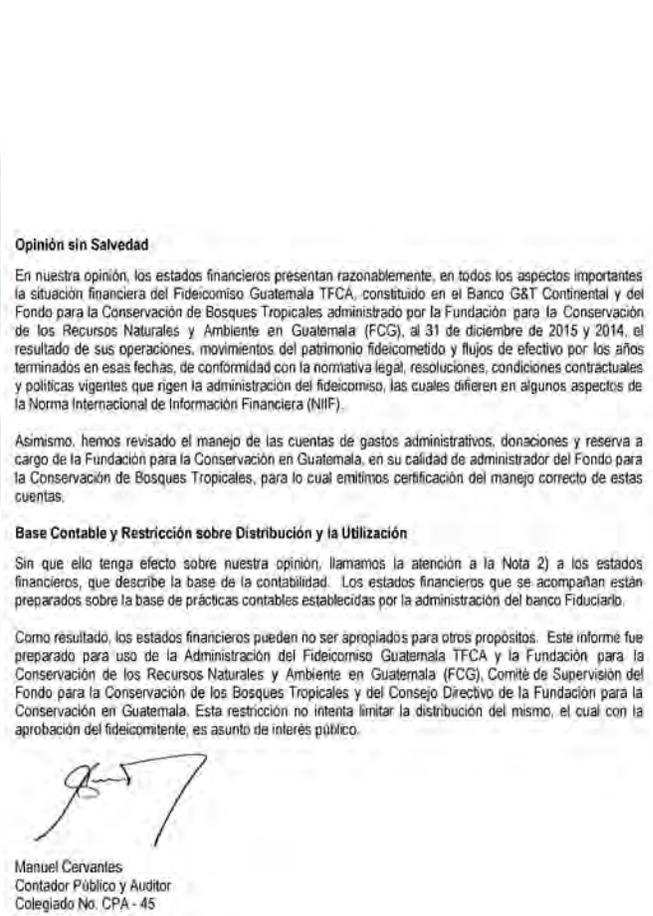
Independent Auditors Reports

In accordance with the Forest Conservation Agreement and with the financial practices of FCG, the management of the FCA, both of the Guatemala-TFCA Trust as of the accounts under the responsibility of the Administrator, are reviewed by internationally supported firms, included in the

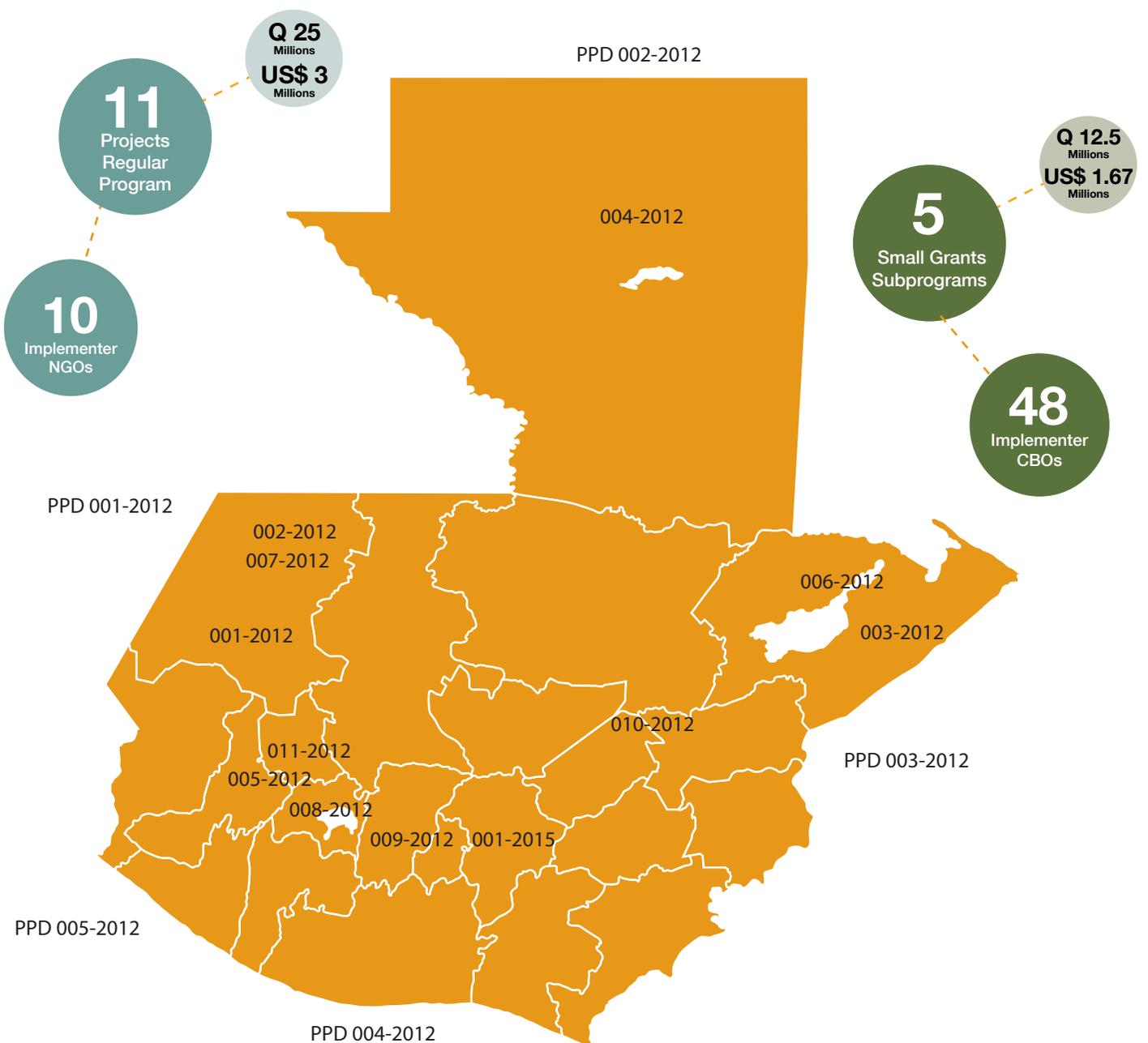
list of audit firms authorized by the National Mission of the United States Agency for International Development –USAID–.

The annual reviews have generated audit reports with a favorable opinion and “without reservations”.

Year	Audit Firm	International Support
2006-2007	PKF Arévalo Pérez, Iralda y Asociados, S.C.	PKF International
2008	LG FIRM, S.C.	Geneva Group International
2009	LG FIRM, S.C.	Geneva Group International
2010	Illescas e Illescas, S.C.	RSM International
2011	Santos, Barrera & Asociados	Baker Tilly International
2012	Santos, Barrera & Asociados	Baker Tilly International
2013	Manuel Cervantes & Asociados, S.C.	Leading Edge Alliance
2014	Manuel Cervantes & Asociados, S.C.	Leading Edge Alliance
2015	Manuel Cervantes & Asociados, S.C.	Leading Edge Alliance



II. Third cycle of projects



Ecological restoration of the micro-basin of the Río Ocho, sub-basin of Río Rancho Viejo, basin of Río Selegua, in the Department of Huehuetenango

● Region: Cuchumatanes

Coverage
2,835
hectares

Municipalities:

- Todos Santos Cuchumatán
- Unión Cantinil
- San Antonio Huista
- San Pedro Necta
- Santiago Chimaltenango
- San Juan Atitán

Partner organizations

- ▲ CUNOROC-USAC
- ▲ MAMSOHUE
- ▲ ADINUT
- ▲ ADIFECH
- ▲ ADIESTO
- ▲ Red de Mujeres Productoras Awal Nan
- ▲ Cooperativa Integral de Ahorro y Crédito Unión Huehueteca, R.L.

59

soil conservation
hectares

275

Protected hectares
through forest
incentives

135

reforested
hectares

43

hectares of
natural
regeneration

6

municipal forest offices
equipped, trained, and
operating

279

hectares of
agroforestry systems
(shade-grown coffee)

937

shade-grown coffee
hectares certified as
fair trade and organic
coffee
(NOP and EU)

Regular Program
001-2012



ACODIHUE

3 years

Objective

To contribute to achieving sustainable conservation of natural resources, restoring, protecting, and reducing threats and stress on the biodiversity and natural resources in the micro-basin of Río Ocho, with the active and relevant participation of local stakeholders.



ACODIHUE



ACODIHUE



ACODIHUE

Shade-grown coffee “Con Manos de Mujer”

This project was implemented by ACODIHUE organization. One of the strategic activities to improve the income and at the same time conserve the natural resources was the agro ecological production of coffee crop with added value, in agroforestry systems, for then trade it in specialized niches that allow to increase, in at least 12%, the sales price related to the local market place. This is how with the assistance of the communities and the relevant participation

of women, it was feasible to keep the certification in 937 hectares of coffee, with 942 beneficiaries and a social award of Q505,557.00 (approximately US\$ 67,400), corresponding to 3,352.50 hundredweights of gold coffee traded during the harvest 2014-2015. From the certified area with “Fair Trade”; 99.20 hectares also got the certification “Con Manos de Mujer” and 158.40 hectares with certificate of “Organic Coffee”

Protection of unique ecosystems and endangered endemic species in seven national, municipal, and community conservation units in the department of Huehuetenango

Region: Cuchumatanes

Coverage
23,165
hectares

Municipalities:

- Soloma
- San Juan Ixcoy
- Chiantla
- Todos Santos Cuchumatán
- Nentón
- San Mateo Ixtatán y Barillas

Partner organizations

- ▲ ASOCUCH
- ▲ Mancomunidad de Municipios de la Frontera Norte
- ▲ ICUZONDEHUE
- ▲ Asociación de Silvicultores Asilvo Chancol
- ▲ Finca San José y San Francisco Las Flores
- ▲ MUSHNAT

Construction of a cabin at the San Isidro Reserve

752

protected hectares in San Jose and San Francisco Las Flores by 174 community control patrols and surveillance

76

hectares of protection approved for forest incentives in the Municipal Regional Par Kaptzin

113

reforested hectares with forest incentives

427

protected areas in San Miguelito, Ciénaga Yalcastán, San José Frontera and Yulaurel with 16 control and surveillance patrols

279

hectares of protection approved in forest incentives for San Jose and San Francisco Las Flores

8

hectares of xate planted in Yolnabaj

27

hectares of soil conservation

Municipal Regional Park Kaptzin registered by CONAP in June 2014

Regular Program

002-2012



FUNDAECO

3 years

Objective

Provide protection and strengthen the participatory management in seven conservation units of Huehuetenango, priorities for the SIGAP, which provide shelter to unique ecosystems and endemic and threatened species.



Carlos Vásquez Almazán



Robin Moore



FUNDAECO

The birth of the San Isidro Reserve

Species, ensembles and ecological processes are present in Huehuetenango, those are unique in Guatemala and the world. Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, in particular, has been identified as a regional endemism center. This incomparable richness and beauty has made that the efforts to contribute to their conservation are now a fundamental part of the work of FUNDAECO. That is why the San Isidro Reserve was born.

This area is registered as an AZE site due to its relevance in the conservation of amphibians

as *Incilius aurarius*, *Agalychnis moreletii*, *Bolitoglossa cuchumatana* and *Bolitoglossa jacksoni*. The latter had not been detected for almost 40 years, which makes the site extremely important for its conservation, so the project funded infrastructure, essential to the work of the forest rangers, the control and surveillance of the area and environmental education for nearby communities.

Completion of the process of legal declaration, consolidation of core zones and starting of processes of participatory management of water and forest reserve of Sierra Caral

- **Region:** Motagua-Polochic and The Caribbean Coast

Partner organizations

- ▲ MUSHNAT
- ▲ Municipalidad de Morales
- ▲ CONAP

Coverage
19,013
hectares

Municipality:

- Morales, Izabal

27

interagency
patrols supporting the
conservation
of the area

1,863

protected hectares
through forest
incentives

Decree 16-2014
of the legal
declaration of
the area on May
13, 2014

4

million of Quetzales
(about US\$ 530K) in
profits due to forest
incentives

Increase of the
population of
the endemic frog
(*Duellmanohyla*
Soralia), critically
endangered
species

Regular Program
003-2012



FUNDAECO

3 years

Objective

To complete the process of declaration of the Water and Forestry Reserve of Sierra Caral and implement initial actions of participatory management.



FUNDAECO



Carlos Vásquez Almazán



FUNDAECO

A natural refuge for endemic amphibians declared as protected area

As part of the third cycle of projects, in 2012 the FCA approved this project, with the main purpose of achieving the legal declaration of the area by the Congress of the Republic, which was materialized in May, 2014.

Sierra Caral comprises 19,013 hectares and it is located at 286 km of the city of Guatemala, along the border with Honduras. The core of this reserve is formed by three areas: Finca la Firmeza, Peñitas San Joaquín and Negro Norte.

The biodiversity of the area was threatened in the past by deforestation and the invasions of its surroundings. FUNDAECO, in charge of Sierra Caral, states that, as of 2001 to 2010, 4,230 hectares of forest were lost. However, from its legal declaration, there were signs of greater

control and regulations to change this situation. Thanks to the biological monitoring 30 species of amphibians have been identified; out of these, 6 frogs and salamanders are endemic of Sierra Caral: *Duellmanohyla soralia*, *Craugastor nefrens*, *Craugastor xucanebi*, *Bolitoglossa nympa*, *Nototriton brodiei*, and *Cryptotriton wakei*. In addition, this area is also an important refuge for 14 endemic species of coleoptera.

The Declaration of Sierra Caral was a six year long and complicated process, derived from the legalization of the land and private lands in illegal possession. FCA supported various activities such as the publication of newspaper articles on the area, inter-agency patrols for control and surveillance, biological monitoring of amphibians and maintenance of pathways.

Consolidation of the governance in the Carmelita path in the Multiple Uses Zone of the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, Petén, Guatemala

● Region: Mayan Biosphere Reserve

Partner organizations

▲ CONAP Región Petén

Coverage
289,128
hectares

2,348
board feet
of wood
were seized

- Multiple Uses Zone of the RBM Path to Carmelita, Municipality of San Andrés, Petén

Improvement of facilities at the COC Los Pescaditos with laminates, cement floor and wood and block walls for the accommodation cabin of the staff

Fires decrease from 513 hectares in 2013 to 20 hectares in 2014

60
over flights

671

inter-agency patrols performed by 111 people of the Joint Operations Centers -COC- and checkpoints with coverage of 267,476 hectares

116
km

of firebreak breaches maintained

Decrease of deforestation from 435 ha in 2013 to 367 in 2014

111

patrols to protect 4,270 hectares in the La Colorada and El Molino area, in the current natural regeneration

Solar energy system installed in COC La Colorada

Regular Program
004-2012



WCS

2 years

Objective

To reduce deforestation and to improve the control and prevention of threats to conserve natural and cultural goods in the Carmelita Path, in the ZUM of the RBM, through the strengthening of CONAP and the institutional coordination with the civil society.



FCG



Chris Packham WCS Guatemala



FCG

Fighting for the protection of the Mayan Biosphere Reserve

The Mayan Biosphere Reserve is recognized as one of the best-preserved areas in Guatemala and as an emblematic site for its biodiversity and Mayan cultural wealth. Within the zoning of RBM, the Multiple Uses Zone (ZUM) is key as biological corridor among Tikal, the Zotz, Yaxhá, Mirador-Río Azul, Dos Lagunas, and Laguna del Tigre. In the last decade, the ZUM has hosted the development of a regional model of economic and social sustainability through the integrated community forest management and industrial forest concessions, which have received significant dividends for the forest management, biodiversity conservation, social development, and the improvement of the quality of life of the people.

However, despite the improvement of governance in the RBM and the ZUM, the sector of the Ruta a Carmelita remains strongly threatened. This situation has undermined the governance in such sector, since CONAP, partner communities and

other governmental institutions and civil society commonly face difficulties in carrying out the appropriate territorial management, including the enforcement of the law, inter-agency patrols and control of access to the area.

From 2012 to 2015, the FCA supported various activities such as high impact control patrols carried out with the participation of 111 people from different institutions. The National Army, DIPRONA and CONAP conducted 671 inter-agency patrols. 2,348 board feet of wood were seized. The beneficiaries of the forest concessions held 116 km of existing firebreak breaches and conducted 111 patrols of control and surveillance in the area of La Colorada and Molino, maintaining the recovery of 4,000 hectares.

These actions have contributed to the decline of fires and deforestation.

Strengthening of local capacities for the conservation and management of natural resources and biodiversity in protected areas and forests of municipalities, communities and private forests of the Volcanic Chain of Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán

● **Region:** Volcanic Chain of the Western Highlands

Coverage

31,833 hectares

- **Quetzaltenango:** San Martín Sacatepéquez, Concepción Chiquirichapa, El Palmar, Zunil, Cantel, Olinstepeque, San Francisco La Unión, San Miguel Sigüilá, Cajolá y San Carlos Sija
- **Totonicapán:** San Andrés Xecul, San Cristóbal Totonicapán, Totonicapán y Santa María Chiquimula

Partner organizations

- ▲ Trece Municipalidades
- ▲ Comunidades de Chajabal
 - San Andrés Xecul
 - San Ramón
 - San Cristóbal Totonicapán
 - Vásquez
 - Quiacquix
 - Chipuac
 - Chuamazán
 - Xolsacmaljá
- ▲ Parcialidades de Ajpacaja
 - Chaclanes y Caxaj
- ▲ Asociación de los 48 Cantones de Totonicapán
- ▲ Asociación Ulew Che Já de Totonicapán
- ▲ Parcialidad León y Comunidad Xecajá
- ▲ INAB
- ▲ CONAP
- ▲ MARN
- ▲ MINEDUC

183

hectares with forestry treatments

424

protected hectares through forest incentives

Canopy in Cantel and Chiquirichapa

71

hectares with forest sanitation

39

hectares of agroforestry systems

169

reforested hectares

Xate production in El Palmar

191

hectares of natural regeneration

2,390

environmental education guides delivered to schools at the elementary and secondary levels

23

areas of protected water springs

Q.3,411,969

(about US\$ 455K) in profits due to forest incentives

Regular Program
005-2012



Asociación Helvetas
Guatemala

3 years

Objective

To strengthen the local capacities of stakeholders in the conservation and management of protected areas, municipal forests, community and private forests, that promote the availability of water and biodiversity for the indigenous communities of the volcanic chain of Quetzaltenango and Totonicapán.



Helvetas



Helvetas



Helvetas

Experiences with collective business vision

In the western highlands of Guatemala, communities, parcialidades, municipalities and small producers, frequently do not receive benefits to compensate their efforts in protecting the water, forests, and biodiversity.

For its third cycle project, Asociación Helvetas promoted a series of productive initiatives with the aim of generating income opportunities

and thereby improve the management and conservation processes. As past experience in Chajil Siwan Park in Chuamazán, Totonicapán, in this opportunity canopy was installed in the forests of Cantel and Chiquirichapa with the purpose of attracting tourism. In addition, the enrichment with xate in the forest of El Palmar started, with the view to trade it at the midterm.

Training young indigenous, developing economic alternatives and promoting best practices in tourism and sustainable community development for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage in priority areas of the department of Izabal

- Region: Motagua-Polochic The Caribbean Coast

Coverage
6
hectares

- Department of Izabal

Partner organizations

- ▲ CONAP
- ▲ FUNDAECO
- ▲ CECON
- ▲ Defensores de la Naturaleza

79

graduates in Sustainable Tourism Expert and Rural Welfare and Community Development Expert careers

38

graduates with permanent jobs in their places of internship

7

reforested hectares in the communities of Quebrada Seca, Nacimiento Calix and Cotoncito

Regular Program
006-2012



Asociación
Ak' Tenamit

3 years

Objective

Strengthen the sustainable management and use of the natural goods and services in the communities settled in the priority areas, to increase the efforts of conservation and restoration in the Motagua-Polochic and Caribbean Coast System Region of Izabal and other regions, training young indigenous leaders in the development of non-agricultural economic options, boost of the best practices in ecotourism and sustainable community development.



AkTenamit



AkTenamit



AkTenamit

My labor insertion after graduating from school

As part of the programmed activities of the project funded by the FCA, within Asociación Ak'Tenamit, the Office for Recruitment and Entrepreneurship was created. The opinion of the employers about the labor performance, strengths and weaknesses of graduates and students who perform their internship

is monitored by this office. The monitoring results are shared with students and graduates to improve their performance. The Office also provides technical assistance for the drafting and submission of resumes and, derived from their efforts, several students have succeeded in entering to recognized restaurants.

Consolidation of the sustainable management of natural resources with local stakeholders in the Mancomunidad Frontera del Norte, in the basins of Ixcán, Nentón, and Pojom rivers

● **Region: Cuchumatanes**

Partner organizations

- ▲ FUNDAECO
- ▲ Mancomunidad de la Frontera Norte de Huehuetenango y Quiché

Coverage
10,752
hectares

Municipalities:

- Santa Eulalia
- San Mateo Ixtatán
- Santa Cruz Barillas

114
hectares
of agroforestry
systems

220
reforested
hectares

133
hectares of
protection
approved by
PINPEP

11
hectares of pinabete in
Cerro Wowi, San Mateo
Ixtatán, protected and
supervised during the
Christmas season

207
energy-efficient
stoves installed in 6
communities

11
community forestry nurseries
in Yulaxac, San Francisco
Momonlac, Nueva Unión Maya,
Sacchen, Tiactac, Yichcana,
Xapper, Yoltzilbac, Tinajab,
Basaber, and Pacomal

4
hectares of
xate plantations
established in
Maxbal

40
hectares of
natural regeneration
approved by INAB in
Yaluquel, municipality of
San Mateo Ixtatán

Regular Program
007-2012



Ecologic
Development Fund

2 years

Objective

Restore and conserve water recharge areas of the basins and micro-basins of the Nentón, Pojóm, Ixcán rivers and adequately and sustainably manage the natural resources of the municipalities of San Mateo Ixtatán, Santa Eulalia and Santa Cruz Barillas.



FCG



FCG



FCG

Enrichment with xate...but not in Petén!

As part of the sustainable economic alternatives that entities of the civil society have identified, specifically in Guatemala, there is a profitable activity that has been taking place by local and community organizations within the forestry concessions in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, in the department of Petén. Such activity refers to the development and enrichment of xate within the natural forest. This is a high commercial value species as an ornamental plant, mainly overseas.

From this best practice in the forestry concessions of Petén, other regions of the country where the weather and conditions allow it, have started the promotion and enrichment of natural forest whit xate, looking towards a future

marketing; reason for which the community of this region have received support to be trained in the northern department.

For this reason, with this project 4 hectares of xate have been established in natural forests in Huehuetenango. A witness of this experience is Mr. Bernabé Diego, who already has a plantation established within its natural forest in Maxbal, municipality of Barillas, Huehuetenango, and who thinks in the near future, when the leaf of xate reaches its optimum size, to be able to sell its leaves and get economic resources generated by a practice that never damages the natural forest, but needs of its shadow for its own growth.

Strengthening the indigenous collective management for the conservation and sustainable management of community forests in the Western Volcanic Chain and the Cuchumatanes. PHASE II

- **Region:** Volcanic Chain of the Western Highlands and the Cuchumatanes

Partner organizations

- ▲ Asociación de Forestería Comunitaria de Guatemala Ut'z Che´
- ▲ Centro de Estudios Ambientales de la Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

Coverage

11,920
hectares

Departments:

- Huehuetenango
- Totonicapán
- Chimaltenango
- Sacatepéquez
- Quetzaltenango
- Escuintla
- Sololá

162

hectares of
natural
regeneration

Q1,950,951

(US\$ 260K) of income due
to sustainable activities
such as ecotourism and
sale of organic products

185

approved hectares
in forest incentives
for protection and
reforestation

1,080

hectares of pinabete
preserved
through control and
surveillance

5,151

hectares under
surveillance in the areas
El Chilar, MRP Nimachay,
Parcialidad Baquiay
and Caxaj by 3,000
community people

Building of a
laboratory for the
reproduction of
orchids in San
Bartolomé Milpas
Altas

Regular Program
008-2012



Centro para la Investigación y
Planificación para el Desarrollo
Maya Sotz'il

2 years

Objective

To consolidate mechanisms and social agreements for the collective management of vulnerable forest ecosystems with high biodiversity that make possible to achieve its conservation, use and restoration, valuing the traditional knowledge of indigenous communities, in order to improve the sustainability of the livelihoods of the users of the environmental goods and services, that the water recharge areas of the Volcanic Chain of the Central and Western Highlands and the Cuchumatanes produce.



FCG



FCG



FCG

The safeguarding of a Municipal Regional Park near the capital city

In the municipality of San Bartolomé Milpas Altas, department of Sacatepéquez, just 30 kilometers from the capital city, the Nimachay Municipal Regional Park is located. It includes 42 hectares of natural forest and it is an important area for water collection to serve the town of San Bartolome. The Park has quite cared and maintained pathways, thanks to the job of the forest rangers of the municipality of San Bartolomé Milpas Altas.

Mr. Francisco González is a forest ranger of the municipality and he is responsible for the

control, surveillance, and cleaning of the Park. In addition, he uses the species monitoring guides to identify the fauna and flora species that are found in the area. Mr. Francisco states: “the study has served to learn which plants exist and which are the most important”. The biological monitoring study, the one he refers to, is one of the products of the project funded to Association Sotz'il and that was carried out by one of its partners, the Center for Environmental Studies of Universidad del Valle.

Co-management of the sustainable conservation of the Acatenango Volcano and the Acatenango Volcano Municipal Regional Park

- **Region: Volcanic Chain of the Western Highlands**

Coverage
891
hectares

- Acatenango Volcano, Municipality of Acatenango, Chimaltenango

Partner organizations

- ▲ Municipality of Acatenango
- ▲ Instituto Privado de Investigación sobre Cambio Climático -ICC-
- ▲ Comunidades de La Soledad, Quisaché, Campamento, Pajales I y II

4,400

linear meters of a new municipal pathway

35

control and surveillance patrols

Registration booth and interpretive rest area

32

soil conservation hectares

Municipal Environmental Management Unit (UGAM) created in the municipality of Acatenango

29

reforested hectares

Asociación de Desarrollo Agroecoturístico Integral La Soledad (AGROECOTUR) incorporated with legal representation to implement actions for the benefit of the volcano

Tourism Security Plan for the Acatenango MRP

Automated hydro meteorological station installed and running

Updating of the Master Plan of the Regional Municipal Park Acatenango approved by CONAP

58

tour guides trained by INGUAT

7

environmental Interpretation banners along the pathway of the volcano

Regular Program
009-2012



CATIE

2 years

Objective

To contribute to the sustainable conservation and management of the Acatenango Volcano and the Acatenango Volcano Municipal Regional Park



FCG



CATIE



FCG

A beauty in the heights: Promoting the sustainable co-management in the Acatenango Volcano

The Acatenango Volcano has a scenic beauty which is unique in the region and is a conservation niche for many endemic flora and fauna species. Additionally it offers a series of environmental goods and services such as timber, fuel wood, recreation landscape and the opportunity to generate income from ecotourism for the surrounding communities. Due to its importance, this 890 hectares area was declared a Regional Municipal Park in 2011.

A strategic aspect of the work developed with the communities located in the buffer zone was the reforestation and soils conservation

practices. A vital environmental tool, the Hydro meteorological station, was installed and currently measures and allows the evaluation of the climate trends and its relation with different crops such as coffee. Another fundamental aspect of the Acatenango Volcano is tourism. To support this topic, 58 people have been trained to act as community guides certified by the Guatemalan Tourism Institute (INGUAT). In addition, the FCA supported the building of a 4-Km pathway, a registration booth and interpretive rest areas with their related labeling along the way.

Biodiversity management and conservation with the local participation in priority basins of Sierra de las Minas and Bosque Seco - Monte Espinoso

- **Region:** Motagua-Polochic The Caribbean Coast

Coverage
20,453
hectares

Municipalities:

Zacapa

- Gualán
- Río Hondo
- Teculután

El Progreso

- San Agustín Acasaguastlán
- Morazán

Partner organizations

- ▲ Comité de Cuenca del río Teculután
- ▲ Comité de Río Pasabién
- ▲ Asociación Morazán
- ▲ Asociación Río Achiotés
- ▲ Alianza para la Conservación del Valle del Motagua
- ▲ Municipalities of Teculután, Río Hondo, Gualán, Zacapa; Municipalities of San Agustín Acasaguastlán and Morazán, El Progreso
- ▲ CONAP
- ▲ MARN
- ▲ Coca Cola
- ▲ SIPECIF

72

Interagency patrols for control and surveillance

120

Km of firebreak breaches in maintenance

178

reforested hectares

Q.739,119

(about US\$ 100K) in profits due to forest incentives

Apiary built in Morazán, El Progreso

179

protected hectares with forest incentives

350

hectares in natural regeneration

2,740

hectares of prescribed burning

Regular Program 010-2012



Fundación Defensores
de la Naturaleza

3 years

Objective

Strengthen local capacities in the priority water basins for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of biodiversity between Sierra de las Minas and Bosque Seco-Monte Espinoso, through formal mechanisms of conservation and options for food security.



Defensores de la Naturaleza



Defensores de la Naturaleza



Defensores de la Naturaleza

Fight against forest fires

The Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve is the second most important Biosphere Reserve for Guatemala for its extension and for having 80% of the biodiversity of the country represented in 8 life zones. It is an area of great interest for the Guatemalan Protected Areas System –SIGAP–; produces environmental goods and services, especially water for a large part of the local population, since more than 500,000 people live and enjoy the vital fluid for different uses such as human consumption, agro-industrial irrigation, energy production, and tourism. Water comes mainly from the core zone, with 105,000 hectares extension of intangible zone.

Despite the achievements, such as the reduction of the areas affected by forest fires, from 16,000 hectares since 2000, to 2,500 hectares in the last 3 years; the fire management is one of the main concerns.

With the support of the project, a plan was drafted and implemented by which the communities received the techniques for the prevention and management of forest fires. What is relevant and innovative of the project happened at the Comaja, Lato, Pasabien, Río Hondo, Jones, Achiot, and Mayuelas Sub-basins. The prevention measures were firebreak breaches in 119.36 kilometers for the reduction of threats, where the fuel load was managed, reducing it through controlled fires in 2,740 hectares. The application of these techniques helps to reduce collateral damage as a result of forest fires that arise without any control and occur in the times of extreme environmental conditions, where the relative humidity is low and the air temperature is high. With the reduction of the fuel, the frequency, extent and intensity of forest fires was feasible to be reduced in the project areas.

Sustainable management of forests in water recharge areas of Nahualate, Samalá, Salinas, Motagua, and Lake Atitlán basins in the municipalities of Santa María Chiquimula and Totonicapán

- **Region: Volcanic Chain of the Western Highlands**

Coverage
6,739
hectares

- Municipalities of Totonicapán and Santa María Chiquimula of the Department of Totonicapán

Partner organizations

- ▲ Municipality of Totonicapán and Santa María Chiquimula
- ▲ Asociación para el Desarrollo Agroforestal y Ambiental de Santa María Chiquimula -ADAFORSA-



Regular Program
011-2012



CARE Guatemala — 3 years

Objective

Conserve the plant cover of the headwater of the Samalá, Nahualate, Motagua, Salinas, and Lake Atitlan basins to facilitate the proper use of the environmental goods and services, mainly biodiversity, water and soil in the framework of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in the municipalities of Totonicapán and Santa María Chiquimula.



CARE



FCG



CARE

Honey for my income

As a productive option for the communities participating in the project, two apiculture projects were established with 22 families in the municipality of Santa María Chiquimula. The project supported the acquisition of materials for infrastructure and boxes of hives. The group has recruited with its own resources the services of a technician to train them on a monthly basis in beehives handling. They have already obtained 175 pounds of honey, which has contributed to the family support and have started the sale of the product with an approximate price of Q 10.00 (US\$ 1.35) per 200 mL bottle.

Protection and sustainable management of environmental goods and services of the Reserva Protectora de Manantiales Cerro Alux and support to its financial sustainability (on implementation)

● **Region: Volcanic Chain of Western Highlands**

Coverage
5,372
hectares

Municipalities:

- San Lucas Sacatepéquez
- Santiago Sacatepéquez
- Mixco
- San Juan Sacatepéquez
- San Pedro Sacatepéquez

Partner organizations

- ▲ Instituto Nacional de Bosques -INAB-
- ▲ IDESAC
- ▲ PCI- Programa Barrio Mío

UGAM

of San Lucas Sacatepéquez incorporated

2,400

hectares conserved through 15 inter-agency patrols

75

energy-efficient stoves installed in Santiago Sacatepéquez and San Pedro Sacatepéquez

5

municipalities equipped and trained on fire prevention

Special Grant Line

001-2015



FUNDAECO

3 years

Objective

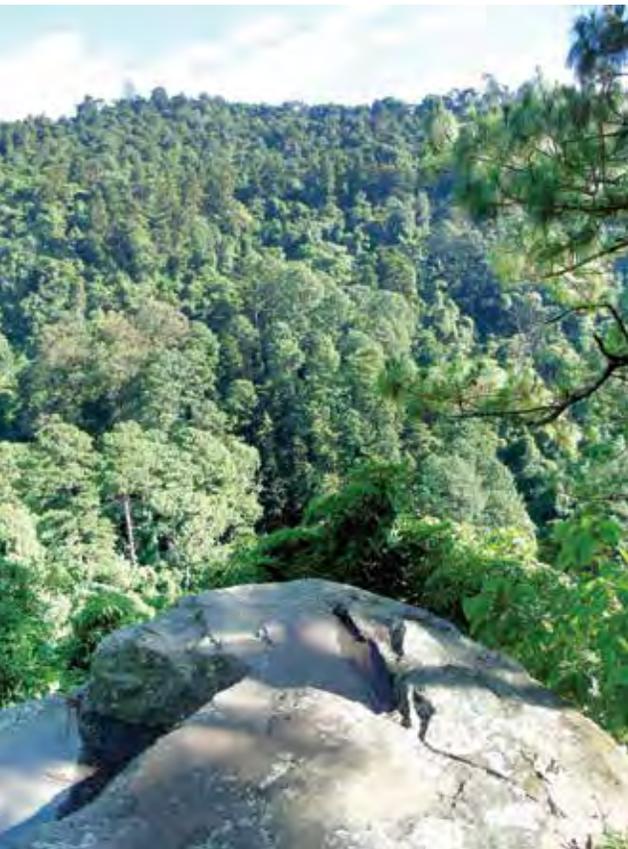
Coordinate, mediate, and lead actions to promote the integrated management, at the local level, of the natural resources of the Reserva Protectora de Manantiales Cordillera Alux and to strengthen its financial and technical sustainability.

FUNDAECO



FCG

FCG



FUNDAECO

Small Grants Program

In order to favor the small organizations and based on the directions of the report of the external evaluation “Independent evaluation of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act program in Guatemala”, where the diversification of the grants processes is recommended, the Oversight Committee decided to establish a small grants program for community or local based organizations (SGP/FCA), with more simplified application criteria than those of the regular grants program of the FCA.

The Small Grants Program, in its first call was implemented through five regional subprograms managed by: Asociación de Organizaciones

de los Cuchumatanes –ASOCUCH– in the Cuchumatanes Region, Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, Asociación Programas de Gestión Ambiental Local –ASOPROGAL– in the Motagua-Polochic and Caribbean Coast Region, Asociación de Desarrollo Productivo y de Servicios Tikonel in the Central Volcanic Chain, and Asociación de Desarrollo Agrícola y Micro-Empresarial –ADAM– in the Western Highlands Volcanic Chain. In this first experience of the Small Grants Program a total of 48 projects were funded, to local based organizations, in the four priority regions of the FCA.

Managing Organization	Geographic Region	Number of Projects
Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes (ASOCUCH)	Cuchumatanes	11
Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida (NPV)	Mayan Biosphere Reserve	8
Asociación Programas de Gestión Ambiental Local (ASOPROGAL)	Motagua-Polochic and Caribbean Coast	10
Asociación de Desarrollo Productivo y de Servicios TIKONEL (TIKONEL)	Volcanic Chain (Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Escuintla, Chimaltenango, Suchitepéquez, Sololá y Quiché)	9
Asociación de Desarrollo Agrícola y Micro-empresarial (ADAM)	Volcanic Chain (Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, San Marcos y Retalhuleu)	10

SGP in numbers



regional subprograms approved



million of Quetzales awarded



managers



small projects implemented

Results



Cuchumatanes Region Regional Subprogram

11

Approved
projects

Q.2,000,000
(approximately US\$
266,700) of income
from sustainable
activities

1,000
hundredweight of
organic manure
produced

5,000
orchids
reproduced

3
sheepfolds
built

190
Reforested
hectares

264
hectares of
natural
regeneration

272
conserved
hectares

31
hectares
of agroforestry
systems

12
hectares of
soil
conservation

673
hectares with
management plans
of forest
incentives

Implementing CBOs

- ▲ Asociación de Desarrollo Microregional I Río Azul
- ▲ Cooperativa Joya Hermosa R.L.
- ▲ Cooperativa Integral de Ahorro y Crédito Flor Milpense
- ▲ ASILVO CHANCOL
- ▲ INHAT
- ▲ Asociación Diez de Mayo
- ▲ ICUZONDEHUE
- ▲ ADECAF
- ▲ AMEDIPK
- ▲ ACORDI
- ▲ AWUMTE

SGP/FCA
001-2012



ASOCUCH

— 2.5 years



FCG



FCG



FCG

Conserving the water of the forests in the Cuchumatanes

In the Cuchumatanes Region, ASOCUCH approved 11 projects implemented by local based organizations from 2013 to 2015.

Sierra de los Cuchumatanes is the highest mountainous system in Central America. Its geological formation has made of this area one of the main centers of endemic flora and fauna of Guatemala, including insects, amphibians, reptiles, the Pinabete (*Abies guatemalensis*), and the huito (*Juniperus standleyi*). The region hosts an ethnic mosaic of mestizos and four Mayan groups: Mam, Akateko, Chuj, and Qanjobal.

The 11 small projects protected 272 hectares of natural forests which include the mentioned endemic species and 20 water springs. The FCA funded the studies that allowed the generation of income for 2 million Quetzales (US\$ 266,667) in forest incentives. Because sheep grazing in Todos Santos Cuchumatán has been very intense in the past, many of the activities of the 11 small projects were also focused on the construction of sheepfolds and in the establishment of natural regeneration areas

Mayan Biosphere Reserve Region Regional Subprogram

8

Approved
projects

Implementing CBOs

- ▲ Asociación Amigos del Pilar
- ▲ Asociación Bioitzá
- ▲ Cooperativa Integral Agrícola Plancha de Piedra R.L.
- ▲ Sociedad Civil El Esfuerzo
- ▲ Asociación Forestal Integral Cruce a La Colorada -AFICC-
- ▲ Custodios de la Selva Sociedad Civil -CUSTOSEL-
- ▲ Cooperativa La Lucha
- ▲ Asociación Forestal Integral San Andrés Petén -AFISAP-

9,000

pepper plants
planted for the
enrichment of
the forest

106,000

xate plants
planted for the
enrichment of
the forest

9

kilometers
of firebreak
breaches
maintained

3

cabins
for the control
and surveillance
of the areas
built

SGP/FCA
002-2012



FNPV

2.5 years



Combining the learning of Spanish with environmental education and conservation

In the Mayan Biosphere Reserve region, the manager, FNPV, approved 8 projects implemented by local based organizations from 2013 to 2015.

One of those 8 projects was implemented by Asociación Bioltzá, an entity which with few resources has been able to survive throughout these years, due to an innovative mix of provision of services.

This association has a web page, supported by the project, in which learning of the Spanish language, at an eco-school devoted to such aim, is offered to foreign tourists.

The Association also has a nursery and garden of medicinal plants where foreign tourists learn about the properties of such plants; and the Itzá Indigenous Forest Reserve, which can accommodate in its eco-camp up to 15 tourists. The area counts on basic services due to a water system and solar panels installed by means of the project. Pathways have been built to explore the area with guidance of tourist guides who have been trained by INGUAT, supported by the project funded by the FCA.

Motagua-Polochic Caribbean Coast Region Regional Subprogram

10
**Approved
projects**

1,020,000
seedlings of
xate planted for
enrichment
of the forest

3,708
protected or
preserved
hectares

23
reforested
hectares

77
hectares of
agroforestry
systems

133
energy-efficient
stoves installed

30
Km of firebreak
breaches
maintained

Implementing CBOs

- ▲ Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Cerro San Gil
- ▲ Asociación de Turismo Comunitario Ratz'um K'iche' Flor de Montaña
- ▲ Comité de Mujeres de la Aldea Cayo Quemado
- ▲ Comité de la Subcuenca Aldea Chanrayo
- ▲ Asociación Río Teculután Sierra de Las Minas -ARTESIM-
- ▲ Asociación Aj Awinel
- ▲ Empresa Campesina Asociativa -ECA- de Aldea Los Laureles
- ▲ Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de Productores Organizados de las Comunidades Q'eqchies y Poqomchies para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente de las Microcuencas de Ribaco Mululhá -ADIPROCORNA-
- ▲ Asociación Aj Ilol Kiche
- ▲ Empresa Campesina Asociativa, Aldea Sarita

SGP/FCA
003-2012



ASOPROGAL

2.5 years



FCG



FCG



FCG

Saving firewood with a stove that I chose

ASOPROGAL was chosen as the manager of the Regional Subprogram of the Small Grants Program for the Motagua-Polochic Caribbean Coast Region. In this region 10 projects were approved. Asociación Río Teculután Sierra de Las Minas -ARTESIM- was one of the local based organizations to which a project was awarded. One of its goals was the installation of energy-efficient stoves. ARTESIM established a participatory process of selection of the stoves that included the practice in the usage of several different models, by their potential beneficiaries. The immediate positive effect of this best practice is that the users themselves were the ones who

chose the stove model to address their needs and usage patterns. This entailed training for the beneficiary women in the construction, usage, and maintenance of the stoves and the signing of cooperation agreements between ARTESIM and the beneficiaries, on commitments made by obtaining the stove. Being a subject with the adoption of technology has not always been successful, this time it was possible to verify in several households the correct usage of the stoves and the satisfaction generated to the users in multiple aspects they mentioned: saving of firewood, improvement of family health and effectiveness and efficiency of the stove.

Volcanic Chain of the Western Highlands of Guatemala Region (Departaments: Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Escuintla, Chimaltenango, Suchitepéquez, Sololá and Quiché) Regional Subprogram

9 Approved projects

Implementing CBOs

- ▲ Asociación Amigos del Río Ixtacapa
- ▲ Asociación Civil Ambiental Xayá -ACAX-
- ▲ Asociación Agropecuaria y Artesanal para el Desarrollo la Guadalupe
- ▲ Asociación de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Integral Sostenible -ASOCODIS-
- ▲ Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario Cakchiquel -ADECCA-
- ▲ Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de Mujeres Mayas Kablajuj Btatz' -ADIMMAKB-
- ▲ Asociación para la Elaboración y Ejecución de Proyectos de Desarrollo -APDIGUA-
- ▲ Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario Cantón Panabaj -ADECCAP-
- ▲ Consejo de Microcuenca del Río Novillero

5

Km of tul
planted

2

soil
conservation
hectares
established

1,195

protected or
preserved
hectares

275

reforested
hectares

SGP/FCA
004-2012



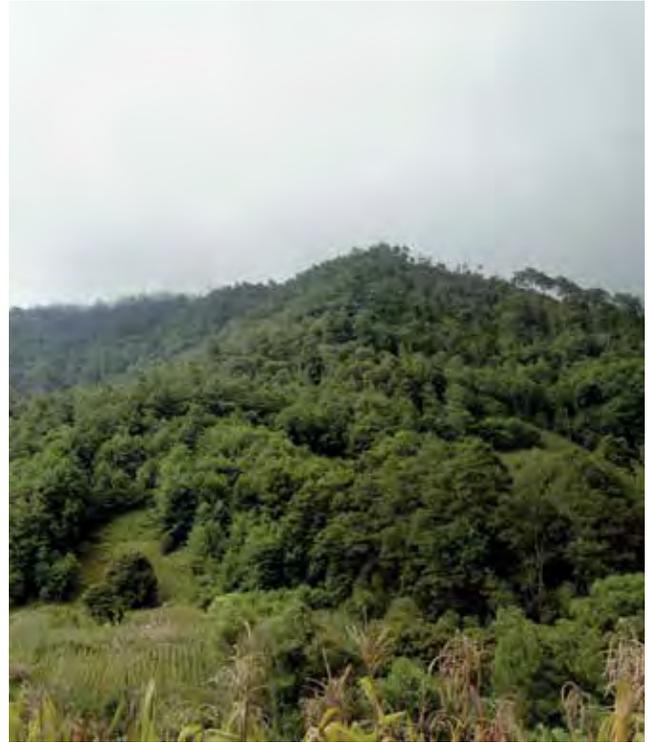
TIKONEL

2.5 years

FOG



FOG



FOG

Tul: water purifying, habitat reproducer, and crafts for sale

Asociación Tikonel was selected as manager for the eastern region of the volcanic chain. In this region 9 projects were approved. Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario Cantón Panabaj-ADECCAP- was one of the local based organizations to which a project was awarded. One of its activities was the planting of tul at the shores of Lake Atitlán, which was performed in an extension of 5 kilometers in the vicinity of San Pedro Volcano, after a training that was provided to the “tuleros” in the area. This sowing was

considered as a best practice since the tul is a nutrients filtering species in the lake, it is a niche for the reproduction of several animal species and is exploited by a group of “tuleros” who sell it, with an added value as baskets, blowers, individual tablecloths, and mixtures with textile. All these features contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, the purification of the lake and income generation, which turns this activity in a very attractive practice to the locals.

Volcanic Chain of the Western Highlands of Guatemala Region

(Departaments: Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, San Marcos and Retalhuleu) Regional Subprogram

10
Approved
projects

280
hectares of forest
management
(pruning and
thinning)

217
reforested
hectares

115
protected or
preserved
hectares

82
maintained km of
firebreak
breaches

Construction of a bungalow, a lounge, a 1,200 meters pathway and a suspension bridge

Implementing CBOs

- ▲ Asociación Parcialidad Indígena Chuamazán
- ▲ Asociación para el Desarrollo Integral de los Parajes: Chuipachaj, Paquiacquix, Pa Ojerkayb'al y Chaquiral del Cantón Quiacquix
- ▲ Asociación de Miembros Aldea Vásquez
- ▲ ACODIBOL
- ▲ Kaj Ulew
- ▲ Asociación Parcialidad Caxaj
- ▲ ADAFIS
- ▲ ADISAM
- ▲ Asociación Parcialidad de Vicentes
- ▲ A.D.C. Universo

SGP/FCA
005-2012



ADAM

2.5 years



FCG



FCG



FCG



FCG

Chajil Siwan: a Park towards self-sustainability

ADAM was the manager organization for the western region of the volcanic chain. In this region 10 projects were approved. The Asociación Parcialidad Indígena Chuamazán was one of the CBOs chosen for the funding of its initiative. It is worth mentioning that this organization has been supported in the past by Asociación Helvetas, through a project of the Regular Grants Program of the FCA. There is no doubt that this support has been fruitful. The Parcialidad has 97 hectares. The Chajil Siwan Park of Parcialidad Chuamazán is one of the best models of the FCA Fund regarding sustainability of activities in the medium and long

term. This is shown by the solid organization of this association and the generation of regular income by providing different services such as the entrance to the Park, restaurant, canopy, bungalow rental, multiple uses room and guided tour for pathways. On average 230 visitors enter on a monthly basis. The generated income will be reinvested in the Park and restaurant and also encourages the 52 partners of the association who maintain the area. These services, jointly with the conservation and management of the forest have been driven also through the Small Grants Program.



III. Fourth Cycle 2016-2019

Regular Program

In late 2015 the call to submit proposals in the framework of the Fourth Cycle of Projects was launched. In January 2016, 35 proposals were received, opening the evaluation process, which lasted four months. In this regard, on the second half of May, the Oversight Committee approved 10 projects of the Regular Program, for a total amount of Q.24,480,400.51.

No.	Name of the Project	Grant beneficiary	Geographic Region	Approved Amount	General Objective
1	Conservation and restoration of biodiversity and connectivity of the cloud forest of Sierra María Tecún for the provision of natural goods and services of the municipalities of Totonicapán and Santa María Chiquimula	CARE	Volcanic Chain	Q2,488,348.75	To recover and conserve biodiversity of the forest ecosystems and their connectivity to maintain the integrity and functionality of the cloud forest of Sierra María Tecún and ensure the provision of environmental goods and services for indigenous peoples, mainly women and young people of the municipalities of Totonicapán and Santa María Chiquimula
2	Conservation and development of the Altiplano Occidental of Guatemala	Asociación Helvetas	Volcanic Chain	Q2,438,822.69	Mitigate threats to biodiversity and water resources in the departments of Totonicapán, San Marcos, and Quetzaltenango, by means of the development of sustainable tourism

Continues...

No.	Name of the Project	Grant beneficiary	Geographic Region	Approved Amount	General Objective
3	Ecological restoration for the connectivity in the Selegua and Ixcán basins, Huehuetenango	FUNDAECO	Cuchumatanes	Q2,500,000.00	Strengthen the connectivity of conservation ecosystems, among Todos Santos Municipal Park, Pepajau-Magdalena, Cerro Cruz Maltín, and Cerro Yaxcalanté, in The Municipalities of Chiantla, Todos Santos Cuchumatán and San Juan Ixcoy, Soloma and Santa Eulalia, in the Department of Huehuetenango
4	Partnerships to improve governance in highly endangered areas in the Multiple Use Area, Mayan Biosphere Reserve	WCS	Mayan Biosphere Reserve	Q2,497,439.00	Contribute to stabilizing the governance, improve the territorial control, and reduce threats to conserve natural and cultural goods in the Ruta Carmelita and Triángulo Candelaria in the Multiple Use Zone of the Mayan Biosphere Reserve in partnership with communities, private companies, government, and the organized civil society
5	Community participation in the restoration, protection, and conservation of ecosystem goods and services of the Sub-basin Río Rancho Viejo, Selegua River Basin, in the Sierra de los Cuchumatanes, Huehuetenango	ACODIHUE	Cuchumatanes	Q2,293,118.00	Promote and consolidate initiatives of conservation, protection, and restoration of ecosystem goods and services provided by natural resources in the sub-basin Río Rancho Viejo
6	Conservation of biodiversity and participatory management in the sustained use of natural resources in 8 sub-basins of the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve	Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza	Motagua-Polochic Caribbean Coast	Q2,471,460.60	Strengthen and implement the actions of conservation, protection, and sustainable management of natural resources to ensure the environmental goods and services in 8 sub-basins of the RBSM

Continues...

No.	Name of the Project	Grant beneficiary	Geographic Region	Approved Amount	General Objective
7	Territorial co-management for the conservation and sustainable management of the volcanic complex Acatenango-Fuego	CATIE	Volcanic Chain	Q2,412,031.47	Consolidate the comprehensive co-management of the Acatenango Volcano and the Municipal Regional Park as a functional landscape through conservation and sustainable management processes.
8	Conservation and restoration of tropical forests in the Bio-Cultural Corridor and Sustainable Development Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú	Asociación Vivamos Mejor	Volcanic Chain	Q2,496,480.00	To promote the conservation and restoration of tropical forests in the Bio Cultural Corridor and of Sustainable Development Zunil-Atitlán-Balam Juyú
9	Consolidation of a special protection system for the recovery, restoration and conservation of the east area of the Laguna del Tigre National Park and its biological corridor in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, with participation and partnerships among governmental Institutions, community groups, and the organized civil society	Asociación Balam	Mayan Biosphere Reserve	Q2,382,700.00	To consolidate a Special Protection System for the recovery, restoration, and conservation of the east zone of the Laguna del Tigre National Park and its biological corridor in the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, with participation and partnerships among Institutions, community groups, and the organized civil society
10	Natural resources management for the consolidation of the comprehensive management in the concession process of the Carmelita Management Unit	Cooperativa Carmelita	Mayan Biosphere Reserve	Q2,500,000.00	To consolidate the sustainable management of the natural resources of the Carmelita Management Unit, in the Multiple Uses Area of the Mayan Biosphere Reserve, as a development model in the region
				Q24,480,400.51	

Small Grants Program

Due to the positive results and impacts shown in their technical and financial reports, as well as during the final in field monitoring done by FCG to projects of the regional subprograms, the Oversight Committee of the FCA decided to renew 4 regional subprograms of the SGP/FCA for the second cycle, as follows:

SGP/FCA	Managing Organization	Geographic Region
Small Grants Regional Subprogram	ASOCUCH	Cuchumatanes
Small Grants Regional Subprogram	Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida	Mayan Biosphere Reserve
Small Grants Regional Subprogram	ASOPROGAL	Motagua-Polochic Caribbean Coast
Small Grants Regional Subprogram	TIKONEL	Volcanic Chain (Guatemala, Sacatepéquez, Escuintla, Chimaltenango, Suchitepéquez, Sololá y Quiché)

* Currently a selection process is ongoing to appoint the Managing Organization of the Volcanic Chain Regional Subprogram of the Departments of Quetzaltenango, Totonicapán, San Marcos, and Retalhuleu.



Acronyms

ACAX	Asociación Civil Ambiental Xayá
ACODIHUE	Asociación de Cooperación al Desarrollo Integral de Huehuetenango
ACODIPBOL	Asociación Comunitaria de Desarrollo Integral para la Protección de los Bosques y Límites Comunales Xetuj
ACORDI	Asociación de Comunidades Rurales para el Desarrollo Integral
ADAFIS	Asociación de Desarrollo Agroforestal Integral Sostenible
ADAFORSA	Asociación para el Desarrollo Agroforestal y Ambiental de Santa María Chiquimula
ADAM	Asociación de Desarrollo Agrícola y Microempresarial
ADECAF	Asociación de Campesinos Forestales de Buena Vista
ADECCA	Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario Cakchiquel
ADECCAP	Asociación de Desarrollo Comunitario Cantón Panabaj
ADIESTO	Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Esperanza Toneca
ADIFECH	Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Femenil Chimiche
ADIMMAKB	Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de Mujeres Mayas Kablajuj Btatz´
ADINUT	Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Nueva Unión Todosantera
ADIPROCORNA	Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de Productores Organizados de las Comunidades Q´eqchies y Poqomchies para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente de las Microcuencas de Ribaco Mululhá
ADISAM	Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Santa María
AFICC	Asociación Forestal Integral Cruce a La Colorada
AFISAP	Asociación Forestal Integral San Andrés Petén
AGROECOTUR	Asociación de Desarrollo Agroecoturístico Integral La Soledad
AMEDIPK	Asociación de Mujeres Eulalenses para el Desarrollo Integral Pixab Konob
APDIGUA	Asociación para la Elaboración y Ejecución de Proyectos de Desarrollo
ARNPG	Asociación de Reservas Naturales Privadas de Guatemala
ARTESIM	Asociación Río Teculután Sierra de Las Minas
ASIES	Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales
ASOCODIS	Asociación de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Integral Sostenible
ASOCUCH	Asociación de Organizaciones de los Cuchumatanes
ASOPROGAL	Asociación Programas de Gestión Ambiental Local
AWUMTE	Asociación Forestal de Yalanhb´ojoch
AZE	Alianza Cero Extinción
CATIE	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
CI	Conservation International
COC	Centro de Operaciones Conjuntas
CONAP	Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas

CUNOROC	Centro Universitario de Nor Occidente
CUSTOSEL	Custodios de la Selva Sociedad Civil
DIPRONA	División de Protección a la Naturaleza
ECA	Empresa Campesina Asociativa
FCA	Forest Conservation Agreement
FCG	Fundación para la Conservación de los Recursos Naturales y Ambiente en Guatemala
FNPV	Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida
FUNDAECO	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación
IARNA	Instituto de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Ambiente
ICC	Instituto Privado de Investigación sobre Cambio Climático
ICUZONDEHUE	Asociación de Desarrollo Integral Comunitario de la Región Norte de Huehuetenango
IDESAC	Instituto para el Desarrollo Económico Social de América Central
INAB	Instituto Nacional de Bosques
INGUAT	Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo
INHAT	Comprehensive Development Association [Asociación de Desarrollo Integral]
MAMSOHUE	Mancomunidad de Municipios del Sur Occidente de Huehuetenango
MARN	Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
MINEDUC	Ministry of Education [Ministerio de Educación]
MUSHNAT	Museo de Historia Natural de la Escuela de Biología de la USAC
ONG	Organización No Gubernamental
PACUNAM	Fundación Patrimonio Cultural y Natural Maya
PCI	Project Concern International
PINPEP	Programa de Incentivos para Pequeños Poseedores de Tierras de Vocación Forestal y Agroforestal
PPD	Small Grants Program [Programa de Pequeñas Donaciones]
PRM	Municipal Regional Park [Parque Regional Municipal]
RBM	Mayan Biosphere Reserve [Reserva de Biosfera Maya]
RBSM	Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve [Reserva de Biosfera Sierra de las Minas]
SGS	Société Générale de Surveillance
SIGAP	Guatemalan Protected Areas System [Sistema Guatemalteco de Áreas Protegidas]
SIPECIF	Sistema Nacional de Prevención y Control de Incendios Forestales
TFCA	Tropical Forest Conservation Act
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UE	Unión Europea
UGAM	Unidad de Gestión Ambiental Municipal
USAC	Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
ZUM	Multiple Use Zone MUZ [Zona de Usos Múltiples]

Oversight Committee Directory

	Instance	Main Representative	Alternate Representative
Permanent Member	Government of the United States of America (USAID-Guatemala)	Thomas Delaney	Alejandro Pontaza
	Government of Guatemala (CONAP)	Elder Figueroa	Fernando Palomo
	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Juan Carlos Godoy	Jorge Cardona
	Conservation International (CI)	Margarita Mora	Luis Pablo Barquín
Member To Term	Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES)	Jorge Cabrera	Carlos Vega



Oversight Committee



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Administrator

