



Annual Report

2022-2023

EcoLogic
Development Fund





Barbara Vallarino
Executive Director

A Letter from the _____ **Executive Director**

As I reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for our community's ongoing support and dedication to EcoLogic's mission. Thanks to our incredible supporters, donors, staff, and volunteers, we were able to celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2023 and continue to enhance our impact with the communities we serve.

In 2023, EcoLogic focused on expanding our impact in the areas of sustainable agriculture, community-led conservation, and women's empowerment. We worked closely with local partners and stakeholders to implement initiatives that have made a tangible difference in the lives of people and the health of ecosystems. Through training and capacity building, we empowered farmers to enhance their livelihoods while protecting the environment. By working hand-in-hand with local communities, we have been able to create sustainable solutions that benefit both people and nature through our community-led conservation efforts.

In this report, you will find more detailed information about the impact EcoLogic has had on the regions we partner with.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your support. Your contributions and advocacy have been instrumental in driving our mission forward. As we enter 2024, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and are committed to continuing our efforts to create a more sustainable and equitable world.

Thank you for being a part of EcoLogic's impact. Together, we are making a difference.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Vallarino". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

About Us

EcoLogic's mission is to empower rural and Indigenous peoples to restore and protect tropical ecosystems in Central America and Mexico. Our approach fosters holistic and sustainable development where conservation, human well-being, and community development are mutually reinforced. We facilitate participatory processes that empower local communities to actively lead the design and application of practical, locally contextualized strategies. These strategies address both conservation and the unique needs of community members.

We are guided by the belief that the active leadership and participation of local communities in conservation are socially just and essential for the long-term health of our planet. By placing communities at the forefront, we create initiatives that are not only effective but also respectful and reflective of the cultural and environmental contexts in which they operate.

We thank our donors and community members for their investment in EcoLogic's work. Your support is the driving force behind our efforts to create positive and lasting impacts in Mesoamerica. Together, we are building a sustainable future for people and nature. Thank you for being vital partners in our mission. We hope you take pride in all the achievements we have accomplished together in 2023!



Our Vision

We envision a world where rural communities lead in the creation of a sustainable world for both people and planet.

2023 – A Year of Impact

EcoLogic proudly celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2023, marking three decades of impactful work in restoring tropical ecosystems and protecting biodiversity. The milestone was commemorated with a virtual event. It was a fun and informative gathering with a keynote speech from Dr. Jamison Erwin from the UN, a panel discussion moderated by Jessica Brown, Director of the New England Biolabs Foundation, music from a Guatemalan Indigenous singer-songwriter, and insights from our partners in the field. You can view the [recording here](#). This celebration was a testament to EcoLogic's commitment to creating a more sustainable and resilient planet for future generations.



In 2023, EcoLogic continued to drive positive changes across the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor. This critical region, characterized by its rich biodiversity and recognized as a global reforestation hotspot, spans Guatemala, Mexico, and Honduras. Comprising protected areas and connecting wildlife corridors, this region is vital to our conservation and community development efforts. Last year, EcoLogic and our partners:

- Empowered **578** rural and indigenous communities to restore and protect tropical ecosystems in Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.
- Produced **224,460** trees, contributing to the restoration and regeneration of previously degraded land.
- Reforested or regenerated **2,977** acres of degraded land.
- Generated **\$156,758** in new income for rural and Indigenous families engaged in sustainable practices and micro-enterprises.
- Installed **226** new fuel-efficient stoves and **78** home gardens and trained families in their use and ongoing maintenance.
- Provided technical support to farmers on **128** acres of diversified agroforestry systems, including cardamom, cacao, and fruits with basic grain production.
- Trained **40** new beekeepers and produced **22,450 lbs** of honey for sale.

Our Approach

We work in partnership with rural and Indigenous-led organizations and communities to provide access to:

1. Tools and training to build awareness, skills, and capacity within communities;
2. Incentives that catalyze the adoption of sustainable practices; and
3. Networks with local, regional and international actors and initiatives.

Our approach fosters holistic, sustainable development in which conservation, human well-being, and community development are mutually reinforcing.

How EcoLogic Conserves and Restores Forests in Mesoamerica



Action Areas and Tools

We conduct participatory planning with our local partner and community members that map out a process to jointly implement strategies and tools to reach the communities' conservation and development goals. EcoLogic offers a comprehensive package of integrated tools and services that help communities execute their plans and balance conservation with human needs.



Our Programs

Forest Conservation & Reforestation

Through our community-led conservation program, EcoLogic works with communities in Central America and Mexico to develop sustainable land use practices that reduce deforestation and degradation, promote reforestation efforts, and mitigate threats to forests.

Sustainable Agriculture

EcoLogic provides training and support to farmers on sustainable farming techniques such as alley-cropping, home gardens, and apiculture with trees. By adopting these practices, farmers improve their livelihoods, protect the environment, and build resilience to climate change.

Healthy Homes

EcoLogic operates at the household level, addressing families' needs that intersect with natural resources. We promote practices such as constructing fuel-efficient stoves, decreasing household fire-wood needs, and providing alternative fuelwood sources and implementing home and community gardens.

Environmental Education

EcoLogic focuses on leveraging local and traditional knowledge to foster understanding about the importance of local ecosystems. Through partnerships with local schools, teachers, and youth, EcoLogic develops programs that raise awareness and cultivate leadership skills among children, adults, and elders alike.

Financial Incentives

This initiative aims to create economic opportunities that align with conservation efforts. By providing access to payment for environmental services programs or helping establish micro enterprises, EcoLogic empowers communities to take ownership of their environmental resources while improving their economic well-being.

Community-Led Forest Conservation, Reforestation, and Mitigation of Pressure on Forests

EcoLogic focuses on empowering local communities in Central America and Mexico to protect and restore forest ecosystems. Through our community-led conservation program, EcoLogic works closely with communities to develop sustainable land use practices that reduce deforestation and degradation, promote reforestation efforts, and mitigate threats to forests such as unsustainable agriculture and logging. The program emphasizes community-led initiatives, recognizing the critical role that local communities play in conserving and restoring forests for future generations. In 2023, EcoLogic, with its partners, grew **224,460 trees** for reforestation.

Story of Change

"Somos guardabosques de la comunidad de Santa María Tzejá, del municipio de Ixcán el Quiché. Nosotros aprendimos a utilizar la plataforma de Global Forest Watch para realizar el monitoreo del bosque del Cerro Cantil. Miramos que el trabajo lo realizamos de manera más dirigida ya que la aplicación nos envía las alertas al teléfono celular y nosotros llegamos al lugar de la alerta por la ruta que nos proporciona, además podemos dejar grabados los tracks de la ruta."

- Hugo Reyes

"We are forest rangers from the community of Santa María Tzejá, in the Municipality of Ixcán, El Quiché. We learned how to use the Global Forest Watch platform to monitor the Cerro Cantil forest. We see that we carry out the work in a more targeted way since the application sends us the alerts to our cell phone and we arrive at the place of the alert by the route it provides, we can also leave route track recorded."

- Hugo Reyes



2023 Snapshot

In Tonicapán, our efforts yielded substantial outcomes. In 2023, we produced 145,000 trees, distributing 90,000 for mid-year reforestation. Ongoing tree production, supported by equipped greenhouses in 48 Cantones, contributes to restoring 223 hectares of communal forest. Intensive monitoring and surveillance efforts, totaling 26 outings, preserved 11,200 hectares of forest. Training initiatives reached 79 representatives in reforestation techniques across communities and at the 48 Cantones nursery facility.



2023 Snapshot

In Ixcán, the program expanded agroforestry across 113 acres, integrating fruit trees like avocado and banana. Strategic intercropping with Mahogany and Inga edulis provided shade and improved moisture retention, crucial during a severe dry season. Adaptive measures in response to unprecedented drought showcased our commitment to climate-resilient agriculture, with established agroforestry systems proving more resilient than conventional methods.



Sustainable Agriculture

Through its Sustainable Agriculture program, EcoLogic focuses on working with local farmers to improve agricultural productivity while preserving natural resources and biodiversity. EcoLogic provides training and support to farmers on sustainable farming techniques, such as home gardens, alley-cropping, and apiculture with trees. By adopting these practices, farmers can improve their livelihoods, protect the environment, and build resilience to climate change. The program also emphasizes the importance of community engagement and collaboration to achieve sustainable agriculture goals. EcoLogic and community partners have established **128 new acres** of agroforestry parcels and produced **13,270 plants** for agroforestry.

Story of Change

"Soy Moisés Pérez Godínez de la comunidad de Nuevo San Lorenzo durante el presente año implementé mi sistema agroforestal diversificado con plantas de inga edulis, naranja, limón, mandarina, guanaba y plátano. El año pasado fue un año difícil, debido a que por la sequía perdimos nuestra cosecha de cardamomo, en una reunión de promotores con EcoLogic discutimos de cómo diversificar las parcelas para que al perder un cultivo podamos contar con otra alternativa económica. Gracias a EcoLogic por cumplir la propuesta que se realizó a inicios de año."

- Moisés Pérez Godínez

"I am Moises Pérez Godínez from the community of Nuevo San Lorenzo. This year I implemented my diversified agroforestry system with Inga edulis, orange, lemon, mandarin, guanaba, and banana plants. Last year was difficult, as we lost our cardamom harvest due to the drought. In a meeting of agricultural promoters with EcoLogic, we discussed diversifying the plots so that when we lose a crop, we can have another economic alternative. Thanks to EcoLogic for fulfilling the proposal that was made at the beginning of the year."

- Moisés Pérez Godínez

Healthy Homes and Community Gardens

EcoLogic operates at the household level, addressing families' needs that intersect with natural resources, promoting practices such as implementing home gardens and constructing fuel-efficient stoves. Fuel-efficient cookstoves replace open-pit fires and inefficient cooking techniques prevalent in rural areas of Mexico and Central America. These cookstoves reduce localized forest degradation by decreasing household fire-wood needs and providing alternative fuelwood sources through native tree plantations or agroforestry plots. We tackle communities' needs by supporting home gardens to enhance food security and nutrition. They provide a source of healthy food while promoting environmental sustainability by encouraging agroforestry practices and the preservation of local plant species. EcoLogic and community partners installed **226 fuel-efficient stoves** in rural homes and established **78 diversified home gardens** in 2022.

Story of Change

"Mi nombre es Fernando Recancoj técnico de EcoLogic. En Totonicapán estamos implementando un nuevo modelo de estufa ahorradora con cámara de combustión tipo Rocket, gracias a la colaboración con la empresa Stove Team, con esta estufa pretendemos la reducción de un 50% del consumo de leña en comparación con el fogón abierto."

- Fernando Recancoj

"My name is Fernando Recancoj, and I am an EcoLogic technician. In Totonicapán, we are implementing a new model of the energy-saving stove with a Rocket-type combustion chamber, thanks to the collaboration with Stove Team International. With this stove, we aim to reduce firewood consumption by 50% compared to the open stove."

- Fernando Recancoj



2023 Snapshot

In Olanchito, Honduras, we installed 25 fuel-efficient stoves in Calderas, reducing firewood consumption and promoting healthier home environments. The stoves, featuring a new "3-D design," were built by technicians at AJAASSPIB, enhancing efficiency. You [can see a brief video](#) about our efforts in this community. The stoves are built by technicians at AJAASSPIB, like "Maestra Fogonera" or master stove-builder Meliza Nuñez. The recent installation in Calderas features a new "3-D design," which Nuñez notes makes the model more efficient than the previous iteration.





2023 Snapshot

In Honduras, EcoLogic collaborated with 30 students in Santa Barbara and Tejas to raise awareness about water scarcity. Creative tools like badges, art codes, and a theater piece crafted by seventh-grade students highlighted environmental issues. The performance, addressing deforestation, forest fires, and water resource mismanagement, sparked a commitment from the adults to address these challenges.



Environmental Education

EcoLogic's Environmental Education program is designed to promote knowledge, understanding, and action on the part of adults and children alike. EcoLogic focuses on leveraging local and traditional knowledge to help communities understand the interdependence of their local ecosystems. Through partnerships with local schools, teachers, and youth, EcoLogic develops programs that raise awareness and cultivate leadership skills among the next generation of environmental stewards.

EcoLogic and community partners **trained 306 youth** and conducted **73 workshops** in 2023.

Story of Change

Conozca a Don Eliseo Hernández de San José Chiltepec, Oaxaca in México, profesor jubilado y productor local que pone el ejemplo y sabe que nunca es tarde para aprender. Ha participado activamente en las capacitaciones que realiza EcoLogic para la preparación de bioinsumos e incorporará lo aprendido en la producción de piña, plátano, limón y hule disminuyendo así el uso de agroquímicos para el manejo de plagas y enfermedades y contribuir al cuidado del medio ambiente.

Meet Don Eliseo Hernández from San José Chiltepec, Oaxaca in Mexico, a retired teacher and local producer who sets an example and knows it is never too late to learn. He has actively participated in the training that EcoLogic carries out for the preparation of organic inputs for agricultural production and will incorporate what he has learned in the production of pineapple, banana, lemon, and rubber, thus reducing the use of agrochemicals for the management of pests and diseases and contributing to the care of the environment.

Financial Incentives

Through its Financial Incentives program, EcoLogic provides communities with financial support and incentives to engage in sustainable practices that benefit both the environment and their livelihoods. This initiative aims to create economic opportunities that align with conservation efforts, encouraging communities to protect and restore their local ecosystems. By providing access to payment for environmental services programs or helping establish micro-enterprises, EcoLogic empowers communities to take ownership of their ecological resources while improving their economic well-being.

In 2023, EcoLogic helped generated **\$156,758** in income for communities across Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Story of Change*

"Queremos agradecer a EcoLogic por el apoyo en las gestiones para obtener la certeza jurídica de nuestro bosque de 18 ha. Pudimos realizar las gestiones para acceder a incentivos de PROBOSQUE por conservación y estamos a la espera que en el mes de diciembre pueda salir nuestro primer pago. Al asegurar este apoyo, estamos contribuyendo al desarrollo sostenible de nuestra comunidad.

- Saul Castro

"We want to express our gratitude to EcoLogic for their support in securing the legal protection for our 18-hectare forest. With EcoLogic's assistance, we navigated the complex processes to apply for the PROBOSQUE conservation incentives. We are awaiting our first payment in December. By securing this support, we are contributing to the sustainable development of our community.

- Saul Castro

**PROBOSQUE is Guatemala's leading incentive program, helping rural and Indigenous communities mitigate the otherwise steep and often unaffordable initial costs of restoration initiatives.*



2023 Snapshot

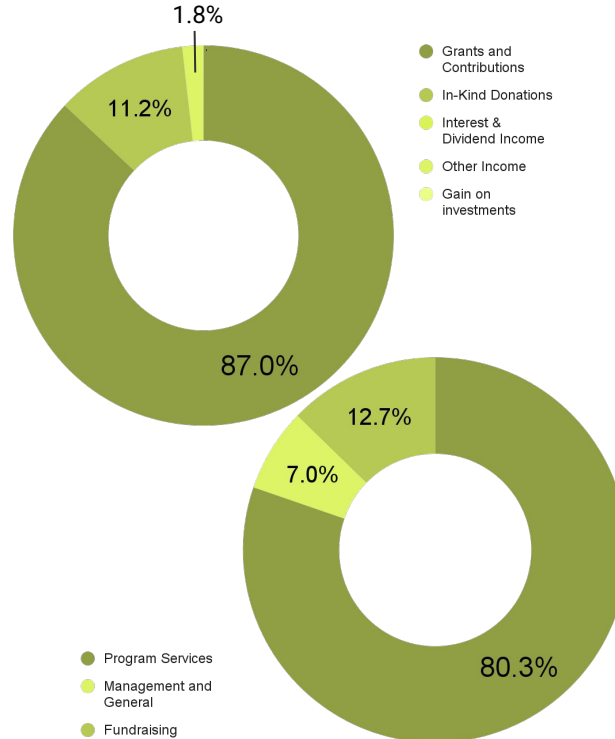
In Ixcán, Guatemala, EcoLogic supported a group of 12 beekeepers in Santa Maria Tzejá, providing essential equipment for honey harvesting in 2024. The beekeepers, organized to ensure honey quality, plan to appoint a community operator for oversight. Victor Reyes Argueta expressed gratitude for EcoLogic's support and guidance.



Our Financials

Support and Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$484,996
In-Kind Donations	\$62,605
Interest & Dividend Income	\$55
Other Income	\$9,730
Loss on exchange rate	-\$ (37)
Gain on investments	\$222
Loss on investment in subsidiary	\$(2,839)
Total Support and Revenue	\$554,510



Expenses

In 2022, **80% of EcoLogic's expenditures went directly to implementing programs in Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.** Crucial to our success on the ground is the fact that the amount of direct investment by EcoLogic is only a small piece of the overall support generated by our funding.

We can only achieve the results we do with the commitment and investment of our local partners, volunteers, and the communities with whom we work!

Program Services	\$485,292
Management and General	\$42,280
Fundraising	\$76,976
Total Expenses	\$604,551

Our People

Staff (US and Regional)

As of December 2023

Barbara Vallarino

Executive Director

Marco Aurelio Acevedo

Program Officer, Mexico

Mario Ardany de León Benítez

Program Officer, Guatemala

Carlos Duarte Euraque

Program Officer, Honduras

Ernesto Frias

Sr. Finance Officer

Jacobo Ricardo Gramajo Escobar

Regional Finance Officer

Alessandra Granelli

Social Media and Outreach Coordinator

Roy Canastuj

Regional Finance Associate

Board of Directors

As of December 2023

Mark Spranca, Chair *[retiring]*

Eva Gurria, Chair *[incoming Chair]*

Patricia Goudvis, Vice-Chair

Kendra Ferraro, Treasurer

Monica Molina-Austin, Secretary

Dr. David Barton Bray

Dr. Robin L. Chazdon *[retiring]*

Noemi Custodia Lora *[incoming]*

Rosa González García *[incoming]*

Bill Green, Emeritus

Nicholas Shufro *[retiring]*

Suzanne Tani *[incoming]*

Dan Tunstall *[retiring]*

Barbara Vallarino, Ex Officio

Retiring Board Member Acknowledgment

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the members of EcoLogic's Board of Directors who retired at the end of 2023. Your dedication and ongoing commitment have guided EcoLogic's mission over the years. Your contributions have helped shape EcoLogic into the impactful force for environmental conservation and community empowerment that it is today. We are immensely grateful for your service.

Thank you!



Dr. Robin L. Chazdon

*Years of Service:
2014-2023*



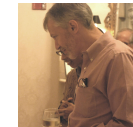
Bill Green

*Years of Service:
2004-2023*



Nicholas Shufro

*Years of Service:
2006-2023*



Mark Spranca

*Years of Service:
2012-2023*



Dan Tunstall

*Years of Service:
2007-2023*

Our Partners

Field Technicians

As of December 2023

Eliazar Isaac Bo Che
APROSARSTUN

Fernando Recancoj
Natural Resource Council of the 48 Cantons of
Totonicapán

Antonio Reyes Montejo Caba
Municipality of Ixcán

Marcial Quib
Municipality of Ixcán

Severiana Dominguez
FARCO

Victor Daniel Escobar
MAMUCA

Carlos Roberto Hernandez Maradiaga
AJAASSPIB

Roberto Valerio
MACO

Local Partner Organizations

As of December 2023

Guatemala

Mayan Association for Wellbeing in the Sarstun
Region (APROSARSTUN)

Natural Resource Council of the 48 Cantons of
Totonicapán

Municipality of Ixcán, Quiché Department

Mexico

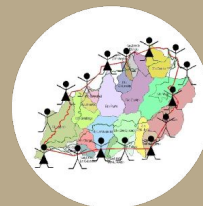
Regional Environmental Collaborative for the
Chinantla Region of Oaxaca (FARCO)

Honduras

Municipalities of the Central Atlantida Department
(MAMUCA)

Association of Water Committees of the Southern
Sector of Pico Bonito National Park (AJAASSPIB)

Joint Environmental Management Agreement of the
Municipality of Olanchito (MACO)



Our Supporters

We are deeply grateful to the many loyal donors who supported our work.

Special recognition is provided in this Annual Report to our corporate sponsors and individuals and organizations who contributed \$1,000 or more.

We honor our donors and regret any errors or omissions. To correct an oversight, please contact us at info@ecologic.org.

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Towards Sustainability Foundation
Warren Darrell
WRI - Global Forest Watch
WWF EFN Conservation Workshop Grants

Pro Bono Services

Goulston & Storrs
Westwind Coach

Interns and Volunteers

As of December 2023

Akihiko Bright
Warren Darrell
Layer Cake Foundation
Seren Ozkan
Beaujena Stoyanchev
Cindia Wong



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