



ECOLOGIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Impact Report 2025

How your support drives lasting change for communities and ecosystems.

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Introduction



2025 Impact Report



How your support is helping restore forests, protect biodiversity, and strengthen local resilience.

We are delighted to share a snapshot of the progress you have helped make possible so far in 2025. The stories and numbers highlighted in this report represent just a sampling of the incredible work our local partners and communities are leading on the ground every day in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Your support continues to spark meaningful change—helping rural and Indigenous peoples restore and protect their forests, strengthen their livelihoods, and build a more resilient and prosperous future for their families and territories.

Community-led Forest Conservation and Restoration

The forests of Northern Honduras are a critical life source, but face threats from fire and illegal clearing. EcoLogic and our local partners empower communities to become the primary stewards of their natural resources. By reforesting degraded lands, protecting vital water sources, and promoting conservation, we help ensure that the forests and ecosystems that sustain local families can thrive for generations to come.

2025 Outcomes at a Glance: Northern Honduras

This year, we have worked with our local partners in Northern Honduras to:

- Strengthen community monitoring brigades and develop a Forest Protection Plan to patrol forests and detect illegal clearing, fires, and pests using GPS and drones.
- Promote assisted natural regeneration (ANR) on 153 hectares to nurture native seedlings and mother trees in degraded areas.
- Build local capacity training 61 people in fire and pest prevention through early-warning systems and maintenance of 31 km of firebreaks.
- Implement targeted reforestation producing 111,000 trees to restore 153 hectares of riparian zones with native species.



Community-led Forest Conservation and Restoration

Voices from the Field

Forest Conservation In Honduras

“People sometimes don’t see the work that goes into preventing a fire,” explains Carlos, EcoLogic Program Officer. “But when we walk the mountain and maintain the firebreaks, we do it thinking about the water we drink and the life that depends on this forest.”

Meme, a forest brigade member, adds: *“For me, being a brigade member is both a responsibility and a source of pride. We know the forest gives us everything. Every fire we prevent protects the families of Olanchito and the species that live here. We are caring for something bigger than ourselves.”*



Conducting a forest inventory in the Sarstún region of Guatemala.

Local Leaders in Action

Learn more about how our work in Olanchito, Honduras, is strengthening local capacity to protect forests from fire and illegal activity: ["Fighting Fire with Communities: How Olanchito is Leading the Way in Wildfire Prevention"](#)



Sustainable Agriculture



Harmful practices like slash-and-burn agriculture can trap rural families in a destructive cycle: degrading the soil, reducing crop yields, and forcing them to clear more forest just to survive. EcoLogic champions sustainable agriculture as an alternative, partnering with families to implement agroforestry, an innovative method that heals the land while guaranteeing food security. These regenerative practices fundamentally improve soil health, increase harvests, and generate vital income, making forest protection a viable option for a sustainable future.

2025 Outcomes at a Glance: Northern Guatemala

This year, we have worked with our local partners in Northern Guatemala to:

- **Establish 102 diversified agroforestry parcels** integrating Inga edulis, fruit trees, and mahogany to improve soil fertility and biodiversity.
- Transform degraded lands and former pastures by **incorporating 42,258 trees** into productive plots that retain moisture and reduce pressure on remaining forests.
- **Partner with 64 small-scale and subsistence farmers** to restore degraded and abandoned lands through sustainable agroforestry systems.
- Promoted shared learning and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange between communities through **8 participatory workshops, integrating traditional knowledge.**

Sustainable Agriculture

Voices from the Field

Agroforestry in Guatemala

In the community of Santa María Dolores, farmer Don Carlos is transforming his half-hectare plot through agroforestry. After one year, he's harvesting quality plantains and seeing healthier soil, stronger crops, and reduced labor, progress he calls “a big step forward.”

With our training and support, Don Carlos learned that maize doesn't need to be planted “clean” without trees, as he once thought. Using leaf litter and pruning to enrich the soil, he now gets better germination, uses fewer fertilizers, and plants corn between tree rows.

The biggest change is in his mindset. “Before, I saw trees as obstacles—now they're allies,” he says. His plot now provides food, fruit, firewood, and income. “This system gives my family security,” he adds, showing how agroforestry restores land and livelihoods.



Don Carlos in the center photo.

Local Leaders in Action

Learn more about how our work builds equity and economic resilience in the field: [Rooted in Equity: How Agroforestry Can Empower Women and Strengthen Rural Economies.](#)

Healthy Homes

Our Healthy Homes program supports families where resilience begins: in their own households. Fuel-efficient cookstoves reduce dangerous indoor smoke, protect family health, and decrease pressure on surrounding forests—strengthening the landscapes that help communities adapt to a changing climate. Home gardens further build resilience by diversifying diets and improving nutrition while growing heirloom and medicinal species that carry cultural knowledge and support ecological health.

2025 Outcomes at a Glance: Northern Honduras and Oaxaca, Mexico

This year, we have worked with our local partners in Northern Honduras and Oaxaca, Mexico to:

- **Install 150 fuel-efficient stoves** to reduce firewood use, improve indoor air quality, and protect surrounding forests.
- **Adapt stove designs with communities** to reflect local cooking traditions, materials, and daily needs.
- **Establish 54 home and community gardens** to provide nutritious food, medicinal plants, and supplemental income.
- **Create spaces for learning and exchange** where women share traditional knowledge and strengthen food sovereignty.

Two children in Honduras with their harvest



A smiling recipient with her new stove in Honduras

Healthy Homes

Voices from the Field

Home Gardens in Honduras

Across MAMUCA's villages, women's groups have turned small backyard plots into vibrant food gardens. In the community of Hicaque, Doña Marleny, who leads her local group, captures the program's vision: *"We are feeding our families and healing the earth at the same time."* Smiling beside rows of cucumbers, mustard greens, radishes, carrots, and culantrillo, she adds, *"We produce what we need and share with others. We save money and have our own garden. I hope you continue supporting us. I want to keep working and moving forward."*



Fuel-Efficient Stoves in Mexico

The impact is often felt most by local women leaders. *"Being part of the stove program has been a joy,"* shared Doña Olga, a community leader from Vega del Sol. *"I personally supervised the delivery of materials to make sure every family received what they needed. Seeing the women in my community happy and confident that they were being supported was deeply satisfying."*



Local Leaders in Action

Learn more about out how our work builds climate resilience and food sovereignty in the field: [How Home Gardens Increase Food Security and Climate Resilience.](#)

Environmental Education



Youth creativity for forest conservation

Lasting conservation depends on the next generation of environmental leaders, and EcoLogic is investing in the young stewards who will carry this work forward. Our environmental education program fosters a deep connection to the natural world by leveraging local and traditional knowledge. Through partnerships with schools, teachers, and community leaders, we develop hands-on programs that raise awareness about the importance of local ecosystems.

2025 Outcomes at a Glance: Totonicapán, Guatemala

This year, we have worked with our local partners in Totonicapán, Guatemala, to:

- **Lead 10 practical workshops with 40 students and 10 teachers** on forest conservation, water protection, and sustainable land use.
- **Integrate traditional ecological knowledge** to connect ancestral wisdom with modern environmental learning.
- **Strengthen environmental awareness and commitment** among youth and community leaders, reinforced through teamwork and youth leadership
- **Create one mural as a lasting symbol of stewardship**, inspiring continued conservation action within the 48 Cantones territory.



Field technician Jonatan leads a workshop

Environmental Education

Voices from the Field

Environmental Education in Guatemala

In Totonicapán, young people are defending their ancestral forests through creativity. After a series of workshops we conducted in partnership with the Creative Action Institute (CAI), they designed and painted a mural at the forest's entrance—a colorful scene of trees, water, and community life.

"It's our voice on the wall," said 15-year-old Andrea. *"So everyone remembers that this forest protects us."* Another student, Guadalupe, shares, *"We must take care of our environment, we must be conscious of what we do and how our actions impact our surroundings."* Cruz Menchu, one of the community leaders, expressed his gratitude for the initiative, saying, *"It is a mural full of messages, full of ideas about how we can care for our forest and our natural resources."*

Local Leaders in Action

Learn more about how our work leverages art and creativity to deepen youth engagement: [Youth Lead Creative Conservation](#)



Financial Incentives for Conservation



Forest monitoring to receive incentives from PES program.

When protecting a forest provides more value than cutting it down, conservation becomes self-sustaining. We work to make conservation economically rewarding. By providing communities with access to innovative financial tools, such as payment for environmental services (PES) programs, and by helping establish sustainable microenterprises, we empower people to take ownership of their natural resources. This approach creates a powerful, lasting link between a healthy local environment and improved economic well-being for families.

2025 Outcomes at a Glance: Sarstún, Guatemala

- **Protect and restore 415 ha of coastal and mangrove forests** to strengthen coastal resilience and support vital fish nurseries.
- Access PROBOSQUE incentives **supporting the preparation of 22 management plans that provide approximately USD \$5,160 per year over a 10-year period.**
- **Organize and train 3 community forest brigades with 7 members each** to lead monitoring, replanting, and habitat protection.
- **Promote 5 small-scale women-led economic initiatives** that align local livelihoods with long-term ecosystem health.



Mangroves in the Sarstun region.

Financial Incentives for Conservation



Community monitoring brigade

Voices from the Field

Financial Incentives in Guatemala:

Don Jacobo, a longtime fisher from the community of San Juan, reflects on how the PROBOSQUE incentives—Guatemala’s national payment for ecosystem services program—have helped sustain his family during fishing closures.

By providing annual support to communities that maintain and restore their mangroves, PROBOSQUE creates both a safety net and an incentive for conservation. As Don Jacobo explains, these resources *“help us make it through the leaner months, while allowing us to keep conserving our mangroves and the fisheries our community depends on.”*



Local Leaders in Action

Learn more about how our partner communities are advancing forest governance and climate resilience along the Sarstún River: [Advancing Forest Governance and Climate Resilience Along the Sarstún River.](#)

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

We are continuously working to improve our effectiveness and amplify our mission across Mesoamerica.

Launching a Regional Agroforestry Knowledge Initiative: We've initiated a joint Agroforestry Initiative and Knowledge Study with Forestation International to strengthen community-led restoration in Guatemala. This critical project is mapping successful local agroforestry models and gathering lessons to co-design systems that improve food security, biodiversity, and climate resilience. This work aims to build a regional hub for sharing knowledge and attracting more investment in sustainable, community-based restoration.

Welcoming two New Board Members: We are delighted to welcome Ben Hodgdon and Marissa Strniste to EcoLogic's Board of Directors. Ben brings extensive experience in community forest management and a deep personal connection to Mesoamerica. Marissa contributes more than a decade of expertise in monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning, grounded in community-led development across Latin America, Africa, and South Asia. Their combined expertise, all grounded in grassroots leadership and Indigenous rights, will be invaluable as we continue to grow our impact.

Honored to Host NEBF in the Field: We were thrilled to welcome Jessica Brown from the New England Biolabs Foundation (NEBF) to visit our work in Totonicapán this September. These visits are vital opportunities to share the impact happening on the ground and strengthen our commitment to transparent partnership.

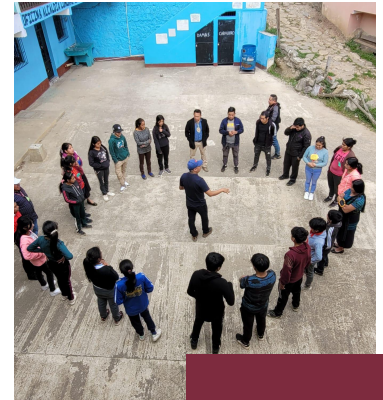
ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

EcoLogic in the Global Spotlight

Our community-led approach is gaining recognition, allowing us to share local successes on regional and global stages. This demonstrates that our model is helping shape broader conversations in the fields of conservation and climate action.

Recognition in Mongabay and [Earth.org](#):

Our commitment to pairing Indigenous and local knowledge with smart conservation tools was recently highlighted in major publications, including [Mongabay](#) and [Earth.org](#). These articles showcased the strength of our approach and how strong local governance can drive lasting environmental impact.



Shaping Global Dialogue:

Members of our team [have been invited to contribute](#) to high-profile discussions, reinforcing the efficacy of our model:

Our Executive Director and Mexico Program Officer, Marco Acevedo, were invited by the World Resources Institute (WRI) to help introduce the upcoming Global Nature Watch platform, highlighting the importance of accessible, community-centered data tools.

Our Field Coordinator was invited to speak on a panel about regenerative agriculture in Tonicapán, sharing EcoLogic's valuable on-the-ground experience alongside leading experts.

Our Executive Director presented EcoLogic's approach to forest and landscape conservation to the UNCW Science & Environmental Academy chapter of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Thanks to your support, our team is helping shape broader conversations on how to restore forests, strengthen rural livelihoods, and build climate-resilient communities across the region.

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS!

None of the progress shared in this snapshot report would be possible without your generous support. **Your belief in our community-led model is the driving force behind every tree planted, every family farm made more sustainable, and every young person inspired to care for their environment.** When you read a success story in this report, please know that you are a critical part of making it happen.

Your contribution is a powerful investment in the leadership, vision, and capacity of our local partners, enabling them to build a more resilient and prosperous future for their communities and our shared planet.

As 2025 comes to a close, we are filled with hope and determination. **Thank you once again for your trust and for standing with EcoLogic and the remarkable communities we serve.**

EcoLogic works to empower rural and Indigenous Peoples to restore and protect tropical ecosystems in Central America and Mexico.



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