



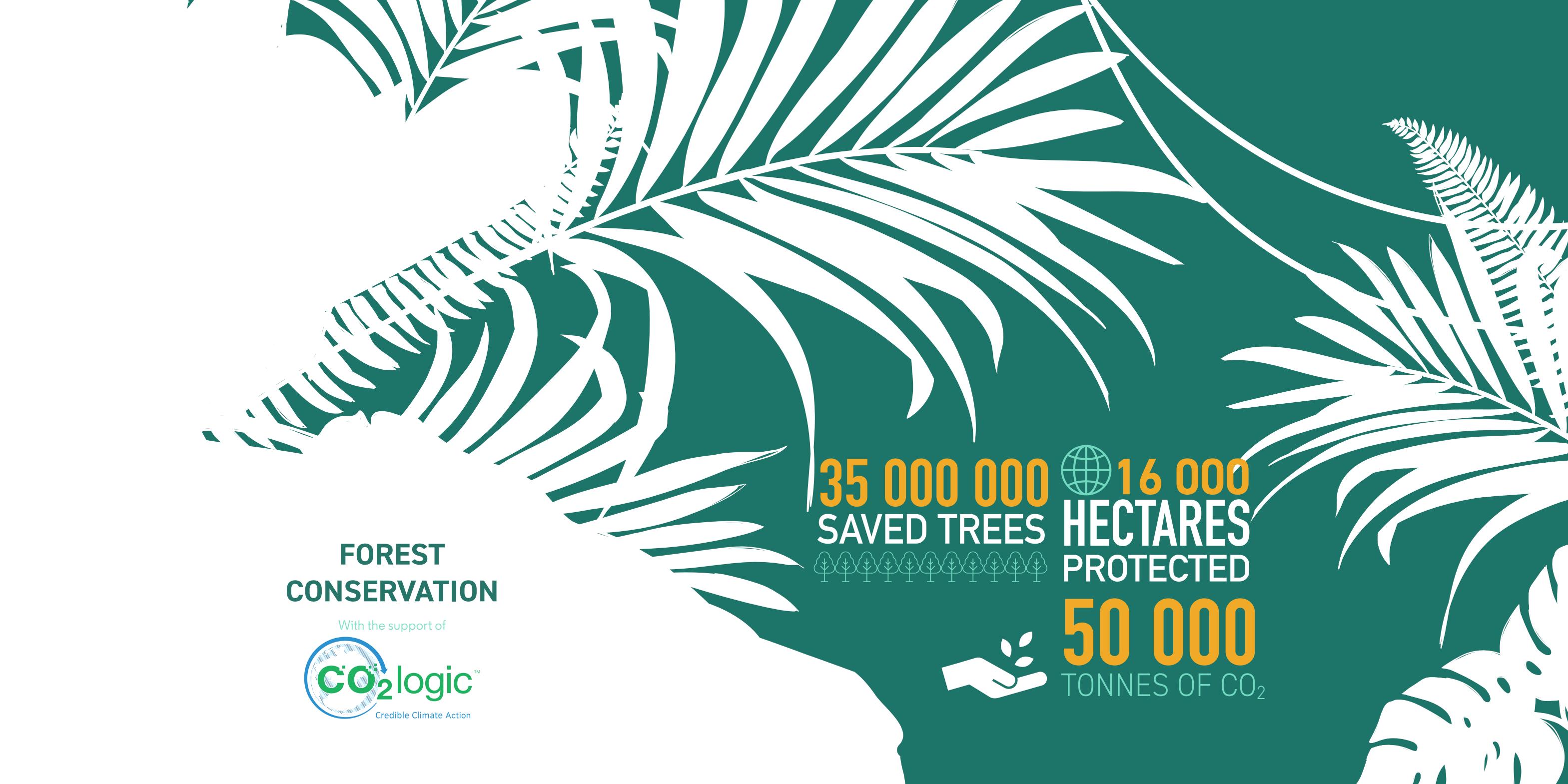
# FOREST PROTECTION

IN SIERRA DEL LACANDÓN  
GUATAMALA



Credible Climate Action

[CO2logic.com](http://CO2logic.com)



## FOREST CONSERVATION

With the support of



**35 000 000**  
**SAVED TREES**



**16 000**  
**HECTARES**  
**PROTECTED**

**50 000**  
**TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub>**





## IN A FEW WORDS

The Sierra del Lacandón national park has varied culture and biodiversity. The park is losing forest cover annually because of bad agricultural practices, fires due to slash and burn techniques and illegal practices. The protection of the forest is poorly controlled, leading to illegal settlements, extraction of natural resources and hunting. The Project will implement measures to tackle these problems. By strengthening the monitoring of the region, forest and cultural sites are better protected. Patrolling and more clear legislation will protect the land and its native people, resulting in less illegal practices.



# IN GUATEMALA

DAMAGING AGRICULTURE AND ILLEGAL PRACTICES  
THREATEN NATIVE PEOPLE AND THE ECOSYSTEM

## ■ ISSUE N°1

The Sierra del Lacandón is losing forest cover because of unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash and burn techniques or the clearing of forests for cattle ranching. The growth in agriculture is linked to an expansion of the population in the region.

## ■ ISSUE N°2

A lack of local governance in the park leads to illegal hunting and logging practices as well as excavation of natural resources. This negatively affects the livelihoods of the local population.

### GUATEMALA

108.888 km<sup>2</sup>

33.1% Forest

1.6% Water

40,5% Agriculture

24,8% Other



The Project will assure legality of land use rights and decrease illegal practices that harm the environment. Project activities will better protect the environmental functions of the diverse ecosystem, lower greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and degradation processes will be prevented.

SIERRA DEL  
LACANDÓN



GUATEMALA





### CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND COMMUNITY

The native people have rights over the land and are involved in the preservation Project. Within the borders of the Sierra del Lacandón National Park, there are multiple archaeological sites from the Mayan Civilization. Extra attention is given to the preservation of the cultural heritage here.



### PREVENTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The rich ecosystem of Sierra del Lacandón is at risk. Its forests represent huge climatic benefits and are also important for natural resources because they prevent soil erosion, ensure water regulation and of course, protect the biodiversity. Forests also have a cultural and economic role for the population.



### BIODIVERSITY

The area of the Project is one of the most diverse in the world and is home to many protected species of plants and animals such as the red macaw and the jaguar. Protecting the forest conserves the habitat of many species. In addition, previously cleared areas are reforested or recovered with native species.



### STRONGER LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The lack of governance in the area gives rise to many illegal activities that not only harm the environment, but also affect local livelihoods. The Project supports better governance to protect nature and develops initiatives to improve livelihood of the local communities in the Sierra del Lacandón park, by notably giving them legal rights over the land.

# CULTURAL PRESERVATION AND COMMUNITY

RESPECT FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE GO HAND IN HAND

Without the collaboration of the local people, it is impossible to execute the Project in a lasting way. If locals identify with the Project, its objectives can be achieved.

Cooperation agreements are signed between the inhabitants and the conservation entities, in which the communities retain the rights to exploit their lands inside the Sierra del Lacandón park. In return, they commit themselves to actively contribute to the protection of the forest and to use its resources sustainably. An incentive system consisting of cash payments and physical aid (e.g. seedlings, tools and other inputs) as well as technical advice is being developed. Areas of reforestation are created, sustainable usage of which will mean new sources of income for the people.

The Project implements programs that actively promote the participation of women.

Within the region, there are 29 cultural and archaeological sites incorporated in the Project scope. The sites from Mayan civilizations are linked to the indigenous people and have deep cultural significance. These sites get extra protection and maintenance.





## PREVENTING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

SIERRA DEL LACANDÓN HAS ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE WORLD.

Deforestation and its driving forces have been identified and understood: unsustainable agriculture, cattle ranching, slash and burn techniques and illegal logging. Under the Project, forest conservation and reforestation measures are carried out in collaboration with local communities, strengthening the control of primary forests. The activities and forest cover are measured by a monitoring system, based on patrols and satellite images. This allows for rapid reaction in case of suspicious illegal activities.

A healthy ecosystem provides a wealth of valuable environmental boons: water regulation, erosion prevention, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling and the provision of food and raw materials.

From the point of view of climate protection, healthy forest ecosystems guarantee that captured CO<sub>2</sub> remains stored and is extracted from the atmosphere in the long term. The Project region is already prone to extreme weather and hurricanes and in the years to come, this will only become more frequent which makes the protection of the forests and the ecosystems even more urgent and necessary.

13 CLIMATE ACTION





## BIODIVERSITY

BIODIVERSITY SUPPORTS  
A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM

The Project, together with local partners and communities, analyses, designs and implements measures that will reduce deforestation. Special attention is given to the protection and the monitoring of the biodiversity in the park. Sierra del Lacandón is one of the most diverse regions in the world, home to endangered species such as the jaguar, red macaw, tapir, many species of amphibians and more. Their survival is crucial to maintain a healthy ecosystem.

Previously cleared areas are reforested or recovered with native species, so that quasi-natural forests can be developed.

From the point of view of climate protection, a healthy biodiversity guarantees that captured CO<sub>2</sub> remains stored and can be extracted from the atmosphere in the long term.





## STRONGER LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY

PROTECTING LIVELIHOODS AND ECOSYSTEMS

Inviting local communities to get actively involved in the Project and to participate in positive actions is a moral responsibility, but it is also crucial to guarantee the success of the Project in the long-term. Communities retain the rights to exploit their lands inside the park. In return, they commit themselves to actively contribute to the protection of the forest and to exploit its resources sustainably. In addition, a system of incentives, consisting of a mix of cash payments and aid in the form of material (eg seedlings, tools and other inputs), as well as technical advice, is developed. Areas of reforestation and regeneration will be created, whose sustainable exploitation will mean new sources of income for the people.

Guatemala has higher levels of inequality than other countries in Latin America. Especially rural and indigenous people experience higher rates of poverty. Some main objectives of the Project include higher equity and less criminality. Therefore, there are extra patrols to limit the illegal practices in the park and support the sustainable farmers and loggers, along with better control of land and tenure rights.

The State of Guatemala has made great efforts to counteract deforestation and reduce the impacts of climate change through laws, policies and regulations, which are being articulated in the National REDD+ (Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) Strategy.

1 NO  
POVERTY



8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



# IMPACTS OF THE PROJECTS



The VSC program is the most widely used voluntary GHG program. This independent non profit organisation checks the impact of the Project in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction. To do so, a lot of data is collected on the spot, such as the amount of hectares protected under this new land management, CO<sub>2</sub> sequestered by the saved trees, number of people positively impacted, etc. The Project meets at least the following Sustainable Development Goals: «no poverty», «zero hunger», «gender equality», «decent work and economic growth», «sustainable communities», «climate action» and «life on land».



The CCBA is a unique partnership of leading international NGOs that was founded in 2003 with a mission to stimulate and promote land management activities that credibly mitigate global climate change, improve the well-being and reduce the poverty of local communities, and conserve biodiversity. The CCBA brings together diverse stakeholders through a transparent and inclusive participatory process to develop standards and tools that stimulate, identify and promote high quality multiple-benefit land management activities.



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES





## CO<sub>2</sub> CLIMATE ACTION

“HOW CAN WE REDUCE OUR CLIMATE IMPACT  
AND THAT OF OTHERS?”

This is the first question the team of CO2logic asked themselves back in 2004.



There are limits to the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that can be reduced, and each remaining tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> has a high cost for society & the generations to come.

At CO2logic, we firmly believe that future generations are not responsible for these “climate disruption costs”. That’s why CO2logic encourages companies and organisations to reduce and offset their impact on climate & the environment: by supporting & developing climate projects that generate carbon credits. This is how we give back in order to restore the balance.

A WORD FROM ANTOINE GEERINCKX, FOUNDER OF CO2LOGIC

“There is only one atmosphere and there are no borders for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Our climate projects help in avoiding deforestation through education, collaboration, energy efficiency, fuel switch, renewable energy, reforestation, access to clean water. We act to improve the livelihood of local people while addressing the global climate breakdown. We are all interconnected.”



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