

# IMPROVING NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION

Piloting LandScale in the Southwestern Pacific of Guatemala



**The Pacific coast of Guatemala is one of the most important agricultural zones in the country, home to large-scale banana, oil palm, and sugar cane production. However, a lack of natural resources governance, historical deforestation, and the inefficient use of water by upstream and downstream stakeholders threaten the water supply, mangrove ecosystem, soil quality, and local livelihoods in the landscape.**

**Region:** Southwestern Guatemala, Ocosito River watershed

**Lead partners:** Rainforest Alliance and Solidaridad

**Challenges:** Natural resources contamination and overexploitation

**LandScale uses:** Aligning existing plans and resources, monitoring progress toward common goals, and communicating impact to attract more financing and support

The need for an integrated approach to natural resources management which addresses these challenges is clear. Yet, stakeholders lack agreement on the scale of the intervention needed and the best way to reach a unified plan.

## Driving Sustainability

The Rainforest Alliance and Solidaridad are working with the National Forest Institute (INAB), AgroAmérica, Grupo HAME, local communities, the Local Mangrove Roundtable — an intersectoral platform for dialogue and consensus — and other stakeholders to define a shared vision for the Ocosito watershed, with emphasis on the middle and lower parts of the Ocosito, Naranjo, and Suchiate river basins.

## Using LandScale

To achieve their vision, the group aims to develop an integrated natural resources plan that aligns the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with national plans such as the forest landscape restoration strategy, the REDD+ national strategy, and the nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The group

will use the indicators and performance metrics outlined in LandScale’s independent framework to ensure the goals in the integrated plan are structured to drive concrete improvements in sustainability at landscape scale.

The partners also plan to help existing roundtables and working groups in the Ocosito watershed landscape to establish common goals using the LandScale framework, in order to coordinate stakeholders’ use of natural resources and identify activities where they can work together to achieve better results. An integrated plan will enable a comprehensive natural resources management and forest conservation approach which includes forest restoration, reforestation in riparian areas, mangrove ecosystem conservation, and improvement of water use along the Ocosito river basin.

As the partners work toward their goals, they will use LandScale to measure and communicate their progress in a credible and holistic way to attract more financing and support for their efforts at the landscape level.



*Mangrove forest in the Manchon Guamuchal, Ramsar site, part of the pilot landscape.*



**Solidaridad**

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