



Forest Protection in the Golfo Dulce Forest Reserve, Osa Peninsula, Costa Rica.



Fonafifo, 2024



Project description

The project seeks to recognize a Payment for Environmental Services (PES) to the owners of farms with forest patches, where the presence of fauna and flora is high. The support is provided to people who live on their farm and who depend on it for their survival, taking the protection of the forest as an important recognition and additional income within their family economy. The contribution received allows them to improve their living conditions, to be able to invest in material and equipment required for their work and in food.

It takes place on the Osa Peninsula, specifically in the Golfo Dulce Forest Reserve. The Area is a site recognized for its high endemism and where the presence of important species has been documented, which move and depend on these areas as refuge and feeding areas. On the other hand, they are the areas that connect the protected areas of Piedras Blancas National Park, the Sierpe Mangroves and Corcovado National Park, declared by National Geographic as the most biologically intense site on the planet.



San Juan river at Mr. Douglas Valverde farm, Bajo San Juan, Osa.

The farms within Bosque Vivo have forests with a good structure and composition of species and some have forests with extraordinary scenic beauty. They represent a component of soil protection, mainly in the Osa area, which has a strongly undulating topography. Additionally, one of the greatest contributions of these forests is the protection of the aquifers, which provide quality water that is used for drinking purposes within the farms or communities, and for agricultural use in other farms and surrounding communities.

The project try to raise funds through donations or agreements. A minimum goal of 1,500 hectares under a Forest Protection PES contract has been established over a period of 10 years.

What is the donation amount?

There are no specific amounts, but as a reference, each hectare is equivalent to an amount of US\$800, which includes: 1. US\$704 for the Payment for Environmental Services (PES),



which is made in annual installments of 10% to the forest owner, during a period of 10 years; and 2. US\$96 (12% of the amount) for administrative expenses that include the establishment of the PES contract with the owner, the management of annual payments to the owner during the contract period, preparation of reports, monitoring by the Control department and Monitoring for compliance with commitments, and photo-trapping by the Proposals Department.

Potential benefits for the donor in supporting the project

A certificate is delivered that describes the donation made and a report on the second growth forest areas under financing and the impacts produced, including information on fauna detected as a result of camera trap samplings. In addition, the donor may visit the areas under financing, after coordination with Fonafifo personnel.

The larger the donation, the greater the impact of hectares that can be covered with the PES.

Besides:

1. According to Law No. 7092, article 8, subsection q, duly verified donations that have been delivered, during the respective tax period to the State, are deductible from gross income.

2. The donation can be presented as an Environmental Contribution in contracting processes carried out by the public sector, or in compliance with some requirements of the ICT Tourism Sustainability Certificate.



Ceiba tree (*Ceiba pentandra*)

However, the financial contribution does not provide any right over the ownership of the property where the PES is applied.

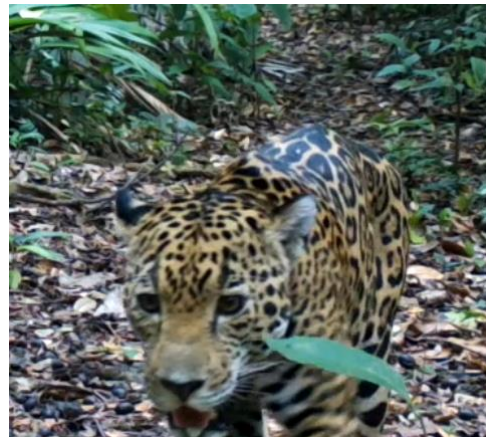
What guarantees does supporting the Fonafifo PES Program give me?

1. **Legality:** The PES Program works within a well-established legal framework and applies clear procedures published by resolution.



2. **Transparency:** The PES Program is supervised by public institutions responsible for verifying compliance with legislation and adequate technical and financial management.
3. **Knowledge:** Fonafifo has more than 20 years of technical experience, which is internationally recognized.
4. **Track record:** Fonafifo has a highly recognized national and international track record in conservation and development actions.
5. **Control activities on the contracted areas:** through the presence of staff from the Cañas Regional Office of Fonafifo, in addition to technological tools, such as the use of drones in field visits and verifications through a continuous service of high-quality satellite images.

In 2012, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Teaching Center (**Catie**) awarded Fonafifo the **Medal of Merit in the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment**, for its career and leadership of the successful Payment for Environmental Services Program, recognized at a national and international level with prestigious recognitions such as the **Global Climate Action** award in 2020 by the United Nations, the **Earthshot** award in 2021, in the Nature Protection and Restoration category, awarded by the Real del Duque Foundation and the Duchess of Cambridge and more recently the **Global Excellence** award, given by the government of the United Arab Emirates.



Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) catch by a trap camera at Rancho Quemado, Osa.

What does my support for the project represent at a local, national and international level?

At the local level, conservation efforts are supported for the coverage of an important area that provides connectivity between different protected areas, including the Corcovado National Park and flora and fauna conservation efforts in an area classified as one of the most “world's most intensely biodiverse” by National Geographic.

At the national level, the Payment for Environmental Services Program (PES) of Costa Rica is supported, created since 1996 by Forest Law 7575, which is a financial mechanism that recognizes the holders and owners of private land with forests or forest plantations. . The



PES program has contributed to stopping deforestation processes and encourages an increase in forest cover.

On the other hand, Fonafifo's PES Program has an important social focus, since it is especially aimed at smallholder farms and in areas with a low index of social development and especially gender, having within its policies and procedures, favors women land owners. Finally, it represents a benefit for present and future generations, being a program that is also dedicated to the protection and improvement of the country's forest cover.

Nationally Determined Commitments (NDC) are supported in the face of the commitments established in the Paris Agreement related to increasing and retaining carbon in the ecosystem and support for the fulfillment of national commitments related to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), related to recovery and maintenance of ecosystems and species.

At the international level, at least the following sustainable development goals are supported:



The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, are 17 goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that, by 2030, all people enjoy peace and prosperity.



For more information about the project, contact:

Tel: (506) 2545-3535

Proposal Department propuestas@fonafifo.go.cr

