



Forest protection for conservation and reproduction of the tree species *Ocotea monteverdensis* W.C. Burger, in Monteverde, Costa Rica



Fonafifo, 2024



Project description

The project seeks to promote the conservation of the endemic forest species *Ocotea monteverdensis* in collaboration with actions that are already carried out, mainly led by the Monteverde Institute.

It has been determined that 70% of *O. monteverdensis* populations are found in private areas without any protection category. Therefore, the project seeks to recognize a Payment for Environmental Services (PES) in support of the owners of the forest where the species is distributed and in forested areas of influence.



Fruits of *O. monteverdensis* tree.

Source: Proposals Department, Fonafifo.



Remnant tree of *O. monteverdensis* species in areas under pressure from residential growth.

Source: Proposals Department, Fonafifo.

O. monteverdensis is a species whose distribution and main population is found in relicts of mature forest in the communities of Monteverde, Cerro Plano, Santa Elena, Cañitas and La Cruz.

It faces several dangers of an anthropogenic nature: existing fragmentation and population growth. Additionally, their reproduction occurs every three years, with their reproductive age being up to 25 years. At this time, *O. monteverdensis* is critically endangered according to the IUCN red list.

Biologically, it is a species that is related to important fauna such as the quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*), the bell bird (*Procnias tricarunculatus*), the oil bird (*Steatornis caripensis*), the black guan (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) and the spider monkey (*Ateles. geoffroyi*).

The goal is to get economical resources



for PES payment and protect forest in at least 500 hectares for 10 years, prioritizing the species distribution area, which requires a total estimated amount of \$312,000.00.

What is the donation amount?

There are no specific amounts for contributions or donations, but as a reference, the recognition of Environmental Services for each hectare of forest over a period of 10 years is equivalent to US\$624, which includes: 1. US\$561.6; and 2. US\$ 62.4 (10% 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 and Monitoring and the Proposals Department for compliance with commitments.



Mature tree of *O. monteverdensis* species in a forest remnant, Monteverde.. Source: Proposals Department, Fonafifo.

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. 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.



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?



Quetzal (*Pharomachus mocinno*)
regurgitating a *O. monteverdensis* seed.
Source: Mi Ocotea Project.

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:** Both Fonafifo and the organizations that participate in the conservation of the species (Monteverde Institute and Monteverde Conservation League), have 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.



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

At the local level, through the initiative, not only the conservation of the species *O. monteverdensis* is supported, but it also supports the conservation and maintenance actions of cloud forest areas, important for their relationship in the capture and infiltration of water in the basins and that also protects other species of flora and especially fauna (such as birds), which are an important driver in the economic development of the area based on sustainable tourism, without leaving aside the connection with sustainability goals and conservation driven by the community itself.

From the point of view of conservation in the area, the proposed area represents connectivity between what is known as the Arenal Monteverde Protective Reserve (specifically the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve, the Children's Eternal Forest and the Curi Cancha Reserve) with the Abangares River Basin Protective Zone. In addition, it corresponds to the upper part of the Howler Monkey Pass Biological Corridor, the Arenal Tenorio Lake Biological Corridor and the Bellbird Biological Corridor.

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, has an important social focus and represents a benefit for present and future generations.

Nationally Determined Contribution (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, related to the 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:

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