



## Restoration and conservation of Dry Forest areas in the North Pacific of Costa Rica.



Fonafifo, 2024



## Project description

The Restoration of Dry Forest areas in the North Pacific of Costa Rica project seeks to support, through financial recognition of the environmental services generated, the restoration of Tropical Dry Forest areas in the Horizontes Forest Experimental Station.

The Tropical Dry Forest has a diverse diversity of flora and fauna, which is adapted to difficult climatic conditions. However, they are areas that have historically had high social pressure, which has caused a transformation of land use to areas of cultivation, livestock and population centers, causing high fragmentation and a low presence of forest relics.

The restoration project is located in Nacascolo de Liberia, province of Guanacaste, in an area close to 7,400 hectares, which was a farm dedicated for many years to livestock, the cultivation of rice, sorghum and cotton, which caused a significant loss and reduction of their ecosystems. In 1987, the farm was donated to the Guanacaste Conservation Area, which currently serves as the administrative entity, but which legally belongs to the National Parks Foundation.



The Horizontes Experimental Station has areas that require support in its forest recovery and protection process, mainly from fire.

*biodiversity”.*

In 1989 the area became the Horizontes Forest Experimental Station, where due to its location conditions, coverage, infrastructure, among others, it was destined for forestry research. In 2011 it was declared of public interest through Decree No. 36785 published in La Gaceta No. 214 *“to promote the restoration of the Tropical Dry Forest, as well as encourage restoration, research, education, ecotourism and promotion of its associated*

The project seeks to raise funds through donations or agreements, to promote dry forest restoration activities carried out on the grounds of the experimental station, with a



minimum goal of 900 hectares of natural regeneration under Payment of Environmental Services (PES) contracts established over a 5-year period, requiring a total estimated amount of US\$175,500.

### What is the donation amount?

There are no specific amounts, but as a reference, the recognition of Environmental Services for each hectare of regenerating forest, during a period of 5 years, is equivalent to US\$ 195, which includes: 1. US\$ 175.5; and 2. US\$ 19.5 (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.

### 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 dry forest is characterized by tree species that lose their leaves in the dry season, but coincide with the presence of flowers. . Photo of Poro-Poro tree flowers (*Cochlospermum vitifolium*).

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?

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 (Guanacaste Conservation Area), 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.



Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)



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

Locally, efforts to recover and conserve dry forest areas are supported, which means the opportunity for the establishment and growth of important plants related to this type of forest. In addition, it represents a connection with National Parks and coastal areas and is habitat for important fauna species or those that require extensive areas for their survival (for example, felines).

It is an initiative in line with the goals established in the Costa Rican Restoration Strategy 2021-2050

([https://www.sinac.go.cr/ES/noticias/Documents/Estrategia%20Nacional%20de%20Restauraci%C3%B3n%20de%20Paisajes%20de%20Costa%20Rica\\_digital\\_vf.pdf](https://www.sinac.go.cr/ES/noticias/Documents/Estrategia%20Nacional%20de%20Restauraci%C3%B3n%20de%20Paisajes%20de%20Costa%20Rica_digital_vf.pdf)).

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.

Considering the United Nations ecosystem restoration principles ([https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ser.org/resource/resmgr/publications/principles\\_for\\_ecosystem\\_res.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.ser.org/resource/resmgr/publications/principles_for_ecosystem_res.pdf)), principle 1 is complied with, where the following sustainable development objectives are directly supported:



Furthermore, in congruence with principle 4, we seek to achieve the highest level of recovery of biodiversity, ecosystem health and integrity, and human well-being.

Finally, corresponding to principle 5, the direct and indirect causes that cause ecosystem degradation are addressed.



**For more information about the project, contact:**

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