



## DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS MODELS FOR COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS A INSTRUMENT FOR SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE RESTORATION OF NEAR-NATURAL FORESTS

As of: May 2021

State programmes for forest protection and restoration take insufficient account of the protection of biodiversity and the support of local communities that have a major impact on forest areas. In cooperation with the private sector, the project develops sources of financing for the protection of biodiversity and the participation of the local population: forest areas are restored through agroforestry systems, for example, and smallholders are supported in implementing governmental requirements for the sustainable use of the areas in question. In model projects for the cocoa, honey and breadnut value chains, the project develops additional income opportunities for the population while at the same time conserving natural resources. The project experiences are to be used to develop criteria for efficient forest restoration strategies, and sustainable alternative uses and value chains of forest products are to be disseminated at local and national levels.

### State of implementation/results

- The project contributes to the achievement of Guatemala's NDC and is mentioned in the national forest rehabilitation strategy as an implementation measure. It is part of the 20x20 initiative of the Bonn Challenge. The project promotes the development of local communities in sustainable cocoa farming and processing, honey production, collection of bread nut (Rámon) and improvement of diversified agroforestry systems. So far, 1.203 families participate in activities of the project.
- To date, the project has improved the protection of 177,200 ha of primary forest, rebuilt 923 ha of forest and sustainably used 560 ha of already rebuilt forest.
- A monitoring system was developed to record the

## PROJECT DATA

### Country/Countries:

Guatemala

### Implementing organisation:

OroVerde - Die Tropenwaldstiftung

### Political partner(s):

- Ministry of Agriculture (MAGA) - Guatemala
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) - Guatemala
- National Forest Institute (INAB) - Guatemala

### Implementing partner(s):

- Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza - Guatemala
- Heifer International - USA

### BMU grant:

€ 4,000,000

### Duration:

10/2015 till 12/2023





effects of the project on forest areas and on the target group.

- Smallholder committees have now formed eight committees for honey and cocoa marketing, and the formation of a producers' association is being planned.
- With the support of the project, the first chocolate made from cocoa from these agroforestry systems of small scale farmers from the Sierra de las Minas was produced and sold by a renowned chocolatier from Germany in 2019 and an agreement was signed with the national company "Cacao Verapaz" for the cooperation and purchase of cocoa. They already acquired part of the 2019/2020 harvest.
- The project is further presented at various national forums and international events and contacts are established with potential buyers of the products from these agroforestry systems in Germany as well as in Guatemala. For further marketing of products from this project and other projects, the cooperative "DeLaSelva Regenwaldprodukte e.G." was founded in Germany at the end of 2019.
- The Project Newsletter No. 4 was published and sent to the different networks:  
[www.regenwald-schuetzen.org/...](http://www.regenwald-schuetzen.org/...) . The publication "Productive forest restoration in protected areas of Guatemala" was published in the Mesoamerican Journal of Biodiversity and Climate Change "Yuám": [www.revistayuam.com](http://www.revistayuam.com)
- As part of a research on funding models, a document on crowdfunding was published:  
[www.regenwald-schuetzen.org/...](http://www.regenwald-schuetzen.org/...)

