



**USAID**  
DEL PUEBLO DE LOS ESTADOS  
UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Programa  
**CLIMA, NATURALEZA Y  
COMUNIDADES**  
en Guatemala



# QUARTERLY REPORT I and II FY 2023

# Climate, Nature and Communities in Guatemala Program



# **CLIMATE, NATURE AND COMMUNITIES IN GUATEMALA PROGRAM**

## **Report on Quarters I and II of fiscal year 2023 CNCG Extension [2021-2023]**

Cooperative Agreement No. AID-520-A-13-00001

**Report prepared by Rainforest Alliance  
For the USAID Guatemala Economic Development Office**

Guatemala, February 2023

The opinions expressed by the authors of this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) of the Government of the United States of America

## CONTENTS

Acronyms .....	- 4 -
1. INTRODUCTION.....	- 6 -
2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 WORK PLAN.....	- 7 -
1.1 Highlighted achievements .....	- 7 -
i. During the first quarter .....	- 7 -
1.2 Progress by core indicators.....	- 9 -
1.3 Implementation of Specific Objectives .....	- 10 -
1.3.1 Implementation of SO1: Conserving biodiversity while creating jobs and generating income for vulnerable populations .....	- 13 -
1.3.2 Implementation of Specific Objective 2: Increase employment for vulnerable populations that reduces emissions from land-use change .....	- 16 -
2 TRAININGS .....	- 19 -
3 IMPLEMENTATION OF CROSS CUTTING THEMES.....	- 19 -
3.1 Gender.....	- 19 -
3.2 Private Sector .....	- 20 -
3.3 Youth.....	- 21 -
3.4 Local Governments .....	- 21 -
3.5 Indigenous Peoples .....	- 22 -
3.6 Alliances and Coordinations .....	- 23 -
3.7 Lessons learned in CNCG .....	- 24 -
4 COMMUNICIATION .....	- 26 -
5 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (AMEL) .....	- 28 -
6 BUDGET EXECUTION IN FISCAL YEAR 2023.....	- 30 -
7 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR PROGRAM CLOSING.....	- 31 -

## Acronyms

<b>ACOFOP</b>	Association of Forest Communities of Petén	<b>CFC</b>	Community Forest Concession
<b>ACORDI</b>	Integrated Rural Community Development Association	<b>ECADs</b>	Field schools for comprehensive development
<b>AFICC</b>	Cruce a la Colorada Integrated Forestry Association	<b>FEDECOVERA</b>	Federation of Cooperatives of Las Verapaces
<b>AFISAP</b>	San Andrés, Petén Integrated Forestry Association	<b>FORESCOM</b>	Community Forest Service Company
<b>AFORQ</b>	Quiche Forestry Association	<b>FSC</b>	Forest Stewardship Council
<b>AICASA</b>	Food of the Central American Isthmus, SA	<b>FTE</b>	Full time equivalent
<b>ANPROPIGUA</b>	National <i>Pinabete</i> Producers of Guatemala Association	<b>FY</b>	Fiscal year
<b>AAPIT</b>	Apiary association of Totonicapán	<b>GEI</b>	Greenhouse Gas effect
<b>APROLAPA</b>	La Pasadita Improvement Association	<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning System
<b>ARCAS</b>	Wildlife rescue and conservation Association	<b>Ha</b>	Hectares
<b>ASODESTY</b>	Yaxhá Region Organizations Association	<b>INAB</b>	National Forest Institute
<b>ASODIQ</b>	El Quetzal Comprehensive Development Association	<b>BoD</b>	Board of directors
<b>ASOCUCH</b>	Cuchumatanes Organizations Association	<b>m3</b>	Cubic meters
<b>TA</b>	Technical Assistance	<b>MOA</b>	Ministry of Agriculture
<b>CBO</b>	Community based organizations	<b>MARN</b>	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
<b>CNCG</b>	Climate, Nature and Communities of Guatemala	<b>OMYC</b>	Uaxactún Management and Conservation Organization
<b>COADAP</b>	Agricultural Beekeepers Cooperative of Petén	<b>PN</b>	National park
<b>CONAP</b>	Nation Council for Protected Areas	<b>PNM</b>	Non-timber product
<b>VC</b>	Value chain	<b>PINFOR</b>	Forest Incentives Programs
<b>PINPEP</b>	Forest incentives for owners of small forest or agroforestry extension plots	<b>TOR</b>	Terms of reference
<b>PROBOSQUE</b>	Incentives program for establishment, recovery, management, production and protection of forests in Guatemala.	<b>USAID</b>	United States Agency for International Development
<b>PYMES</b>	Small and Medium Enterprises	<b>USD</b>	US Dollars

<b>qq</b>	Quintal	<b>USG</b>	United States Government
<b>RA</b>	Rainforest Alliance	<b>BZ</b>	Buffer Zone
<b>MBR</b>	Maya Biosphere Reserve	<b>MUA</b>	Multiple use area
<b>SMEDUM</b>	Performance Monitoring and evaluation system for Management units established in the MUA of the MBR		



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results achieved by the CNCG program during quarters I and II of fiscal year 2023. Due to the fact that the CNCG program ended on February 6, 2023 and in order to document in advance of the final report the actions carried out in the second quarter, the program requested permission to report in a unified manner on the last technical field results achieved during the first quarter (October-December 2023) and the administrative closure activities carried out during January and the first six days of February of the second quarter (January-February).

In the first quarter, CNCG implementation resulted in sales totaling **US\$ 2,527,139.10** and **12,772** jobs (FTE), of which 32% were for women. Additionally, this intervention dynamic promoted leveraging in the Highlands region of **\$406,089.99** from PINPEP and PROBOSQUE forest incentive programs of the National Forest Institute -INAB-.

In the three landscapes, in this quarter there were 30 training workshops with 468 participants, 40% of whom were women. In addition to the training, the program carried out 45 technical-business activities including technical advising, experience exchanges, meetings and reports on forest protection, mitigation and adaptation practices, natural resources and forest management, with 411 participants (46% were women).

This last quarter has been strategic to ensure that the technical, business and environmental actions maintain their institutional dynamics even without the presence of the program. This is evidenced by some local indicators such as the capacities created, productive infrastructure, commercial business chains built and / or strengthened, as well as the strengthening of institutional governance that is a tool for the management and continuity of processes and actions within the framework of productive restoration in the region.

The incorporation of two groups of Q'eqchi and Pocomchí women linked to production processes for non-timber products in these last two years of program intervention inside and outside protected areas in the Verapaces is worth emphasizing. In this context, 11 activities were carried out associated with organizational strengthening, improving product marketing and support for generation of sales of artisanal products such as chocolate and products made from pine needles. Sales of chocolate products totaled \$726 and pine needle products, \$1,064.97. This provided 20 sustainable jobs for Q'eqchi and Pocomchi women and their families.

The program continued local capacity strengthening and the initiation and management of sustainable, user friendly production systems with tools to reduce the negative effects of climate change. These were mainly carried out with communities and private producers in the Northern Transversal Strip -FTN-, particularly in the municipality of San Agustín Chahal, where the program held 33

training workshops on issues related to sustainable management, agroforestry and climate change, with a total of 413 participants, of which 141 were women and 272 men.

During the first quarter, the CNCG program supported the forest concessions of Uaxactún and Cruce a La Colorada covering an extension of 104,027.00 ha. These received CONAP endorsement to extend the contracts for both forest concessions. With this all the concession contracts were completed with extensions for the next 25 years in the MBR. At the same time, the program supported the Amigos del Bosque and Selva Maya del Norte community organizations, which received their first environmental licenses, a requirement for implementation of management plans and annual operational plans.

In the Highlands region, the program supported income generation for 60 families affiliated with ANPROPIGUA through the sale of products derived from the management of plantations of *Abies guatemalensis* (*pinabete*). They supported value chains as well as the actions of the Totonicapán beekeepers association (AAPIT), the promotion of the legal timber in El Quiché through AFORQ and the legal formation of the VITATOL community company belonging to the Cajolá women's association of ASODIQ, to strengthen the value chain of cereal-based *atoles*

The most significant program activity in the second quarter was the presentation of results from 10 years of CNCG program implementation which was attended by senior American Embassy and USAID Mission officials, and representatives from strategic partners, the government and implementers.

During the second quarter, the program finalized program personnel contracts, as well as coordinating the processes for delivery of capital goods, per USAID approval, and planned the preparation of the final technical and financial program reports.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023 WORK PLAN**

### **1.1 Highlighted achievements**

#### **i. During the first quarter**

The program maintained entrepreneurial strengthening of women's groups inside and outside protected areas in the Verapaces during the last quarter with 11 activities associated with organizational strengthening and reinforcement of marketing and sales of handicraft products such as chocolate and pine needle products. Chocolate product sales totaled \$726 and pine needle products generated \$1,064.97 of revenue, thus strengthening and stabilizing the employment of 20 Q'eqchi and Pocomchi women and their families.

In the Northern Transversal Strip -FTN-, the program carried out capacity strengthening activities in communities and with private producers, mainly in the municipality of San Agustín Chahal. The program held a total of 33 training workshops on issues related to sustainable management, agroforestry and climate change, with a total of 413 participants, of which 141 were women and 272, men.

The forest concessions of Uaxactún and Cruce a La Colorada covering an area of 104,027.00 ha, received CONAP endorsement to extend their contracts for the extension of both forest concessions. With this all the concession contracts in the MBR were completed with extensions for the next 25 years.

FORESCOM received USD \$100,000 from Rainforest Alliance to promote the commercial timber product chains in the MBR. With this support FORESCOM was able to comply with the request from a Spanish company for two additional containers with *pucté* wood products. With this they exported a total of 15, which is the largest purchase that FORESCOM has received since it began its relationship with the European market.

The Amigos del Bosque and Selva Maya del Norte community organizations received their first environmental licenses, which are requirements for implementation of management plans and annual operational plans.

Thanks to the work of the CNCG program and the efforts of the community in La Pasadita, the Japanese cooperation, JICA, donated a total of 72 hives to install two apiaries in the communities of La Pasadita and El Corozal and they also received the equipment, materials and supplies necessary to start beekeeping activities in the La Pasadita management unit.

CONAP issued a resolution so that APROLAPA can continue with productive landscape restoration activities and other sustainable management activities in the La Pasadita Management Unit for the next five years.

The Municipality of Melchor de Mencos launched the Municipal Forest Policy which was developed with CNCG support.

The forest communities of Peten which market *xate* to the United States, received a prize of USD 35,000 from the churches that buy the *xate* to celebrate Palm Sunday.

The program supported generation of income and jobs for USD \$1,595,025.48 for the sale of products derived from pine forest plantations and USD \$158,343.95 for products from the timber value chain and the promotion of legal productive forest management promoted by AFORQ in Quiché.



The program consolidated the formation of the VITATOL community company around the ASODIQ Association that is now duly registered in SAT, a process that strengthens its productive business systems.

The CNCG program held a results presentation event held with the participation of more than 133 people including the Ambassador of the United States, the director of the USAID mission in Guatemala, senior Guatemalan government officials, mayors and representatives of the CNCG program implementing and strategic partners.

## 1.2 Progress by core indicators

Table 1 presents progress by CNCG program indicators during the first quarter of FY 2023 and it can be noted that all the established goals have been achieved. The behavior of the results is related to the seasonality of the most important products by region, such as furniture, timber products, sawn wood, and roundwood; non-timber products including Christmas trees and their by-products, honey, chicle, seeds, flours and cereals; and services: crafts, eggs, and certification. A similar situation occurred with the training and job creation processes that respond to the seasonality of crops and their commercialization and the demand for labor that they generate.

**Table 1.** Details of progress by CNCG Program Extension indicators

Title (Indicator number)	Extension target FY23	I Quarter	% Progress
Sales in US\$ of enterprises receiving USG support. <b>(EG.5-1)</b>		\$2,527,139	\$2,527,139
Number of full time jobs for enterprises in USG programs. <b>(EG.5-2)</b>	1,500	12,772	12,772
Number of microenterprises supported by USG assistance <b>(EG.5-3)</b>	15	15	15
Number of hectares of biological importance and/or natural resources that have improved biophysical conditions, as a result of USB support. <b>(EG.10.2-1)</b>	580,760	582,801	582,801
Number of hectares with biological importance and/or natural resources with improved management of natural resources, as a result of USG support. <b>(EG.10.2-2)</b>	383,910	385,671	385,671
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, estimated in metric tons of CO2 equivalent, reduced, sequestered or avoided through activities in	250,000	273,758	273,758

sustainable landscapes supported by USG assistance. <b>(EG.13-6)</b>			
Number of enterprises receiving technical assistance from USG to improve their business performance. <b>(EG.5.2-1)</b>	9	11	11
Number of private sector companies that have improved their management practices or technologies as a result of USG assistance. <b>(EG.5.2-2)</b>	9	10	10
Number of people trained in sustainable landscapes with the support of the USG. <b>(EG.13-1)</b>	750	468	468
Number of laws, policies, regulations or standards related to sustainable landscapes officially proposed, adopted or implemented as a result of USG assistance. <b>(EG.13-3)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Proportion of women participating in the USAID-supported program, designed to increase productive economic resources (goods, credit, income, or employment). <b>(GNDR-2)</b>	15%	33%	33%
Number of days of technical assistance in natural resource and/or biodiversity management for counterparts or actors, as a result of USG support. <b>(CI)</b>	10	17	17

### 1.3 Implementation of Specific Objectives

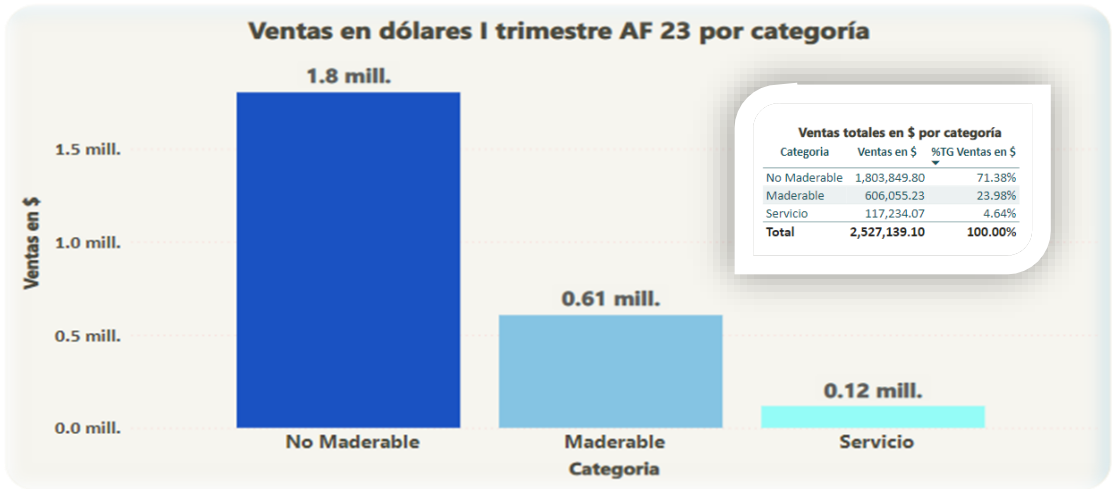
The following summarizes the main results achieved in this quarter, starting with sales of products which generated **USD \$2,527,139.10** corresponding to timber, non-timber and services. (See Table 2 and Figure 1).

**Table 2.** Sales of timber<sup>1</sup>, and non-timber products, and tourism services in Quarter 1 FY23

Category	Certification Status	Sales per Region in US \$			Total, Quarter 1 FY23
		Highlands	Peten	Verapaces	
Timber	Certified		\$208,633.78		\$208,633.78
	In Process	\$158,343.95	\$239,077.50		\$397,421.45
<b>Sub Total Timber</b>		<b>\$158,343.95</b>	<b>\$447,711.28</b>		<b>\$606,055.23</b>

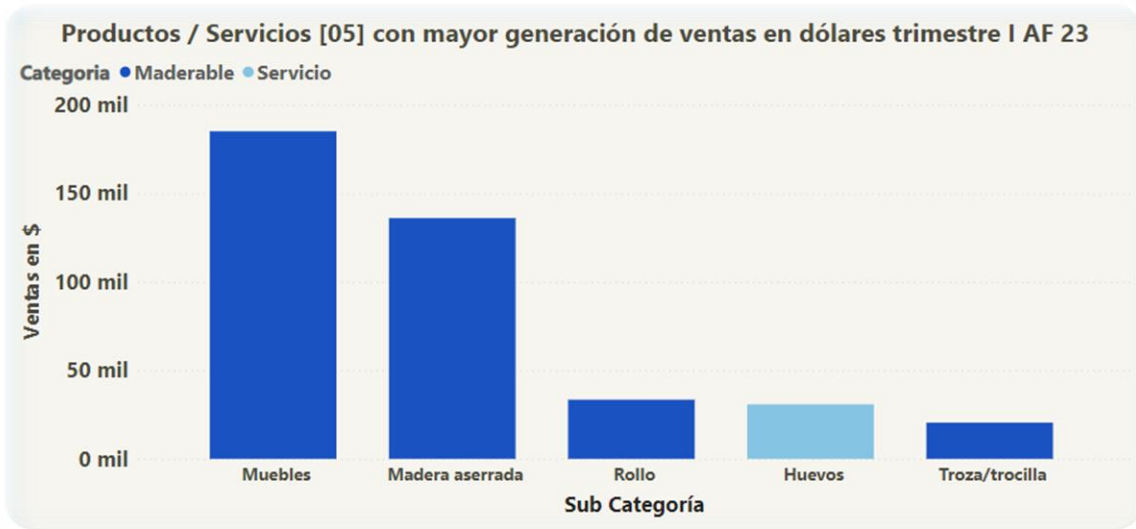
<sup>1</sup> The disaggregated table for sales by objective is presented in the annex file.

Non Timber	Certified		\$86,532.66		\$86,532.66
	In Process	\$1,606,854.85	\$108,671.21	\$1,791.08	\$1,717,317.14
<b>Sub Total Non Timber</b>		<b>\$1,606,854.85</b>	<b>\$195,203.87</b>	<b>\$1,791.08</b>	<b>\$1,803,849.80</b>
Services	Tourism				
	Other Services	\$34,310.06	\$82,924.01		\$117,234.07
<b>Sub Total Services</b>		<b>\$34,310.06</b>	<b>\$82,924.01</b>		<b>\$117,234.07</b>
<b>Total, general</b>		<b>\$1,799,508.86</b>	<b>\$725,839.16</b>	<b>\$1,791.08</b>	<b>\$2,527,139.10</b>



**Figure 1:** Sales in dollars– CNCG Quarter 1 - FY23

Figure No. 1 shows sales distribution consisting of 71.38% for non-timber products, 23.98% for timber products and 4.64% in services.

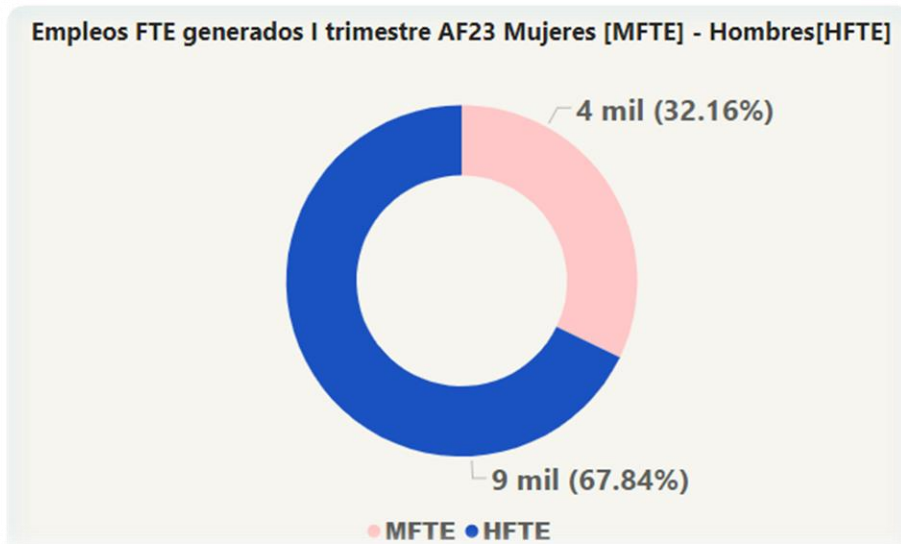


**Figure 2:** Five products/services with greatest sales– CNCG Quarter I – FY23

Figure 2 shows sales during the First Quarter of the five products/services with the highest sales that include timber and tourism and other services. The timber value chain includes the following products: furniture, sawn wood, roundwood and saw log; and other services such as egg sales.

**Table 3:** Number of jobs supported, by sex and region [Quarter 1]

Landscape/ Jobs	Distribution by sex		Total FTE Quarter I FY23
	Women	Men	
<b>MBR</b>	180	332	<b>512</b>
<b>Verapaces</b>	20		<b>20</b>
<b>Highlands</b>	3,908	8,332	<b>12,240</b>
<b>Total, by sex</b>	<b>4,108</b>	<b>8,664</b>	<b>12,772</b>



**Figure 3:** Job Creation– CNCG Quarter 1 - FY 23

In annual terms, Table 3 and Figure 3 show the total behavior of the creation of 12,772 FTE jobs during quarter 1 of FY2023. Most FTE jobs were generated in the Highlands from the sale of Christmas trees and their by-products. Of this total, 4,108 were female jobs equivalent to 32% and the remaining 68%, male.

Table 4 shows the number of hectares with improved management in the different landscapes during Quarter I FY 2023. In this context, the sustainable agroforestry management contribution in terms of area was 498,956 hectares of timber and 382,579 hectares of non-timber value chains. The timber hectares came from forestry incentives in Peten, and Highlands PINPEP certification and the 48 Cantons. The non-timber hectares came entirely from hectares with non-timber importance in the Petén region.

**Table 4:** Quarterly summary of Hectares of Biological Importance, Improved Management as a result of USG support. during FY 23.

<b>Hectares of Biological Importance, Improved Management as a result of USG during Quarter 1 FY 23</b>	
<b>Concept</b>	<b>Ha.</b>
Number of hectares of biological importance and/or natural resources showing improved biophysical conditions, as a result of USG support.	582,801
Number of hectares with biological importance and/or natural resources with improved management of natural resources, as a result of USG support.	385,671

### 1.3.1 Implementation of SO1: Conserving biodiversity while creating jobs and generating income for vulnerable populations

The funds used for biodiversity conservation during quarter I, enabled the CNCG technical staff to implement 21 interventions equivalent to 98 hours of work that served to achieve program goals (see table 5)

<b>Tipo de Intervención</b>	<b>No_Intervenciones</b>	<b>No_Mujeres</b>	<b>No_Hombres</b>	<b>Horas</b>
<b>Taller de capacitación o Curso</b>	2	20	0	16
<b>Reunión (con beneficiarios)</b>	10	36	76	35
<b>Informe</b>	2	4	5	4
<b>Asesoría Técnica</b>	7	12	31	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>98</b>

**Table 5:** Summary of technical-entrepreneurial interventions SO 1 [Quarter 1]

Table 6 presents the income from sales due to biodiversity management. The timber line corresponds to sawn wood and roundwood; the non-timber line includes sale of Christmas trees and their by-products, cocoa, flours and cereals.

<b>Categoría</b>	<b>Ventas en \$</b>	<b>MFTE</b>	<b>HFTE</b>	<b>Total Empleos FTE</b>
<b>Maderable</b>	158,343.95	39	507	546
<b>No Maderable</b>	1,607,007.71	3,859	7,825	11,684
<b>Servicio</b>	7,748.79	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,773,100.45</b>	<b>3,898</b>	<b>8,332</b>	<b>12,230</b>

**Table 6:** Summary of sales and jobs indicators SO1 (Quarter 1)

The program maintained local economic dynamics by generating sales of USD \$726, and maintaining 10 women's jobs permanently while indirectly impacting 10 Q'eqchi community families of the Semuc Champey protected area. This was strengthened with four activities on topics related to marketing / sales, as well as organizational strengthening with 34 participants, of which 29 were women and five, men.

CNCG supported CONAP and the OMYC and AFICC community organizations in order to successfully complete all phases for the CONAP forest concession contract compliance evaluation, and to ensure the extension of concession contracts for the management units of Uaxactún and Cruce a la Colorada (total extension 104,027.00 ha.) With these contract extensions CNCG was key for ensuring that the entire MUA would have forest management for the next 25 years.



The National Council of Protected Areas -CONAP- approved the updated General Management Plan (GMP) for the Cruce a La Colorada management unit, guaranteeing the sustainability of 20,469 hectares in the Multiple Use Area -MUA-, of the Maya Biosphere Reserve -MBR-.

CONAP, with CNCG support, was able to review and adjust the forest management tools that will facilitate the next extension of forest concessions, such as management plans, and plans for productive landscape restoration, to be included in the forestry manual.

CUSTOSEL reactivated their relationship with the Dominican Republic market with mahogany and cedar wood **short and common** products, through a purchase order from the company Madesol for 38,000 board feet that will generate revenues in the amount of USD \$58,000.

The community organizations of Selva Maya del Norte and Amigos del Bosque obtained environmental licenses from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN). These licenses will allow community organizations to implement the general management plan of the management units of La Colorada – El Molino and San Bartolo.

The communities of La Pasadita and Cruce a la Colorada, received assistance to provide silvicultural management in the restored areas, as well as community nurseries in La Pasadita.

In coordination with INAB, the Municipality of Melchor de Mencos certified 16.7 ha of forest in the modality of protection forests of the PROBOSQUES incentive program.

A baseline survey was carried out in the La Pasadita and La Colorada – El Molino management units where the APROLAPA and Selva Maya del Norte organizations implement productive landscape restoration. In addition, 20 Permanent Sampling Plots were established to evaluate the development of established forest species.

With the objective of strengthening the allspice value chain in the Cruce a la Colorada management unit, the program provided technical assistance for implementation of good practices in the production of 2,000 allspice plants in nurseries. These actions were carried out to increase the supply of allspice seeds and generate new jobs.

In Cruce a la Colorada and La Pasadita, community members received support for beekeeping development and promotion. The program provided producers in Cruce a la Colorada with inputs and technical assistance to diversify honey products, while in La Pasadita, it provided support for Japanese cooperation to establish two apiaries in the communities of La Pasadita and El Corozal.

CNCG, in coordination with CONAP, shared lessons learned in a workshop on "Legal Standards and Techniques, for the execution of the 2022 AOPs and technical guidelines aimed at compliance with the 2023 AOPs". This workshop was addressed to 29 legal representatives, technicians, and regents of the forest concessions of the MUA where the program has supported more than 50 integrated management tools in concessions in the MUA.

The CNCG program carried out an experience exchange for landscape management with technicians from Colombia and Peru, who were able to learn about the community forest management carried out in the MUA of the MBR.

The AFICC and El Esfuerzo organizations received \$25,000 and \$32,000 as a support fund from the Financial Mechanism administered by FORESCOM to strengthen the planning and implementation of annual plans.

The Custodios de la Selva community organization, with technical assistance from CNCG, adapted the basic minimum equipment to make guitar necks, and respond to a pilot order. At the end of the quarter, 3,000 pieces had been made and they will be able to sell all the pieces they can manufacture,

The Impulsores Suchitecos Civil Society that had received a drying oven from CNCG carried out the first wood drying tests. This oven will add value and facilitate new products such as decks, tongue and groove panels, and doors for domestic and foreign markets.

RA participated in the natural capital impactful investments panel for the forests of Central America, and presented CNCG achievements in the Maya Biosphere Reserve with regard to sustainable forest management in forest concessions. The panel highlighted analysis of Impact on the natural capital of Central American forests, carried out by FLII -Central America and the Caribbean edition.

In the highlands and in partnership with INAB and CONAP, the program facilitated forestry business roundtables (Christmas products and wood derivatives). This process produced sales totaling **USD \$1,799,508.86 and creation of 12,240 Full Time Equivalent -FTE- jobs.**

### **1.3.2 Implementation of Specific Objective 2: Increase employment for vulnerable populations that reduces emissions from land-use change**

Table 7 presents the indicators for sales and jobs in the quarter. The program maintained sale of timber products outside protected areas in the three landscapes, mainly with the following products: sawn wood, saw log, and furniture. Non-timber products included: honey, chicle, seeds, allspice, corn, flour and

cereals. It should be noted that the services provided in this objective are different from tourism services within protected areas. Services that generated sales included support for egg production, and poultry as activities that complemented value chains in the landscapes.

<b>Categoría</b>	<b>Ventas en \$</b>	<b>MFTE</b>	<b>HFTE</b>	<b>Total Empleos FTE</b>
<b>Maderable</b>	447,711.28	10	55	65
<b>No Maderable</b>	196,842.09	153	271	424
<b>Servicio</b>	109,485.28	47	6	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>754,038.65</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>542</b>

**Table 7:** Summary of sales and jobs indicators SO2 [Quarter 1]

Table 8 reflects 236 hours used to train and technically assist the different beneficiaries of the three regions. The capacity building focused this quarter on issues related to organizational strengthening, natural resources, agroecology, and productive restoration. These activities exemplify the sustainability approach that CNCG transfers to its beneficiaries as it helps them maintain their livelihoods and make decisions in the new ventures that are being developed. The closure of program activities as well as year-end activities reduced the possibilities for more of the trainings that were programmed.

<b>Tipo de Intervención</b>	<b>No_Intervenciones</b>	<b>No_Mujeres</b>	<b>No_Hombres</b>	<b>Horas</b>
<b>Taller de planeación/Análisis</b>	1	14	24	5
<b>Taller de capacitación o Curso</b>	28	167	281	97
<b>Reunión (con beneficiarios)</b>	4	46	21	14
<b>Intercambio de experiencias</b>	2	9	0	20
<b>Informe</b>	2	11	9	5
<b>Asesoría Técnica</b>	17	56	57	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>236</b>

**Table 8:** Summary of technical-entrepreneurial interventions SO 2 [Quarter 1]

The economic-business opportunities generated USD\$1,064.97 in sales, with 10 permanent women's jobs that indirectly benefit 10 Q'eqchi and Pocomchí community families in the area of San Juan Chamelco, San Cristóbal and Cobán. This was strengthened with seven activities associated with identification of marketing/sales opportunities, as well as organizational strengthening and environmental practices. A total of 107 people participated, 68 women and 39 men.

In the Northern Transversal Strip -FTN- community groups and producers continued to be strengthened to increase the economic, ecological and environmental resilience of the region. A total of 33 training workshops were held on topics related to sustainable management, agroforestry and climate change. Out of a total of 413 participants, 141 were women and 272 men.

The CICAP Cooperative in Peten, ended the 2022 commercialization of dried allspice with a record yield of 1650 quintals, with approximately USD \$400,000 in income that benefited more than 100 families. CNCG supported the creation of this cooperative and was equipped with drying equipment as well as technical assistance for the organization of supply and marketing.

The program supported the Las Viñas Cooperative to achieve its registration with the IVE to continue granting loans to its associates who have created two new microenterprises "Grifi Fabric and clothing sales " and "Tienda La Esperanza". Both received loans from the Cooperative and support for their creation. This support is part of the business model in which cooperatives promote reforestation as part of loans for other productive activities.

The initiatives promoted in the MBR buffer zone by CNCG continue their activities. The tilapia production committee initiated a new phase of production with 3,000 fingerlings in the ponds reinforced with geomembrane donated by CNCG, while the Cheel farm diversified production of poultry feed, in order to reduce the cost of industrial feed for egg production.

The program completed establishment of the La Gema demonstration farm in San Benito, Peten, with 20 hectares of regenerative livestock, which includes silvopastoral systems, rotational grazing and electric fences.

A group of farmers from the Motagua Region, who receive technical support from the Defenders of Nature Foundation visited sustainable livestock operations in the municipality of Flores in the BZ of the MBR.

In coordination with INAB and the municipalities of San Francisco and Flores, 719.41 ha were certified in the modality of protection forests of the INAB PROBOSQUES program.

Production processes of Highlands MSMEs were strengthened, with technical advising and accompaniment in the search for markets for their products: the *atoles* chain of AICASA and ASODIQ, egg sales from the laying hens projects of ADIRO and the family garden product ventures in ECADIs. They had support from the Municipality of Santa Maria Chiquimula Totonicapán and generated **USD 46,139.43 in sales** during the quarter.

In terms of training to strengthen entrepreneurship processes for organized groups in the highlands, the program held 12 events, including training workshops and follow-up meetings with local actors, with 182 participants (92 women and 90 men).

## 2 TRAININGS

During Quarter 1 of FY 23 (see **Annexes - Table 17**), the program carried out **30 trainings** [two correspond to Specific Objective 1 and 28, to Specific Objective 2] with 468 participants, 40% women and 60% men. All trainings occurred in the program's focus regions for both objectives.

## 3 IMPLEMENTATION OF CROSS CUTTING THEMES

### 3.1 Gender

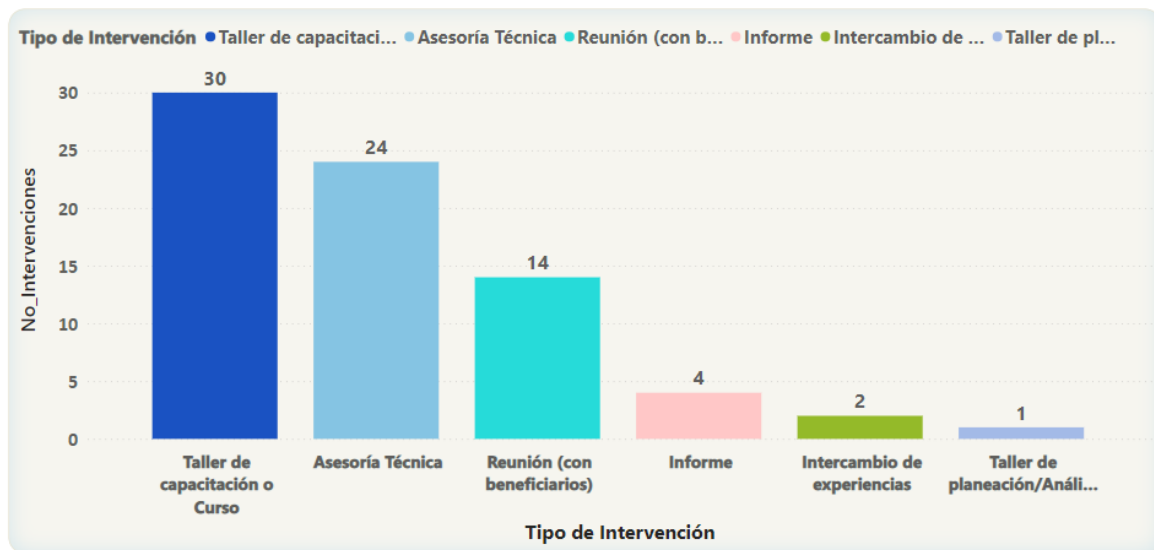
During Quarter 1-FY 23 [see **Table 9**], the CNCG program reached a total of 13,651 participants on different topics (forest management, organizational strengthening, adaptation and mitigation practices, forest protection, natural resources, restoration, agroecology, etc.) in meetings, training workshops, technical advising, experience exchanges and jobs. In terms of gender, 33 per cent corresponded to 4,483 opportunities for women's participation.

**Table 9:** Details of CNCG participation by gender during Quarter I-FY23

Quarter 1 - FY 23				
REGION	M	W	TOTAL	% W
<b>Highlands</b>				
Jobs	8,332	3,908	12,240	32
Meetings (with beneficiaries)	45	59	104	57
Training workshop or Course	8	6	14	43
Technical Assistance	24	14	38	37
Reports	13	13	26	50
<b>Totals Highlands</b>	<b>8,422</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>12,422</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>MBR</b>				
Jobs	332	180	512	35
Meetings (with beneficiaries)	50	22	72	31
Training workshop or Course	47	21	68	31
Reports	1	2	3	67
<b>Totals MBR</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Verapaces</b>				
Jobs		20	20	100
Meetings (with beneficiaries)	2	1	3	33
Training workshop or Course	273	181	454	40
Technical Assistance	41	47	88	53
Experience exchanges		9	9	100
<b>Totals Verapaces</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>45</b>

<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,168</b>	<b>4,483</b>	<b>13,651</b>	<b>33</b>
---------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	-----------

The results obtained in this quarter were supported by 75 activities of diverse and different intervention modalities such as: technical advising, meetings, experience exchanges and training workshops, as well as reports on forest protection and adaptation. This was composed of a time investment of 334 hours equivalent to 42 days of work distributed in all program regions. [See **Figure 4**].



**Figure 4:** No. of days by type of intervention – CNCG Quarter 1-FY 23

### 3.2 Private Sector

Business linkages reflect CNCG's most significant activities with the private sector. Sales volumes are presented in section 2.3 and Tables 2 and 3. Below are concrete actions that have been carried out in coordination with the private sector to potentiate program activities.

The program strengthened relationships with private agroforestry, forestry and livestock producers, providing technical assistance in processes for establishment, management and protection of production systems, particularly in the area of the Northern Transversal Strip -FTN- and Santa María Cahabón.

The Network of Management Groups led by BANTRAB, MINECO, UNHCR and the Municipality of Flores, held the *Despegar Fair*, in order to promote local enterprises in which communities and enterprises supported by CNCG participate.

The link between *pinabete* producers and PRICESMART stores was instituted through letters of agreement to facilitate sales of trees in pots from ANPROPIGUA nurseries,



as well as cut trees from sustainable forest management of duly legalized *Abies* plantations certified by INAB and CONAP.

### **3.3 Youth**

As a transversal axis, CNCG promotes opportunities for young people in the three landscapes where the program is implemented.

In partnership with the Municipality of Cobán, a workshop was carried out with young Q'eqchi community members for follow-up and monitoring of climate adaptation practices at the local communities level.

Young carpenters from Uaxactún delivered a total of 12 mahogany wood doors. This is the first delivery made by young people since the carpentry shop was installed in the community.

Community youth from La Pasadita received training to provide silvicultural management for trees planted in restoration areas of the La Pasadita Management Unit.

Ten irrigation projects which favor organized youth groups were installed using solar energy to facilitate irrigation for forest nurseries and projects linked to family gardens in the Highlands of San Marcos.

### **3.4 Local Governments**

CNCG worked together with local governments in program intervention areas to promote program actions aligned with municipal development plans.

With the municipality of Cobán, the program supported monitoring by community youth of climate adaptation practices, a follow-up to the *Cobán Green – Cobán Active* program and the solid waste management design and implementation process.

The municipality of Melchor de Mencos finalized, socialized and launched the municipal forestry policy which CNCG supported.

Through the Rainforest Alliance, cooperation agreements and letters were signed with municipalities such as Chicamán, El Quiché, Santa María Chiquimula and Santa Lucía La Reforma, Totonicapán and Concepción Chiquirichapa, Quetzaltenango for project implementation. With these agreements, important municipal counterpart funds were achieved to facilitate the work of the program. Additionally, the program maintained direct coordination with the municipalities of the highlands of San Marcos, for follow-up for the forestry incentive projects reported

in the previous quarter and the consolidation of forestry and agricultural entrepreneurship processes.

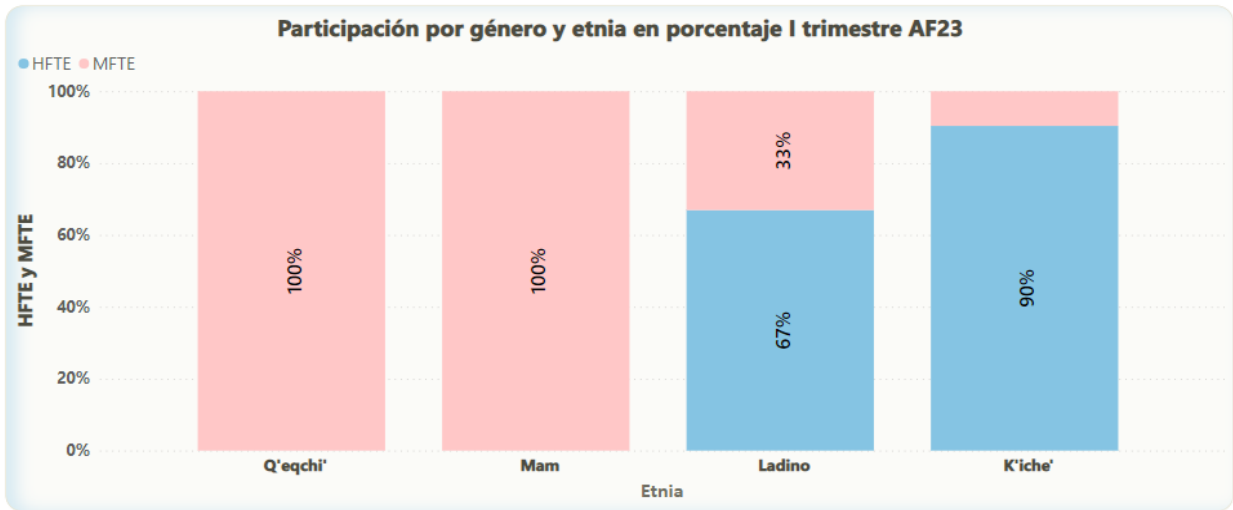
### **3.5 Indigenous Peoples**

The CNCG program continued to work with indigenous groups during FY 2023 supporting actions in the three landscapes where the program is implemented.

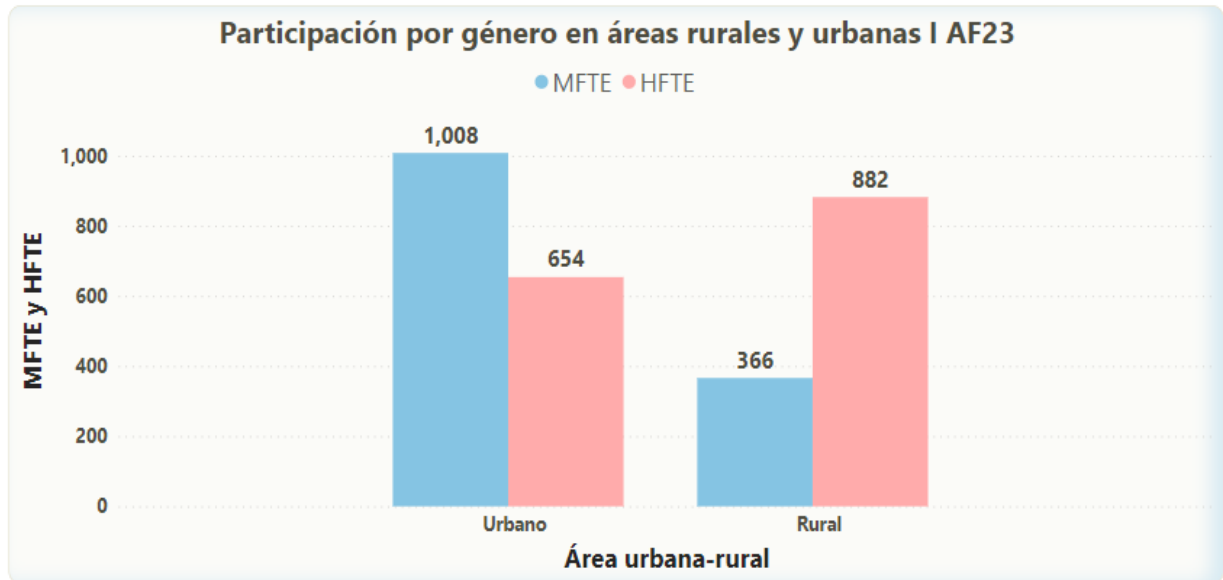
The program supported groups of Q'eqchi female, artisanal non-timber product entrepreneurs [chocolate and pine needle-based products] from the municipalities of Lanquín, Cobán, San Juan Chamelco and Pocomchí in the municipality of San Cristóbal.

The Campeche Cooperative, which is composed of members of the Mam, Quekchi, Kakchiquel, Canjobal, and Quiche cultures, received technical assistance in landscape restoration and beekeeping.

The program provided support for social organizations and organized groups of women and men belonging mostly to the Mam culture in San Marcos and Quetzaltenango, Kich'e, in Totonicapán and El Quiche and Pocomchi in the northern part of the municipality of Chicamán, El Quiche.



**Figure 5:** Participation by gender and ethnic group in percentages [Quarter 1]



**Figure 6:** Participation by gender in rural-urban areas [Quarter 1]

### 3.6 Alliances and Coordination

In the last quarter of CNCG implementation, the program followed up with existing alliances and coordination for sustainability mechanisms on program finalization.

In order to facilitate implementation of the first AOPs of the Amigos del Bosque and Selva Maya del Norte community organizations, the program ensured contacts with FORESCOM, ToneWoods, and Izabal Agroforest.

### 3.7 Lessons learned in CNCG

- **Inclusive planning:** The creation and/or elaboration of Work Plans in a participatory manner with all those involved in the process [both designers and implementers] has been strategic for implementation, monitoring, compliance, and progress, as well as for determination of limitations in the linked activities with report preparation.
- **Institutional leadership:** The program has been clear in its scope, goals and purposes, as well as in its lines of intervention. RA leadership at the implementation level provided greater clarity and efficiency through guiding and showing the steps to be followed for achievement of program objectives.
- **Timely execution:** In general, program implementation occurred as expected and was strengthened with timely budget availability for execution of technical, business and environmental actions.
- **Time management:** Although planning was clear from the beginning of the program, it was necessary to make adjustments due to events outside program control. These included, for example, the pandemic and tropical storms which forced the program to make technical, budgetary, accounting and administrative adaptations.
- **Budget availability:** Throughout program implementation there were no problems that could not be resolved even with regard to health and climate events. That is, response was quick and timely.
- **Documentation of evidence and data:** At the beginning, the Monitoring and Evaluation process for collection of indicator data was carried out through the use of Excel sheets that made it difficult to monitor the quality of reported data. However, this experience served as a starting point to improve and seek technological alternatives that would allow more appropriate validation and security for the information to be reported. Within the framework of continuous improvement, the current monitoring process can be considered as a robust baseline, subject to improved information for future decision making.
- **Behavioral changes:** After the program intervention phase it is clear that we have not been able to totally change the social, economic and environmental structures at the nuclear family level; however, program actions did have an influence at the local level with enabling conditions for achieving that level of change in the future. At the individual level, the program achieved behavioral changes in production levels, better environmental practices and technological incorporation that impacted partners and beneficiaries directly.
- **Inter-institutional coordination:** Working together with CONAP to achieve the extension of forest concessions has required close and fluid planning and communication, as well as support through logistics and technical assistance to capitalize on the goodwill of the Guatemalan government.
- **Socioeconomic aspects,** The benefits obtained by communities from productive landscape restoration projects in the MBR have been key for promotion and adoption in communities and families linked to the forest and its restoration.
- **Local governments** have shown greater interest in landscape restoration through investments in formalizing municipal nurseries, providing technical staff in municipalities, and developing policies that promote restoration.

- **Environmental aspects:** landscape conservation and restoration programs are more frequently and better adopted if they provide an economic benefit, as evidenced by the productive restoration of landscapes, forest concessions and ASODESTY and the Yaxha, Nakum, Naranjo National Park.
- **Financial mechanisms:** These have been key to promoting added value and access to markets. FORESCOM and community companies have increased their exports of value-added products due to this financial mechanism.
- **Coordination with many local actors:** CNCG program implementation in the Highlands required consensus work with many local actors, especially in the search for options that facilitate sustainability of ecosystems in small-scale farms. Thus the program acquired experience in social strengthening in support of forest plans and governance implemented by women's and men's organizations.
- **Institutional alliances:** The signing of letters of agreement and cooperation agreements was important, especially with Municipal Governments, through which municipal contributions (counterpart funds) were generated that increased support for a greater number of beneficiaries and the extension of biodiversity conservation initiatives. The linked actions in the Chicaman dry corridor are an example of this.

## 4 COMMUNICATION



On Tuesday, February 26, the CNCG program held an event at the Camino Real Hotel in Guatemala to present the results of its 10 years of implementation. It was attended by senior officials from the American Embassy and the USAID mission as well as government officials, mayors from the three landscapes, implementing partners and other institutions that supported the program during implementation. A total of 133 people attended the event along with local and national written, television and radio media.

During the event, the program presented its most significant achievements, including:

- US\$203.14 million in total sales as a result of 25 sustainable and inclusive value chains of timber products (+\$150M) such as sawn timber, pallets and roundwood, non-timber products (+\$40M) such as cardamom, xate palm, honey, and coffee, and services such as community tourism (+\$11M).
- 64,468 full-time equivalent jobs; 15,571 women (24%) and 48,896 men (76%).
- 138 MSMEs benefited throughout CNCG program implementation.
- More than 529,426 hectares implemented with reforestation techniques, forest restoration, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems.
- 56 nurseries assisted which are producing more than three million plants annually to restore the forest landscape.
- 476,415 hectares of forest with certifications: FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) which means that they promote economically viable, socially beneficial and environmentally appropriate forest management for forests; Organic and Fair Trade (Fairtrade), which ensures that forest products have been produced under acceptable working conditions and purchased at a fair price, supporting the sustainable development of the producing organization.
- 823,248 hectares of forest protected through forest fire control and prevention in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR) and in the Sierra de las Minas Biosphere Reserve, the country's largest protected areas. And thanks to the management of forest communities in the MBR, a deforestation rate close to zero (0.4%) and forest fire recurrence rate of between 1% and 2%.
- 11 environmental NGOs with strengthened capacities at the national level.
- 524 rainwater harvesters, 219 for human consumption and 305 for productive purposes.
- 1.6 million verified carbon units as part of the sustainable management of Community Forest Concessions under the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) projects: Guate Carbon and Forests for Life in Petén.



- 3,372,424 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>e) equivalent mitigated thanks to forest fire prevention and protection, the registration of many hectares of forest into forest incentive programs, the promotion of agroforestry systems, and forest conservation.



The program recognized organizations that supported program objectives and activities including the 13 concessions working in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, current implementing partners such as Asocuch, ACOFOP and Fedecovera and implementing partners that participated at the beginning of the program such as: The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, Universidad del Valle of Guatemala, Defensores de la Naturaleza, Agexport, Fundación para la Vida, Fundación Pro Peten, Fundación Calmecac, Fundación Laguna Lachuá, Asociación de forestería Comunitaria de Guatemala UTz Che, Asociación Balam, and Asociación del Corredor Seco.

### CNCG in the media



During its results presentation event the CNCG program called on the media to highlight the most significant achievements and milestones from the 10 years of implementation. As a result, there were more than 24 organic publications in mass media such as radio, print and digital press, and social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, achieving positioning not only in national media but also internationally in media like Forbes Central America magazine and others, with replicas in Spain, Switzerland, Paraguay, Central America and the Caribbean.

The estimated audience was 875,772 people.

Publications:

- [Diario de Centro América](#)
- [Prensa Libre](#)
- [El periódico](#)
- [Canal Antigua](#)
- [Radio Punto](#)
- [CRN Noticias](#)

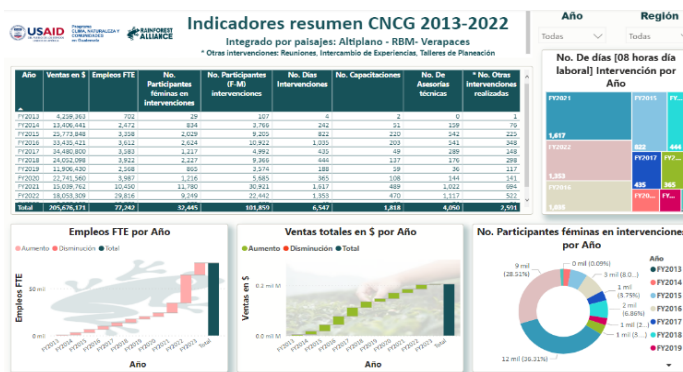
- g. [Prensa Libre | Agencia EFE](#)
- h. [Forbes Centroamérica](#)
- i. [La Vanguardia](#)
- j. [Revista Summa](#)
- k. [SwissInfor](#)
- l. [Yahoo News](#)
- m. [ABC in East Paraguay](#)

## 5 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (AMEL)

Maintaining the quality of reported evidence and data has been a continuous process for which during the last two years the Monitoring and Evaluation unit strengthened reviews of data collected through biweekly/monthly reports on accumulated interventions for each partner/region, in order to make revisions, and timely validations and corrections. This facilitated preparation of quarterly-annual reports. The result of this practice ensured constant real, objective, and accurate data.

For the construction, strengthening and maintenance of data quality, compliance with indicators and organized evidence, CNCG's Monitoring and Evaluation unit carried out continuous follow-up through emails, WhatsApp conversations, phone calls, and field visits for verification of processes and supporting documentation of the reported information. In addition, technical support was provided to field workers and managers to provide information on progress in the program's indicators and goals. On a daily basis staff answered questions and / or provided follow-up, as well as feedback with the monitoring and evaluation focal points in the regions and with program partners. Their purpose was to resolve daily situations raised during field activities in a personalized way.

The detailed review of data from years 2021 and 2022 was concluded so that each partner/region would have correct and up to date evidence related to RA data storage in the SharePoint Monitoring and Evaluation platform in a manner consistent with the physical files for proper closure of the program. Additionally, the team carried out a parallel review of the WorkPlan, SharePoint evidence linked to the monitoring and evaluation platform to have clarity on what was reported during the last two years and to be sure that the evidence would be physically archived in an orderly and clear manner for each partner / region





Data visualization was maintained by updating the Dashboard on a weekly basis to visually facilitate data interpretation through graphs and statistical tables of the current situation of the most relevant program indicators facilitating timely decision making at the management level.

The specific Dashboard for each partner/region was kept active with information reported throughout the program [from 2013 to present]. This tool facilitated consultation of information, report writing, decision making and monitoring of indicators in real time.

The practice continued and with support from the RA communications unit, a quarterly-annual poster was shared with USAID, partners and regions. It contained strategic information generated during the quarter for the relevant indicators and work carried out in all regions with the program's focus and objectives.

During this quarter, the program worked with the Monitoring and Evaluation advisor of the Program Cycle Mechanism on a process of evaluating data quality to validate the Rainforest Alliance data collection process, registration and reports on leverage information (Public-Private Partnership data).

The information and process that Rainforest Alliance partners and staff used to record data during fiscal year 2022 in the monitoring system, as well as the analysis process, was shared with the monitoring advisor. In a call with the advisor, details of the process were presented and it was confirmed that the data presented is in line with the data entry definitions of the associations. The evaluation concluded that all data were properly calculated and documented, ending the evaluation satisfactorily.

With the support of an external consultant, the program carried out an evaluation of the Initial Environmental Review (LAC-IEE-12-59) to document the actions implemented during the 10 years of the program.

The most significant conclusions of the evaluation were:

1. The identified environmental impacts were addressed through application of various environmental mitigation actions which have supporting documentation for verification.
2. An excess of incorporation of mitigation measures was found in the MUA area of the MBR (main area of study of the established EA), due to the contractual requirements of the concessions. Proof of this is that during the life of the CNCG program there was duplication in the monitoring requirements of different organizations for the management units, which increased the resources that concessions had to invest to respond to these requirements.
3. The Monitoring and Performance Evaluation System of the Management Units Established in the Multiple Use Zone of the Maya Biosphere Reserve (SMEDUM) was relevant during the evaluation for identification of the implementation of mitigation measures established in the EA that referred to non-active or current standards. The current System for Monitoring and Evaluation of Performance in Natural Forest Management Units in the Maya Biosphere Reserve has a long review process, inter-institutional coordination and validation for analysis of the implementation of mitigation activities and sustainable management of timber and non-timber forest resources within the management units. Therefore, it constitutes a strengthened and relevant process for identification of risks, prevention and application of continuous improvement actions in the environmental dimension of the processes.
4. Areas to be reinforced are identified as evidence documentation that supports the application of mitigation actions in archaeological, cultural or tourism value sites, the documentation of technical criteria used for reforestation processes outside the MBR and the establishment of documentation of means for verification considering the disaggregation raised in the indicators of the established measures. With regard to mitigation actions in archaeological sites or tourism sites, it was suggested that documentation be strengthened since its compliance with the SMEDUM was verified through the demarcation of areas and compliance with the Territorial Planning Plan -POT- but there was no other supporting information. It is worth mentioning that this mitigation action must be led by government organizations that have an influence in this area.
5. USAID and the Rainforest Alliance, through the CNCG program, have supported the establishment of processes, standards and regulations for sustainable forest management in concession areas that are used by current forest management organizations. The processes, rules and regulations have been adopted by governmental organizations and are applicable to new areas.

## **6 BUDGET EXECUTION IN FISCAL YEAR 2023**

During this first quarter, approximately US\$922,466 was executed, and with the funds already executed during the life of the Program, a total of US\$41,644,126 was financially implemented, equivalent to 99% of the total allocated budget (US\$41,90,303).

The program also implemented a cumulative total of \$6,380,280 in counterpart funds, exceeding 100% of the commitment of \$6,231,869 for the life of the Program. These resources came from donors such as the Overbrook Foundation, Green Gold, European Union, Ford Foundation, Norwegian Development Fund, private resources from organizations, local governments and other donors.

At the time of this report, financial information for the second quarter was not yet available, and will be included in the final program report.

## **7 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES FOR PROGRAM CLOSING**

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, Rainforest Alliance staff technically, financially, and administratively implemented the program's closure plans. These activities continued during the second quarter of the fiscal year, specifically during the month of January and the last days of the program in February. The most significant are listed below:

Review and validation of information in the monitoring and evaluation databases for execution by Rainforest Alliance partners and teams.

Update of reports in the DEC and Trainet.

Planning for the process of preparing the final technical report to be submitted 90 days after closing (May 5, 2023)

During Quarter 1 of 2023, no goods were procured to support field activities. Only services relating to the presentation of results, photographs, printing of materials, etc. were contracted.

Financial and technical analyses were carried out for closing of the sub-agreements with the implementing partners (ASOCUCH, FEDECOVERA and ACOFOP), as well as the fixed obligation grant agreements with the universities of Minnesota and Copenhagen. This analysis and closure also applied to consultancies for support of program activities that were successfully closed.

With USAID coordination and approval, the final disposal of equipment (2CFR200,313 less than \$5,000) was carried out, as well as management of license plates from the program's vehicles.

The realignment of construction funds to support program activities was requested and approved on 10 November.