

STATUS UPDATE #5 – AUTUMN 2023

## DEAR FRIENDS OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL FROM LATIN AMERICA

We are delighted to share with you the next project fully funded by the MARIPOSA initiative. This will consist of a **reforestation in the riparian area of the river La Pasi3n, in Sayaxch3, Guatemala.**

Olenex keeps investing the MARIPOSA fund effectively this time supporting a conservation initiative which aims to restore and preserve the ecosystem in an important producing region.

For this project we partner with GREPALMA. They are a nonprofit organization established in 2008 that share our vision of a sustainable palm culture to create opportunities and contribute to the development of the local communities.



Implementing this project to restore riparian areas of the La Pasi3n River, with the support of MARIPOSA and the participation of multiple local public and private actors, including GREPALMA member companies, is an action that demonstrates that shared responsibility is key to moving forward in the path of sustainable palm oil production.

As GREPALMA we feel excited. We are not only ensuring zero deforestation for palm growth but also promoting actions for the conservation of forests and biodiversity. We know that this project will be a successful model to replicate.

**Karen Rosales** - GREPALMA Executive Director



## THE PROJECT

The project will establish the reforestation of 70ha of fragmented riverbank. Currently used for agricultural purposes, our goal is to convert it into a continuous forest conservation area. The project spans over two years and we estimate that 77,000 native trees will be planted by its completion date.

For this initiative we count with a strong set of allies that will ensure the success of the reforestation such as:

- Municipality of Sayaxché
- Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment of Guatemala
- National Institute of Forest (INAB)
- National Council of Protected Areas (CONAP)

GREPALMA will act as facilitator of alliances, integrating the efforts of private palm producing companies and acting as linking pin between them, the public bodies and the local communities.

## OUR GOAL

Together with the allies for implementation of the project we want to create a long-term sustainability view in the community and collaboration between private and public actors in order to protect the forest and natural resources.

We are incredibly proud of our customers and their unwavering commitment to transform the palm oil industry into a sustainable agri-business in Latin America.

Expanding on the previous achievements of MARIPOSA, focused on smallholders, now with this conservation project we support Guatemala's nature and communities.

**Marco Herpers** - Olenex General Manager





## RIVER LA PASIÓN

La Pasión River is of vital importance for the region. Being one of the longest in the country with a length of 268 kilometres it provides essential ecosystem services to the surrounding communities.

The target areas for the restoration process are 50 meters wide on the riverbank where there is currently agricultural use.



These areas are under the possession of private farmers and private companies that become allies of the project in support of environmental conservation. They will be formally registered under the voluntary scheme of conservation areas for restoration of the National Institute of Forests, which provides support in the evaluation of the progress of the restoration process and implements a system of continuous verification of its maintenance ensuring the long-term success of the reforestation.

Together with a rich biodiversity, La Pasión River is of notable cultural importance for the community with 16 archaeological sites. Below there are some photos of the ecological and cultural importance of this area.





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