



STATUS UPDATE #6 - DECEMBER 2024

DEAR FRIENDS OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL FROM LATIN AMERICA

We are proud to share with you the first update on the project, fully funded by the MARIPOSA initiative, reforestation of the riparian area of the river La Pasión, in Sayaxché, Guatemala.

Through our alliance with our partner GREPALMA we have been able to kick off this project in the region and start uniting the community to support this fantastic initiative.

The first meeting took place on the 30th of August 2024 and there were representatives from the municipality, the Ministry of Environment, the National Institute of Forest (INAB) and several other private and public organizations.



The meeting concluded with a reflection on the importance of collaboration between public and private entities in order to bring sustainable development to the region.

The alignment between smallholder's goals and the sustainable objectives for the region will support both, oil palm production and the thriving of the environment surrounding the production areas

— said INAB representatives





PROGRESS WITH THE COMMUNITIES

The first workshop for the community was delivered in collaboration between the microcuencas, who are entities that represent the local water basins, and the MARIPOSA project representatives. At the meeting, it was highlighted the need for keeping, and improving, forest cover on the riparian areas of the River La Pasión.

During the workshop, the discussions focused on the importance of the riparian areas as habitat of local species and natural corridors as well as barriers that reduce soil erosion.

We also started the **initial mapping** of the area (right image) and the identification of affected parties. These conversations involved the local management of the communities and had an emphasis on the inclusivity of everyone. This aligns with our objectives of respecting and supporting the rights of the locals.



The final part of the workshop was to assess the areas with higher reforestation potential. With the collaboration of smallholders, the first 56ha have been identified, affecting a total of 26 farmers.

Together with the allies for the implementation of the project we want to create a long-term sustainability perspective in the community and enhance the collaboration between private and public actors to protect the forest and natural resources for years to come – said Gersen Sumardi, Sustainability Manager for Olenex.





PROGRESS ON THE REFORESTATION

Complementing the workshops, there were **field visits** to evaluate the forest cover, soil type and the current land use. Together with the local smallholders, there were assessments of flood risk and a consultation about the species that should be planted. This facilitates an integrated and inclusive approach to sustainable best practices.

We have established a temporary **nursery** for the new trees with a capacity of 22,000 plants. All the species will be native to the area and the seeds have been locally procured.

In October, we have initiated the reforestation activities in 5 communities in Sayaxché. Over 2,500 seedlings have been distributed to the local producers for planting.











Images: top left, field visit

Top right, tree nursery

Left, start of the reforestation





NEXT STEPS

According to the plan, in the next few months we will:

- ✓ Continue the visits to evaluate further sites suitable for the reforestation
- ✓ Deliver another workshop focused on capacity building around sustainable practices
- ✓ Improve the nursery with sustainable technology to enhance seedling production
- ✓ Map the polygons of the reforestation to be able to follow up their development via satellite monitoring.

